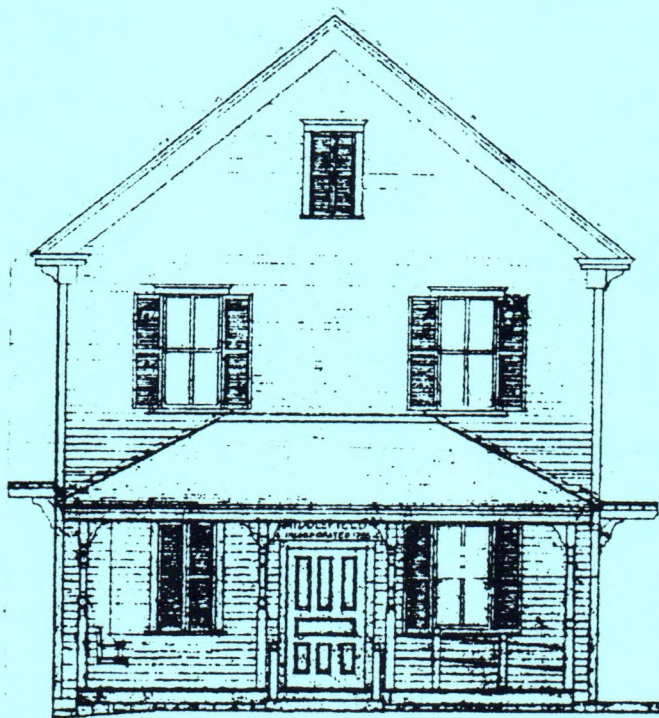


Annual Reports and Warrant
of the Town of
Middlefield, Massachusetts
1996



OLD MIDDLEFIELD TOWN HALL
Senior Center Renovations
Celebrated July 10, 1996

ANNUAL REPORTS

**of the
TOWN of**

MIDDLEFIELD

Massachusetts

Fiscal Year 1996

OFFICES HOURS AND MEETINGS

SELECTMEN:	7:30 p.m. Mondays
TAX COLLECTOR:	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
TREASURER:	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
ASSESSORS:	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
TOWN CLERK:	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays

TOWN OFFICE PHONES:

ASSESSORS 623-8966

SELECTMEN 623-2079 (manned only during regular meeting hours)

Annual Reports of the Town of Middlefield

Fiscal Year 1996

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**Town of Middlefield
1997 Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Hampshire, ss.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of Middlefield,
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Middlefield Town Hall in said Middlefield on Saturday the 3rd of May next, at 11:45 in the forenoon then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose on one ballot:

An Auditor, Moderator, Town Clerk, and Tree Warden for a term of one year. A County Commissioner and two Finance Committee members for a term of two years. An Assessor, Selectman, Cemetery Commissioner, two Finance Committee members, a Library Trustee, two Planning Board members, School Committee member and Zoning Board of Appeals member for a term of three years. The polls will be open at 12:00 p.m. and may be closed at 5:00 p.m. The business meeting will start at 1:30 p.m.

ARTICLE 2. To hear the report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessors and School Committee and act thereon.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the salaries of Elected Town Officials and determine the amount of salary for each Elected Official:

Moderator	\$ 60.00	Selectman, Chair	1,000.00
Town Clerk	1,000.00	Selectman	1,000.00
Treasurer	2,000.00	Selectman	1,000.00
Tax Collector	2,000.00	Auditor	45.00
Assessor, Chair	1,000.00	Constable, 1st	90.00
Assessor, 2nd	1,000.00	Constable, 2nd	90.00
Assessor, 3rd	1,000.00		

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year **July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998**, or take any other action relating thereto:

Highway and Related Expenses:

Snow Removal	\$ 40,000.00
Highway Maintenance	43,000.00
Unpaved Roads Materials	15,000.00
Machinery Expense	16,000.00
Fuel	6,000.00
Holiday and Vacation Pay	3,000.00
Health Insurance, Employees	5,000.00
Unemployment Compensation	1,500.00

Natural Resources:

Dutch Elm Disease Control	150.00
Forest Fire Protection	10.00
Insect Pest Control	100.00
Tree Warden	100.00

Government:

COBRA (Medicare)	800.00
Elections & Registrations	500.00
Hampshire County Retirement	3,111.00
Health & Sanitation	10.00
Interest, Short Term Loans	6,000.00
Insurance	25,000.00
Printing	750.00
Town Counsel	1,500.00
Social Security	2,000.00

Office Expenses:

Selectmen's Secretary	3,000.00
Selectmen's Travel & Expense	800.00
Office Supplies	3,000.00
Assessors Assistant	5,500.00
Assessors Computer Software	1,500.00
Assessors Expense	1,500.00
Assessors Registry Fees	150.00
Assessors Tax Map Update	650.00
Tax Collectors Expense	1,500.00

Miscellaneous:

Cemetery Expense	3,000.00
Civil Defense	10.00
Council on Aging	1,000.00
Disposal Area	18,000.00
Dog Officer Salary	400.00
Dog Officer Expense	300.00
Lee Visiting Nurse	1,000.00
Library Expense	1,000.00
Maintenance of Public Buildings	22,000.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	60.00
Planning Board	10.00
Street Lights	500.00
Veterans Agent	10.00
War Memorials & Playgrounds	1,600.00

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums of money to defray the expenditures of the Middlefield Police Department for the fiscal year 1998, or take any other action relating thereto:

Police Chief Salary	\$ 400.00
Police Expenses	3,800.00

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums of money to defray the expenditures of the Middlefield Fire Department for the fiscal year 1998, or take any other action pertaining thereto:

Fire Chief/Forest Warden	\$ 425.00
Fire Department Expenses	4,500.00
Firehouse Note Payment	1,750.00
Interest on Firehouse Note	355.00
Dispatch Services	2,500.00
Hinsdale Ambulance	1,200.00
Huntington Ambulance	200.00

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums of money for salaries for the following Inspectors:

Building	\$ 1,776.00
Board of Health/Inspection Agent	300.00
Electrical	300.00
Electrical Assistant	100.00
Oil Burner	100.00
Plumbing	300.00
Smoke Detector	100.00
Propane	100.00

ARTICLE 8. To determine the disposition of the Dog Fund.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$3,000.00 for the Reserve Fund or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to carry over the balance in the basketball court fund to fiscal year 1998, or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$394.70 from the Conservation Commission Wetland's Receipts Reserved Account to the Conservation Commission Wetland's Expense Account.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,373.00 for Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to accept Franklin Regional Transit Authority as the official transportation agent for the Council on Aging.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$280,727.00 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,036.00 for Middlefield's share of the over-minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, or take any other action thereto, or accept as an over-minimum contribution a sum which is less than \$19,036.00 as certified by the Gateway Regional School District.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,441.00 for Middlefield's share of the Transportation and Debt Service (non-foundation budget) for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the Stabilization Fund or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to defray anticipated ongoing expenditures for refurbishing, maintaining and restoring the Middlefield Museum or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to carry over the balance in the Tax Title Account, used for expenses associated with tax title work, to fiscal year 1998 or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept the State rate of pay for police for any State roadwork done in the Town of Middlefield or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$25,000 for removal and replacement of the oil tank at Town Hall, with a percentage of the cost to be repaid from the underground storage tank grant program, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,000 from the Sarah Dickson School Fund for the purpose of completing construction on the town basketball court or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to be used to complete construction of the town basketball court or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$3,500 to install a septic system at the Town Garage or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$6,000 for the payment of principal on the Trash Compactor note.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,290 for the payment of interest on the Trash Compactor note.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to purchase a new truck for the Hithway Department to be financed as follows:

- \$77,000 to be transferred from Chapter 113 funds
- \$30,000 to be transferred from Stabilization Account
- \$ 7,000 to be transferred from Machinery Earnings Account

with a balance not to exceed \$41,000 to be borrowed over 5 years, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote for local acceptance of the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 40, Section 57, and vote to amend the Zoning By-laws by including as Section 8.2 "Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 57" language by which to exercise the authority to deny town licenses and permits for properties delinquent in taxes, as shown on copies available for review, or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-laws to include as Section 4.7 "Home-based Businesses," and to make other related and necessary changes in the rest of the Zoning By-laws to accommodate the new By-law, as shown on copies available for review, or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws to include as Section 4.8 "Wireless Communications Facilities" to require a Special Permit for any construction or modifications of wireless telecommunications facilities and towers, and to add a definition for Wireless Communications Facilities to Section 7, as shown on copies available for review, or take any other action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 31. To transact any other business to come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of same in the Middlefield Post Office, on the bulletin board at the Town Hall, a designated place in the Bancroft section of the Town and a designated place in Smith Hollow, seven days at least before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands at Middlefield the _____ day of April
in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven..

Board of Selectmen:

Arthur Muller, Chairman

Richard Progulske

Ronald Radwich

I have this day posted attested copies of herein warrant as directed

Constable of Middlefield

Date

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORT

The Board of Selectmen welcomed Ron Radwich to the Board in May 1996. He is new to this Board, but not as a selectman for the town of Middlefield, having served a term from 1989 to 1992. The Board wants to thank Art Muller for giving his time serving on the board from 1994 to 1997.

Many activities have been addressed by the Board of Selectmen this past year:

- Location of the War Memorial at Town Hall.
- Appointing new Highway Superintendent.
- Grand Opening celebration of the Senior Service Center.
- River Road rebuilding (applying for \$495,000 STRAP grant).
- Becket Road rebuilt.
- New compactor at Waste Disposal Area.
- New roof on Town Garage.
- Water system to Fire Station.
- Hiring of second man to Highway Department
- County Building Inspector.
- Clark Wright Bridge out for bid. Construction to begin this year. Grant for \$387,490.

As of this report, lower Town Hill Rd. has been reconstructed from Star Bird Bridge to the Archway. Leveler coarse has been in place since Oct. 1996 from Star Bird Bridge to the Becket town line. In May 1997, the road will be completed with the finish coat.

Skyline Trail is in the process of being surveyed. Construction will be started in 1999 according to the state and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The Selectboard has no control over this.

Listed for your information are the grants for road construction and Chapter money which will be used toward the purchase of a new truck. This will be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting.

Chester Road	Chapter 85B	\$92,646.16
Becket Road	Chapter 85A-B	\$15,000.00
	Chapter 204	\$21,133.00
West Hill - Reservoir Rd./		
Clark Wright - Chipman/		
Arthur Pease, chip seal	Chapter 85B	\$28,500.00
Skyline Trail	Chapter 113	\$35,000.00
Town Hill Road	P.V.P.C.	124,000.00
Clark Wright Bridge	Federal	387,490.00
River Road	STRAP grant	495,000.00
New 4x4 Truck	Chapter 113	<u>\$77,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$1,275,769.00

State law requires the removal of the underground oil tank at the Town Hall. Estimated cost is about \$25,000. The town will be reimbursed 20-50%.

New furnace for the Town Hall has been priced at \$12,500. Asbestos removal at \$2,880. The Board is looking for a grant for this project.

The Board of Selectmen also wants to thank Donald J. Savery, Jr. who worked for the Highway Department from 1986-1997. We all wish him the very best for the future.

Your Board of Selectmen meets every Monday from 7-9 p.m. The residents are welcome to attend and voice their suggestions and concerns.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEES for 1996

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS Term Expires

Board of Selectmen

Arthur Muller, Chairman	1997
Richard Progulske	1998
Ronald Radwich	1999

Board of Assessors

Gustel Progulske, Chairman	1997
Martin 'Archie' Main	1998
Kristin Monson	1999

Auditor

Martin 'Archie' Main	1997
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Constables

William Paschal	1998
Donald Savery	1998

Board of Health & Fence Viewers

Board of Slectmen, Chairman

Cemetery Commission

Nancy Burnham	1997
Neil G. Nickerson	1998
Larry Pease	1999

County Commissioner

Joseph Kearns	1997
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Finance Committee

Scott Artioli	1998
Edward Cook	1999
Joseph Kearns	1997
Ronald Radwich	1997

Library Trustees

Susan Donnelly	1997
Priscilla Suriner	1998
Elizabeth Carpenter	1999

Moderator

Peter Oligny	1997
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Planning Board

Michael Hale	1997
Marcia Krassler	1998
Joanne Rennert-Boisvert	1999
Tamarin Paine	1999

School Committee

Curt Robie	1997
Paula Bouffard	1999

Tax Collector

Neil G. Nickerson	1998
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Treasurer

Nancy C. Pease	1998
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Tree Warden

Brian Miller	1997
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Town Attorney

Kopelman & Paige	1997
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Town Clerk

Marjorie Batorski	1997
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Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter Oligny	1997
Maurice Pease	1998
Nancy Burnham	1999
Richard Griffin, Alternate	1999

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS TermExp

Animal Inspector - Domestic/Rabies

Donald Savery	1998
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Arts Council

Elizabeth Oligny	1997
Chris Bresnahan	1997
Laurie Lafreniere	1997
Cynthia Oligny	1997
7 Marjorie Batorski	1997

OFFICERS and COMMITTEES for 1996

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS *continued*

Building Inspector		Lumber Surveyor	
Walter Smith 1/2	1996	Brian Miller	1997
Paul Tacy 1/2	1997		
Civil Defense Warden		Wood/Bark Measurer	
Larry Pease	1997	Edward James	1997
Thomas Austin, Asst. Warden	1997		
Conservation Commission		Police Department	
Steve Cummings	1997	Thomas Austin, Police Chief	1997
Thomas Troie	1998	Curt Robie	1997
		Jimmy Jasmin, Special Officer	1997
		Michael Pensivey	1997
Council on Aging		Plumbing Inspector	
Joan Almorì, Co-Chairman	1997	William Zeitler, Jr.	1997
Sue Fastiggi, Co-Chairman	1997		
Ellen Miller	Lydia Sanders	Recreation Committee	
Elizabeth Oligny	Pricilla Suriner	Board of Selectmen	
Cynthia Oligny	Wayne Suriner	Recreation Sub-Committee	
		Judy Carrington, Chair	
Disposal Area		George Bell	
Martin Main	1997	Lois Bell	
		Cindy Neumann	
Dog Officer		Patricia Paschal	
Marcia Krassler 1/2	1997		
Justin Sage 1/2	1997	Registrar of Voters	
		Marjorie Batorski	1997
Dutch Elm and Insect Pest Control		Mary Jane Donnelly	1997
Brian Miller	1997	Susan Fastiggi	1997
		Anita Myers	1997
Field Drivers		Smoke Alarm & Oil Burner Inspector	
Board of Selectmen		Larry Pease	1997
Fire and Forest Warden			
Larry F. Pease, Fire Chief	1997	Street Superintendent	
Ronald Radwich, Deputy Fire Chief	1997	Brian Miller 1/2	1997
		Matthew Drosehn 1/2	1997
Historical Commission		Westfield River Advisory	
Nancy Burnham	1999	Carl Lafreniere	1997
George Bell	1997		
Jack Cobb	1997	Wiring Inspector	
Lydia Sanders	1998	John Savery	1997
Albert Sanders	1998		
Cindy Duby, Associate	1999		

ASSESSORS REPORT

During the fiscal year 1996, the Assessors were very visible around town inspecting and photographing properties. There were 42 inspections completed. The remainder of the properties in town should be inspected during the next two years. In addition, we processed 10 abatements, 10 exemptions and numerous motor vehicle excise bills.

As soon as the weather permits, we will commence with our inspections once again. We wish to thank all those who's property we have looked at for the courtesy extended to us.

Our current tax rate is calculated as follows:

Town meeting appropriations	\$613,284.35
Total Cherry Sheet Offset	1,393.00
State & County charges	6,359.00
Overlay Reserve	7,988.65
Amount to be Raised	\$629,025.00

Receipts from State	\$68,486.00
Estimated Local Receipts	51,450.00
Other Available Funds	12,893.35
Total Receipts	\$132,829.35

Net Amount to be Raised \$496,195.65

Tax Rate: $\frac{496,195.65}{30,237,395.00} \times 1000 = \16.41

Respectfully submitted,
Gustel Progulske, Chairperson
Martin Main
Kristin Monson

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For 1996 there was one (1) perc test. Building permits are as follows:

House & Septic	1
Barn	3
Stove Permits	5
Sheds	5
Decks	3
Renovations	9
Septic Repair	1
Garage	2

I appreciate the cooperation received from everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter D. Smith

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Our commission had a quiet year with no damage to the cemeteries. As always they were kept up to make us proud of our ancestors. Warren Ritter did a wonderful job keeping them mowed and trimmed. We hope all of you enjoyed how nice they were.

We have all read in the papers about the vandalism in other towns. Headstones were pushed over as many as 35-40 at one time. We can only hope we never see that day in this peaceful town. Acts like those are unacceptable and disrespectful.

We thank all of you for your support in the past, and we will continue to keep the cemeteries up so everyone may know that those resting in peace will still be cared for and remembered.

Sincerely,
Nancy Burnham
Neil Nickerson
Larry Pease

COUNCIL ON AGING REPORT

1996 proved to be a very busy and very exciting year for the Middlefield seniors. July saw the completion of the renovations at the senior center, a project that began a few years ago when a group of Middlefield seniors went to a meeting of the Hilltown Community Development committee and requested funds for renovation of the then seldom used senior center. The grant was approved, the architect hired and work began in January 1996. Along with cosmetic benefit and a better utilization of space, the building now has a full kitchen, restrooms, heat, and running water. All facilities at the senior center are handicapped accessible.

The project completion was celebrated at an open house with over 125 people attending, including state and local dignitaries. Sparked by enthusiasm for the new and comfortable surroundings, the Middlefield seniors have doubled their activity in the past 6 months.

The art class, which meets every Tuesday morning and is financed by a grant from the Arts Council, has been well attended and continues under the expert leadership of Fauna Autenreith.

Exercise equipment is available at the senior center thanks to a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services. Transportation for grocery shopping and doctor appointments, under the direction of Judy Carrington, continues to meet the needs of several seniors. Three thousand eight hundred thirty two (3832) miles were driven in FY 96 by volunteer drivers.

Approximately eighty-four (84) "brown bags" were distributed locally by senior volunteers.

The Middlefield COA quarterly newsletter continues to provide information and outreach with an annual

distribution of three hundred (300) copies, paid for in part from a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Elder Services.

A congregate meal program was started in December serving meals prepared by Highland Valley Elder Services every Thursday at the senior center. The program is very successful, serving 12 to 16 seniors each week.

Other programs sponsored by the Council on Aging include intergenerational socials, flu immunization clinic, "file of life" distribution, and a cholesterol clinic. The senior center also has an assortment of home health care equipment (crutches, commodes, etc.) available to any resident. There were approximately fifteen hundred (1500) telephone contacts to seniors and over eleven hundred (1100) volunteer hours.

Without the commitment and dedication of the volunteers the council on aging would not be able to function as a "service to seniors" organization. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!!

And thanks to all the very active seniors whose enthusiasm and energy are contagious! We look forward to an exciting 1997 and we thank you for the opportunity to assist you in these meaningful projects.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan M. Almori Co-Chair
Susan Fastiggi Co-Chair

CULTURAL COUNCIL REPORT

The mission of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, is to promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

To be eligible for the annual funding, individuals or organizations must submit applications to this council no later than October 14. Local Council funds must be used to stimulate a broad range of excellent programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences for the public. To obtain an application please contact one of the members and one will be mailed to you.

We are currently seeking new people from town to help fill the positions of outgoing members whose terms have expired. Please help keep this Local Cultural Council alive. It would be a shame to lose this available grant money that benefits so many of us. Please get in touch with Laura Lafreniere.

Approved funding for 1996 totaled \$3,150, and went to:

- Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns: for visual arts workshops at the Becket Arts Center.
- Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation: for a sculptor documentary project (which we now have available

on video in the library).

- Yankee Notions: for a family concert held at the October Applefest.
- Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation: for a sculptor documentary project (which is still in the works).
- The Blandford Fair Art Show: for the Blandford Fair Art Show Demonstration.
- Council on Aging of Middlefield: for an art workshop to benefit the seniors.
- Gateway Regional High School: for a guest artist series in the music department.
- Gateway Regional High School: for visiting performers and clinicians in the instrumental music department.
- Gateway Regional High School: for a commissioned choral work.
- Gateway Regional High School: for a guest artist appearance.
- Wendy Long: for contra dances for youth and families to be based out of the high school (no yet held).
- The Miniature Theatre of Chester: for support of the theatre's 1996 season.
- The Charlie C Blues Band: A family concert held at the Grange annual picnic.
- Sevenars Concerts: for the Sevenars music festivals held on weekends in Worthington.
- Ruth Laprise: for two basket making classes held in November.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Lafreniere
Chris Bresnahan
Betty Oligny
Marjorie Batorski

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

This past year our Department responded to 23 calls with most of them being medical. We are fortunate not to have had any structure fires mainly because all of you are careful enough in your homes to be sure nothing happens that might cause a fire. Safety in your own homes is the best sense of security you can have.

Throughout the year we sponsored our annual rabies clinic with a good turnout. At the Fair was our 2nd Muster competition. We plan to do these events again this year.

With combined efforts, our department and Police Department sponsored an afternoon of ice skating at the Town Hall. There was a good turnout of approximately 65-70 people of all ages. Many thanks go to Curt Robie and Skip Savery for creating a great area starting last November and spending many hours building up its thickness. Hot dogs, cocoa, coffee, chips and cookies were served for refreshments for an afternoon of fun. We hope to sponsor a dance sometime in March.

We continue to keep up our recertification on CPR, First Aid, First responders, and Hazmat training. These are state requirements for firefighters. We continue our efforts to keep up to date with these so our responses are handled with care and safety for all those in need.

It is a likely possibility that the state will take over our dispatching services this year. Instead of being dispatched to a call from the Berkshire communications in Pittsfield, it looks as though it would happen from another location. As of now we aren't certain of anything, but it is a possibility this move may happen.

Our calls for 1996-97 were as follows:

- 13 Medical
- 3 Chimney fires
- 2 Trees on wires
- 2 Assist state & local police (med)
- 1 Fire alarm activated
- 1 Cellar pump
- 1 Motor vehicle accident

We thank all of you for your continuing support of our department. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Larry Pease, Chief
Ron Radwich, Deputy Chief

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

This being my first year as your Highway Superintendent, I would like to give you a little run down on what's been happening in this Department.

The roads were in very poor shape as most of you know, but we have been working on this, one small section at a time.

Town Hill has seen some reconstruction between Starbird Bridge and the Archway. The finish coat of blacktop will be done in late spring 97. The leveler coarse has been installed from the Archway to the Becket town line and this will also receive the top coat in the spring.

About 2000 ft. of Becket Road was widened, reshaped, construction fabric installed and about 12' of gravel added.

Chipsealing was done on West Hill, Chipman and Clark Wright Roads.

River Road saw the shoulders pulled on about 2 miles of it. Also it was patched from one end to the other with over 50 tons of patch.

As most of you may know, our equipment is in very poor condition and when we started looking there were some major repairs needed, including things like: a bad fuel injector pump, transmission, clutch and broken springs on the Ford; broken springs, broken frame and cross members, worn out wing cable, rusted worn out sander and questionable tires on the Mack; leaking wheel seal, leaking transmission cooler, bad starter on the Grader; front transmission seal on the Dodge. This

is only a partial list of the repairs that had to be done.

We have planned a lot of work for this upcoming season and I can only hope that we can accomplish at least half of it.

In closing I would like to thank each and every one of you for your patience and continued support.

Respectfully,
Matthew P. Drosehn
Highway Superintendent

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative is a unique regional municipal cooperative created, operated and funded by its eleven member communities of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg & Worthington to develop quality waste management and recycling education programs for the region. Feel free to call us at (413) 268-3845 anytime. Currently the HRMC plans and organizes the following:

1) Monitors all recycling and waste management programs to make sure we are saving as much as possible and recycling as much as we can!

2) Plans and operates Hazardous Waste and Paint Recycling Collection in all communities. We will accept good quality/full cans of paint in August and September and we will hold the centralized one day HHW collection event for which preregistration is required in October.

3) Coordinates sales of compost bins and recycling set out bins every spring and fall for all member Towns.

4) Coordinates and provides school recycling/waste management outreach and education programs throughout the year.

5) Coordinates and provides general outreach and education programs to local community groups and in general to all member communities. Call us if you would like our recycling, composting or hazardous waste handouts!

6) Coordinates tire collection program every spring and fall in HRMC member communities.

7) Works with local boards and officials on waste management contracts, regulatory problems and developing good quality information for residents on waste disposal and recycling in your town.

8) Advocates on behalf of towns to state officials to help provide worthwhile waste management and recycling policies.

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC

HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

At the close of last season, all items of the museum were either covered or stored in a protective environment, due to the extensive renovations to take place during the winter at the Senior Center.

On July 3, the committee members began to reorganize and reassemble the displays at the museum to coincide with the dedication of the newly refurbished Senior Center on July 10. The museum was open that day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Forty-seven visitors signed the guest book. During the summer the museum was open by appointment and all day in October during the Apple Fest celebration held at the church.

We look forward to a busy year cleaning and recording a major acquisition from one of Middlefield's earliest families. A new format of labelling will be devised to inform viewers more readily of information relating to the objects and pictures displayed.

Jack D. Cobb, chairman
Roy A. Haapala, secretary
Lydia Sanders, treasurer
George Bell
Albert Sanders
Nancy Burnham, associate
Cindy DUBY, associate

LEE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION REPORT

The following is a report of the services performed in the Town of Middlefield during the calendar year 1996:

HOME VISITS	# VISITS
Skilled Nursing	208
Physical Therapy	36
Occupational Therapy	7
Maternal Child Health	1
Social Work	14
Nutrition	1
Home Health Aide	578.25 visits 770.25 hours
Homemaker	95 visits 145 hours
Personal Care Attendant	386 visits 386 hours
BEREAVEMENT VISITS	1
FLU CLINICS	1
	Attendance 21

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Middlefield Police Department would like to thank the citizens of Middlefield for their continuing support and cooperation during the past year.

All members of the department continued to fulfill the training requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for certification as police officers. This training has included a forty hour recertification course at the Agawam Criminal Justice Training Academy, firearms qualification and recertification in first aid and CPR. Members of the department also received additional training at the Academy and at training sessions sponsored throughout the year by the Hilltown Police Association.

The Department continues to be active in the Tri-County Law Enforcement Officers Association. Chief Austin continues to be president of the association, comprised of police departments representing approximately twenty hilltowns. The association sponsors a monthly training meeting and regional training in conjunction with the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council.

The department applied for and received two law enforcement grants which totaled \$7,000. The grants have specific purposes and cannot be used to supplement the annual funding of the department. The funds will be used to purchase equipment that was not approved or funded through the town budget. The department is also hoping to send out a safety news letter to the community.

There is a limited amount of funding that can be used for community policing activities. During January and February, funds were used to support the skating parties held at the town rink. A number of seminars are also being planned. A portion of the funding will also go toward police training and paying officers for a limited number of patrol hours.

Police activity for the year was moderate and covered many types of crime. The department urges citizens to lock their doors when not at home and report any suspicious activity to either this department or the Massachusetts State Police in Russell.

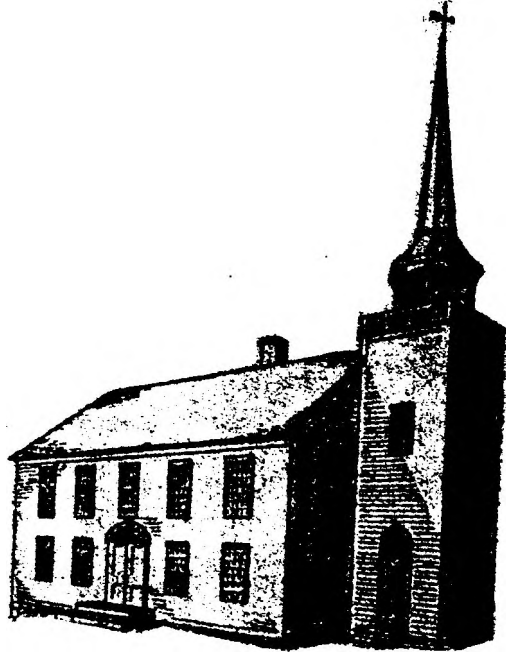
In closing, the department wishes to thank the town for its support, and the Massachusetts State Police, Russell Barracks, Berkshire County Dispatch, the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the Hampshire County District Attorney's office for their assistance and cooperation during the past year.

*The log of police activity for the year
appears on the next page.*

Police Activity Log 1996

Domestic abuse calls	4
House alarms	15
ATV complaints	4
Domestic Violence arrest	1
Attempted suicide razor	
Dropped 911 calls	
Back up State Police	6
Rape of a minor child	2
Serving papers	10
Removal of household items	3
DSS assistance	2
Attempted suicide drug overdose	
Misc.	40
Threaten suicide drug over dose	
Threaten suicide alcohol over dose	
Threaten suicide shotgun	
Sexual assault of a minor	2
Break ins	4

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Thomas Austin
Sergeant Curt Robie
Training Officer Michael Pensivey



FIRST MEETINGHOUSE IN MIDDLEFIELD

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

At a summer meeting following the '96 Town Meeting, the Planning Board voted to bring the Home-Based Business Use issue back to Town Meeting the following year. The consensus was that the 8 page draft of changes was too long to absorb in one meeting, and since Town Meeting had many more people than any of the public hearings and meetings, the majority were hearing about the proposals fully for the first time at Town Meeting. A majority (23 to 20) had voted for the proposals, but that was not the 2/3 required for Zoning Bylaw passage.

The Planning Board completed the requirements and final report fulfilling our 95-96 grant duties. In the future, we decided to pursue funding for clean-up of dumped items along Factory Brook, and pursue compiling a new update of the Town Directory last put out by Marilyn Pease in '93. (These last 2 efforts remain in-progress.)

With the request for the Planning Board to approve the division of Birch Brook Farm into the 14 parcels already advertised for auction, the issue came up concerning granting Town approvals on properties with long outstanding taxes due. Research revealed no leeway for the Planning Board to include either tax payments or wetlands as considerations at that time.

But the Town has the option of adopting a State statute that would allow considering tax delinquency as a basis to refuse approvals and licenses in the future. So a Bylaw adopting that statute was prepared for '97 Town Meeting.

The Board also learned that new and future technologies in telecommunications will require a quantity of antenna towers for wireless equipment. The FCC prohibits towns from not allowing these towers at all, but local zoning about placement and permitted standards is allowed. A Bylaw covering these Wireless Communications Facilities was drafted, but much technical understanding of the choices involved is still lacking, so the option of a temporary moratorium is also being considered to allow greater time for research of the zoning options

Submitted by:
Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Chair

for the Planning Board:
Marcia Krassler
Joanne Rennert-Boisvert
Michael Hale
Ann Jewett

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

SPORTING LICENSES

License Class Issued	Fee/TownFee	Tot	Gross	Fees	Net
F1 RESIDENT FISHING	\$22.50/.50	9	202.50	4.50	198.00
F3 RES. FISHING 65-69	\$11.25/.50	1	11.25	.50	10.75
H1 RES. CITIZEN HUNTING	\$22.50/.50	6	135.00	3.00	132.00
H4 RES. ALIEN HUNTING	\$22.50/.50	1	22.50	.50	22.00
S1 RESIDENT SPORTING	\$40.00/.50	13	520.00	6.50	513.50
S2 RES. SPORTING, 65-69	\$20.00/.50	2	40.00	1.00	39.00
S3 RES. SPORTING, OVER 70	\$0.00/NONE	2	0.0	0.0	0.00
M1 ARCHERY STAMP	\$5.10/.10	5	25.50	.50	25.00
M3 PRIM. FIREARMS STAMP	\$5.10/.10	7	35.70	.70	35.00
W1 WILD.CONS. STAMP Res	\$5.00/NONE	29	145.00	0.0	0.00
W2 WILD.CONS. SMP Nonres	\$5.00/NONE	1	5.00	0.0	5.00
TOTALS		76	1720	975.25	

DOG LICENSES

46 Spayed Females @ 3.00	\$138.00
5 Females @ \$6.00	30.00
20 Males @ \$3.00	60.00
16 Neutered Males @ \$3.00	48.00
6 Kennels 4 dogs or less	10.00
1 Kennels 10 dogs or more	50.00
1 Kennels 10 dogs or less	25.00
Total Clerk's Fees	\$ 63.15

All dog owners must present a rabies certificate in order for their dogs to be licensed. This year we did not have as many dogs licensed as in past years. All dogs must be licensed. Licenses are good from April 1 until March 31 of the following year.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

1. Victoria Margaret-Kaye Rock
d. of Billie Denise Sawyer and Paul Michael Rock
b. April 11, 1996
2. Kendall Jacqueline Rooney
d. of Jacqueline Marie Rooney & James Stephen Rooney
b. April 17, 1993
3. Erin Elizabeth Suriner
d. of Maureen Elizabeth Suriner & Daniel Bruce Suriner
b. May 20, 1996
4. Zachary James Vogel
s. of Ann Marie Vogel and Joseph Andrew Vogel
b. June 27, 1996
5. Harrison Rollison Hale
s. of Tryntje Helen Hale and Michael Putnam Hale
b. August 21, 1996
6. Cole Edward Main
s. of Joanne Lee Main and Eric Edward Main
b. September 7, 1996
7. Olivia Isabelle Killela
d. of Crystal Lee Killela and Peter Joseph Killela
b. October 23, 1996

DEATHS

1. Madeline E. Smith; February 8, 1996; 85 years
River Road, Middlefield
2. Helen Prentice Cook; February 14, 1996; 88 years
Skyline Trail, Middlefield
3. Jacquelyn Merrell; February 17, 1996; 77 years
West Hill Road, Middlefield
4. Lesley Vose Jordan, Sr.; September 6, 1996; 89 yrs.
Skyline Trail, Middlefield
5. Joseph John Piscor; September 29, 1996; 88 years
Town Hill Road, Middlefield

MARRIAGES

1. Denis G. Basak and Belynda A. Covey, Mar. 16, 1996
2. Henry E. Rock III and Tracy L. Bell, May 25, 1996

SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS

Results of the Special Town Meeting June 24, 1996 8:00 P.M.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Peter Oligny, at 8:00 P.M. There were 35 people present.

ARTICLE 1 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed 1000.00 from the Insurance Account to the Short Term Loan Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 2 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$2000.00 from the Insurance Account to the maintenance of Public Buildings Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 3 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to trans a sum not to exceed \$300.00 from the Insurance Account to the Medicare Expense Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 4 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$1000.00 from the Health Insurance Account to the Social Security Expense Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 5 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$400.00 from the Health Insurance Account to the Unemployment Insurance Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 6 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$500.00 from

the Insurance Account to the Tax Collector's Expense Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 7 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$1000.00 from the Insurance Account to the Town Treasurers Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 8 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$189.00 from the Health Insurance Account to the Hampshire County Tax Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 9 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$1288.35 from the Insurance Account to the Town Snow Account. It was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 10 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to determine the location of the World War 1 and the World War 2 monuments.(Memorials) This Article evoked a great deal of discussion. The final decision is up to the Selectmen, however a straw vote was taken, after discussion.

Q. Why does someone want to move them?

A. One had to be moved because of the work on the Senior Center.

Q. What happens to the monuments when the new road goes through?

A. No Answer.

Several people brought up the fact that the center of town now has the museum and also there is Starbuck Park. Also, Middlefield Center is a historical place with the old homes., etc. Someone also said that the Mack Monument located at the Town Hall (new one) was the first monument. Another person suggested that there would be two different places with two different monuments. It was also brought out that it would be a shame to crowd the monuments if we put both monuments on the triangle at the center of town. It was suggested to leave one there and put the other one at the new Town Hall site.

The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen wanted to hear from the people when the monuments were erected. After little more discussion, a straw vote was taken and the results are: 13 for leaving one here at the new Town Hall and 13 for leaving one at the Triangle at the Center of Town.

ARTICLE 11 Being no other business to come before this meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was an unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Marjorie Batorski
Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 1996

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Peter Oigny, with 25 people present, at 8:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. A motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. During the discussion period, the question was asked why the Town had to transfer from the Stabilization Account a sum not to exceed \$5216.00. The reply was that this was the second bid that the Selectmen received and accepted. The first bid came in lower but when questioned about a few things, the contractor with the first bid withdrew. Will the work be done this year? Yes, was the answer. The money is being taken from the Stabilization Fund because our free cash has not yet been certified. As soon as that is done, the money will be put back into the Stabilization Fund from the Free Cash Account. We needed a 2/3 vote for this and there was a hand vote taken. There were 18 for and 5 against. The Article was passed.

ARTICLE 2. Under this Article, a motion was made and seconded that the Town accept Memo of A.G. 36308, Bond Issue, of Chapter 113 1996 Acts. in the amount of \$126,799.00. It is the new bond issue from the State for road work. This was an unanimous vote and the Article passed.

Also under this Article, a motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was an unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Marjorie Batorski
Town Clerk



Aug 22/66

Middlefield Village

1866

From a sketch by
W. F. Church

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY REPORT

Twenty-five County Commissioners represent twenty municipalities in forum for regional cooperation. Middlefield is represented on the Hampshire County Board of Commissioners by Joseph J. Kearns. The governmental structure of Hampshire County is designed specifically to foster regional cooperation. A new Charter approved by the voters in 1988 establishes a structure unique among the fourteen counties in Massachusetts. The citizens of each of the twenty municipalities elect Commissioners to represent "each municipality in this government of Hampshire County to foster the development of voluntary of local governments to address and resolve the common concerns and needs of the twenty-first century and beyond."

Commissioners have facilitated the development of a regional E911 dispatch system, regional recycling, a regional mass casualty response plan, and the Hampshire County Local Emergency Planning Committee. They are currently working with police chiefs to find a regional solution to pre-arrestment holding problems and with police, fire, and ambulance services to develop a coordinated plan to respond to hazardous materials accidents. Commissioners have appointed an Historical Records Advisory Board which is seeking ways to improve the preservation and public access to county and municipal records. An Airport Committee is working with the Mass Aeronautics Commission toward the feasibility of County ownership of the Northampton Airport.

Many of the Commissioners bring experience in municipal government to their oversight of county functions, calling for frugality, practical programs, and workable cooperation. Commissioner Kearns, for example is on finance Committee for Middlefield. He serves on the Human Services Municipal Advisory Committee as the vice chairman.

Regional Services delivers surplus property, emergency planning, and building inspection

The Department had an extremely successful year screening, placing, and delivering federal surplus property to local communities. Major items include 5 cars, 2 Suburbans, 2 sport utility vehicles, 6 vans, 9 pickup trucks, 2 tankers, 5 other large trucks, 2 farm tractors, and 2 sixteen-passenger minibuses. The Department also supplied file cabinets, microscopes, snowplows, tools, trailers, computers, jacks, fork lifts, steel, a complete automotive shop setup, and many other smaller items. Communities typically pay about 10 percent of the current value of the property, most of which goes to the State. The Massachusetts State Agency for Surplus Property has the authority to screen federal surplus property, and has delegated that authority to the County screener, Geoff Rogers. The State has no one who actually screens property.

Surplus property Middlefield purchased through the County during FY '96 is listed below:

Item	New Value	Fee to State	Fee to County
2 file cabinets	\$1,200	\$50	\$10
Fire hose nozzles	800	50	10
Diaphragm pumps	320	55	10
Card files		-0-	-0-

The Hampshire Inspection Program, run by the Regional Services Department, provided building inspection and zoning enforcement services for the communities of Huntington and Chesterfield in FY '96. The fledgling program provided professional, prompt and efficient service to member towns. Local officials and residents praised the quality and timeliness of the program. Participating towns paid \$3 per capita for the service, with the balance of program costs being paid from County coffers. For FY '97, the Town of Middlefield will also participate in the program.

The Department worked with local officials to develop a countywide Local Emergency Planning Committee, whose mission is to plan for emergencies involving hazardous materials. Aided by an initial \$10,000 grant in FY '95, the Committee formed and began the long process of preparing a regional plan. In FY '96, the Department obtained a follow-up grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, also in the amount of \$10,000, in order to complete the planning effort.

Other Departmental activities include running an annual municipal law seminar and a workshop on municipal road legalities, coordinating legislative activities, producing a countywide newsletter, and staffing various County municipal advisory committees.

Insurance Trust refunds \$1,246 to Middlefield plus \$114,497 to Gateway, worth \$6,000 savings to Middlefield.

The Hampshire County Commissioners are trustees for a cooperative effort to provide the public employers of Hampshire County life, accident and health benefit programs. The Trust served approximately 2700 employees and their dependents in FY '96. With over 5600 jointly covered lives, the towns, fire districts, schools, school districts and organizations enjoy the benefits and savings realized by belonging to a large group that has a collective premium base of over ten million dollars.

An Insurance Advisory committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems, possible solutions, and explore new ideas. The Insurance Advisory Committee elects an Executive Committee from their membership to support the Trust. The Executive Committee provides financial oversight of the Trust's daily operations and formulates recommendations that, upon approval of the full Insurance Advisory Committee, are forwarded to the trustees for review and action.

Insurance Director John Lillis is an employee benefits specialist who manages underwriting and rate setting activity of the Trust, including insurance and reinsurance contract development, benefit analysis, performance incentives, and quality initiatives. The Trust also provides expertise in claim payment reviews and loss projections. During FY '96, \$910,716 was refunded from Blue Cross Blue Shield to member units.

In FY '97 member units are already benefiting from Trust activity in the form of monthly premium reductions for Network Blue coverage, providing instant rebates on the HMO coverage. The health insurance business in FY '97 that is placed with Blue Cross Blue Shield has been transferred from a full premium basis to an alternative funding program managed by the Trust.

The transition to alternate funding was smooth and successful with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The conversion strategy of retaining the same claim administrators made the change unnoticeable to employees and health care providers. The Insurance Department is presently negotiating with Kaiser, Community Health Plans and Health New England to transfer that business in FY '97 and FY '98 to alternative funding.

In late FY '96 the department designed, developed, tested and implemented a billing and collection system. The system produces monthly health insurance bills including adjustments necessary for individual employees. The system has been praised by the units for its audit trail, accuracy and timeliness. It can readily accept additional employees and member units, and has the flexibility to add additional health insurance plans. The system can easily be expanded to process other health related insurance lines such as disability and workers compensation coverage.

Cooperative Purchasing saves region \$2.4M

The County Cooperative Purchasing Program saves money for the residents of Hampshire County through cooperative bidding efforts. The Department serves 10 County Departments, 19 Municipalities, 11 School Districts and 47 Human Service Agencies.

Middlefield purchased \$5,400 worth of goods for an estimated savings of \$1,000 and Gateway Regional School purchased \$34,000 worth for projected savings of \$34,000.

During FY 1996, Chief Procurement Officer Anne Moran and her staff of two administered cooperative bids for goods and services in the amount of about \$7.5M with a projected savings of approximately \$2.4M. The Co-op operates on the principle that buying in bulk generates additional savings over lone bidding efforts while eliminating duplication of administrative work and ensuring compliance with state procurement laws. A "fee for savings" generated \$44,247 toward offsetting operating expenses of \$106,000. Additional costs not included in the cooperative's budget are expenses for a share of maintenance, capital and administrative expenses and employee benefits.

This year's School Furniture Co-op coordinated the purchase of classroom and library furniture for schools in Amherst, Chicopee, Easthampton, Heath, Lenox, Longmeadow, Monson, New Braintree, Northampton, Pittsfield, South Hadley, Stockbridge, Ware and Westhampton.

Human Services Dept. works on behalf of County's twenty municipalities

As a regional service, the Human Services Department represents the County's twenty municipalities in the area of human services. Each town and city is unable to provide a full human service presence in town or city hall. Therefore, the County Department serves as a resource, communication, and technical assistance center, and as a liaison between the local community and the state human service system. Since almost all human service delivery is regional, this view of the system and this regional planning, coordination, and capacity building has worked well for nearly eighteen years. The Department facilitates community-based planning for integrated local human services. The Department monitored service delivery standards for 38 local programs with whom the Commissioners have service contracts. County funding problems forced 5/12 of the monthly payments for those contracts to be withheld during FY '96, and distributed after funding was received in FY '97. County grants, small as they are, are critical to these agencies. The delay and uncertainty about funds coincided with reductions from state and federal sources for many of these programs making coordination more important than ever.

The Department continued work across the County addressing the needs identified in the county-wide health and human service needs assessment conducted two years ago. The outcome driven Action Plan focused attention on children and youth, substance abuse, domestic violence, education/employment, and poverty. As a part of the Action Plan, a transportation needs survey was completed and a school-to-work program implemented in cooperation with the Hampshire Educational Collaborative and local employers. The pilot school systems are Northampton, Smith Vocational, and Amherst Regional with Hampshire Regional and South Hadley to follow.

During FY '96, the Department brought in grants totaling \$175,000 from both state and federal governments to reduce tobacco use and to promote safe roads. In FY '96 the SafeRoads program focused particular attention on the towns of Belchertown, Easthampton, and Pelham. In FY '97 this will continue and attention will focus in Granby and South Hadley. The Tobacco Free Hampshire County Coalition worked county wide. Support was given to the Boards of Health in Belchertown and Northampton as they worked on tobacco regulations. In FY '97 ground-work will be laid in Hadley. Mini-grants supported work in the hilltowns, Easthampton, Amherst, and Ware.

The Department works with over a dozen coalitions. One new project was the initiation of Hampshire Health Access established with \$40,500 of public and private grants. The program is based at First Call for Help, the county-wide information and referral agency. People without health insurance are linked with providers who will give low-cost or no-cost health care.

Nursing home receives top state and federal marks

A facility for both short term sub-acute care, and for traditional long-term care, the Hampshire County Long Term Care Facility again received a 100% no deficiency certification inspection. The effectiveness of the staff in meeting the medical, nursing, therapeutic, and social needs of patients is rated by an inspection process involving several hundred standards measuring that care. Statements of appreciation from residents, patients, and their families confirm the inspectors' findings.

Licensed nursing personnel care for both short and long term patients. Licensed physical, occupational and speech therapists operate the rehabilitation program. After traumatic injury, stroke or joint replacement, 2 to 4 weeks of intense multi-disciplinary therapeutic intervention enables people to regain functional independence. The nursing team receives ongoing training to keep abreast of ways to understand and respond to the needs of patients. Recent topics have included caring for patients with Alzheimer's and certification in IV therapeutics.

The Hampshire County Long Term Care Facility continues to work with Hospice of Hampshire County in the care of the terminally ill, including those with cancer and AIDS. A reputation for professionalism and empathy continue to make the L.T.C.F. the facility of choice for patients, families and the medical community.

Jail and House of Correction funds appropriated at state level

Funding for the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction is now appropriated at the state level. In addition, 75% of the county share of Deeds excise revenues are statutorily assigned to the Sheriff. Commissioners continue to have a statutory obligation for oversight and conduct two inspections of the Jail and House of Correction each year.

The facility continues to be committed to excellence in terms of standards and conditions and receives high accolades from state officials on a variety of annual inspections.

Sheriff Garvey served three years as President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, his tenure concluding in September, 1996. He was elected Vice President of the Association for a one year term.

Treasurer's Office juggled cash flow during year of insufficient funds

For the second consecutive year, the Administration denied Hampshire County Commissioners money from a special Deeds Excise fund created in part to solve Hampshire County funding problems. They have statutory access to it to correct an inequity created several years ago in the calculation of the Hampshire County Assessment. This created a shortfall the Legislature addressed with a Legislative deficiency appropriation. A gubernatorial veto left in question the payment of county obligations for vendor bills, bank loans, and salaries. A last minute override (154 to 1 in the House) in the Legislature enabled the county to keep its doors open and to pay all bills when the funds were finally distributed in FY '97.

Expenditures and cash on hand processed by the Hampshire County Treasurer's Office during FY '96 totaled \$25,112,294, including \$8,805,900 in a Public Safety Grant for the Jail and House of Correction, \$5,499,131 for the Hampshire County Long Term Care Facility, \$2,242,539 in the County General Fund, and a number of smaller accounts.

Receipts and cash on hand processed by the office totaled \$25,112,294, including \$1,019,149 in Trial Court reimbursements, \$8,805,900 from a state Public Safety Grant, \$5,165,880 earned income collected at the Long Term Care Facility, and \$309,196 from town assessments. Hampshire County has the lowest county assessments in the Commonwealth. Hampden County paid \$28,697 as partial settlement on a court judgment for housing its prisoners ten years ago.

In a cost saving measure, paycheck distribution for county employees was reduced in frequency from weekly to once every two weeks, and the Treasurer's staff reduced from four to two. Employees of the Sheriff continue to be paid weekly, as contracted.

A complete report of the FY '96 expenditures and revenues can be obtained from the County Treasurer's Office.

Retirement System now over 54% funded

(The Retirement System report is on an accrual basis for calendar year January 1, 1995, to December 31, 1995, whereas other County reports are cash basis for the July 1, 1995, to June 30, 1996, fiscal year.)

Thirty-seven employer units participate in the Hampshire County Retirement System, with total membership on December 31, 1995, of 3,553 people. Fund assets increased \$4.2M over the year, from \$60,876,018 to \$65,089,663. Those assets must pay the retirement benefits owed to past and current employees. Those obligations exceed current assets, and since 1992 Hampshire County has been on a schedule to become "fully funded" by the year 2032, and is now over 54% funded. Higher returns from investments will ultimately reduce the amounts units must meet through appropriations.

The Retirement System is regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Public Employees Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) and managed locally by County Treasurer Harry Chadwick, Council Member Warren White and Elected Member Patrick Brock. Brock was re-elected in December 1995 to his fourth three-year term. Employees of the member units do not pay into Social Security, but instead, accrue benefits in the local system. The Retirement Board and staff pride themselves on personal service to employees and retirees at the local level.

The overall rate of return to the portfolio in 1995 was 21.96%.

County asked to subsidize Trial Courts or give buildings to state

Although the operation of the Trial Courts was removed from the counties and taken over by the Commonwealth, they continue to be located in county buildings. Hampshire County provides maintenance and security for the buildings under an agreement in which the state agrees to reimburse the County for 100% of actual costs. Reimbursement occurs after the costs are incurred and in recent years only about 80% of the recognized costs have been appropriated by the legislature. A planned replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system was postponed due to lack of funds. Continued postponement will increase the end cost and risk system failure.

Requests for a more business-like approach are met with the suggestion that if the County doesn't like the system they can give the buildings to the state. Commissioners have felt that local control provides better stewardship than control from Boston.

Registry Computer System offers remote modem access

The computer system which came on line during May 1994, continues to operate in an efficient and orderly manner. Register Marianne Donohue is exploring ways to have this system grow with the ever-increasing demands for services. The possibilities of the system creating deed books, offering a fax gateway and sending images remotely are just a few of the options being investigated to reduce spending and increase revenues.

During fiscal year 1996, the total amount of money spent on real estate in Hampshire County amounted to \$249,746,790. The County revenue collected by the Registry of Deeds from the fees and excise taxes these sales generated was

Recording fees	\$502,532	Deed Excise tax	\$1,117,567	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,620,099.
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Recording fees are retained in the County general fund to support all county functions. Deeds Excise revenues are distributed according to a statutory formula. When applied to FY '96 collections, the formula resulted in the following distribution: \$642,601 to the Commonwealth, \$201,600 for the payment of old jail operating debt, \$205,024 for current jail expenses, \$27,337 for Registry expenses, and \$41,005 for other county expenses.

Due to the County's funding problems during FY '96, the County delivered layoff notices to all employees of the County general fund. The Register of Deeds filed an action in Superior Court seeking a declaration that the Registry of Deeds must remain open. The Legislature's passage of a deficiency budget temporarily resolved the funding crisis.

County provides "home" for myriad of regional functions

Quasi-judicial functions at regional level

Property Tax Appeals * Decisions on changes to status of roads designated "county roads"

Administrative and/or financial support

* Hampshire County Dog Fund * Hampshire County Emergency Medical Services * Hampshire County Fire Defense Association * Hampshire County Hazardous Materials Contingency Fund * Hampshire County Local Emergency Planning Committee * Hampshire County Radio Dispatch System * Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative

Appointments

* Hampshire Community Action Committee * Hampshire County Dog Officer * Hampshire County Engineer * Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority * Hampshire County Retirement Board * Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee * Springfield Materials Recycling Facility

Submitted by County Commissioner, December 1996

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

F. YEAR	TAX	BALANCE	WARRANTS	REFUNDS	TOTAL	TAXES COLCTED.	ABATED	TAX TITLES	ADJS.	ADJS.	BALANCE
1996	R.E.		\$460,917.84	\$3,542.60	\$464,460.24	\$396,913.26	\$3,898.45	\$4,440.87		\$2,911.14	\$62,119.00
	P.P.		\$21,604.74	\$10.81	\$21,615.35	\$20,547.32	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$11.43	\$1,079.46
	MVE		<u>\$24,188.23</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>\$24,208.23</u>	<u>\$17,765.73</u>	<u>\$93.75</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>		<u>\$149.80</u>	<u>\$6,498.65</u>
TOTAL			\$506,710.81	\$3,573.21	\$510,283.82	\$436,226.31	\$3,992.20	\$4,440.87		\$3,072.37	\$69,697.01
1995	R.E.	\$55,226.36			\$55,226.36	\$30,766.24	\$133.71				\$24,335.94
	P.P.	\$376.91			\$376.91	\$87.17	\$0.00		\$0.47		\$289.74
	MVE	<u>\$7,615.08</u>	<u>\$2,095.34</u>		<u>\$10,520.42</u>	<u>\$7,913.59</u>	<u>\$213.87</u>			\$123.02	<u>\$2,515.98</u>
TOTAL		\$63,218.35	\$2,095.34		\$66,123.69	\$38,767.00	\$347.58				\$27,141.66
1994	R.E.	\$24,889.58			\$24,889.58	\$10,302.85	\$530.67		\$27.53		\$14,028.53
	P.P.	\$66.52			\$66.52	\$27.96	\$0.00				\$38.56
	MVE	<u>\$3,346.75</u>			<u>\$3,346.75</u>	<u>\$1,889.87</u>	<u>\$30.94</u>		\$8.86		<u>\$1,417.08</u>
TOTAL		\$28,302.85			\$28,302.85	\$12,220.68	\$561.61				\$15,484.17
1993	R.E.	\$12,412.20			\$12,412.20	\$3,447.73	\$1,109.63		\$16.83		\$17,838.01
	P.P.	\$137.59			\$137.59	\$0.00					\$137.59
	MVE	<u>\$2,094.97</u>			<u>\$2,094.97</u>	<u>\$951.70</u>			\$275.98		<u>\$1,467.29</u>
TOTAL		\$15,244.76			\$15,244.76	\$4,399.43	\$1,109.63				\$19,442.89
1992	R.E.	\$4,332.56			\$4,332.56	\$1,010.03			\$6.30		\$3,316.23
	P.P.	\$114.88			\$114.88	\$30.44					\$84.44
	MVE	<u>\$902.29</u>			<u>\$902.29</u>	<u>\$235.93</u>			\$66.26		<u>\$610.11</u>
TOTAL		\$5,349.73			\$5,349.73	\$1,276.40					\$4,010.78
1991	R.E.	\$2,711.97			\$2,711.97	\$200.89				\$119.26	\$2,630.54
	P.P.	\$27.19			\$27.19	\$5.38					\$21.81
	MVE	<u>\$335.10</u>			<u>\$335.10</u>	<u>\$17.50</u>			\$0.05		<u>\$317.55</u>
TOTAL		\$3,074.26			\$3,074.26	\$223.57					\$2,969.90
1990	R.E.	\$26.99			\$26.99	\$11.29					\$15.70
	P.P.	\$19.43			\$19.43	\$0.00					\$19.43
	MVE	<u>\$539.65</u>			<u>\$539.65</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>			\$8.00		<u>\$456.65</u>
TOTAL		\$586.07			\$586.07	\$86.29					\$491.78
1989	R.E.	\$48.30			\$48.30	\$0.00					\$48.30
	P.P.	\$5.00			\$5.00	\$0.00					\$5.00
	MVE	<u>\$598.84</u>	<u>\$41.67</u>		<u>\$640.51</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>			\$41.67		<u>\$673.84</u>
TOTAL		\$652.14	\$41.67		\$693.81	\$25.00					\$627.14
1988	R.E.	\$50.41			\$50.41	\$0.00					\$50.41
	MVE	<u>\$248.49</u>			<u>\$248.49</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>					<u>\$248.49</u>
TOTAL		\$298.90			\$298.90	\$0.00					\$298.90
1987	MVE	<u>\$12.73</u>			<u>\$12.73</u>	<u>\$12.73</u>					<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL		\$12.73			\$12.73	\$12.73					\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$116,739.79	\$509,657.62	\$3,573.21	\$629,970.62	\$492,227.41	\$6,011.02				\$130,164.23
TAXES COLLECTED		\$492,227.41									
INTEREST		\$1,610.11									
TAX TITLE		\$2,476.69									

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

NEIL G. NICKERSON
TAX COLLECTOR

REPORT OF THE TREASURER									
TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD							Balance	Balance	
TOTAL AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996							Closed	Carried	
Accounts	Appropriation	Grant Monies	Transfers	Available	Reserve	Expended	Out	Forward	
Chapter 85A Clark Wright Bridge		600.00		\$600.00		\$600.00			
Chapter 85A Loader		63000		63,000.00		63,000.00			
Chapter 85A Bell Rd.		34922.63		34,922.63		34,922.63			
Chapter 85A Chester Rd.		866.00		866.00		866.00		913.43	
Chapter 85A Reservoir Rd.		11833.61		11,833.61		11,833.61			
Salt Shed		100000.00		100,000.00	(1) 5,833.86	105,833.86			
Highway Maintenance	\$39,000.00			39,000.00	338.08	39,338.08			
Snow Removal	40,000.00	9362.00							
		4895.00	(3) 1324.35	55,545.35		55,545.35			
Unpaved Roads	10,000.00			10,000.00		9,912.16	\$87.84		
Machinery Expense	15,000.00			15,000.00	219.42	15,219.42			
Holidays/Vacations	3,300.00			3,300.00		2,776.00	\$724.00		
Health Insurance	7,000.00		(2) -1000.00	7,000.00					
			(2) -400.00						
			(2) -189.00	5,411.00		4,163.33	\$1,247.67		
Unemployment Compensation	2,000.00		(2) 400.00	2,400.00		2,272.73	\$127.27		
Salaries- Elected Town Office	11,745.00			11,745.00		11,045.00	\$700.00		
Dog Officer	400.00			400.00		400.00			
Inspectors Salaries	1,900.00			1,900.00		1,900.00			
Fire Chief/Forest Warden	325.00			325.00		325.00			
Selectmen's Secretary	2,000.00			2,000.00		2,000.00			
Police Chief	300.00			300.00		300.00			
Tree Warden	100.00			100.00		(0.00)	\$100.00		
Town Council	150.00			150.00		(0.00)	\$150.00		
Ambulance									
Hinsdale	1,200.00			1,200.00		1,200.00			
Huntington	198.00			198.00		198.00			
Arts Lottery Cultural Council		3150.00		3150.00		2,732.25		\$417.75	
Assessors Assistant	5,000.00			5,000.00		4,375.00		\$625.00	

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, FY '96 - pg 2

Accounts	Appropriation	Grant Monies	Transfers	Available	Reserve	Expended	Closed Out	Carried Forward
Assessors Expense	2,800.00			2,800.00		2,725.39	\$74.61	
Assessors Registry Fees	100.00			100.00	6.50	106.50		
Assessors Tax Map Update	650.00			650.00		650.00		
Cemetary Expense	3,000.00			3,000.00		2,992.00	\$8.00	
Computer for treasurer			(3) 1000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00		
Conservation committee Wetland Expense			(4) 442.70	442.70		48.00	\$394.70	
Council on Aging	1,000.00	1000						
			(4) 3456.93	5,456.39		1,439.75		4,017.18
Disposal Area	18,000.00			18,000.00		16,533.15	\$1,466.85	
Disposal Area Engineering			(4) \$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		(\$0.00)		\$1,000.00
Dog Expense	400.00			400.00		326.13	\$73.87	
Dog Kennel	500.00			500.00		228.00		\$272.00
Election and Registration -	800.00	84.00		884.00		522.64	\$361.36	
Fire Department Expense	4,500.00			4,500.00		4,471.61	\$28.39	
Fire House Dispatch Services	2,500.00			2,500.00		2,325.36	\$174.64	
Fire Engine Note	17,000.00			17,000.00		17,000.00		
Interest	1,637.00			1,637.00		1,632.94	\$4.06	
Firehouse Note	1,750.00			1,750.00		1,750.00		
Interest	438.00			438.00		437.50	\$0.50	
Gateway Regional School Dist	298,012.00			298,012.00		298,012.00		
Hampshire County Retirement	3,349.00			3,349.00		3,349.00		
Hampshire County Group Ins	818.00			818.00		818.00		
Hampshire County Tax	1,504.00			1,504.00	(2) 189.00	1,504.00	\$189.00	
Health and Sanitation	100.00			100.00		(0.00)	\$100.00	
Hilltown Resource Manageme	1,373.00			1,373.00		1,372.78	\$0.22	
Historical Commission			(4) 278.00	278.00		83.41		\$194.59
Insruance	25,000.00		(3) (1,000.00)					
			(3) (2,000.00)					
			(3) (300.00)					
			(3) (500.00)					
			(3) (1,000.00)					

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, FY '96 - pg 3							Closed	Carried
Accounts	Appropriation	Transfers	Available	Reserve	Expended	Out	Forward	
		(3) (1,324.35)	18,875.65		15,818.00	\$3,057.65		
Insurance Collected-Auditorium roof		(5) 15,340.00	15,340.00		15,340.00			
Interest Short Term Notes	6,000.00	(3) 1,000.00	7,000.00		6,950.38	\$49.62		
Library Expense	1,000.00	(7) 1,045.44	2,045.44		2,045.44			
Lee Visiting Nurses	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00			
Maintenance Public Building	20,000.00	(3) 2,000.00	22,000.00	375.48	22,375.48			
Medicare- town's share	500.00	(3) 300.00	800.00		750.19	\$49.81		
Pioneer Planning Commission	60.00		60.00		58.80	\$1.20		
Planning Board	10.00		10.00			\$10.00		
Planning Board, By-law revision		2,000.00						
		4,600.00	6,700.00		6,100.00		500.00	
Police Department Expense	3,800.00		3,800.00		3,751.59	\$48.41		
Police Vest		2,856.00	2,856.00		2,856.00			
Printing	1,500.00		1,500.00		1,356.87	\$143.13		
Recreation- Basketball Court	3,500.00	(6) 403.28	3,903.28				3,903.25	
Recreation Expense	1,000.00	(4) 2,142.79	3,142.79		2,613.36		529.46	
Reserve Fund	3,000.00		3,000.00				3,000.00	
Selectmen's Expenses & Trav	800.00		800.00		604.59	\$195.41		
Social Security Town's share	700.00	(2) 1,000.00	1,700.00	279.53	1,979.53			
Street Lights	500.00		500.00		426.78	\$73.22		
Tax Collectors Expense	1,000.00	(3) 500.00	1,500.00		1,435.94	\$64.06		
Tax Collectors Attorneys Fees		(4) 4,806.35	4,806.35		1,035.00		3,771.35	
Town Hall Custodian and Expense		(4) 2,550.00	2,550.00		1,547.65		1,002.35	
Town Counsel	5,000.00		5,000.00	102.66	5,102.66			
Treasurer's Warrant					\$2,785.23			
Medicare - employee's share					750.19			
Social Security - employee's share					1,979.53			
Blue Cross/Blue Shield					1,404.03			
Federal Income Tax					6,337.00			
Hampshire county Retirement					3,178.71			
State Income Tax					3,028.57			

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, FY '96 - pg 5					
LIABILITIES					
Fire Engine Loan Owed		\$17,000.00	Fire House Loan		\$10,500.00
Paid FY 1995		17,000.00	Paid FY 1995		1,750.00
Balance		--	Balance		\$10,500.00
Interest Paid		\$1,632.94	Interest Paid		\$187.50
TRUSTS AND FUNDS					
Arts Council			Escrow Fund- sale low value land- MM		
Balance		\$3,458.90	Balance		\$1,711.70
Deposited		---	Interest		29.01
Interest		75.93	Balance		\$1,704.71
Funds Available		\$3,534.75			
			Historical Commission - MM		
Cemetery Perpetual Care - CD			Balance		
Principal		\$14,449.00	Interest		25.70
Interest (1/2 year)		762.77	Balance		\$1,543.08
Total		\$15,211.77			
Cemetery Perpetual Care - MM			Stabilization Fund		
Balance		\$3,407.08	Balance		\$40,800.46
Interest		54.34	Interest		2,055.93
Balance		\$3,461.42	Deposit		10,000.00
			Balance		\$52,856.39
Sally Dickson Trust					
School - CD			Investment Account		
Balance		\$7,051.51	Balance		\$19,743.54
Interest		907.66	Interest		857.93
Balance		\$7,959.17	Deposit		1,151.05
Charity CD			Withdrew		3938.45
Balance		\$12,349.46	Balance		\$17,814.07
Interest		1,089.70			
Balance		\$13,939.16	Recreation- Basketball Court, savings		
			account opened 9/25/95		
			Drive		\$2,965.32
			Interest		35.68
			Funds Available		\$3,000.94

CHAPTER 85

BELL ROAD	\$34,814.36	
Total available		\$34,814.36
Labrie Constr.	\$28,181.69	
Jones Tractor	\$3,496.00	
Lane Construction	\$990.35	
Tri County Constr.	\$615.00	
Donovan Bros.	\$375.39	
William Hunt, Labor	\$337.50	
Donald Savery, Eq. Operator	\$210.00	
Brian Miller, Supt.	\$136.50	
David Krassler, Labor	\$60.00	
Total Spent	\$34,402.43	
Bal.		\$411.93

CHESTER ROAD	\$1,779.43	
Total Available		\$1,779.43
Machinery Earnings	\$422.00	
P.K. Steele. Sr.	\$280.00	
Brian Miller, Supt	\$84.00	
Donald Savery, Eq. Operator	\$80.00	
Total Spent	\$866.00	
Bal.		\$913.43

RESERVOIR ROAD	\$11,833.61	
Total available		\$11,833.61
Pittsfield Sand & Gravel	\$6,536.24	
Underground Supply	\$2,240.00	
Brewster Pease, dozer	\$1,425.00	
Donald Savery, Eq. Operator	\$555.00	
Streibel Const.	\$420.00	
Brian Miller, Supt.	\$364.87	
William Hunt, Labor	\$240.00	
David Krassler, Labor	\$52.50	
Total Spent	\$11,833.61	
Bal.		\$0.00

SALT SHED		
Grant	\$ 100,000.00	
Chapter 85	\$ 5,833.82	
Total available		\$ 105,833.82
Dailey Construction	\$101,433.82	
Huntley, Engineering	\$4,400.00	
Total Spent	\$105,833.82	
Bal.		\$ -

LOADER

Tyler Equip, Loader	\$60,000.00	
Smidt, Rental	\$3,000.00	
Total Spent		\$63,000.00

TOWN HIGHWAYS

Appropriation	\$39,000.00	
Total available		\$39,000.00

D. Savery	\$10,460.00	
B. Miller	\$9,647.16	
Brewster Pease	\$3,295.00	
Lane Const	\$2,480.87	
Scott Darling	\$2,287.00	
Bolduc Const	\$1,795.00	
Jones Tractor	\$1,596.00	
William Hunt	\$1,256.25	
W. Suriner	\$858.75	
Underground Supply	\$856.49	
Pittsfield Sand & Gravel	\$624.00	
Rboert Miller	\$615.00	
All States Asphalt, Cold patch	\$596.98	
David Krassler	\$596.25	
Peter Boisvert	\$472.50	
D. Savery Sr.	\$417.00	
LP Adams	\$376.95	
Bay Oil	\$357.50	
Millers Petro System	\$300.00	
W. Ritter	\$236.25	
Henry Roberts	\$56.25	
Henry Rock,IV	\$37.50	
Scott Smith	\$37.50	
Wally Smith	\$37.50	
Under Mnt. Trucks	\$24.38	
Dan Myers	\$15.00	
Total Spent		\$39,333.08
Bal.		(\$333.08)

TOWN SNOW

Appropriation	\$40,000.00	
Money from FEMA	\$4,859.00	
Money from MEMA	\$9,362.00	
Trans from Ins.	\$1,288.25	
Total available		\$55,509.25
Pittsfield Sand & Gravel, Sand	\$15,536.48	
Brian Miller, Foreman & Eq. Op.	\$12,137.97	
AKZO Salt, Inc, Salt	\$9,240.66	
Donald J. Savery, Eq. Op	\$8,233.75	

Howe Bros, parts	\$1,956.25	
William Hunt, labor	\$1,905.00	
Country Oil, diesel fuel	\$1,361.10	
Atlantic	\$1,095.64	
Albeco	\$894.35	
Douglas Doyle, Eq. Op.	\$848.00	
Arthur Muller, Eq. Op.	\$687.54	
Wholesale Dist.	\$677.00	
Larry Pease, Eq. Op.	\$272.00	
Freadman Steel	\$194.00	
L. LaRoche, Labor	\$103.12	
Superior Industries	\$86.50	
Lee Girard, labor	\$63.75	
Eric Main, Labor	\$60.75	
Middlefield Genl Store, supplies	\$58.49	
Hinsdale Service	\$43.00	
Thomas Troie, Labor	\$33.75	
Frusciente	\$30.00	
David Krassler, labor	\$26.25	
Total Spent		\$55,545.35
Bal.		(\$36.10)

TOWN HIGHWAYS - Materials Unpaved Roads

Appropriation	\$10,000.00	
Total Available		\$10,000.00
Jones Tractor, Gravel	\$6,829.50	
Pittsfield Sand & Gravel	\$3,082.66	
Total Spent		\$9,912.16
Bal.		\$87.84

ASSESSORS EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$2,800.00	
Total Available		\$2,800.00
Whalley Computer	\$749.03	
Gustel Progulske, reimb. supplies	\$498.20	
Adv. Business Systems	\$317.44	
Bishop & Assoc Value Update	\$300.00	
Pioneer Land Service	\$300.00	
B & H Computer, MVE bills	\$156.87	
MAAO	\$120.00	
Kris Monson, Meeting	\$82.16	
Discount Data	\$64.20	
Hampshire Co. Assess. Assoc.	\$60.00	
Hobbs & Warren, forms	\$35.00	
Huntington Hardware	\$24.49	
A.M. Sulkin Co.	\$18.00	
Total Spent		\$2,725.39
Bal.		\$74.61

ASSESSORS TAX MAP UPDATE

Appropriation	\$650.00	
Trans Res. Fund	\$364.20	
Total Available		\$1,014.20
Pioneer Land Services		\$500.00
Cartographics Assoc.		\$450.00
Discount Data Supplies		\$64.20
Total Spent		\$1,014.20
Bal.		\$0.00

ASSESSORS REGISTRY FEES

Appropriation	\$100.00	
Overpayment	\$20.00	
Total Available		\$120.00
Registrar of Deeds, Transfers		\$106.50
Total Spent		\$106.50
Bal.		\$13.50

ASSESSORS ASSISTANT

Appropriation	\$5,000.00	
Total Available		\$5,000.00
Mary White, Clerk		\$3,651.00
Susan Donnelly, Clerk		\$504.00
Gustel Progulske, Course		\$220.00
Total Spent		\$4,375.00
Bal.		\$625.00

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Appropriation	\$1,398.00	
Total Available		\$1,398.00
Hinsdale Ambulance		\$1,200.00
Huntington Lions Club Ambulance		\$198.00
Total Spent		\$1,398.00
Bal.		\$0.00

CEMETERY EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$3,000.00	
Total Available		\$3,000.00
Warren Ritter, mowing		\$2,428.64
R. Savery, walkway		\$500.00
Fair River Flaqs		\$63.36
Total Spent		\$2,992.00
Bal.		\$8.00

CIVIL DEFENSE

Appropriation	\$10.00	\$10.00
Bal.		\$10.00

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Transfer from Income Acct.	\$442.70	\$442.70
Dues	\$35.00	
Postmaster, box rent	\$13.00	
Total Spent		\$48.00
Bal.		\$394.70

COBRA

Appropriation	\$500.00	
Trans from Reserve Fund	\$250.07	
Total Available		\$750.07
BayBank	\$750.07	
Total Spent		\$750.07
Bal.		\$0.00

CUSTODIAN - TOWN HALL

Trans, Misc Income Available	\$1,547.63	\$1,547.63
Peter Oligny, Custodian	\$1,100.00	
Brigham Paper	\$308.29	
Huntington Hardware	\$116.59	
Peter Oligny, Supplies	\$16.67	
Betty Oligny, Supplies	\$6.08	
Total Spent		\$1,547.63
Bal.		\$0.00

CULTURAL COUNCIL

State Grant Available	\$3,458.80	\$3,458.80
miniTheatre of Chester	\$500.00	
Fauna Autenreith, art supplies	\$500.00	
John Porcino	\$300.00	
Becket Arts Center	\$300.00	
M. F. Reppucci, Gateway	\$300.00	
P. Kennedy, Gateway	\$300.00	
Renaissance Guild	\$175.00	
Chad Lamarsh	\$100.00	
John Newell	\$100.00	
L. LaFreniere	\$18.38	
Total Spent		\$2,593.38
Bal.		\$865.42

DISPOSAL AREA

Appropriation	\$18,000.00	
Total available		\$18,000.00
City of Northampton, dumping fees	\$8,567.15	
Dave Wickles Trucking	\$5,320.00	
Martin Main, attendant	\$2,115.00	
Donald Savery, Eq. Op.	\$465.75	
Hilltown Resource Mgmt	\$49.50	
Brian Miller	\$15.75	
Total Spent		\$16,543.15
Bal.		\$1,456.85

COUNCIL ON AGING

Carryover Bal. from FY95	\$3,456.93	
Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Arts Council	\$500.00	
Highland Valley Elder Servic	\$1,000.00	
Total Available		\$5,956.93
Joan Almori, supplis reimb.	\$527.92	
Fauna Autenreith, art instr.	\$500.00	
Moody Energy, fuel	\$235.79	
Sheraton Inn	\$224.20	
Impress Printing, newsletters	\$176.00	
Ellen Miller, brown bag dist.	\$120.00	
MCOA	\$56.00	
File of Life	\$48.31	
Susan Fastiggi, supplis	\$28.81	
Priscilla Suriner, supplis	\$10.00	
Postmaster, box rent	\$8.00	
Huntington Hardware	\$4.72	
Total Spent		\$1,939.75
Bal.		\$4,017.18

DOG OFFICER

Appropriation, Kennel	\$500.00	
Appropriation, Expense	\$400.00	
Appropriation, Salary	\$400.00	
Total Available		\$1,300.00
Marcia Krassler, Salary	\$400.00	
Jones Tractor, stone	\$228.00	
R.C. Steele	\$181.27	
Kathleen O'Brien	\$118.58	
Gateway Auto, supplis	\$17.28	
Marcia Krassler, supplis	\$9.00	
Total Spent		\$954.13
Bal.		\$345.87

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Appropriation	\$11,785.00	
Total Available		\$11,785.00
Nell Nickerson, Tax Collector	\$2,000.00	
Nancy Pease, Treasurer	\$2,000.00	
Arthur Muller, Selectman, Chair.	\$1,500.00	
Marjorie Batorski, Town Clerk	\$1,000.00	
Susan Donnelly, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Kris Monson, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Gustel Progulske, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Richard Progulske, Selectman	\$1,000.00	
Diane McQuaid, Selectman	\$300.00	
Donald Savery, Constable	\$90.00	
William Paschal, Constable	\$90.00	
Peter Olligny, Moderator	\$60.00	
Martin Main, Auditor	\$45.00	
Total Spent		\$11,085.00
Bal.		\$700.00

ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS

Appropriation	\$800.00	
Rec'd from State	\$84.00	
Total Available		\$884.00
Gustel Progulske, Teller	\$85.50	
Betty Olligny, Teller	\$85.50	
Patricia Paschal, Teller	\$55.12	
Country Journal, Ballots	\$51.30	
Shirley Savery, Teller	\$46.12	
Ellen Miller, Teller	\$39.37	
Nancy Pease, Teller	\$39.37	
M. Chris Bresnahan, Teller	\$32.62	
Priscilla Suriner, Teller	\$32.62	
Roberta Croxford	\$31.50	
Wayne Suriner, Teller	\$23.62	
Total Spent		\$522.64
Bal.		\$361.36

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation	\$4,500.00	
Total Available		\$4,500.00
Gleason Fire Equip.	\$1,205.41	
Specialized Radio Systems	\$729.19	
Gateway Auto Parts	\$637.83	
Merriam Graves, oxygen	\$445.82	
Com-Tech Electronics	\$309.10	
Larry Pease, Reimb.	\$306.09	

Pittsfield Fire & Safety	\$200.25	
Maurice Pease, gas	\$122.67	
H/S Auto Service	\$118.55	
Hinsdale Servicenter	\$109.66	
St. Martins, gasoline	\$92.00	
J.J. Keller	\$70.19	
Commonwealth of Mass.	\$50.00	
Charlies Garage, gas	\$36.85	
American Red Cross	\$17.50	
W.J, Blueprint	\$10.50	
Hampshire County, Nozzle	\$10.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$4,471.61</u>
Bal.		\$28.39

DISPATCH SERVICE

Appropriation	\$2,500.00	
Total Available		\$2,500.00
 Berkshire County Dispatch		<u>\$2,325.36</u>
Bal.		\$174.64

FIRE CHIEF & FOREST WARDEN

Appropriation	\$325.00	\$325.00
Larry Pease, Fire Chief & Warden		<u>\$325.00</u>
Bal.		\$0.00

FIRE HOUSE NOTE

Appropriation	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
Farmers Home Administration		<u>\$1,750.00</u>
Bal.		\$0.00

FIRE HOUSE INTEREST

Appropriation	\$438.00	\$438.00
Farmers Home Administration		<u>\$437.50</u>
Bal.		\$0.50

FIRE ENGINE ACCOUNT

Appropriation	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
Bay Bank		<u>\$17,000.00</u>
Bal.		\$0.00

FIRE ENGINE INTEREST

Appropriation	\$1,637.00	
Total Available		\$1,637.00
Bay Bank	<u>\$1,632.94</u>	
Bal.		\$4.06

GARAGE ROOF REPAIR

Received from Insurance Co	\$15,340.00	
Paid Titan Roof	\$10,860.00	
Paid Ed Sanders	<u>\$4,480.00</u>	
Bal.		\$0.00

GATEWAY REG. SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appropriation	\$298,012.00	
Total Available		\$298,012.00
Gateway Regional School Dist	<u>\$298,012.00</u>	
Total Spent		\$298,012.00
Bal.		\$0.00

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT

Appropriation	\$3,349.00	
Total Available		\$3,349.00
Hampshire County Retirement	<u>\$3,349.00</u>	
Total Spent		\$3,349.00
Bal.		\$0.00

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY GROUP INSURANCE TRUST

Appropriation	\$818.00	
Total Available		\$818.00
Hamp. Cty Group Ins Trust	<u>\$818.00</u>	
Total Spent		\$818.00
Bal.		\$0.00

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY TAX

Appropriation	\$1,504.00	
Trans. from Health Ins.	\$189.00	
Total Available		\$1,693.00
Hamp. Cty	\$1,504.00	
Total Spent		\$1,504.00
Bal.		\$189.00

HEALTH INSURANCE

Appropriation	\$7,000.00	
Trans to Soc. Sec.	\$1,000.00	
" " Unemp. Comp.	\$400.00	
" " Hamp. Co. Tax	\$189.00	
Total Available		\$5,411.00
BC/BS	\$3,304.62	
Hampshire County Ins. Group	\$651.66	
Peter Boisvert, Physical	\$65.00	
Robert Miller, Physical	\$65.00	
Warren Ritter, Physical	\$55.00	
Dept. of Employment Training	\$22.00	
Total Spent		\$4,163.28
Bal.		\$1,247.72

HEALTH & SANITATION

Appropriation	\$100.00	
Bal.		\$100.00

HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Appropriation	\$1,373.00	\$1,373.00
Hilltown Resource Management	\$1,372.78	
Total Spent		\$1,372.78
Bal.		\$0.22

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Total Available		\$278.00
L.P. Adams, Tarp	\$67.71	
Postmaster, box rent	\$8.00	
Cindy Duby	\$7.70	
Total Spent		\$83.41
Bal.		\$194.59

HOLIDAY & VACATION PAY

Appropriation	\$3,500.00	
Total Available		\$3,500.00
Donald Savery, Eq. Op.	\$1,600.00	
Brian Miller, Supt	\$1,176.00	
Total Spent		\$2,776.00
Bal.		\$724.00

INTEREST - SHORT TERM LOANS

Appropriation	\$6,000.00	
Trans from Ins.	\$1,000.00	
Total Available		\$7,000.00
BayBank	\$6,910.38	
Bureau of Accounts	\$40.00	
Total Spent		\$6,950.38
Bal.		\$49.62

INSPECTIONS

Appropriation	\$1,900.00	
Total Available		\$1,900.00
Walter Smith, Building Insp.	\$1,000.00	
William Zeitler, Plumbing Insp.	\$300.00	
John Savery, Electric Insp.	\$300.00	
Larry Pease, Smoke Alarms	\$100.00	
Eric Main, Elec. Insp.	\$100.00	
Larry Pease, Oil Burner	\$100.00	
Total Spent		\$1,900.00
Bal.		\$0.00

INSURANCE

Appropriation	\$25,000.00	
Total Available		\$25,000.00
Transfer to : Maint. Pub. Bldgs.	\$2,000.00	
Town Snow	\$1,288.25	
Short Term Loans	\$1,000.00	
Treas. Computer	\$1,000.00	
Tax Coll. Exp.	\$500.00	
Medicare	\$300.00	
Total Transferred		\$6,088.25
Total Available		\$18,911.75
MIIA	\$8,885.00	
Hastings Tapley	\$6,933.00	
Total Spent		\$15,818.00
Bal.		\$3,093.75

LIBRARY EXPENSE

Trans from Library Income	\$3,950.40	
Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Total Available		\$4,950.40
Cynthia Oligny, Librarian salary	\$500.00	
Story House	\$301.03	
American Econo-Clad Services	\$254.65	
Perma Bound	\$242.84	
Brudart Co.	\$220.28	
Lucent Books	\$151.51	
Wayne Suriner, Painting	\$120.00	
Cynthia Oligny, Reimb. supplies	\$82.44	
Upstart Books	\$63.34	
Time Inc.	\$51.48	
Univ. Book Service	\$32.35	
Harlequin Reader Services	\$25.52	
Total Spent	\$2,045.44	
Bal.		\$2,904.96

MACHINERY EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$15,000.00	
Total Available		\$15,000.00
Country Oil, diesel fuel	\$3,251.50	
Bolduc	\$1,795.00	
Gateway Auto , parts	\$1,785.30	
Lawson Products	\$1,077.86	
Tyler Equip	\$916.57	
Charlie's Garage	\$867.46	
ATCO	\$836.49	
Superior Spring	\$737.36	
O'Connell Assoc.	\$468.05	
Smiths Sled Shop	\$411.15	
Middlefield Gen'l Store	\$336.32	
McLaughlins Supply	\$277.50	
Pittsfield Welding	\$269.03	
Texas Refinling Corp.	\$237.60	
Schmidt Equip.	\$224.59	
Future Supply	\$214.24	
Hinsdale ServiceCenter, gas	\$192.11	
St. Martins, gas	\$151.26	
Wenzers Farm Equip.	\$139.00	
Hampshire County Purchasing	\$125.14	
Rodney Savery	\$116.00	
Tech Mass Distributor	\$114.24	
Preventive Maintenance	\$107.30	
Body King	\$89.80	
Pittsfield Communications	\$78.00	
LP Adams	\$62.69	

Tri County Products	\$40.15	
Art Muller, Reimb, sticker & drill	\$40.00	
Sarat Ford	\$39.55	
Berkshire Eagle	\$32.22	
Commonwealth of Mass	\$25.00	
Huntington Hardware	\$16.47	
Union News	\$15.36	
Sprfld Mack,	\$9.08	
Undermountain Truck Sales	\$9.03	
Total Spent		\$15,108.42
Bal.		(\$108.42)

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Appropriation	\$20,000.00	
Trans from Insurance	\$2,000.00	
Available		\$22,000.00

Moody Energy, fuel	\$9,252.19	
WMECO	\$5,701.84	
NYNEX	\$2,305.49	
Wayne Suriner, Jr. Paint & Repairs	\$896.25	
Savery Electric, breaker	\$851.48	
Huntington Hardware	\$533.90	
Tom Broga, plumber	\$515.00	
Johnson Controls	\$438.53	
Signsmith	\$300.00	
L.P Adams	\$293.10	
AT&T	\$280.79	
Overhead Door Co, of Pittsfield	\$253.50	
Newton Palmer, Plans	\$222.05	
Pittsfield Safety	\$184.45	
Mill End Store, curtain material	\$153.40	
Peter Little, bookcase	\$150.00	
Dept Water Testing	\$35.00	
Cindy Duby	\$8.51	
Total Spent		\$22,375.48
Bal.		(\$375.48)

OFFICE EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$3,000.00	
Transfer from Reserve Fund	\$497.68	
Total Available		\$3,497.68

Discount Data, ribbons & toner	\$667.45
U.S Postal - Envelopes	\$601.60
U.S Envelop	\$431.20
Maurice Pease, postage & supplies	\$362.08
Dues	\$350.00
Sentry Uniform, Flags	\$336.47
	\$275.00

Berkshire Eagle	\$260.40	
Metcalf Printing	\$243.05	
Middlefield General Store	\$101.79	
Postmaster, boxes	\$82.00	
Union News	\$41.99	
Hamp. Cty. Purchasing	\$10.00	
Total Spent		\$3,763.03
Bal.		(\$265.35)

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMM

Appropriation	\$60.00	\$60.00
Pioneer Valley Commission	\$58.80	\$58.80
Bal.		\$1.20

PLANNING BOARD

Appropriation	\$10.00	
Bal.		\$10.00

POLICE DEPARTMENT EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
Total available		
Staples, computer	\$1,482.95	
Expert Tire	\$341.68	
Sentry Uniforms	\$324.30	
Message Center	\$292.80	
Hinsdale Servicenter, gas	\$273.04	
Midas Muffler	\$258.75	
Jurek Bros. , ammo	\$156.43	
Curt Robie	\$140.00	
Dues	\$136.00	
St. Martins, gas	\$109.30	
Tom Austin	\$105.00	
Richies General Service	\$55.70	
Gateway Auto, parts	\$42.64	
Wm. M. Cloven, Esq.	\$15.00	
Wm. Elovirta	\$10.00	
Postmaster, box rent	\$8.00	
Total Spent		\$3,751.59
Bal.		\$48.41

POLICE CHIEF SALARY

Appropriation	\$300.00	\$300.00
Thomas Austin, salary	\$300.00	\$300.00
Bal		\$0.00

PRINTING

Appropriation	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
W.J. Blueprints	\$423.00	
Union News. ads	\$313.31	
Berkshire Eagle, Ads	\$290.03	
Cindy Duby Town Report	\$102.00	
Country Journal, ads & town report	\$95.60	
Mark Pease	\$72.67	
Betty Oigny	\$36.00	
Ronald Radwich	\$24.26	
Total Spent		\$1,356.87
Bal.		\$143.13

RECREATION EXPENSE

Carry over (from 1985 Rev S	\$2,142.79	
Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Total Available		\$3,142.79
Associated Video, TV & VCR	\$2,378.00	
River Hollow Farm. xmas	\$100.00	
Steve Cummings	\$81.84	
Judy Carrington	\$53.52	
Total Spent		\$2,613.36
Bal		\$529.43

RECREATION EXPENSE - BASKETBALL COURT

Appropriation	\$3,500.00	
Bank Balance	\$3,094.00	
Raffle	\$235.00	
Donations	\$168.28	
Total Available		\$6,997.28
Total Spent		\$0.00
Bal		\$6,997.28

SELECTMEN'S EXPENSE

Appropriation Available	\$800.00	\$800.00
Mass. Municipal Assoc, dues	\$359.00	
R. Progulsk, mileage	\$148.31	
Art Muller	\$53.36	
Betty Oigny supplies	\$43.92	
Total Spent		\$604.60
Bal.		\$195.40

SELECTMEN'S SECRETARY

Appropriation	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Betty Oligny, salary	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Bal.		\$0.00

STREET LIGHTS

Appropriation	\$500.00	\$500.00
WMECO	\$354.10	
Total Spent		\$354.10
Bal.		\$145.90

TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE

Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Transfer from Insurance	\$500.00	
Total Available		\$1,500.00
Moore Business	\$988.00	
Postmaster, stamps	\$320.00	
Quill Corp.	\$99.93	
B & H Computer	\$28.01	
Total Spent		\$1,435.94
Bal.		\$64.06

TREASURERS COMPUTER

Transfer from Insurance	\$1,000.00	
Mark Pease, computer	\$1,000.00	
Total Spent		\$1,000.00
Bal.		\$0.00

TOWN COUNSEL

Appropriation	\$1,500.00	
Total Available	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00
Kopelman & Paige	\$3,979.76	
Francis Collins, Atty.	\$1,122.90	
Total Spent		\$5,102.66
Bal.		(\$102.66)

DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Appropriation	\$150.00	\$150.00
Bal.		\$150.00

INSECT PEST CONTROL

Appropriation	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bal.		\$100.00

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Appropriation	\$10.00	\$10.00
Bal.		\$10.00

TREE WARDEN

Appropriation Available	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Spent		\$0.00
Bal.		\$100.00

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Appropriation	\$2,222.00	
Transfer from Insurance Available	\$750.00	\$2,972.00
Unemp. Comp. Total Spent	<u>\$2,272.73</u>	\$2,272.73
Bal.		\$699.27

VETERANS AGENT

Appropriation	\$10.00	\$10.00
Bal.		\$10.00

VISITING NURSE

Appropriation Available	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Lee VNA Total Spent	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	\$1,000.00
Bal.		\$0.00

WAR MEMORIALS & PLAYGROUNDS

Appropriation	\$1,200.00	
Available		\$1,200.00
Douglas Doyle, mowing		\$633.00
Paul & Myrtle Richardson, mowing		\$425.00
Wayne Suriner Jr.		\$82.50
Total Spent		<u>\$1,140.50</u>
Bal.		\$59.50

SOCIAL SECURITY

Appropriation	\$700.00	
Trans. from Insurance	\$1,279.53	
Total available		\$1,979.53
Baybank		<u>\$1,979.53</u>
Total Spent		\$1,979.53
Bal.		\$0.00

TAX TITLE WORK

Appropriation	\$5,000.00	
Available		\$5,000.00
Hamp. Cty. Reg. of Deeds		\$60.00
Daily Hampshire Gazette		\$63.79
" " , ads		\$69.86
Total Spent		<u>\$193.65</u>
Bal.		\$4,806.35