

*Annual Reports and Warrant*  
*of the Town of*  
*Middlefield, Massachusetts*  
*1998*

# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**of the  
TOWN of**

# **MIDDLEFIELD**

**Massachusetts**

**Fiscal Year 1998**

## **OFFICES HOURS AND MEETINGS**

<b>SELECTMEN:</b>	7:30 p.m. Mondays
<b>TAX COLLECTOR:</b>	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
<b>TREASURER:</b>	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
<b>ASSESSORS:</b>	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays
<b>TOWN CLERK:</b>	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 1998**

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**Town of Middlefield  
1999 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 1st 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 Tax Collector and a Hampshire Council of Government member for a term of two years. An Assessor, Cemetery Commissioner, Finance Committee member, Library Trustee, two Planning Board members, two School Committee members, Selectman, 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 & appropriate the sum of money to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, or take any other action relating thereto:**

	<u>Recommended Fy2000 Appropriation</u>	<u>Fy99 Appropriation</u>	<u>Amt. +/-</u>	<u>% +/-</u>
<b>Salaries of Elected Officials:</b>				
Moderator	\$100.00	\$100.00		
Town Clerk	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Treasurer	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Tax Collector	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Assessor, Chair	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Assessor, 2nd	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Assessor, 3rd	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Selectman, Chair	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Selectman	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Selectman	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Auditor	45.00	45.00		
Constable, 1st	90.00	90.00		
Constable, 2nd	90.00	90.00		
<b>Highway and Related Expenses:</b>				
Snow Removal	40,000.00	\$40,000.00		
Highway Maintenance	43,000.00	43,000.00		
Unpaved Roads Materials	15,000.00	15,000.00		
Machinery Expense	16,000.00	16,000.00		
Fuel	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Holiday and Vacation Pay	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Health Insurance, Employees	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Unemployment Compensation	3,500.00	3,500.00		
<b>Natural Resources:</b>				
Dutch Elm Disease Control	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	-100.00%
Forest Fire Protection	10.00	10.00		
Insect Pest Control	100.00	100.00		
Tree Warden	100.00	100.00		
<b>Government:</b>				
COBRA (Medicare)	1,200.00	1,200.00		
Elections & Registrations	500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)	-50.00%
Hampshire County Retirement	5,232.00	9,588.00	(4,356.00)	-45.43%
Health & Sanitation	10.00	10.00		
Interest, Short Term Loans	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Insurance	25,000.00	25,000.00		
Printing	750.00	750.00		
Town Counsel	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Social Security	2,000.00	2,000.00		
County Tax/Hampshire Council Gov't	3,287.00	0.00	3,287.00	100.00%
<b>Office Expenses:</b>				
Selectmen's Secretary	3,500.00	3,500.00		
Selectmen's Travel & Expense	800.00	800.00		
Office Supplies	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Assessors Assistant	5,500.00	5,500.00		
Assessors Education	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	100.00%
Assessors Computer Software	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Assessors Computer Replacement	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	100.00%
Assessors Expense	1,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)	-25.00%
Assessors Registry Fees	150.00	150.00		
Assessors Tax Map Update	650.00	650.00		
Tax Collectors Expense	4,000.00	4,000.00		

	<u>Recommended Fy2000 Appropriation</u>	<u>Fy99 Appropriation</u>	<u>Amt. +/-</u>	<u>% +/-</u>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>				
Cemetery Expense	3,600.00	3,600.00		
Civil Defense	10.00	10.00		
Council on Aging	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Disposal Area	18,000.00	18,000.00		
Hilltown Resource Management Coop	1,373.00	1,373.00		
Dog Officer Salary	400.00	400.00		
Dog Officer Expense	300.00	300.00		
Lee Visiting Nurse	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Library Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Maintenance of Public Buildings	22,000.00	22,000.00		
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	60.00	60.00		
Planning Board	10.00	10.00		
Recreation Committee	500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)	-50.00%
Street Lights	500.00	500.00		
Veterans Agent	3,000.00	10.00	2,990.00	29900.00%
War Memorials & Playgrounds	2,200.00	2,000.00	200.00	10.00%
<b>Police Department:</b>				
Police Chief Salary	400.00	400.00		
Police Expenses	6,000.00	4,100.00	1,900.00	46.34%
<b>Fire Department:</b>				
Fire Chief/Forest Warden	425.00	425.00		
Fire Department Expenses	4,500.00	4,500.00		
Firehouse Note Payment	1,750.00	1,750.00		
Interest on Firehouse Note	100.00	355.00	(255.00)	-71.83%
Dispatch Services	2,650.00	2,650.00		
Hinsdale Ambulance	1,200.00	1,200.00		
Huntington Ambulance	200.00	200.00		
<b>Inspectors Salaries:</b>				
Building	2,556.00	1,820.00	736.00	40.44%
Board of Health/Inspection Agent	300.00	300.00		
Electrical	300.00	300.00		
Electrical Assistant	100.00	100.00		
Oil Burner	100.00	100.00		
Plumbing	300.00	300.00		
Smoke Detector	100.00	100.00		
Propane	100.00	100.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$289,848.00</b>	<b>\$283,796.00</b>	<b>\$6,052.00</b>	<b>2.13%</b>

**ARTICLE 4.** To determine the disposition of the Dog Fund.

**ARTICLE 5.** 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 6.** To see if the Town will vote to carry over the balance in the basketball court fund to fiscal year 2000, or take any other action thereto.

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$420.32 from the Conservation Commission Wetland's Receipts Reserved Account to the Conservation Commission Wetland's Expense Account.

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from the Machinery Earnings Account to the Machinery Expense Account, or take any other action thereto.

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to accept Franklin Regional Transit Authority as the official transportation agent for the Council on Aging.

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$306,299.00 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, or take any other action thereto. *increase of \$10,272 or +3.47% from fy99*

*As of the 3/1/99 census, Middlefield had 82 students in grades Pre-K-12 in district schools, representing 5.42% of students.*

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,538.00 for Middlefield's share of the over-minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, or take any other action thereto, or accept as an over-minimum contribution a sum which is less than \$46,538.00 as certified by the Gateway Regional School District. *increase of \$35,876 or +336.5% from fy99*

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,738.00 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, 1999 through June 30, 2000, or take any other action thereto. *decrease of \$17,950 or -45.2% from fy99*

**ARTICLE 13.** 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 14.** 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 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the payment of principal on the Trash Compactor note.

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$900.00 for the payment of interest on the Trash Compactor note.

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2 that may be spent on the Transfer Station without further appropriation during FY2000. Funds collected may be used for the Transfer Station, for capital equipment, grounds' improvements or other related expenses to benefit the Transfer Station. The Selectmen may spend up to \$5,000 in revolving fund monies for the program during FY2000.

*(This is to confirm the intent of Article 6 of the February 24, 1997 Special Town Meeting in language that is acceptable to Massachusetts General Laws, and requires reauthorization at every Annual Town Meeting.)*

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$106,550.00 as recommended by the Capital Planning Committee to fund the following capital requirements of town departments and committees for the year or take any other action thereto. *(see detail next page)*

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept Total</u>
<u>Fire Department</u>		
3 sets turnout gear	\$3,000.	
2 Scott air packs	4,000.	
11 lengths of 3" fire hose	1,650.	\$8,650.
<u>Police Department</u>		
Body work to cruiser	\$2,000.	
Revolvers (4) for officers	2,500.	\$4,500.
<u>Highway Department</u>		
Electrical repairs to Highway Garage	\$2,000.	
F550 one ton diesel 4x4 plow truck & sander	55,000.	
Improve electric service & lighting to Salt Shed	2,000.	\$59,000.
<u>Town Clerk</u>		
Fireproof cabinet	\$1,500.	
Computer software	\$500.	
Bookshelves	1,000.	\$3,000.
<u>Town Hall Improvements</u>		
Electrical upgrades (lighting, plugs, emergency generator)	\$6,500.	
ADT security system installation & 1 yr. maintenance	1,500.	
Paint building exterior & replace clapboards	10,000.	
Replace kitchen Floor	5,000.	
Commercial refrigerator, coffee pots, kitchen equipment	2,800.	
New folding tables & chairs	5,000.	
Materials for construction of 10x12 storage building	600.	\$31,400.
	<i>Total Capital Requirements</i>	<i>\$106,550.</i>

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 as recommended by the Capital Planning Committee to be deposited in the Stabilization Fund to be used for the future purchase of used equipment such as fire trucks, graders and highway trucks, etc. and repairs, and additions to town owned buildings, such expenditures to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the town or take any other action thereto.

**ARTICLE 20.** 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-nine.

Board of Selectmen:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Rock, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Radwich

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Pease

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable of Middlefield

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORT

Once again it's time to review last year's accomplishments from our board. At the time of this report, unfortunately, we are without a highway superintendent. We hope to fill the position soon. As in other years, our weather has posed many ice problems this winter for the highway crew. Sand and salt use was high due to constant freezing temperatures and buildup of ice. Along with this were freezing and thawing temperatures requiring sanding in the morning hours even when there was no freezing rain. Snow accumulations were low compared to ice storms. We commend the highway crew for doing a good job trying to keep up with those constant problems.

Our town hall had some major improvements thanks to a 3 year grant through PVPC and DHCD grant monies. Our town hall is now ADA compliant with the bathrooms being handicapped accessible as well as having new double doors for better insulation and handicapped use. Other small items were done along with that project. Several housing projects were done as well through the grant.

The Town Hill Road project was designed through bid process. Figures came in higher than expected and there were some adjustments made to keep the project on track of necessary work to upgrade the road with monies available. Work should begin this spring when better weather arrives. Phase 2 of the 3 year grant is hopeful to begin this year as well.

Our oil tank at the town hall was replaced with a double walled tank with monitors. A grant was awarded with costs around \$25,000 and we received a 50% reimbursement of \$12,050. Our tanks in town are now up to date and compliant with regulations.

Glendale Falls bridge was completed last fall before snow arrived. Through state and federal monies this project was accomplished. We have more progress in being able to put a box culvert in on Cone Road bridge. Mr. Bill Allen has been working with the state on this project and has kept it moving forward. We thank him for all his time put into this project as in the end costs will be very small to the town.

Test holes were dug along Skyline trail from Middlefield town line to Huntington town line with Chester and Middlefield highway crews doing the work with the state. The object was to find what types of soil were underneath the roadbed giving the state more knowledge to design the reconstruction phase. We hope the project will begin soon.

Our metal dump disposal area was cleaned up per a DEP request order. Overall appearance is better and no more contaminants will be left on the ground making it a safer environment. We will be scheduling metal boxes at different times for disposing of metal products.

The Board wishes to say thank you to Neil Nickerson, our tax collector for 50 years, as he has decided to retire. He has done an excellent job for so long. He will be missed by all of us. Your shoes will be hard to fill Neil. Thank you!

Our highway crews for last summer and winter have done an excellent job keeping the equipment in good repair as well as maintaining the roads. They have accomplished many projects even though they weren't state projects, it was all needed work and we thank them for all they've accomplished. We also would like to extend thanks to all the boards, committees and volunteers for doing a good job keeping up with the pace of paperwork and functions that help keep this town going and alive with enthusiasm. It is very much appreciated.

We wish to extend the Board's sympathy to the families of Rob Connor, Janet Gardner and James Turner for the loss of their loved ones. They will be missed.

Board of Selectmen  
Thomas Rock  
Ronald Radwich  
Larry Pease

# OFFICERS and COMMITTEES for 1998

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS Term Expires

### Board of Selectmen

Thomas Rock, Chairman	2001
Ronald Radwich	1999
Larry Pease	2000

### Board of Assessors

Gustel Progulske, Chairman	2000
Kristin Monson	1999
Githa Jozsef	2001

### Auditor

Martin 'Archie' Main	1999
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### Constables

William Paschal	2001
Donald Savery	2001

### Board of Health & Fence Viewers

Board of Selectmen, Chairman

### Cemetery Commission

Nancy Burnham	2000
Neil G. Nickerson	2001
Larry Pease	1999

### County Commissioner

Joseph Kearns	1999
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### Finance Committee

Scott Artioli	2001
Archie Main	2001
William Allen	1999
Greg Carpenter	2000
Joseph Kearns	2000

### Library Trustees

Susan Donnelly	2000
Chris Bresnahan	2001
Elizabeth Carpenter	1999

### Moderator

Joe Kearns	2001
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### Planning Board

Michael Hale	2000
Joanne Rennert-Boisvert	1999
Tamarin Paine	1999
Ann Jewett	2001

### School Committee

Curt Robie	2001
Paula Bouffard	1999

### Tax Collector

Neil G. Nickerson	2001
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### Treasurer

Nancy C. Pease	2001
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### Tree Warden

Brian Miller	1999
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### Town Clerk

Marjorie Batorski	1999
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### Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter Oligny	2000
Maurice Pease	2001
Nancy Burnham	1999
Richard Griffin, Alternate	1999

## APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS TermExp

### Town Attorney

Kopelman & Paige	1999
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### Animal Inspector - Domestic/Rabies

Donald Savery	1999
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### Cultural Council

Peter Oligny	1999
Andrea Tasi	1999
Beth Carpenter	2000
Ann Jewett	2000

# OFFICERS and COMMITTEES for 1998

## APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS *continued*

### Building Inspector

Walter Smith 1/2 1999  
 Paul Tacy 1/2 1999  
 Rick Barus, Alternate 1999

### Civil Defense Warden

Larry Pease 1999  
 Thomas Austin, Asst. Warden 1999

### Conservation Commission

Thomas Troie 1999  
 Steve Cummings 2000

### Council on Aging

Joan Almorì, Co-Chairman 1999  
 Sue Fastiggi, Co-Chairman 1999  
 Ellen Miller Elizabeth Oigny  
 Pricilla Suriner Gustel Progulske  
 Richard Progulske

### Disposal Area

Martin Main 1999  
 Kathy O'Brien, Assistant 1999

### Dog Officer

David Krassler 1999

### Dutch Elm and Insect Pest Control

Brian Miller 1999

### Field Drivers

Board of Selectmen

### Fire and Forest Warden

Larry F. Pease, Fire Chief 1999  
 Ronald Radwich, Deputy Fire Chief 1999

### Historical Commission

Nancy Burnham 2001  
 George Bell 2000  
 Jack Cobb 2000  
 Cindy Duby, Associate 1999

### Lumber Surveyor

Brian Miller 1999

### Wood/Bark Measurer

Edward James 1999

### Police Department

Thomas Austin, Police Chief 1999  
 Curt Robie 1999  
 Michael Pensivey 1999  
 Darren Pensivey 1999

### Plumbing Inspector

William Zeitler, Jr. 1999

### Recreation Committee

Board of Selectmen

### Recreation Sub-Committee

Judy Carrington, Chair 1999

### Registrar of Voters

Marjorie Batorski 1999  
 Mary Jane Donnelly 1999  
 Susan Fastiggi 1999  
 Anita Myers 1999

### Smoke Alarm & Oil Burner Inspector

Larry Pease 1999

### Street Superintendent

Vacant

### Veteran's Agent

Cameron McQuaid 1999

### Westfield River Advisory

Carl Lafreniere 1999

### Wiring Inspector

Eric Main 1999

**ASSESSORS**

In 1998 we welcomed Githa Jozsef to the Board of Assessors. It was a re-val year for the town. Assessors reviewed and visited 99 properties. The most significant change was to our land schedule. To arrive at the schedule, the assessors reviewed all sales of land in Middlefield during the past three years, and took into consideration sales of land in neighboring towns.

The new land schedule for 1999, 2000 and 2001 is as follows:

- \$15,000 for the first 2 acres (primary lot)
- \$ 4,000 per acre for the next 8 acres
- \$ 500 per acre for any acreage above 10 acres
- Parcels without improvements receive a \$6,000 deduction on the primary lot.

We processed 13 abatements and 9 exemptions. Our current tax rate of \$17.39 per \$1,000 is calculated as follows:

Town mtg appropriations \$728,354.  
 Total Cherry Sheet 1,402.  
 State and county charges 2,079.  
 Overlay reserve 6,072.  
 Amount to be raised \$737,907.

Receipts from state \$79,918.  
 Estimated local receipts 67,400.  
 Other available funds 30,500.  
 Total estimated receipts \$177,868.

Net amount to be raised \$560,039.

Tax Rate 560.039.  
 32,204,675. x 1,000 = \$17.39

Respectfully submitted,  
 Gustel Progulske, Chairperson  
 Kristin Monson  
 Githa Jozsef

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The Hampshire Inspection Program provides building inspection and zoning enforcement for the towns of Chesterfield, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield and Plainfield. In 1998, the region experienced a building boom, with the result that the program had to move fast to keep up with the work. We issued 196 building permits to the five towns, 25 of which were for new housing starts. Municipal projects also occupied a lot of hours and

brought added complexities and challenges to the job.

In the final year of Hampshire County, the County Commissioners continued to subsidize the program in order to make it affordable to the small communities we serve. I am pleased to report that fees for permits exceeded the County's assessments to the towns in all but one case, thanks in part to the county subsidy.

Fy99 Fees and Assessments by Town

	Assessment	Collected Fees
Chesterfield	\$4,683.	\$6,176.
Goshen	5,000.	5,126.
Huntington	7,175.	8,442.
Middlefield	1,820.	1,847.
Plainfield	<u>4,500.</u>	<u>3,896.</u>
TOTALS	\$23,178.	\$25,488.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, so residents should expect an increased assessment for fiscal year 2000 as the County ends. It is a sad fact that running a prompt, professional building inspection service costs money.

As a new member of the Hampshire Council of Governments team, I look forward to working with the townspeople in the upcoming year. I will continue to hold office hours in Chesterfield on Monday nights and Huntington on Wednesday nights. Residents from any of the five towns may come to either office.

Paul F. Tacy, Building Inspector  
 Hampshire Inspection Program

**CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Capital Planning Committee was appointed by the selectmen, with help from the town moderator, to develop a five year plan to address the capital needs of the town. This is the committee's second year of work.

The committee developed a series of forms to assess the present condition of town-owned buildings and equipment and a form to list present and future needs. Each department head was contacted to review last year's work, realign requests, and make recommendations on necessary building improvements.

In the warrant are a number of items submitted by the committee. These items represent the capital needs of the town and should not be confused with normal department operating and maintenance budgets. All department's needs are listed in one

article for the sake of clarity and comparison, so that capital needs of the town may be distinguished.

Some may ask why certain items continue to appear. One reason is that some items were not funded last year, but remain important. Another reason is that some items may be able to be funded from grants or other revenue sources. Action on some items is delayed until all options are investigated. The committee continues to recommend that each year a sum of money be raised and appropriated to the stabilization fund to fund purchases of surplus equipment and repairs to buildings and equipment as opportunities arise. Expenditures for such purposes would require a two-thirds vote of a special town meeting.

The present and future needs of the town continue to grow. The committee has identified and established a five-year plan that is balanced and addresses the needs of each department. Many requested items were deleted or changed as those involved realized the magnitude of the problem. Each resident must in his/her own mind come to terms with the impact that capital and yearly expenses will have on the tax rate. The unfortunate reality is that the cost to run the town will continue to rise. Each year residents ask for more services to assist them with their daily lives. The committee hopes that through its work, residents may gain a better understanding of the needs of the town that will assist them in making decisions in the future. Respectfully submitted,

Curt Robie  
Ann Jewett  
Peter Oligny  
Eleanor Doyle

#### **CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

The Commission completed two of the five cemetery inventories this year and both (Bell and Mack Cemeteries, Skyline Trail) have been forwarded to Mass. Historical Commission in Boston. The inventories involve recording significant detail about location and condition of the grounds and stones, materials and motifs, names of known carvers, and narrative explaining the cemetery's religious affiliation, period of use and historical association with the community.

There has been discussion of possible future limitation on the number of plots that can be purchased at Pine Grove Cemetery in order to provide burial plots for future generations. Your

comments and questions are always appreciated and welcomed. Burial plots remain at a cost of \$500 each.

Special thanks to Donald Savery, Sr. for the excellent care he has taken with all five cemeteries, often above and beyond the call of duty. Grateful thanks again to the Grange and 4-H for placement of flags on our veterans graves.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Burnham, Chairman  
Larry Pease  
Neil G. Nickerson

#### **COUNCIL ON AGING**

Through the generosity of the townspeople in approving a request for financial support in FY98, the Council on Aging was able to pursue a method of improving the water at the senior center. By drilling the well deeper and adding more casing, the quality of the water has been greatly improved. Though not perfect, at least it does not present a health hazard in that it is now potable.

The COA continues as an active, sharing and supportive organization designed to meet the needs of Middlefield seniors. This year the weekly congregate meal program at the senior center served 757 meals. This gathering provides opportunity for blood pressure checks (the generosity of Optimum Care sends a nurse to our center twice a month, at no expense to us), as well as providing a positive social atmosphere, a place to share stories and information.

Funding through Franklin Regional Transit Authority provides a stipend for volunteer drivers who transport seniors or handicapped residents for medical reasons and shopping. Any one interested in becoming a volunteer driver is most welcome.

We continue to publish a quarterly newsletter funded in part through a grant from the Massachusetts Elder Services. We have been sending letters of introduction to newly eligible seniors, inviting them to join our activities and avail themselves of our resources.

We were saddened by the loss of our Tuesday morning art class due to lack of interest. However, new programs have begun; the osteoporosis prevention exercise class meets on Tuesday mornings, and a sewing, knitting group meets on Wednesday evenings.

New challenges are facing us. With the cutback of medicare funding affecting V.N.A. and other

home health care providers, some residents are experiencing cuts in necessary services. The COA and Highland Valley Elder Service are trying to find a workable solution.

The COA would like to thank the town and particularly senior citizens for their continued support. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who make this organization a success. Due to their dedication and hard work, we are able to continue our services to seniors without a great financial burden to the town.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan M. Almorì Co-Chair  
Susan Fastiggi, Co-Chair

### CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Cultural Council was active this year reviewing numerous requests for monies and scheduling various performances to enhance the local quality of life. We tried to select performers who could give us a wide variety of offerings. A program was held at Town Hall featuring a deaf performer who enlightened her audience regarding the world of the deaf. Local performer John Porcino took part in the holiday festival by telling stories in the Middlefield church. Many functions at the Gateway School system were partially funded by the Middlefield council. A juggler was also funded to perform at Middlefield Fair.

A distinct effort was made to provide variety. We are hoping to bring ballroom dance lessons to Middlefield in the future, along with different types of music. Many of these performers travel a substantial distance and we hope people continue to attend performances. We have tried to schedule programs to run along with other town activities to attract the most interest. We welcome suggestions and appreciate the attendance we've had in the past.

A special thank you to Ann Jewett for her service to our local council and her support for the arts over the years. Ann decided to take a break from the duties of the Cultural Council and she has been missed. She will always have a soft spot in her heart for artists and we hope to enlist her help with presentations in the future.

Andrea Tosi, Chairman  
Peter Oligny  
Crocus Hale  
Christine Bresnahan  
Elizabeth Carpenter  
Lois Bell

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the past year the Volunteer Fire Department responded to 39 calls, 28 of them medical and the rest ranging from activated carbon monoxide detectors to a structure fire. Our thanks to neighboring volunteer fire departments who responded on several occasions for mutual aid.

Our department is continuing to work with the Capital Planning Committee to upgrade equipment and gear to comply with the National Fire Prevention Association Guidelines.

We acquired another pick-up from the State Forestry Surplus Program and the Firemen's Association has purchased a utility body. Hopefully this will replace our present and sometimes unreliable rescue truck.

We continue our Rabies Clinic every year for the convenience of townspeople and a small department profit. We also planned to sponsor another skating party this year, but weather has not been very cooperative. We have acquired smoke detectors through a Hampshire County program. These will be available to elderly residents in need of a smoke detector and some low-income residents. They are free of charge and will be installed by our firemen.

Recent training courses include CPR recertification, LifeFlight Helicopter and Ice/Cold Water Rescue training with the Berkshire County Dive Team in Becket.

Thank you once again to the townspeople for continued support. There's always room for more volunteers. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month- stop by and visit.  
Respectfully Submitted

Larry Pease, Chief

#### Fire Department Calls

28 Medical  
1 Car accident  
1 report of smoke  
1 car fire on tracks  
1 tree on wires  
1 activated fire alarm  
1 carbon monoxide detector  
1 cellar pump  
1 water problem  
1 propane leak  
1 stove fire  
1 structure fire

## HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOP

Annual Waste & Recycling Summary  
for Middlefield, July 1, 1997- June 30, 1998  
Population 392

Total Tons Disposed	150.76 tons
Total Disposal Costs	\$8,291.80
Total Tons Recycled/Diverted	60.78 tons
Total Diversion/Recycling Rate	28.7%
Total Recycling per person	477. lbs.
Total Recycling Savings	\$3,342.90

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative is a unique regional municipal organization created, operated and funded by its member towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. The HRMC's main goal is to continue to develop a first quality integrated recycling and waste management program for the region. This year, for the fifth year in a row, the HRMC will be level funded.

Every year the HRMC works to

- monitor area recycling and waste management efforts at the Springfield MRF and Northampton Landfill
- operate the plastics recycling, tire collection salvation army, hazardous waste collection and paint recycling programs
- coordinate the sales of compost bins & provide recycling set out bins to schools and residents as needed.
- provide workshops to schools and community groups.
- work with local officials to improve transfer station operations, explore DEP grants and monitor state regulatory policy.
- develop new innovative programs

Feel free to contact HRMC anytime about these programs at 268-3845.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Weiss, Administrator

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

This year the Commission members continued work on the inventory of books and periodicals as well as setting up a filing system for information on early Middlefield families, localities and events. The Museum was open most weekends during the summer months and by appointment at other times.

Special thanks go out to all residents who visited the museum and to all who contributed information,

photos, newspapers and artifacts of the town's historic past.

Respectfully,  
Jack D. Cobb, Chairman  
Roy Haapala, Secretary  
Nancy Burnham, Treasurer  
George Bell  
Cindy Duby, Associate

## HUNTINGTON LIONS CLUB AMBULANCE

The goal of Huntington Lions Club Ambulance is to provide the highest quality of pre-hospital medical care with state of the art equipment to all the citizens of Middlefield in a timely and efficient manner. We rely on a three-tiered system that includes Middlefield Fire Department First Responders, basic life support of the Huntington Lions Club Ambulance, and advanced life support intercepts for the administration of medications and advanced pre-hospital skills. This system is regulated by Massachusetts Department of Public Health *Emergency Medical Services Pre-Hospital Treatment Protocols*, that must be strictly adhered to by all emergency medical services statewide. These protocols are designed to manage emergent patient illnesses and injuries through rapid intervention to alleviate patient suffering and deliver patients to definitive care in an improved or stable clinical state.

The Huntington Lions Club Ambulance has employed advanced life support services from AMR Springfield and Northampton, Westfield Fire Department, Albany Med Flight, Hartford LifeStar, and UMass LifeFlight, and has developed a professional and educational training system with each of these services. Ultimately this system optimizes the quality and timeliness of patient care.

In order to expedite your emergency call, please be sure to have your house number clearly identified, yard lights "on" or a person, if available, to direct us or other emergency services into your residence.

Our Fy98 accomplishments include a new ventilator for cardiac and respiratory emergencies, the Gateway High School Career Outreach program, participation in Hampden County WEB Consortium of School to Work Partnership, EMS continuing education programs in conjunction with Noble Hospital, community CPR and first aid programs, advanced life support training for ambulance EMTs, a new defibrillator for cardiac emergencies, and

participation in local health fairs.

Fy99 will feature upgrade of our service from basic to advanced life support at the intermediate level. This license change will allow us to execute advanced life saving skills. Although ALS paramedic units will continue to be used for medications, the number of critical care skills available for use by the HLC Ambulance will increase dramatically.

As always, we look forward to serving Middlefield while providing quality pre-hospital emergency medical service. We wish to express our profound gratitude and admiration for Middlefield Fire Department's First Responders that provide excellent patient care and assistance to HLC Ambulance, and our thanks to Middlefield Police Department for their assistance on calls throughout the year.

**Middlefield Call Statistics**

Child birth	1	Respiratory	1
Seizure	2	Other	2
Total Calls	6		

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda L. Buzzee  
Medical Service Director

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Once again the Middlefield Public Library has had a very busy year. Our thanks go to everyone who has donated books to our expanding collection. Books are very expensive and these donations have not only enhanced our collection, but save us many dollars. The Western Mass. Bookmobile continues to come on a regular basis which allows us opportunity to continuously rotate the books available to townspeople. A new computer has been installed with internet access and is fully Y2K compliant. This computer allows great access and has proven to be a very popular and helpful tool, especially for students looking for varied kinds of references. By being part of Western Mass. Regional Library System and a member of the CW Mars system, we are able to locate and receive books from a wide variety of library sources. if you cannot find what you are looking for, please ask and we will search some of our outside sources for your needs.

The library is always looking for ways to improve the service we offer and we welcome any suggestions. As anyone who has visited the library

can see, we are very cramped for space and this hampers our ability to expand to any big extent. however, we are trying to make the best of what we have. We have explored grants that can be used to either add on or build a separate building, but these grants normally require some type of financial commitment on the part of the town that does not seem likely at the current time. We will continue to explore any avenue of improvement and hope that some type of financial resources become available soon. In order for the town to receive money from the state for library purposes, we must show a continuing form of financial support from the town. That is why you will see minor increases in the request for funds on the warrant. by funding the library, the town not only keeps a valuable resource alive, but reaps at least some small benefit from the state coffers at the same time. We ask that you continue to support the library requests at town meeting and make use of our resources during any of our normal library hours. Thank you for your support.

Cyndy Oligy  
Librarian

**LEE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION**

Services performed in Middlefield during 1998 include:

Home Visits	# Visits
Skilled nursing	221
Physical therapy	18
Occupational therapy	1
Home Health visits	395
Home Health hours	464.25

Clinics	Sessions	Attendance
Flu/Pneumonia	1	21

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Middlefield Police Department would like to thank the citizens of the town for their support and cooperation during the year. Department members continued to maintain the training requirements of the Commonwealth. This year all members completed firearms training at the Smith and Wesson National Firearms Academy, sponsored by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training council. Officers also continue to complete necessary training as required at the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Academy in Agawam.

This year the Commonwealth revised gun owner licensing laws that will require all citizens to re-apply for a gun license. Chief Austin attended numerous workshops on the new laws and procedures. Chief Austin and Chief Chaffee of Chester Police Department sponsored workshops for gun owners on the new regulations.

State mandates and regulations are making more difficult each year to maintain a voluntary police department. The strain on officers' time to meet training and certification requirements continues to rise. The need for better record keeping, court time and report writing to cover town liability issues is also rising. The only salvation has been the department's ability to obtain state grant money to augment the town budget. This has allowed officers to receive a token amount of pay for a portion of the time they put in on the job.

The department has also been able to sponsor a number of community activities using grant funds. These have included the holiday festival and town skating parties. In the spring, the department will sponsor the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program for children, which has been developed by the NRA to teach gun safety.

The number of other serious types of crime continued to be seen in town as can be seen in the annual police activity log listed below. The list includes domestic cases, motor vehicle accidents, house alarms, suspicious vehicle calls, suicide and drunk driving cases.

The department continues to be one of only a handful of police department in the state that is entirely voluntary. As a result, the officers do the best they can to respond to situations, patrol town streets and handle investigations. The department continues to be highly respected by both the Massachusetts State police and area police departments.

The department thanks the town for their support and thanks the Massachusetts State Police, Russell Barracks, Berkshire County Dispatch and the Massachusetts Environmental Police for their assistance and cooperation during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Austin, Chief

Curt Robie, Sergeant

Michael Pensivey, Training Officer

Darren Pensivey, Officer

Police Activity log for 1999

1	Assault & battery
4	Motor vehicle accidents
5	Domestic violence
2	Trespassing motor vehicle
34	House checks/alarms
4	Vandalism
15	Hunting license checks
15	Suspicious vehicles
20	Court hours
4	Elderly checks
1	Home invasion
3	Assisted Electric Co.
1	Assisted Phone Co.
3	Trespass with an ATV
2	Harassing phone calls
4	Trespassing
2	Drug overdose-attempted
2	Attempted suicide
5	Mutual aid- Police, Chester, Becket, Huntington, Worthington
5	Hunter complaints
8	Motor vehicle stops
36	Miscellaneous calls
3	Larceny
5	Breaking & entering

**PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board meets on an as-needed basis to review and sign changed lot plans. Middlefield has had only a few such changes each year. Last year's trend was combining lots with abutting parcels. This year's trend has been correcting lot lines belonging to existing houses of family members. There was only 1 division of a large lot into 2 smaller ones for sale of the land alone.

Planning Board members are Commissioners or Alternates to Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, providing contact with the planning projects and issues of the 43 town region.

In-town projects, such as a new town directory are still underway. An initial questionnaire on town management needs was prepared and distributed. Other planning tasks, such as Bylaw changes, Open Space plans, pursuit of small grants, Master plan, etc. are undertaken as interest and opportunity directs. Please direct your interests to: Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Chair, 623-2167  
Michael Hale, Joanne Rennert-Boisvert, Ann Jewett, (5th member sought)

**PLANNING BOARD ASSESSMENT:  
TOWN MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

At a Special Town Meeting on 11/30/98, under the Any Other Business Article, there was discussion of possible methods of assisting Town Officers with the ever increasing work necessary to Town management. The Planning Board was given the responsibility of soliciting Officers' assessment of needs and presenting a report at Town Meeting.

Some initial responses include: Since Treasurer and Tax Collector jobs will soon be turned over to new people, we need 2 efficient, accurate, computer accounting literate, dependable new candidates willing to work 30 hour weeks for low pay. Higher pay was strongly suggested.

Town Clerk has already found it necessary to have an unpaid assistant to cover some Saturday hours and a lot of filing.

Making job descriptions and written procedures was encouraged.

**TOWN CLERK**

**DOG LICENSE REPORT**

		gross	fees	net
Male	31@ \$3	\$93.00	\$23.25	\$69.75
Female	6@ \$6	36.00	4.50	31.50
Spay-fem	39@ \$3	117.00	29.25	87.75
Kennel-4	6@ \$10	60.00	4.50	55.50
<u>1 Replacement</u>		<u>.50</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>.50</u>
Totals	83	306.50	61.50	245.00

**FISHING/SPORTING LICENSE REPORT**

	#	gross	fees	net
F1 Resident fishing	12	\$270.00	\$6.00	\$264.00
F2 Res Fish minor	1	6.50	.50	6.00
F3 Res Fish 65-69	1	11.25	.50	10.75
F6 Non-res. fishing	1	32.50	.50	32.00
H1 ResCitznHunting	7	157.50	3.50	154.00
H5 NonResHtg-big	6	567.00	3.00	564.00
H8 ResCitzMinorHtg	1	6.50	.50	6.00
S1 Res. Sporting	14	560.00	7.00	553.00
S2 ResSport 65-69	1	20.00	.50	19.50
S3 ResCitSport70+	3	-	-	-
M1 Archery stamp	9	45.90	.90	45.00
M3 P.FirearmStamp	8	40.80	.80	40.00
W1 WConsStmpRes	26	130.00	-	130.00
<u>W1 WCStmpNonrs</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>35.00</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>35.00</u>
TOTALS	97	1882.95	23.70	1859.25

**VITAL STATISTICS**

Births

Hugh Marchetti Hale, son of Crocus and Michael Hale, March 11, 1998.

Cecil Douglas Roberts, son of Linda and Cecil Roberts, May 1, 1998

Brendon Michael David Rock, son of Billie Denise and Paul Rock, August 11, 1998

Gabrielle Yvon Lees Turcotte, daughter of Michelle Provencher and Pierre Turcotte, November 2, 1998

Meghan Jeanette Main, daughter of Tracy Gero and Wayne Main, December 27, 1998.

Marriages

Peter J. Lpos and Kathleen S. Walsh, January 3, 1998

Paul M. Rock and Billie Denise Sawyer, April 19, 1998

Roger C. Merrill and Carol S. Nolley, October 17, 1998

Deaths

Janet Evelyn Gardner, June 14, 1998

James Raymond Turner, August 18, 1998

Robert Joseph Connor, Jr., September 14, 1998

Joseph L. Baum, February 1, 1998 in Hartford, CT *Joe lived in Middlefield for a number of years in the Clark Wright Road home now occupied by the Krassler family. He and his widow Arline wrote children's books.*

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, October 20, 1997**

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Peter Oligny at 8:00 p.m. There were 74 people present.

ARTICLE 1 It was moved and seconded that Article 1 be accepted as read. Curt Robie, School Committee member said that this was a formality. There was a voice vote and this Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2 Article 2 was read and a motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. Curt Robie, School Committee Member, gave a brief description of the Planning Committee

plan. A great deal of discussion was generated by this Article. It was noted that it would take about 6 million dollars to bring Chester Elementary School up to present state standards. There would have to be an elevator for the handicapped and the underground oil tanks will have to be taken out by 12-22-1998.

Under the plan being considered, Chester and Blandford Elementary Schools would be closed. Additions and improvements would be made to the Russell Elementary, the Middle School and High School. Also, a new elementary school would be built in Huntington to serve PreK- Grade 5 students from Chester, Huntington, Worthington and Middlefield. Russell Elementary would serve PreK-Grade 5 students from Russell, Blandford, and Montgomery. The land for the new school has been donated.

A question was asked, how long would it be before a new school was open. Answer was 2-3 years. Another question asked what would it take for a town to leave the School district and build their own school? Reply was that it would take a vote by all 7 member towns to have this happen.

After more discussion, a motion was made and seconded to move the question. It was an unanimous vote. A paper ballot had early on been requested. The Town Clerk passed the Yes-No paper ballots and checked to see all who voted were registered voters.

After the tally, 38 people voted YES and 39 people voted NO. School Committeeman, Curt Robie asked for a recount and the result was the same. Article 2 was defeated.

ARTICLE 3 Being no other business, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be dissolved. It was an unanimous vote. Meeting dissolved at 9:20 p.m.

Marjorie Batorski  
Town Clerk

#### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, June 22, 1998**

Joseph Kearns, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. There were 21 people present.

ARTICLE 1 A motion was made and seconded that the Article to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,000 from the Health Insurance Account to the Maintenance of public Buildings Account be accepted as read. Being no discussion, a motion was made and seconded to pass the Article. It was an unanimous vote and Article 1 passed.

ARTICLE 2 A motion was made and seconded

that the Article be accepted as read. There was a motion to amend "Interest" to "Insurance." It was an unanimous vote and the amendment passed. Article 2 now reads "To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$1,000 from the Insurance Account to the Maintenance of public Buildings Account." It was moved and seconded that the amended article be passed. It was an unanimous vote and Article 2 passed.

ARTICLE 3 A motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. An amendment was made to have "Interest" amended to "Insurance." Article 3 now reads "To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$3,000 from the Insurance Account to the Unemployment Compensation Account." It was moved and seconded that the amended Article be passed. It was an unanimous vote and Article 3 passed.

ARTICLE 4 A motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. A motion was made and seconded to amend the word "Disposal" to read "Insurance." It was an unanimous vote and the amendment passed. Article 4 now reads "To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,000 from the Insurance Account to the Town Snow Account." It was moved and seconded that the amended article be passed. Article 4 passed but not unanimously.

ARTICLE 5 A motion was made and seconded that the Article be to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$1,000 from the Holidays and Vacation Account to the Town Snow Account. Being no discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Article be passed. It was an unanimous vote and Article 5 passed.

ARTICLE 6 A motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. A motion was made and seconded to amend the words "available funds" to "free cash". It was unanimous vote to amend. Article 6 now reads "To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$7,154.75 to Town Snow." There was discussion generated and Neil Nickerson, Tax Collector, stated that Joe Beaudreau, the Western Mass representative of the D.O.R. recommended that Free Cash Account not get below \$100,000. It was also discussed to change the figure of \$7,154.75 to \$5,000. However, we went back to the original figure of \$7,154.75. There is at present \$105,303 in Free Cash. So, if you take \$7,154.75 from that it will leave a balance of \$98,148.25. A motion was made and seconded that the amended Article be accepted. It was an unanimous vote and Article 6 passed.

ARTICLE 7 Under this Article, the question of a downed tree on West Hill Road was raised. Why were not any signs indicating the downed tree put up? People get as far as the tree then have to turn around. The Selectmen said that they would speak to the present acting road boss and get it done. A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was an unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Marjorie Batorski  
Town Clerk

#### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, July 13, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Joseph Kearns at 8 p.m. There were 23 people present.

ARTICLE 1 A motion was made and seconded that the Article be accepted as read. There was a question as to where the money came from and the answer that Gateway Regional had changed its assessment. Another question was asked about the landscaping of the area around where the fuel tanks were removed. The reply was that the \$2505.43 did not include that cost; just the cost of proposed dog kennel that never was. Another question asked how old the removed tanks were, and did they leak. The answer was no to the leaking, and 20+ to the age. However, the tanks removed were near the crumbling point. After the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article. It was unanimous and Article 1 passed.

ARTICLE 2 A motion was made and seconded that the Article to see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$850 from the Assessors Assistant Salary Account to Veterans Agent Account be accepted as read. A question was asked why, and answered because the Assistant is paid on an hourly basis, and there was money left in the Account. A motion was made and seconded that the Article be passed. It was unanimous and Article 2 passed.

ARTICLE 3 A motion was made and seconded that the Article to see if the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$2000 from the insurance Expense Account to the interest on Short Term Loans Account be accepted as read. Being no discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Article be passed. It was unanimous and Article 3 passed.

ARTICLE 4 A motion was made and seconded that the Article to see if the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$2000 from the Tax Title Atty.

Fees Account to the Maintenance of Public Buildings Account be accepted as read. Ron Radwich, Selectman mentioned that the garage had to be repaired after a Town truck had backed into it, and that the overhead doors were replaced. Also, the walk-in entry had been changed from front to side entry. The cost went from 5-6 thousand beyond the insurance payment. Therefore, we need more money in this account. After this discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Article be passed. It was an unanimous vote and Article 4 passed.

ARTICLE 5 A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$700 from the Assessors Tax map Account to the Social Security Expense Account be accepted as read. Being no discussion, a motion was made and seconded that this Article be passed. It was an unanimous vote and Article 5 passed.

ARTICLE 6 Under this Article, there was discussion concerning the use of the building by others. There has been some conflict with the cast from Miniature Theatre of Chester about use of the auditorium. Larry Pease said he would contact the theatre.

Also, Peter Oigny, who, with his family hosted Iva Mizerova, an exchange student from the Czech Republic, presented to the town on behalf of the Mayor of Usetin of the Czech Republic, a ceramic seal of that city. The Mayor was quite impressed with the knowledge that Iva had of government. Iva studied government while a student at Gateway Regional High. She attended our last Town Meeting held in May as a spectator.

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Marjorie Batorski  
Town Clerk

#### **REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED**

The following departments & offices did not submit annual reports: Animal Inspector, Auditor, Civil Defense Warden, Conservation Commission, Constables, ~~County Commissioner/ Hampshire Council of Government~~, Dog Officer, Finance Committee, Highway Department, Moderator, Plumbing Inspector, Recreation Committee, Registrar of Voters, School Committee, Smoke Alarm/Oil Burner Inspector, Tree Warden/Insect Control/Lumber Surveyor, Wood Measurer, Transfer Station, Zoning Board of Appeals, Westfield River Advisory, Wiring Inspector.

Tax Collectors Report for Fiscal Year 1998

Year	Tax	Balance	Warrants	Refunds	Total	Taxes Col.	Abated	Tax Titles + A dj.	-	Balances
1998	R.E.		\$512,250.98	\$ 2,353.07	\$514,604.05	\$442,961.19	\$5,019.81	\$ 399.44		\$ 66,223.61
1998	P.P.		22,062.68		22,062.68	21,470.10				592.58
1998	MVE		31,462.12	55.83	31,517.95	20,721.17	168.75	.10		10,627.93
1998	R.B.		24,939.64		24,939.64	24,939.64				-0-
			590,715.42	2,408.90	593,124.32	510,092.10	5,188.56	399.44	.10	77,444.12
1997	R.E.	75,156.02		1,161.10	76,317.12	43,988.75	22.19			32,306.18
1997	P.P.	1,032.38			1,032.38	41.48	8.21			982.69
1997	W.P.	561.95			561.95	561.95				-0-
1997	MVE.	11,112.06		398.85	11,510.91	9,812.02	734.68			964.21
		37,862.41		1,559.95	89,422.36	54,404.20	765.08			34,253.08
1996	R.E.	37,705.78			37,705.78	13,736.05				23,969.73
1996	P.P.	1,063.44			1,063.44	15.60				1,047.84
1996	MVE.	5,208.97		8.44	5,217.41	2,618.85	8.44			2,590.12
		43,978.19		8.44	43,986.63	16,370.50	8.44			27,607.69
1995	R.E.	21,089.03			21,089.03	6,995.03				14,094.00
1995	P.P.	189.84			189.84	57.45				132.39
1995	MVE.	1,775.84			1,775.84	1,096.88				678.96
		23,054.71			23,054.71	8,149.36				14,905.35
1994	R.E.	10,649.70			10,649.70	1,947.56				8,702.14
1994	F.P.	38.56			38.56	-0-				38.56
(11)	MVE.	1,208.34			1,208.34	758.81				449.53
(8)		11,896.60			11,896.60	2,706.37				9,190.23
1993	R.E.	5,224.49			5,224.49	769.52				4,454.97
1993	P.P.	117.18			117.18	-0-				117.18
1993	MVE.	1,417.39			1,417.39	312.60				1,104.79
		6,759.06			6,759.06	1,082.12				5,676.94
1992	R.E.	3,095.58			3,095.58	116.66				2,978.92
1992	P.P.	48.31			48.31	-0-				48.31
1992	MVE.	605.11			605.11	81.77				523.34
		3,749.00			3,749.00	198.43				3,550.57
1991	R.E.	2,630.54			2,630.54	2,043.50				587.04
1991	P.P.	21.18			21.18	-0-				21.18
1991	MVE.	319.55			319.55	37.50				282.05
		2,971.27			2,971.27	2,081.00				890.27
1990	R.E.	15.70			15.70	15.70				-0-
1990	MVE	573.84			573.84	12.50				561.34
		589.54			589.54	28.20				561.34

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT

Tax Collectors Report for Fiscal Year 1998

Year	Tax	Balance	Warrants	Refunds	Total	Taxes Col.	Abated	Tax Titles + A dj.	Balances	
89	R.F.	48.30			48.30	48.30			-0-	
89	MVE	568.84			568.84	-0-			568.84	
		617.14			617.14	48.30			568.84	
88	R.E.	50.41			50.41	7.10		43.31	-0-	
88	MVE	248.49			248.49				248.49	
		298.90			298.90	7.10		43.31	248.49	
<b>total</b>		<b>181,776.82</b>	<b>590,715.42</b>	<b>3,977.29</b>	<b>776,469.53</b>	<b>595,167.68</b>	<b>5,962.08</b>	<b>442.75</b>	<b>.10</b>	<b>174,896.92</b>

Taxes Collected \$595,167.68  
 Int. Collected 18,569.65  
 Fees Collected 230.00  
 M.L. Collected 700.00  
 Total Collected \$614,667.33

Respectfully Submitted  
 Neil G. Nickerson  
 Tax Collector.

TREASURER'S REPORT	Town of Middlefield	July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998			Balance	Balance
Accounts	Appropriation	Transfer	Amt. Available	Reserve	Expenditures	Brought Forwd Closed Out
Chapter 113A & B		①	\$224,420.33	\$224,420.33	\$119,270.83	105,149.50
Snow Removal	40,000.00	②	3000.00			
		③	7154.75	50,154.75	50154.75	
Highway Maintenance	43,000.00		43,000.00		41805.45	1,194.55
Machinery Expense	16,000.00		16,000.00		15989.89	10.11
Fuel	6,000.00		6,000.00		5708.20	291.80
Unpaved Roads	15,000.00		15,000.00	313.44	15313.44	
Health Insurance	5,000.00	③	-2000.00	3,000.00	2476.25	523.75
Holidays & Vacations	3,000.00		3,000.00		2,578.00	422.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,500.00	④	3,000.00	4,500.00	114.00	4,614.00
Repair- truck insurance		⑤	510.70	510.70	475.00	35.70
Salaries- Elected Town Officers	11,285.00		11,285.00		11,285.00	
Dog Officer	400.00		400.00		400.00	
Fire Chief/Warden	425.00		425.00		425.00	
Police Chief	400.00		400.00		400.00	
Selectmen's Secretary	3,000.00		3,000.00		3,000.00	
Tree Warden	100.00		100.00			100.00
Inspector's Salaries- Building	1,776.00		1,776.00		1,776.00	
Board Health Agent	300.00		300.00		300.00	
Electrical	300.00		300.00		300.00	
Electrical Assistant	100.00		100.00		100.00	
Plumbing	300.00		300.00		300.00	
Oil Burner	100.00		100.00		100.00	
Gas	100.00		100.00		100.00	
Smoke Detector	100.00		100.00		100.00	
Ambulance- Hinsdale	1,200.00		1,200.00		1,200.00	
Ambulance- Huntington	200.00		200.00		200.00	
Arts Lottery Cultural Council		⑥	4,594.80			
Grant		⑥	3,150.00	7,744.80	3,816.40	3,928.40
Assessors Assistant	5,500.00	⑦	(850.00)	4,650.00	4,085.25	564.75
Assessors Registry Fees	150.00		150.00		42.50	107.50
Assessors Tax Map Update	650.00	⑧	650.00			
		⑧	(700.00)	600.00	500.00	100.00
Assessors Computer Software	1,500.00		1,500.00		1,500.00	
Assessors Expense	1,500.00		1,500.00		1,437.52	62.48
Cemetery Expense	3,000.00		3,000.00		2,623.13	376.87
Civil Defense	10.00		10.00			10.00
Conservation & Wetlands		⑨	359.82	359.82	20.00	339.82

Accounts	Appropriation	Transfer
Council on Aging	1,000.00	(4,424.16 10 296.00 2,000.00
Disposal Area Compactor		11 4,875.76
Disposal Area	18,000.00	
Disposal Area Note	6,000.00	
Disposal Area Interest	1,290.00	
Disposal Area Engineering		12 1,000.00
Dog Kennel		13 272.00
Dog Officer's Expense	300.00	
Election & Registration	500.00	
Fire Department Expense	4,500.00	
Fire Department Septic Tank	3,500.00	
Fire Department Dispatch Service	2,500.00	
Fire Department Note & Interest	2,105.00	
Forest Fire Protection	10.00	
Gateway Regional School District	337,204.00	14 (2,505.43)
Hampshire County Retirement	3,111.00	
Hampshire County Tax		15 1,420.10
Health & Sanitation	10.00	16 20.00
Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	1,373.00	
Historical Commission Expense		17 1,747.83
Middlefield Museum	500.00	
Insurance	25,000.00	2 (3,000.00) 4 (3,000.00) 18 (2,000.00) 20 (1,000.00)
Interest Short Term Notes	6,000.00	18 2,000.00
Lee Visiting Nurse Assoc.	1,000.00	
Library	1,000.00	19 { 3,961.97 407.80 1,400.98 259.91
Maintenance Public Buildings	22,000.00	3 { 2,000.00 8,416.00 20 { 1,000.00 2,000.00
Office Supleis Expense	3,000.00	

Available	Reserve	Expenditures	Bright Forwd	Closed Out
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7,720.16		2,917.84	4,802.32	
4,875.76		4,420.00		455.76
18,000.00		17,433.75		566.25
6,000.00		6,000.00		
1,290.00		1,290.00		
1,000.00		860.00		140.00
272.00		100.00	172.00	
300.00		159.89		140.11
500.00		275.65		224.35
4,500.00		4,491.76		8.24
3,500.00		2,836.67		663.33
2,500.00		2,441.25		58.75
2,105.00		1,920.62		184.38
10.00		0.00		10.00
334,698.57		333,836.57		862.00
3,111.00		3,111.00		
1,420.10		1,420.10		
30.00		0.00		30.00
1,373.00		1,373.00		
1,747.83		97.86	1,649.97	
500.00		198.27		301.73
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
16,000.00		15,291.00		709.00
8,000.00		7,990.59		9.41
1,000.00		1,000.00		
7,030.66		1,964.16	5,066.50	
35,416.00		34,345.64		1,070.36
3,000.00		2,895.25		104.75

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Accounts**

**Appropriation**

**Transfer**

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	60.00	
Planning Board	10.00	(21) 40.00
Police Department Expense	3,800.00	
Grant to increase budget		1,409.00
Police Department Grant Bal. fy97		3,059.46
Police Community Policing Grant		11,000.00
Police Department Outside Work		1,765.00
Printing	750.00	
Recreation		(22) 374.15
Recreation-Basketball Court		(23) 1,004.20
		600.00
		25.00
Reserve Fund	3,000.00	
Selectmen's Travel & Expense	800.00	
Street Lights	500.00	
Tax Collector's Expense	1,500.00	
Tax Title Attorney's Fee		(24) 2,769.25
		(20) (2,000.00)
Town Counsel	1,500.00	
Town Hall Oil Tank Removal & Replacement	25,000.00	(14) 2,505.43
Treasurer's Warrant		
Misc		
Motor Vehicle Excise Refund		
Real Estate Tax Refund		
Federal Income Tax Refund		
Community Health Plan		
Federal Income Tax		
Hampshire County Retirement		
Medicare (emplyee's share)		
Social Security (ee's share)		
State Income Tax		
Dog Licenses		
Division Fisheries & Wildlife		
Town Clerk		
Medicare- Town's share	800.00	
Social Security- Town's share	2,000.00	(8) 700.00
Tree Accounts		
Dutch Elm Disease	150.00	

Available	Reserve	Expenditures	Brght Forwd	Closed Out
60.00		58.80		1.20
50.00		0.00		50.00
5,209.00		5,055.49	153.51	
3,059.46		3,059.46		
11,000.00		8,992.52	2,007.48	
1,765.00		1,765.00		
750.00		550.00		200.00
374.15		297.44		76.71
1,629.20		1,570.40	58.80	
3,000.00		1,069.30		1,930.70
800.00		583.77		216.23
500.00		447.51		52.49
1,500.00		1,084.80		415.20
				0.00
769.25		57.80		711.45
1,500.00		614.51		885.49
27,505.43		27,505.43		
		550.00		
		461.04		
		3,977.51		
		0.38		
		2,663.85		
		6,365.00		
		3,531.85		
		1,326.86		
		2,691.38		
		3,686.96		
		319.00		
		2,231.75		
		133.00		
800.00	526.86	1,326.86		
2,700.00		2,691.38		8.62
				0.00
150.00		0.00		150.00

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

Accounts	Appropriation	Transfer	Available	Reserve	Expenditures	Bright Forwd	Closed Out
Insect Pest Control	100.00		100.00		0.00		100.00
Veteran's Agent	10.00	(7) 850.00	860.00		809.20		50.80
War Memorials & Playgrounds	1,600.00		1,600.00	115.00	1,715.00		
Borrowing Short Term Notes					120,000.00		
Sander		(25) 13,000.00	13,000.00		6,200.00		6,800.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$643,379.00</b>	<b>\$306,388.97</b>	<b>\$949,767.97</b>	<b>\$1,069.30</b>	<b>\$954,460.73</b>	<b>\$122,988.48</b>	<b>\$21,326.64</b>

Footnotes

1. Grant money.
2. Transfer from Insurance, \$2,000.00; Transfer from Free Cash, \$7,145.75.
3. Transfer to Maintenance of Public Buildings.
4. Transfer from Insurance.
5. Balance of insurance collected on truck.
6. Funds removed from bank account erroneously, \$4,948.80, and grant money.
7. Transfer to Veteran's Agent.
8. Balance from FY 97. Transfer \$700 to Social Security.
9. Balance from FY 97.
10. Balance of \$4,424.16 from FY 97, donation \$296.00, grant \$2,000.
11. Balance from FY 97.
12. Balance from FY 97.
13. Balance from FY 97.
14. Transfer to Town Hall Fuel Tank.
15. Funds made available on Cherry Sheet.
16. Balance FY 97.
17. Balance from FY 97.
18. Transfer from Insurance.
19. Balance from FY 97 \$3,961.00; income \$407.80; grant \$1,400.98 and dog fees \$259.91.
20. Transfer from Tax Title Attorney's Account \$2,000.00; \$8416.00 insurance collected on truck.
21. Balance from FY 97.
22. Balance from FY 97.
23. Balance from FY 97 \$1,004.20; \$600.00 income; \$250.00 donation.
24. Balance from FY 97.
25. Transfer from Stabilization Fund.

**CASH RECONCILIATION  
 JUNE 30, 1998  
 FISCAL YEAR 1998**

Cash Balance June 30, 1997		\$135,043.92
Cash Received Fiscal Year 1998		<u>1,039,422.44</u>
Total Cash FY 1998		1,174,466.36
Less: Total Warrants FY1998		<u>(953,109.78)</u>
		221,356.58
Less:		
Investment	100,000.00	
Cost of Checks	210.65	
Bad Checks	372.71	
Transfers	353.64	
	10,467.10	<u>(111,535.38)</u>
		109,821.20
Plus: Transfers		32,819.00
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 1998		\$142,640.20

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**LIABILITIES FISCAL YEAR 1998**

**FIRE HOUSE NOTE**

To be paid	\$7,000.00
Paid FY98	<u>-1662.48</u>
Owe	5337.52
Interest paid	355.00

**TRASH COMPACTOR NOTE**

to be paid in five years

Principal	\$30,000.00
Paid	<u>(6,000.00)</u>
Owe	24,000.00
Interest	1,290.00

## TRUSTS AND FUNDS

### CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE CD

Beginning Balance	\$15,659.47
Interest Earned	<u>943.31</u>
Ending Balance FY98	16,602.78

### CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE MONEY MARKET

*May be used by Commissioners as needed*

Beginning Balance	\$4,236.34
Interest Earned	<u>177.27</u>
Ending Balance FY98	4,413.61

### SALLY DICKSON CHARITY FUND

Beginning Balance	\$14,277.35
Interest Earned	<u>750.21</u>
Ending Balance FY98	15,027.56

### SALLY DICKSON SCHOOL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$8,148.86
Interest Earned	<u>365.62</u>
Ending Balance FY98	8,514.48

*Withdrew money June 2, 1998 Transferred*

*\$7,000 to Recreation- Basketball Court.*

*Remainder placed into money market  
account to establish a new school fund.*

### ESCROW MONEY MARKET

Beginning Balance	1775.05
Interest Earned	<u>\$74.28</u>
Ending Balance FY98	1,849.33

### STABILIZATION FUND MONEY MARKET

Beginning Balance	\$40,453.35
Withdrawal	<u>(13,000.00)</u>
	27,453.35
Deposit	5,000.00
Interest Earned	<u>1,698.24</u>
Ending Balance	34,151.59

## CASH RECEIPTS FISCAL YEAR 1998

Arts Lottery Cultural Council Grant	\$3,150.00
Cemetery Perpetual Care	100.00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	69,303.00
Conservation and Wetlands	137.50
Council on Aging Grant	2,000.00
Council on Aging Donation	296.00
Disposal Area- Stickers, etc.	4,868.30
Building Permits	2,635.56
Electrical Inspections	490.00
Health Inspections	100.00
Plumbing Inspections	250.00
Smoke Detectors, Gas & Furnace Inspections	170.00
Miscellaneous License, Permits, Inspections	616.00
Interest on Checking Account	2,600.15
Library Grant	1,400.98
Library Dog Fund	259.91
Library Sale of Books	407.80
Planning Board	80.00
Insurance Collected	8,416.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	766.41
Reimbursements (Chapter Work)	145,959.68
Borrowing	130,000.00
Recreation- Basketball Court	625.00
Police Department Out of Town Work	1,675.00
Police Department Community Grant	11,000.00
Police Department Budget Grant	1,409.00
Taxes	574,545.36
Interest on Taxes	6,524.52
Tax Titles & Liens	700.00
Rollback Taxes	4,398.28
Registration Fees	290.00
Community Health Plan	2,570.01
Federal Income Tax	6,365.00
Hampshire County Retirement	3,531.85
Medicare	1,326.86
Social Security	2,691.38
State Income Tax	3,686.89
Dog Licenses	319.00
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife	2,231.75
Town Clerk	133.00
Sally Dickson School Fund Closed	8,514.48
Closed Old Checking Account	32,664.93
Credit from Closed Accounts	<u>212.84</u>
TOTAL CASH RECEIVED FISCAL YEAR 1998	\$1,039,422.44

## FISCAL YEAR 1998

### TOWN HIGHWAYS

Appropriation		\$43,000.00
Matt Drosehn, Supt	\$8,556.61	
Donald Savery, Eq. Op	\$8,947.83	
Lee Girard, Eq. Op.	\$5,777.02	
Edward Vivier	\$2,555.25	
Dave Oaks	\$696.00	
Warren Ritter, Labor	\$195.00	
Matthew Radwich, student	\$3,010.88	
Anthony lamunno, student	\$939.76	
Scott Darling, Mowing	\$2,696.00	
Thomas Methe	\$60.00	
Lane Construction, Hot Mix	\$2,907.60	
Underground Culverts	\$1,618.40	
County Concrete	\$240.00	
David DiNicola, excav	\$150.00	
Jones Tractor, gravel	\$353.60	
Brian Miller, Eq Op	\$240.00	
Intertex Fence	\$152.10	
L.P. Adams	\$152.87	
Markings, striping	\$1,430.22	
Comm.Ma, Dodge Pick-up	\$500.00	
Specialized Radio	\$526.33	
Hamp.Co Reg.Serv	\$100.00	
Total Spent		\$41,805.47
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$1,194.64</b>

### TOWN SNOW

Approp.		\$40,000.00
Trans from Insurance		\$2,000.00
"    "    Holiday & Vacations		\$1,000.00
"    "    Free Cash		\$7,145.76
Total Available		\$50,154.76

Matthew Drosehn, Supt	\$12,324.39
Donald Savery, Eq. Op.	\$620.13
Lee Girard, Eq. Op.	\$738.00
David DiNicola, Eq. Op.	\$432.50
Brian Miller, Eq Op	\$6,473.00
Matthew Radwich, student	\$769.14
Wayne Main, labor	\$82.50

Donovan Bros, sand	\$12,721.95	
Morton Salt	\$11,184.47	
St. Pierre Mfg.	\$748.38	
Specialized Radio	\$511.00	
Atlantic Plow, blades & chain	\$500.00	
Jones Tractor, gravel	\$2,828.80	
Timothy Pease, welding	\$220.50	
Total Spent		<u>\$50,154.76</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

#### UNPAVED ROADS - MATERIAL

Appropriation		\$15,000.00
Transfer from Reserve Fund		\$313.44
Total Available		<u>\$15,313.44</u>
Jones Tractor, stone & Gravel	\$14,555.80	
Pittsfield Sand, stone & gravel	\$757.64	
Total Spent		<u>\$15,313.44</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

#### SANDER

Trans from Stabilization		\$6,200.00
Tri County Contractors	\$6,200.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$6,200.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

#### HIGHWAY DEPT. - FUEL

Appropriation		\$6,000.00
Charlie's Garage	\$333.00	
Hinsdale Mobil	\$934.62	
Country Oil	\$4,440.58	
Total Spent		<u>\$5,708.20</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$291.80</b>

#### REPAIRS TO FORD TRUCK

C/O bal. from Insurance		\$510.79
Southside Sales	\$475.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$475.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$35.79</b>

#### MACHINERY EXPENSE

Approp.		\$16,000.00
Gateway Auto	\$3,677.20	
Rapid Radiator	\$145.62	

Pierce Machine	\$65.00	
Tyler Equipment	\$1,045.94	
Gateway Ford	\$81.83	
O'Connell Oil	\$428.05	
Intertex	\$297.10	
Lawson Products	\$2,195.50	
Hinsdale Timbers	\$81.00	
Chief Survey Supply	\$465.70	
W. Ma Truck Center	\$261.39	
Merriam Graves	\$380.28	
Hilltop Sharpening	\$96.00	
Raynor's Bearings	\$369.98	
CEI	\$241.51	
Buds Chain Saw	\$44.25	
Huntington Hardware	\$519.95	
ERC Wiping Prod.	\$522.80	
Pittsfield Welding	\$39.94	
Berkshire Graphics	\$328.76	
L.P. Adams	\$1,007.23	
Hampshire Co. Purchasing	\$273.90	
Safety Kleen	\$530.62	
City Tire	\$107.00	
Smith of Galton, gloves	\$51.90	
Zwack	\$232.90	
Comm. of Mass	\$30.00	
Atlantic Plow - parts	\$759.60	
JMS Industries	\$90.15	
Timothy Pease, welding	\$40.00	
County Concrete	\$63.05	
Lee Girard	\$150.00	
Springfield Mack	\$254.00	
Daigles Steer-o-master	\$577.39	
Jus Roofing, plywood	\$100.00	
Superior Spring	\$371.54	
Contractors Pro Shop	\$39.31	
Mobile Sales	\$23.50	
	Total Spent	\$15,989.89
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$10.11</u>

#### AMBULANCE

Appropriation		\$1,400.00
Huntington Lions Club	\$200.00	
Hinsdale Vol.Fire Dept	\$1,200.00	
	Total Spent	\$1,400.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$0.00</u>

**ASSESSORS ASSISTANT**

Appropriation		\$5,000.00
Trans to Veterans Agent		\$850.00
Available		<u>\$4,150.00</u>

Mary White	\$4,085.25	
Total Spent		<u>\$4,085.25</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$64.25</b>

**ASSESSORS COMPUTER**

Appropriation		\$1,500.00
Community Software	\$1,500.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,500.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**ASSESSORS EXPENSE**

Appropriation		\$1,500.00
Kopelman & Paige, Atty	\$46.00	
Gazette News	\$13.60	
Advanced Business Sup.	\$189.98	
Gustel Progulske, reimb supply	\$369.13	
B & H Computer	\$179.93	
Staples	\$145.62	
Computer People	\$67.65	
McFarland Prod	\$263.36	
Mary White, Mileage	\$5.75	
A.M. Sulkin	\$48.50	
Dues	\$90.00	
Postmaster, box rent	\$13.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,432.52</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$67.48</b>

**ASSESSORS REG. FEES**

Appropriation		\$150.00
Hampshire County Reg.	\$42.50	
Total Spent		<u>\$42.50</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$107.50</b>

**ASSESS. TAX MAP UPDATE**

Appropriation		\$650.00
Pioneer Land Services	\$500.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$500.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>

**CEMETERY EXPENSE**

Appropriation		\$3,000.00
Warren Ritter, Mowing, etc.	\$1,056.00	
Donald Savery, mowing, etc	\$1,152.00	
Nancy Burnham, reimb	\$19.43	
Robert lamunno, raking	\$384.00	
Country Journal, ad	\$11.70	
	Total Spent	<u>\$2,623.13</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$376.87</b>

**CIVIL DEFENSE**

Appropriation		\$10.00
	Total Spent	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$10.00</b>

**CONSERVATION COMM.**

Carry Over		\$359.82
Postmaster	\$20.00	
	Total Spent	<u>\$20.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$339.82</b>

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Appropriation		\$1,000.00
c/o		\$4,394.16
Grant		\$1,500.00
Grant		\$500.00
Donation		\$326.00
	Available	<u>\$7,720.16</u>
Joan Almorì, Reimb. Sup.	\$867.79	
Bell Atlantic	\$41.03	
Berkshire Heating	\$59.63	
Project Health	\$50.00	
Impress Prtg. Newsletter	\$238.00	
Dues	\$65.00	
Town of Russell	\$229.70	
Ellen Miller, Brown Bags	\$160.00	
Henshaw Well Drilling	\$150.00	
Postmaster, box rent	\$12.00	
Warren Ritter, clean windows	\$50.00	
T.J. Contractors	\$660.23	
P. Suriner, reimb	\$30.00	
Bell Atl.	\$20.61	
Moody Energy, heat	\$283.85	
	Total Spent	<u>\$2,917.84</u>
<b>Bal. c/o '98</b>		<b>\$4,802.32</b>

## CULTURAL COUNCIL

Available		\$7,744.80
Chester Elem School	\$460.00	
Sevenars	\$200.00	
Joan Machacek	\$150.00	
Becket Arts	\$300.00	
Blandford Fair	\$150.00	
White Church , Restoration	\$150.00	
Ann Jewett, reimb	\$20.00	
Min.Theater of Chester	\$900.00	
Glasglow Lands, Scottish Fest.	\$150.00	
Idy Cadington	\$370.00	
Patty Carpenter	\$360.00	
Gateway Mdl School Band	\$300.00	
Gateway H/S Music	\$300.00	
K. Judge, reimb	\$6.40	
Total Spent		<u>\$3,816.40</u>
<b>Bal. to '99</b>		<b><u>\$3,928.40</u></b>

## DISPOSAL AREA

Appropriation		\$18,000.00
Betty Oligny, reimb, keys	\$5.69	
Archie Main, Attendant	\$1,646.71	
Newmann Ind., welding	\$25.00	
Kathleen O'Brien, Attendant	\$1,312.50	
City of Northampton	\$8,913.85	
Dave Wickles Trucking	\$5,530.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$17,433.75</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b><u>\$566.25</u></b>

## DISPOSAL - RECYCLING BIN

c/o		\$4,875.76
CEJJ	\$4,095.00	
Dave Wickles Trucking	\$325.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$4,420.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b><u>\$455.76</u></b>

## DISPOSAL AREA - ENGR.

c/o		\$1,000.00
E.B.Holmberg & Assoc	\$860.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$860.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b><u>\$140.00</u></b>

**DOG OFFICER EXPENSE**

Appropriation		\$300.00
Wahconah Mobile	\$130.00	
Mdfd. Country Store, dog food	\$29.89	
	Total Spent	\$159.89
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$140.11</b>

**DOG KENNEL**

c/o bal		\$172.00
Jordan Paddock	\$100.00	
	Total Spent	\$100.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$72.00</b>

**DOG OFFICER SALARY**

Appropriation		\$400.00
David Krassler	\$400.00	
	Total Spent	\$400.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**ELECTIONS & REGIST.**

Approp.		\$500.00
Betty Oligny, teller	\$57.50	
Priscilla Suriner, teller	\$57.50	
Gustel Progulske, teller	\$32.50	
Patricia Paschal, teller	\$25.00	
Cheryl Harper, teller	\$57.50	
Country Journal, ballots	\$45.65	
	Total Spent	\$275.65
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$224.35</b>

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Appropriated		\$11,285.00
Peter Oligny, Moderator	\$60.00	
Marjorie Batorski, Town Clerk	\$1,000.00	
Nancy Pease, Treasurer	\$2,000.00	
Gustel Progulske, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Kris Monson, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Archie Main, Assessor	\$1,000.00	
Archie Main, Auditor	\$45.00	
Larry Pease	\$1,000.00	
Richard Progulske, Selectman	\$1,000.00	
Ronald Radwich, Selectman	\$1,000.00	
Neil Nickerson, Tax. Collector	\$2,000.00	
Donald Savery, Constable	\$90.00	
William Paschal, Constable	\$90.00	
	Total Spent	\$11,285.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Chief & Warden Salary

Appropriation		\$425.00
Larry Pease, chief	\$425.00	
Total Spent		\$425.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**FIREHOUSE, PAYMENT**

Appropriation		\$1,750.00
USDA Rural Dev.	\$1,662.49	
Total Spent		\$1,662.49
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$87.51</b>

**FIRE HOUSE INTEREST**

Appropriation		\$355.00
USDA Rural Dev.	\$258.13	
Total Spent		\$258.13
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$96.87</b>

**DISPATCH SERVICES**

Appropriation		\$2,500.00
Berkshire County Dispatch	\$2,441.25	
Total Spent		\$2,441.25
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$58.75</b>

**FIRE DEPT EXPENSE**

Appropriation		\$4,500.00
Charlies Garage	\$36.00	
Berkshire Graphic	\$66.00	
Gateway Auto	\$450.26	
Merriam Graves	\$107.01	
St. Martins, gas	\$36.12	
Maurice Pease, reimb	\$12.24	
Com-Tech	\$785.30	
Specialized Radio	\$1,471.50	
CA Krohns	\$439.40	
Huntington Hdwe	\$17.36	
Galls Inc., supplies	\$466.37	
Nichols Pharmacy	\$125.20	
Pittsfield Fire & Safety	\$82.00	
L.Pease, stickers	\$60.00	
Buds Chain Saw	\$337.00	
Total Spent		\$4,491.76
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$8.24</b>

**FIRE DEPT - SEPTIC SYS.**

Appropriated		\$3,500.00
Wayne Main	\$1,795.00	
Cesco Plumbing	\$1,041.67	
	Total Spent	<u>\$2,836.67</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$663.33</b>

**FUEL STORAGE TANK T.HALL**

Appropriated		\$25,000.00
Trans from Gateway		<u>\$2,505.43</u>
	Total Available	\$27,505.43
Berkshire Eagle, ad	\$340.80	
Country Journal	\$54.63	
Miller Petro	\$24,860.00	
Scalise Knysk	\$2,250.00	
	Total Spent	<u>\$27,505.43</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**GATEWAY REG. SCHOOL**

Appropriated		\$337,204.00
Trans to Fuel Storage Tank		<u>(\$2,505.43)</u>
	Total Available	\$334,698.57
Gateway Reg. School Dist	\$333,836.00	
	Total Spent	<u>\$333,836.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$862.57</b>

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RET.**

Appropriation		\$3,111.00
Hampshire Co. Retirement Sys	\$3,111.00	
	Total Spent	<u>\$3,111.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY TAX**

Off cherry Sheet		\$1,420.10
Hampshire Co. Treas	\$1,420.10	
	Total Spent	<u>\$1,420.10</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**HEALTH & SANITATION**

Appropriation		\$10.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$10.00</b>

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

Appropriation		\$5,000.00
Trans to Maint.Public Bldgs		(\$2,000.00)
Available		<u>\$3,000.00</u>

CHP	\$2,476.25	
Total Spent		\$2,476.25
<b>Balance</b>		<u><b>\$523.75</b></u>

**HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGMT**

Appropriation		\$1,373.00
HRMC	\$1,372.78	
Total Spent		\$1,372.78
<b>Balance</b>		<u><b>\$0.22</b></u>

**MIDDLEFIELD MUSEUM**

Appropriation		\$500.00
Huntington Hdwe	\$7.25	
JackCobb, reimb	\$276.88	
Post Master, box rent	\$12.00	
Total Spent		\$296.13
<b>Balance</b>		<u><b>\$203.87</b></u>

**HOLIDAYS & VACATIONS**

Appropriation		\$3,000.00
Donald Savery, Eq. Op.	\$82.00	
Matthew Drosehn, Supt	\$1,346.00	
Lee Girard, Eq. Op.	\$1,064.00	
Brian Miller, eq op	\$80.00	
Total Spent		\$2,572.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u><b>\$428.00</b></u>

**INSPECTIONS**

Appropriation		\$3,076.00
Building Insp, county	\$1,776.00	
Walter Smith, Bd. of Health	\$300.00	
John Savery, Elec. Asst	\$100.00	
Eric Main, Elec.	\$300.00	
Larry Pease, Smoke,oil burn.	\$300.00	
W. Zeitler, Plumbing	\$300.00	
Total Spent		\$3,076.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u><b>\$0.00</b></u>

**INSURANCE**

Appropriated		\$25,000.00
Trans to Maint-Public Bldgs		(\$1,000.00)
Trans to Short Term Interest		(\$2,000.00)
Trans to Unemp. Ins		(\$3,000.00)

Total Available		\$19,000.00
Hastings/Tapley	\$3,814.00	
MIIA	\$15,291.00	
	Total Spent	\$19,105.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>(\$105.00)</u>

#### INTEREST-SHORT TERM

Appropriated		\$6,000.00
Trans from Insurance		\$2,000.00
Available		<u>\$8,000.00</u>
Bureau of Accts	\$95.00	
BayBank	\$6,421.83	
	Total Spent	\$6,516.83
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$1,483.17</u>

#### LIBRARY EXPENSE

Appropriation		\$1,000.00
c/o balance		\$3,961.97
Total Available		<u>\$4,961.97</u>
Book of the Month	\$91.05	
Postmaster, box rent	\$24.00	
Steck-Vaughn	\$153.44	
Baker & Taylor	\$666.23	
University Book Service	\$175.84	
Huntington Public Library	\$353.60	
Cynthia Oligny, Librarian	\$500.00	
	Total Spent	\$1,964.16
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$2,997.81</u>

#### MAINT. PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Appropriation		\$22,000.00
Trans from Insurance		\$1,000.00
Trans from Tax Title		\$2,000.00
Trans from Health Ins		\$2,000.00
Insurance - garage		\$8,416.00
Available		<u>\$35,416.00</u>

WEMCO	\$6,109.86
Bell Atlantic	\$2,934.19
AT&T	\$275.76
Savery Electric	\$1,413.43
Betty Oligny, keys	\$6.00
Huntington Hardware	\$104.56
Moody Energy, gas	\$1,058.10
Lois Lamb, curtain rods	\$11.46
O'Connell Oil	\$7,063.75

L P Adams	\$653.09	
Peter Oligny, janitor	\$300.00	
Paul Richardson, janitor	\$946.00	
Pitts. Fire & Safety. Exting	\$62.00	
Brigham Paper, supplies	\$161.20	
Overhead Door	\$2,316.00	
L.C.Allegro, garage rep.	\$8,416.00	
Total Spent		\$31,831.40
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$3,584.60</b>

#### MEDICARE

Appropriation		\$800.00
Trans from Reserve		\$526.86
Total Available		\$1,326.86
Bank Boston	\$1,326.86	
Total Spent		\$1,326.86
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

#### OFFICE SUPPLIES

Appropriation		\$3,000.00
Hobbs & Warren	\$54.40	
RNR Plastics	\$40.00	
Dues	\$168.00	
US P.O., envelopes	\$543.60	
Maurice Pease. reimb.supplies	\$74.35	
Country Journal, adv.	\$246.15	
Postmaster, stamps	\$300.00	
Iron Mt.security	\$10.00	
Betty Oligny, reimb	\$45.39	
Berkshire Eagle, ads	\$522.85	
Staples, supplies	\$332.80	
Iron Mountain Security	\$10.00	
McBee Houseleaf, binders	\$81.00	
Carry Copy Center	\$34.00	
Philatelie Fulfillment Service	\$362.00	
Total Spent		\$2,824.54
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$175.46</b>

#### PIONEER VALLEY PLAN COM

Appropriation		\$60.00
Pioneer Valley Plan Comm.	\$58.80	
Total Spent		\$58.80
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$1.20</b>

**PLANNING BOARD**

Appropriation		\$10.00
Other		\$40.00
	<b>Available</b>	<u>\$50.00</u>

**POLICE CHIEF,salary**

Appropriation		\$400.00
Thomas Austin	\$400.00	
	<b>Total Spent</b>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**POLICE EXPENSES**

Appropriation		\$3,800.00
Grant to Inc.Budget		\$1,406.00
		<u>\$5,206.00</u>
Available		
Gould Publ.,	\$140.70	
T. Austin	\$55.00	
Staples, supplies	\$137.31	
Bell Atlantic	\$382.06	
Sentry Uniforms	\$318.05	
Klein Communications	\$177.25	
St. Martins, gas	\$234.10	
Curt Robie,reimb.postage,etc	\$404.55	
Dues	\$445.00	
Postmaster	\$12.00	
Pittsfield Communications	\$1,987.66	
Galls, Inc	\$54.97	
Jurek	\$118.20	
Richies Service	\$145.32	
Gateway Auto	\$128.32	
W.Ma. Communications	\$315.00	
	<b>Total Spent</b>	<u>\$5,055.49</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$150.51</b>

**PRINTING**

Appropriation		\$750.00
Cindy Duby, typing	\$150.00	
Impress Printing	\$400.00	
	<b>Total Spent</b>	<u>\$550.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>

**POLICE GRANT-**

c/o bal.		\$3,059.46
T. Austin	\$80.00	
C. Robie	\$100.00	
M. Pensivy	\$40.00	

M.Pensivy	\$40.00	
Disney Ed.Prod. Tapes	\$856.40	
Pittsfield Communications	\$1,333.34	
Staples	\$609.72	
	<b>Total Spent</b>	<u>\$3,059.46</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

		<b>POLICE GRANT,COMMUNITY</b>	\$11,000.00
Staples	\$349.90		
Sentry Uniforms	\$7,031.90		
Curt Robie	\$420.00		
Thomas Austin	\$280.00		
Pittsfield Communications	\$191.00		
MailBoxes	\$200.75		
Galls	\$518.93		
	<b>Total Spent</b>		<u>\$8,992.48</u>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$2,107.48</b>

		<b>RECREATION BB COURT</b>	
c/o			\$1,004.20
Block Party,donation			\$600.00
Donation			\$25.00
Available			<u>\$1,629.20</u>
Jones tractor	\$1,570.40		
	<b>Total Spent</b>		<u>\$1,570.40</u>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$58.80</b>

		<b>REC. EXPENSE</b>	
c/o			\$374.15
Brush Hollow	\$200.00		
Judy Carrington, reimb. supplies	\$97.44		
	<b>Total Spent</b>		<u>\$297.44</u>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$76.71</b>
c/o bal to 98			

		<b>SELECTMEN'S SECY.</b>	
Appropriation			\$3,000.00
Betty Oligny	\$3,000.00		
	<b>Total Spent</b>		<u>\$3,000.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**SELECTMEN'S EXPENSE**

Appropriation		\$800.00
MMA Dues	\$379.00	
R. Progulske, mileage, reimb	\$179.70	
Ronald Radwich, reimb mileage	\$25.07	
Total Spent		<u>\$583.77</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$216.23</b>

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Appropriation		\$2,000.00
Trans from Assessors Tax Map		\$700.00
Available		<u>\$2,700.00</u>
BankBoston	\$2,691.38	
Total Spent		<u>\$2,691.38</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$8.62</b>

**STREET LIGHTS**

Appropriation		\$500.00
WMECO	\$447.51	
Total Spent		<u>\$447.51</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$52.49</b>

**TAX COLL EXP**

Appropriation		\$1,500.00
Dues	\$45.00	
Postmaster	\$968.00	
B&H Computers, MVE bills	\$11.00	
Computer People	\$45.10	
Neil Nickerson, reimb.supplies	\$15.70	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,084.80</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$415.20</b>

**TRASH COMP. NOTE**

Appropriation		\$6,000.00
Bank Boston	\$6,000.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**TRASH COMP.INTEREST**

Appropriation		\$1,290.00
Bank Boston	\$1,290.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,290.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**TAX TITLE WORK**

C/O		\$2,769.25
Trans To Maint.Public Bldgs		<u>(\$2,000.00)</u>
Total Avail		<b>\$769.25</b>

Hampshire Gazette	\$57.80	
Total Spent		\$57.80
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$711.45</u>

**TOWN COUNSEL**

Appropriation		\$1,500.00
Koppleman & Paige	\$614.51	
Total Spent		\$614.51
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$885.49</u>

**TOWN HALL OIL TANK REMOVE**

Appropriated		\$25,000.00
Trans from Gateway		\$2,504.43
Total Available		<u>\$27,505.43</u>
Berkshire Eagle	\$340.80	
Country Journal	\$54.63	
Miller Petro	\$24,860.00	
Scalise Knysh	\$2,250.00	
Total Spent		\$27,505.43
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$0.00</u>

**TREE WARDEN**

Appropriated		\$100.00
Total Spent		\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$100.00</u>

**FOREST FIRE PROTECTION**

Appropriated		\$10.00
Total Spent		\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$10.00</u>

**DUTCH ELM DISEASE**

Appropriated		\$150.00
Total Spent		\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$150.00</u>

**INSECT PEST CONTROL**

Appropriated		\$100.00
Total Spent		\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>		<u>\$100.00</u>

**UNEMPLOYMENT COMP.**

Appropriated		\$1,500.00
Trans. from Insurance		\$3,000.00

Trans from Reserve		\$404.00
Total Available		<u>\$4,904.00</u>
Ma. Div. Empl. & Training	\$4,904.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$4,904.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**VISITING NURSE**

Appropriated		\$1,000.00
Lee Visiting Nurse Assoc.	\$1,000.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**VETERAN'S AGENT**

Appropriated		\$10.00
Trans from Assessors Asst.		<u>\$850.00</u>
Available		\$860.00
Warren Ritter	\$809.20	
Total Spent		<u>\$809.20</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$50.80</b>

**WAR MEM & PLAYGROUNDS**

Appropriated		\$1,600.00
Transfer from Reserve Fund		<u>\$115.00</u>
Total Available		\$1,715.00
Lee Girard	\$1,715.00	
Total Spent		<u>\$1,715.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## **After 336 Years, Hampshire County “abolished” in 1998; Groundwork laid for Hampshire Council of Governments**

This year County Commissioners intensified negotiations with state officials for an opportunity to continue the most critical regional services. After at least a century of state efforts to weaken and abolish counties, by 1998, five of the Bay State’s fourteen counties had been abolished. Hampshire County was next in line, as a result of unsustainable finances created by state errors in calculations of the Hampshire County Tax.

Negotiations with the Governor’s office resulted in an agreement that, in exchange for giving up the name “County” and turning over to the state the jail, registry of deeds, and facilities used primarily by the Trial Courts, local citizens would be allowed to vote on establishing a regional Council of Governments. If approved by voters in towns representing at least 30% of the property value of the County, the new entity would assume ownership of the historical 1882 Courthouse in Northampton, two downtown parking lots, and the Hampshire Care nursing facility in Leeds. It would rent space to the courts for the law library and assume most other powers and duties of the County. The state would provide a five-year declining transition grant and assume retirement obligations for former county employees.

The Legislature reduced the \$2.7M five year grant to a one year grant of \$950,000, transferred parking lots to the state, and stipulated that law library rent would be “nominal.” They added different provisions for retirement obligations in other abolished counties, causing the Governor to veto large sections of the bill. Although there were efforts to repass those sections, they were not successful by March 1999.

On November 3, 1998, over 72% of the voters of Hampshire county voted “Yes on Question 5,” with a large majority in each of the twenty municipalities approving the new Council. Just as when the County was established in 1662, people today want to solve their problems regionally, instead of looking to Boston for all the answers. Today, that means health and elder care, cooperative purchasing of municipal goods and services, and other regional services reported below.

In prior years, county functions were quite different, according to original documents still in the Old Courthouse. Early Hampshire County officials regulated taverns, settled estates, established roads, punished women for wearing silk, and tried to control “wanton lasciviousness.” The record book for 1776 begins with the proud Latin heading: *Hampshire; Anno Americano Independantia*, celebrating that year’s Declaration of Independence and foreshadowing the Colony’s transition to the Commonwealth in 1780. Documents such as these inspired a dedicated group of volunteers to work to preserve records of our common history by forming the Hampshire County Historical Records Advisory Committee.

Over the centuries, not only functions changed, the county boundaries changed. In 1761 Berkshire County was set off, and in 1811 and 1812 Franklin and Hampden Counties split off. In 1939 Boston "took" three Hampshire towns when the Quabbin was filled, leaving the County with its current twenty municipalities.

Even at the turn of the last century, the Massachusetts Legislature was attacking counties, and as early as 1921 mounted a "formidable" effort to take over the county jails. They succeeded in taking over the Trial Courts, District Attorney and Law Library in 1978, the Extension Service in 1984. In 1985 they passed legislation encouraging citizens to reorganize their counties, which citizens here did by passing a new county charter in 1988. The next year the state recalculated the Hampshire County Tax, creating severe annual revenue shortfalls.

The citizens spoke on November 3, overwhelmingly endorsing a charter for the Hampshire Council of Governments. They value local control of the 1886 Richardsonian Courthouse, the excellent nursing at Hampshire Care in Leeds, retention of the historical documents, the various money-saving cooperative purchasing programs, and the inter-town cooperation fostered through a regional entity. (And they don't trust "Boston.")

Thanks to the endorsement of 151 voters, our town (city) will continue to benefit from the following regional programs that transferred to the new Council of Governments.

**The Hampshire Inspection Program**, provided building inspection and zoning enforcement services for the communities of Huntington, Chesterfield, Middlefield, Goshen and Plainfield in FY 98. In FY 98, participating towns paid for roughly two thirds of the costs of the program, with the balance being paid from County coffers. This year, town income from fees exceeded the program assessment in all but one town. With the addition of two more towns, the program has moved closer to becoming self-supporting, our goal for FY 2000. We would expect participating towns to fund their share of the expense through their local permit fees.

The Department provides staffing for a **countywide Local Emergency Planning Committee**, whose mission is to plan for emergencies involving hazardous materials. That committee has updated local SARA Title III plans for most Hampshire County communities, and is coordinating a regional plan to unite those local efforts. It also coordinated planning of a tabletop disaster exercise, which was run in Belchertown in November, 1998.