

Town of Deerfield



Photo taken by Deerfield resident, Carol Rogalski

Annual Town Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

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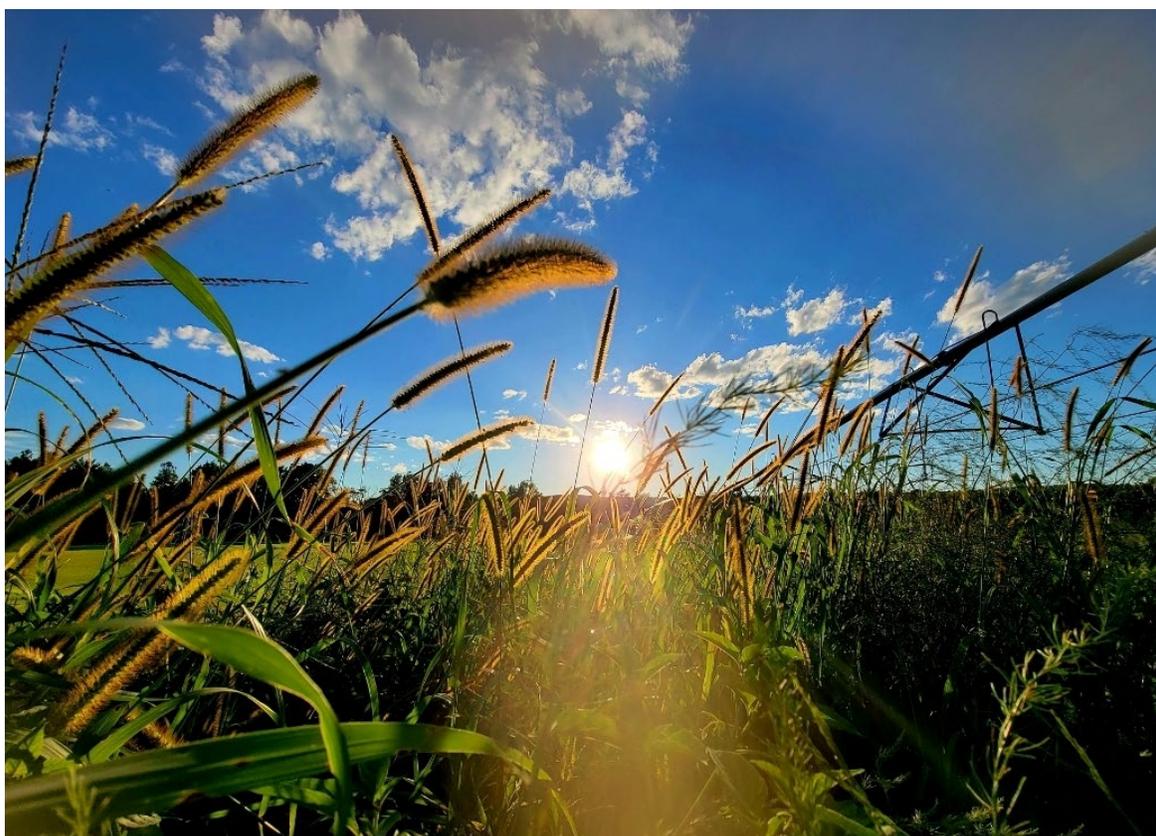


Photo taken by Deerfield resident, Carol Rogalski

DEDICATION PAGE

During 2024, Deerfield lost two remarkable women who each served the town in critical financial roles.



Sue served as Deerfield's Town Accountant for many years and also worked for the South Deerfield Water Supply District.

Eunice M. "Sue" (Antes) Apanell



For 25 years, Mary was an EMT and on two different times in her life she served as Deerfield's Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector. Mary served on the Finance Committee and was a member of the Franklin County Retirement Board.

Mary A. (Wolfram) Stokarski

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Frank J. Leone, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Francis (Skip) Sobieski	Term Expires: 2026
Charles Shattuck III	Term Expires: 2027

CONSTABLES

Raymond Burniske	Term Expires: 2027
Sharyn Paciorek	Term Expires: 2025
Adam Sokoloski	Term Expires: 2026

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Carey Etchells, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Anne Curtis, Vice Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Amy Severance, Secretary	Term Expires: 2026
*Mary Ramon, Member	Term Expires: 2027
William Dziura, Member	Term Expires: 2027
*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee.	

ELECTOR UNDER OLIVER SMITH WILL

Leslie Dwight	Term Expires: 2025
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FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Melissa Novak, Chair, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2026
Olivia Leone, Vice Chair, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2027
*Mary Ramon, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2025
*Representing the local elementary school committees for a one-year term.	

PERSONNEL BOARD

Timothy Drumgool, Employee Rep.	Term Expires: 2026
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TILTON LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathleen O'Rourke
Marjorie Shearer, Vice Chair
James Cambias

Term Expires: 2025
Term Expires: 2026
Term Expires: 2027

PLANNING BOARD

Board Members

Denise Mason, Chair
Emily Gaylord, Vice Chair
Satu Zoller, Clerk
Kathleen Watroba
Rachel Blain
Anne Buchanan Weiss
Andrea Leibson

Term Expires: 2026
Term Expires: 2025
Term Expires: 2026
Term Expires: 2025
Term Expires: 2027
Term Expires: 2027
Term Expires: 2027

Month by Month Highlights

JANUARY

M.A. Swedlund of the Deerfield Solar Energy Committee presented a slide show regarding state solar energy goals and opportunities. Planning Board members voted unanimously to support the Solar Energy Committee in their endeavors and to concentrate on utilizing solar for municipal projects, starting with the Tilton Library renovation to begin in February.

Committee Reports:

- Leibson reported that Open Space and Recreation Committee is actively working on an application for Community Preservation Act funds to permanently protect four town-owned properties in collaboration with Franklin Land Trust.

FEBRUARY

4 Industrial Drive West SPR application Hearing:

Western Mass Heating, Cooling and Plumbing plans to purchase 4 Industrial Drive West and change use from repair shop to office, warehouse and repair shop. They intend to make minor changes to the exterior and to replace the siding and roof. Overgrown pines will be replaced with hardwood species, and plants will be added to screen some of the property borders. Traffic at the site will likely decrease with the change of use.

Discussion included the rules and covenants of DEDIC, the nature of the business, details of the installation and construction of a new roof, traffic, size and type of signage, the possibility of adding solar panels to the new roof, parking and the potential for electric vehicle charging stations. Approved with conditions.

Committee Reports:

- Mason reports that Town Planner Dunne and Select Board are applying for a District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant for the Town Campus Master Plan and the Town Master Plan

- There is no reply from Veterinary and Emergency Services Hospital (VESH) as to when they are planning to start construction on the parking lot expansion at 141 Greenfield Road. Administrative Assistant, Amy Hahn, will reach out to John Furman
- Clearing at the SunnyDayz site has begun
- Mason mentions that the Deerfield Housing Production plan is 13 years old and needs to be updated
- CPC Chair, Kathy Sylvester, reports that the ad hoc Senior Housing Committee is meeting with neighbors, and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is looking for CPA grant applications
- Cumberland Farms has appeared before the Conservation Commission for review of their detention pond cleanup plan. They will appear again at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

MARCH

Mason opened the hearing in the Leary Lot and read a memo submitted by the applicant requesting the hearing be continued to the April 1, 2024 meeting of the Planning Board.

Committee Reports:

- Leibson reported that the Open Space Recreation Committee (OSRC) is hoping to permanently protect 4 undeveloped parcels owned by the Town. No CPA funds are available for this because the parcels were not purchased with CPA funds. Franklin Land Trust doesn't want to hold conservation restrictions because the land is already in recreational use. The OSRC is going to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss options for preservation.
- Sylvester reported on grant applications received by the CPC.
- Zoller gave updates on the progress of the Tilton Library renovation.

APRIL

David and Martha Grace presented their application and explained that a deed restriction limiting the number of bedrooms in the house to two and the detached ADU to one, for a total of three bedrooms on the property would be recorded at the Franklin County Registry of deeds, should the application be approved.

Planning Board members iterated that pursuant to Deerfield Bylaws c179 §3934 11., the minimum rental period is 30 days. The planning board discussed conditions, including:

- A signed deed restriction limiting the total number of bedrooms for both the existing house and the proposed accessory dwelling unit to no more than three must be recorded at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds
- Pursuant to Deerfield bylaws c179 §3934, no building permit shall be issued for the proposed accessory dwelling unit without prior approval of the septic system by the Board of Health.

MAY

Hamshaw Lumber Public Hearing

Jeff Squire of Berkshire Design Group gave an overview of the project. A new 12,400 Sq Ft addition to the existing building will be built on the recently acquired adjacent .3-acre parcel. The addition will connect via walkway to the public sidewalk in front and to the Leary lot in back.

A subsurface stormwater system will be constructed to handle stormwater from both the new addition and the eastern half of the sloped roof of the old building, and an infiltration trench will handle stormwater in the front of the building. Improvements to the front of building include a new accessible parking space. Improvements to the side include native plantings in the green strip bordering the Leary lot. Delivery access area in back will be covered with gravel.

Architect Erica Rioux Gees showed elevations that include clapboard siding and a façade with crown molding and white trim to fit the new addition into the existing urban fabric of Elm Street. Signs will conform to Zoning bylaws.

Discussion included planned solar panels located on the roof of the addition, the location of pick up for large items to the rear of the building and plans for future remodeling of the old building. Permeable pavement is not being used due to the minimal amount of additional paving in the plan.

Discussion of the Stormwater system pointed out the stormwater system is designed to work together with the Leary lot through a shared sand bed. 24-36" of loam will be removed by a competent professional. The plan was approved with conditions.

JUNE

No meeting

JULY

ANR 222 Upper Road Map 38, Parcel 20, - Henry Komosa, Applicant

Zoning Enforcement Officer Bob Walden has examined the plan and concluded that it is not a subdivision under MGL Subdivision Control Law.

Motion to find that plan presented is not a subdivision under MGL Subdivision Control. Plan was approved.

AUGUST

Nexamp Landfill Solar: Request for extension of Site Plan Review decision Melinda Costello of Weston and Sampson and Henry Barrett of Next Amp requested an extension of the existing site plan approval for the Nexamp solar PV development at the town of Deerfield's landfill. The applicant is seeking an extension of one year, due to delays caused by ongoing negotiation with Eversource and the Town of Deerfield. Resolution is expected within two months; however, the applicant seeks a one-year extension to avoid having to ask for a second extension should negotiations continue longer than expected. Extension granted.

225 Greenfield Road SPR:

JD Ross of JDR Builders representing Richard Strycharz, also present, related that Site Plan Review for this site was conducted and approved in 2013. However, one of the buildings shown on the original site plan was never built. The proposed new building will occupy the same site as the originally proposed building, but is far smaller, consisting of an office with a small workspace for clerical workers, and kitchen and bathroom for clerical staff and drivers, with no retail aspect. The entire building will be handicapped accessible. The building is to include a 2-bay storage garage for personal vehicles and storage only. No propane trucks will be allowed in the garage. No retail or other services will be offered to the public, resulting in a minimal increase in traffic at the site. The property will see no changes in grading, parking, or lighting.

The Planning Board agreed that peer review was unnecessary as a full peer review was conducted in 2013 and all infrastructure has been built to plan. The Planning Board and the applicant discussed proposed conditions for approval. The applicant requested that condition 10, requiring a \$5,000 deposit for potential peer review of completed structure be removed. Plan was approved.

SEPTEMBER

Senior Housing

Recommendation to support the request for disposition of land identified as 83-85 North Main Street for Senior Housing. The parcel of land, approximately 2.1 acres, identified as Map 169, Lot 14 in the Assessors records, owned by the Town of Deerfield, be disposed of for purposes of Senior Housing. Recommendation supported.

Open Space

Motion to recommend that four parcels of land be protected under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution and change their land use code designations from 930 (Vacant, Selectmen or City Council) to 932 (Vacant, Conservation, Municipal Code), as identified below:

- Old Pine Nook Road (Pocumtuck Rock). Assessor's Map 80, Assessor's Lot 1 (63 acres)
- Pine Nook Road (Pine Nook Memorial Forest). Assessor's Map 81, Assessor's Lot 3 (18 acres)
- Steam Mill Road (Steam Mill Forest). Assessor's Map 79, Assessor's Lot 39 (31 acres)
- Off Millage Road (Deerfield River off Mill Village Road). Assessor's Map 87, Assessor's Lot 8 (5.5 acres):

The motion carried.

OCTOBER

No meeting

NOVEMBER

No Meeting

DECEMBER

Site Plan Review 1888 Building

Christopher Dunne, Town Administrator, requests continuance of hearing to January 6, 2025 due to pending revisions of site plan in response to comments from South Deerfield Fire District and Deerfield Police. Continuance granted.

Presentation on Pollinator Friendly bylaws

Allison Gage of FRCOG gave a presentation on the Regional Pollinator Habitat Corridor Action Plan and recommended bylaw changes to support Pollinator habitat. She will send bylaws suggestions and action plan via email. Amy will post an action plan to website.

Committee reports:

- Leibson: Open Space is working on Grant applications for hiring a consultant, talking to UMass about including UMass properties in trail network and looking for river access sites
- Zoller: Library Committee is looking for furniture, may have a shelving donation from a local college that will save money on furnishings. Capital campaign is up to \$1.2 million. Still working towards \$2 Million Goal.

SELECTBOARD/BOARD OF HEALTH

Tim Hilchey
Trevor D. McDaniel
C. Blake Gilmore

Term Expires: 2025
Term Expires: 2026
Term Expires: 2027

It was a year of goodbyes and hellos, some planned and others totally unexpected.

In September, we said goodbye to longtime Town Administrator Kayce Warren, who announced her retirement for health reasons. She had served Deerfield in various capacities for more than two decades.

Kayce joined the Deerfield family in 1999 and served through early 2016, before taking a hiatus. She returned as Town Administrator just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. She will always be missed, and her many accomplishments will always be greatly appreciated!

Christopher Dunne, Deerfield's first-ever Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, succeeded Kayce on an interim basis and was later hired as Town Administrator after a rigorous search process.

We also said goodbye to Department of Public Works Superintendent Kevin Scarborough, who hung up his backhoe in the summer. Though long-planned, his retirement came on the heels of a year of unanticipated toil and sweat putting Deerfield back together again after devastating storm damage in 2023. Kevin's can-do attitude and ready smile will be greatly missed!

Matthew Morse succeeded Kevin as the DPW Superintendent, taking up his new position effective March 10, 2025. We want to express our enormous debt of gratitude to Assistant DPW Superintendent Chris Miller, who acted as interim super during the long search process.

Finally, we bid farewell to Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, who took a new post in neighboring Montague. Greg Snedeker succeeded Nolan-Zeller as Assistant Town Administrator.

For much of 2024, downtown South Deerfield was the scene of major construction efforts, as the Leary Lot parking and electric vehicle charging project came into being over about 10 months, while the Tilton Library expansion and the sidewalk replacement projects on North Main Street got underway. More information on the Tilton Library and sidewalk safety projects is provided later in this report.

The Leary Lot, which has entrances on North Main Street and Elm Street, features 57 parking spots, four high-speed Level 3 EV chargers and permeable asphalt that allows excess storm-water to soak into the ground and be stored beneath the lot, helping to address flooding issues in the area. It was funded entirely with federal and state money, including about \$2.5 million from the Biden administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program and the state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program that backs green infrastructure and climate resiliency measures.

Residents joined with local, state and federal partners on November 15 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate completion of the Leary Lot project, decades after Deerfield purchased the property to use as public parking. "When electric vehicles pull off the local highways to recharge for 20 minutes at our high-speed charging station," Selectboard Chair Tim Hilchey told

residents in attendance, “our local stores and restaurants will be at hand to meet their needs.” Hilchey recognized several important contributors to the project, including former Assistant Town Administrator Nolan-Zeller; Town Administrator Dunne; and both Selectboard member Trevor McDaniel and former Selectboard member Carolyn Shores Ness, who championed early plans for the parking lot before the COVID-19 pandemic intervened to disrupt large construction projects.

The 2024 calendar year was a full one for Deerfield. In addition to the Leary Lot, here are other highlights:

As residents will recall, we began 2024 with a Public Information Session at Frontier Regional School to review dramatic images of roads and farm crops devastated by three back-to-back torrential rainstorms in July 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to decide how to pay for more than \$2.3 million worth of already completed emergency repairs to roads, culverts and other critical infrastructure.

With graphic photographs of damage providing a backdrop, Police Chief John Paciorek Jr., who also serves as Emergency Management Director, outlined for a packed auditorium the sheer magnitude of the road destruction and culvert washouts in more than 100 locations throughout Deerfield.

The Selectboard asked residents to go home, reflect on what they had seen and heard, then turn out in a few weeks’ time for a special election to vote on a debt-excluded emergency borrowing measure to cover the cost of repairs. Voters approved that borrowing plan at the ballot box on January 16.

The Selectboard continued to work with Senator Jo Comerford and Rep. Natalie Blais to seek emergency financial assistance from the state. On January 22, news that the Town was awarded \$1.58 million in disaster relief in the State’s 2023 supplemental budget was received with great joy. The Selectboard, the Finance Committee and Brenda Hill, the Town Accountant, worked closely on a plan to use \$600,000 of General Stabilization reserves to pay the balance of emergency repair costs.

With a plan in place to fully pay for the emergency road repairs, voters at the Annual Town Meeting on April 24 were asked to rescind the emergency borrowing authority they had approved earlier in the year. Voters unanimously granted that request, allowing the Town to close the books on an extremely challenging but successful disaster recovery effort.

Years of hard work and federal grant application efforts paid off on March 9 when Deerfield was officially awarded \$4 million to help turn the historically significant 1888 Building into a 21st-century, fully accessible municipal office building. The Town hired the local firm Kuhn Riddle Architects to design the project and prepare for the public bidding process. The grant, sponsored by Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey and Rep. Jim McGovern, was a major vote of confidence in the municipal campus plan to redevelop this vacant building in downtown South Deerfield. Once the yearlong project is complete, it will open up the existing Town Hall building for other uses. The building has been vetted as a location for a South County Senior Center reunited under one roof.

Also in March, the Eaglebrook School largely completed its renovation project at the 1821 Meetinghouse Building (the former Congregational Church). Eaglebrook hired and paid a construction company to make major renovations to the Fellowship Hall portion of the building,

including replacing the roof shingles and roof deck; installing new electrical circuit-breaker panels and entirely rewiring the electrical system; installing a heating and cooling system; sanding and refinishing the floors; creating a new ADA-compliant bathroom and repairing two other bathrooms; and repainting the interior walls and ceilings. This space has provided a temporary home for the Tilton Library during its yearlong library expansion project.

Even as Eaglebrook was wrapping up its renovation project, the kitchen area of the building was undergoing its own major facelift, financed by a \$100,000 state grant secured by Senator Comerford. Renovation work in the kitchen area was largely performed by volunteer labor.

Later in March, Rep. McGovern and Senator Markey announced in a joint statement that the National Park Services had taken the first step toward granting sections of the Deerfield River a Wild and Scenic River designation. This designation is our nation's strongest form of protection for free-flowing rivers and streams.

On May 8, the Selectboard welcomed Blake Gilmore to his first meeting since his election. Blake succeeded longtime Selectboard member Carolyn Shores Ness.

Two days later, the Tilton Library trustees held a groundbreaking ceremony for the library expansion project, which was years in the making. "We could not have done it without the great citizens of this town," Library Director Candace Bradbury-Carlin emphasized. Senator Comerford, Rep. Blais and Karen Traub of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) joined the Selectboard, town administrative staffers and more than 100 town residents in the celebration.

Once the expanded Tilton Library opens to the public this summer, its temporary home in the 1821 Meetinghouse Building will become available as an excellent new space for providing Senior and Community services while the town seeks new grants and funding sources to renovate the main building of the former church.

The final event of Deerfield's 350th Anniversary was held on June 10. The burial of a Time Capsule and the dedication of a Memorial Bench took place on the grounds of the former Congregational Church. Shores Ness, a member of the 350th Committee, thanked the Friends of Deerfield fundraising organization as well as everyone who donated to and participated in our yearlong celebration. Shores Ness was presented with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition signed by Rep. McGovern, honoring her for her many years of dedicated public service.

More than 200 acres were protected for agriculture in Deerfield's North Meadows. In June, Michael and Jennifer Antonellis of Antonellis Farm executed a conservation restriction on 166 acres of their land, while Historic Deerfield completed a conservation restriction on 47.9 acres. "Preservation is the core of our mission as an institution," said John Davis, president and chief executive of Historic Deerfield.

Torrential rain, hail and crushing winds struck Deerfield on July 16 and 17, snapping trees along Old Main Street and causing significant disruptions on the campus of Deerfield Academy. The Academy crew worked tirelessly alongside town public safety employees to clean up the area. Assistant Deerfield Fire Chief Ben Clark noted that these storms came almost one year after Deerfield experienced catastrophic flooding in July 2023. "If there is a silver lining," Selectboard Chair Hilchey said after touring damaged areas, "last year's storm mitigation efforts to repair devastated culverts and roads have proven highly effective."

During the school summer break, the North Main Street project replaced the sidewalks from Jackson Road to the Bloody Brook Monument. Residents had approved \$250,000 for the sidewalk repairs at the Annual Town Meeting in 2021, but as a result of plan alterations in 2022 and storm damage in 2023, work was delayed until 2024. A future phase of sidewalk replacements will continue to the center of South Deerfield.

Local and state partners gathered in July at the South Deerfield Fire District building to mark the transition to a new statewide radio network that should provide for faster emergency responses and enhanced coordination and safety for first responders. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System (CoMIRS) resulted from a lengthy collaboration between local police and fire officials, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and state and federal offices.

Climate resiliency efforts got a boost in August when Deerfield received a \$170,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the state to fund a hydraulic and hydrological study of the Bloody Brook water system. The Town Planner's office wrote the successful grant application. Deerfield's MVP core group authorized an additional \$50,000 of state MVP funds to expand the study to include the Sugarloaf Brook (aka Blacksmith Brook). The aim of this study is to identify steps to mitigate flooding such as increasing the capacity of culverts or implementing green infrastructure projects.

New crosswalk safety signals were installed in September at the intersections of North Main Street and Pleasant Street as well as North Main Street and Kelleher Drive. The project was paid for with a \$113,000 Shared Streets and Spaces grant secured as a result of the efforts of the Planning Board.

Deerfield Elementary School celebrated the completion of a new school entryway that improves safety and accessibility. On September 12, school administrators, teachers and Selectboard members welcomed students and parents with cider and fresh apple cider doughnuts. The project was funded by the town, the school and an additional \$114,538 from the state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. Superintendent Darius Modestow thanked the town for expanding the project to include the full drop-off area and parking spaces.

A well-attended public information session was held September 12 to gather reaction from residents about the architectural design of the 1888 Building Municipal Office project. The public backed the overall design, including a new addition to be built adjacent to the existing brick building, but asked to see new versions featuring a range of exterior colors. At a follow-up session on October 1, a traditional Colonial green color was the clear favorite, being praised as historically appropriate by Historic Deerfield.

Residents at Special Town Meeting in October gave a major vote of approval for efforts to encourage development of Senior Housing, granting the Selectboard the authority to negotiate all necessary documents and convey the former St. James Church property to a developer for the express purpose of building subsidized Senior Housing in downtown South Deerfield. In January 2025, the Selectboard unanimously approved issuing a Request For Proposals to developers, praising the Ad Hoc Senior Housing Committee for putting together a strong document.

The Brick Church in Old Deerfield, which in addition to being a house of worship had served as a space for Town gatherings during its long history, celebrated its 200th anniversary in November. Members of the public were invited to join parishioners to mark the occasion with song, historical discussions and refreshments.

As we prepare to gather for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting on April 28, Elm Street is anticipating a major facelift and safety upgrade following news in January that Deerfield was awarded a \$500,000 Complete Streets grant to construct new sidewalks along Elm Street in the downtown business district. The project plan was developed in 2020, but it was sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic. A public open house was held in September 2024 to share preliminary concept designs for a revitalized Elm Street. “To me, the big highlight is really the wider sidewalks,” Town Administrator Dunne told the Greenfield Recorder. “I think it’s a great project for a downtown, and I’m looking forward to working with our business owners.”

And finally, as the end of spring approaches, a groundbreaking for the long-anticipated 2.9 MW solar power facility on the former Deerfield landfill is expected this summer. New solar power should be flowing into the local electricity grid in 2026, generating lease payments and other revenue for the town.

Our future is looking bright!

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Hilchey, chair, Selectboard/Board of Health
Trevor D. McDaniel, vice chair, Selectboard/Board of Health
Blake Gilmore, member, Selectboard/Board of Health

TOWN MODERATOR

Daniel Graves

Term Expires: 2025

The current Moderator is Daniel F. Graves, Esq. and can be reached by email at dgraveslaw@gmail.com He has served as Deerfield's elected Town Moderator since 2016.

The Moderator serves as the presiding officer at the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meetings, regulating the proceedings, deciding all questions of order and making public declaration of all votes.

The moderator is not affiliated with any Town Elected Officials. While elected, the Moderator does not set the agenda or articles for the Town Meeting or serve in any other office or position within the Town so as to maintain neutrality.

The Moderator's obligations are to conduct the Town Meeting in a civil, fair, and expeditious manner. The moderator strives to fairly allow many points of view to voice their opinion and to balance those voices with the volume of articles often before the Meeting in any given year.

While Town Meetings and Special Town Meetings are called by the Selectboard, the Selectboard members are only equal voices at the meeting where all citizens are entitled to a voice and ultimately vote on any Articles the Selectboard has proposed.

The Town of Deerfield has adopted a set of rules under a publication called "Town Meeting Time." The Moderator enforces the rules using that publication as his guideline.

The Moderator also makes all appointments to the Finance Committee and makes other various appointments on a variety of boards.

The Moderator invites any citizen to reach out to him at any time with any interest in serving on Town Boards or with questions regarding process or proceedings at any time.

Daniel F. Graves, Moderator

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

AD HOC SENIOR HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Senior Housing Committee meets on almost a *weekly* basis and is making considerable progress towards creating affordable housing for Deerfield seniors. Also in our priorities, we have worked diligently to be collaborative with other Boards and committees (e.g. Connecting Communities Initiative/CCI) to achieve Deerfield-wide goals.

Members:

Lili Dwight (Chair)

Carolyn Ness

Pam Predmore

Kathy Sylvester

Specifically, we have:

- ★ Met 30 times
- ★ Closed on the St. James property
- ★ Worked with Berkshire Design Feasibility Study on site exploration and documentation of:
 - Soil tests
 - Storm water test pits
 - Wetlands / riverfront delineations
 - Technical Drawings to establish the ability of site to host 30 units of housing
- ★ Developed a cost estimate for 30 units of senior housing for Request For Proposals (RFP)
- ★ Reviewed the Housing Production Plan
- ★ Held a Tea with the Neighbors of the St. James site
- ★ Held an Open House / Community Charette to get feedback on possible siting and designs
- ★ Met with residents at the Senior Center to update them
- ★ Met with South Deerfield Women's Club to update them
- ★ Completed extensive environmental assessments of the site
- ★ Worked with Christine Madore, Senior Development Manager at Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and Christopher Dunne, Town Administrator, on the RFP and the best process for releasing it
- ★ Developed the RFP for Developers
- ★ Contracted with Franklin Regional Council Of Governments (FRCOG) for review of RFP and assistance with the process
- ★ Continued to work with Connecting Community Initiative (CCI) to support the Municipal Campus
- ★ Recommend the Review Committee to the Selectboard

- Upcoming:

- Work with the RFP Review Committee on the proposals from developers
- Work with the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) re: Natural Resource Conservation Service (aka PL566) for significant cost sharing of environmentally friendly parking for the site
- Work with existing subsidized and affordable properties to retain our good-standing in order to qualify for State and Federal money.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members:

Mark Brennan, Chair, Recommended by Finance Committee
Denise Mason, Recommended by Planning Board
Blake Gilmore, Selectboard Representative
Carey Etchells, Recommended by School Committee
Charles Shattuck, III, Recommended by Board of Assessors
Elaine Cournoyer, Recommended by the Moderator
Irene Clancy, Recommended by the Moderator

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Members:

Kathy Sylvester, Chair
Julie Caswell, Vice Chair
Ben Bensen, Clerk
Lili Dwight
Sean Libbey
Frank Leone
Satu Zoller
Gretchen Bysiewski
Peter James

Recommended/Appointed by:

Selectboard
Open Space Committee
Historical Commission
Selectboard
Conservation Commission
Board of Assessors
Planning Board
Recreation Committee
Town Moderator

The Community Preservation Committee was created after acceptance of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, General Law Chapter 44B, by Town Meeting in 2007. The Massachusetts Community Preservation Act website details aspects of the enabling legislation, but a brief synopsis of its purpose is noted below: "The Community Preservation Act" provides new funding sources which can be used to address three core community concerns: 1. Acquisition and preservation of open space 2. Creation and support of affordable housing 3. Acquisition and/or preservation of historic buildings, structures, documents, etc. A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be reserved for each of the three core community concerns, and up to 5% may be used for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. The remaining funds can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses, or "for permissible recreational use". Each Community Preservation Committee must follow certain steps as part of the grant process. In Deerfield, the committee begins by holding an information session to notify interested parties of funding availability and to detail the

application schedule. After applications are received and reviewed, public information sessions are held. These open meetings allow applicants to improve their proposals for funding as well as provide the public with an opportunity to discuss the grant submittals. Once the CPC has approved proposals, recommendations are presented at the Annual Town Meeting, and the voters decide which funding requests to approve.

Deerfield approved a surcharge of three percent (3%) of property taxes with a \$100,000 residential exemption to provide funding for these activities. As a 3% community, Deerfield is eligible to receive two additional rounds of matching funds from the Commonwealth's CPA fund.

In the 2023 funding cycle, the state sent Deerfield \$264,318. The CPA Town surcharge totaled \$285,043. The state match has provided leverage that is critical for the impact these funds can have on bettering our Town.

In 2024, the Community Preservation Committee received 2 Historical applications, one of which was recommended at the Town Meeting.

The first application was titled "Rehabilitation of 1888 Building (ex-Senior Center) into New Town Hall, Final Phase." The CPC voted to appropriate \$3,806,825 of CPC funds for this project and it was approved at the Fall Special Town Meeting.

The second application was titled "Phase I Preservation/Restoration of Historic Tack Painting "The Deposition from the Cross." This application was vetted, and a public hearing was held to get public input on the project. The CPC ultimately voted not to approve the application.

The CPC received one Recreation application, titled "Tri-Town Beach Dock Project." The committee reviewed the application and made recommendations. The applicant opted to withdraw the application and resubmit it for FY 2026.

We presented an amendment to the CPC bylaw at the Spring Town Meeting, changing ***one member of the Regional Housing Authority, who is a resident of Deerfield, as designated by said Authority***, to ***One resident of the Town who is interested in promoting affordable housing in the Town, appointed by the Selectboard***. This was voted on and adopted at the Spring Town Meeting.

The CPC changed the application deadline for 2025 to November 1, 2024 to allow for sufficient time to review and revise applications before the Spring Town Meeting. This has been a welcome change this year as we have complex applications requiring revisions.

A public informational hearing was held on September 11, 2024. The purpose of the hearing was to give the public an opportunity to comment on Deerfield's needs, opportunities and resources regarding open space, historic preservation, outdoor recreation and community housing and participate in the direction and development of our CPC plan.

We also developed a policy for application extension requests and updated our late application policy.

Community Preservation Reserve Balances as of June 30, 2024: Reserve for Open Space \$25,000, Reserve for Historic Resources \$75,825, Reserve for Community Housing \$43,455 Undesignated Fund Balance \$3,659,605.47. Of this money, \$4,071,143 has been allocated for the above applications.

The committee would like to thank applicants, residents and town officials for participating in this process. The CPA program works to contribute to keeping Deerfield a great place to live.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2024 remained busy, once again, for the Conservation Commission. The Commission was fully staffed throughout the year.

Members:

Peter Law, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Ben Byrne	Term Expires: 2026
Ann Mary Cloutier	Term Expires: 2027
Kate Devlin	Term Expires: 2027
Sean Libbey	Term Expires: 2025

Many thanks to the commissioners for their hard work and project reviews conducted throughout the year. Also, many thanks to Amy Hahn, Building Assistant, for her continued support and assistance to the Commission throughout the year.

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings continue to be held remotely. Fieldwork consisted of over 75 project site visits throughout the year, a 2.5X increase from the previous year. The Commission reviewed, discussed, and acted upon a variety of applications regarding “Request for Determination” (RDA), “Notice of Intent” (NOI), and “Abbreviated Notice of Intent” (ANRAD) filings submitted pursuant to the MassDEP Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. C131 §40, with 33 applications received, an increase of 44% since 2023. A few examples of projects reviewed and worked on in 2024 include the following:

- Deerfield Academy Dining Hall
- Eaglebrook Track Renovation, phase 2
- Keets Road Gas Line upgrade
- 81 Stillwater Road proposed lavender farm
- Deerfield Academy Hess Arts Stormwater Retrofit
- Greenfield Road Map 107, Parcel 3 stream crossing

The Commission also coordinated a community-wide Farmers Forum in January of 2024 to review the Wetlands Protection Act as it specifically applies to farmers and agricultural activities, which was attended by many local farmers, landowners and residents. Speakers included Mark Stinson of MassDEP Division of Wetlands & Waterways, Rita Thibodeau and Catherine Magee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and representatives of the Franklin Conservation District and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts.

The Commission also reviewed and commented on a publication from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FROCG) about the Bloody Brook and a guide to understanding and stewarding the Bloody Brook watershed. Later in the year the Commission was very involved in successfully assisting the town with work directed by the MassDEP in wetland areas in the northern section of town as well as on Hawks Road.

In addition, the Commission approved four (4) Emergency Certificates to allow for quick response actions to be taken in areas of high priority which affected public safety, as well as four (4) additional enforcement actions relative to wetland resource protection.

The Commission continues to work on updating our standard Order of Conditions, development of educational signage related to conservation to be displayed at key projects, and the completion of on-going training of the commissioners, relative to wetland regulations and policies. In the future we hope to develop a comprehensive library of educational materials available for all town residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Law, Chair

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Members:

Emily Gaylord, Chair	Term Expires: 2026
Olivia Leone, Member	Term Expires: 2026
Emily Luker, Member	Term Expires: 2026
Laura Pontani, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Denise Schwartz, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Patricia Ryan, Member	Term Expires: 2027
Max Sherrill, Member	Term Expires: 2027

Funded Programming

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount
Snyder, Sara	Joy of Song Community Sings	\$ 250.00
Deerfield Recreation Department	Chick "n" Wire	\$ 250.00
Frontier Regional CFCE/Union 38 Family Network	How Things Move in Nature	\$ 250.00
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	"Peer Gynt" - 2025 Education Concert	\$ 200.00
Kline, Carrie	Songs and Stories of Appalachia and Small Town America	\$ 250.00
Deerfield Recreation Department	Foolish U Band	\$ 250.00
Deerfield Recreation Department	Afterglo	\$ 250.00
Perley, Etienne	Andean Music Performance	\$ 250.00
Franklin Land Trust, Inc.	Farm Explorers Series	\$ 140.00
Powell, Jennifer	Outdoor Sculpture "You are Here"	\$ 610.00
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	Full Snow Moon Gathering and Social Dance	\$ 350.00
Ryan, Janet	Early Childhood Music and Movement	\$ 250.00
Arena Civic Theatre, Inc.	2024 Summer Youth Theatre	\$ 250.00
Ross, Erika	Letter Poems / Pen Pal Project	\$ 200.00
Feeney, Doug	Danse Café, folk dance	\$ 250.00
Manselle, Jafar	"West African Drumming Workshop - Come Out to Play"	\$ 250.00
Franklin County Pride, Inc.	Franklin County Pride Parade and Festival 2025	\$ 450.00
Elkus, Eli	Musical Storytelling & Folk Music Summer Reading Concert	\$ 250.00
Curtis, Anne	Deerfield Pride Party	\$ 400.00
Tilton Library	TREVOR "The Games Man"	\$ 250.00
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	A Celebration of Native American Art, Music, and Cultures	\$ 250.00
Odenong Powwow	Odenong Powwow	\$ 250.00
		\$6,100.00

ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (DECC)

Members:

David Gilbert-Keith, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Laurie Boosahda, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Jason Curtis, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Greg Francheschi, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Jay Stryker, Member	Term Expires: 2025
Steven Svoboda, Member	Term Expires: 2025
MA Swedlund, Member	Term Expires: 2025

We continue to work to reduce energy use and save the town money, while at the same time reducing the town's "carbon footprint."

1. Climate Leadership: We have advised the Selectboard that we see tremendous opportunity in the state's Climate Leadership program which is intended to shift new home building toward electric heating and cooling. The program offers grants of up to \$500,000 per year for sustainable energy projects such as solar and geothermal installations.
2. Green Communities: We applied for a Green Communities (GC) grant to upgrade HVAC controls and weatherization at the elementary school and the town was awarded over \$190,000 last year. That brings our total GC awards to almost \$603,000 with considerable additional incentive rebates on the projects from Mass Save. Having reduced municipal energy use by over 20%, moreover, the town has ongoing savings of roughly \$30,000 per year.
3. Aggregation: By joining with neighboring communities through our "aggregator," we could bargain for greener and cheaper electricity generation charges. Largely by luck, the first three-year contract locked in a low rate while the utility rate almost tripled at times, saving residents hundreds of thousands of dollars.
4. Solar Array on our Landfill: DECC oversaw the bid process. Once built, the array is anticipated to bring \$6,000,000 to the town over its lifetime. We expect this project to be completed this year.
5. Municipal Building Energy Audits: DECC arranged a municipal energy audit which showed, for example, that solar panels on the DPW and elementary school could generate power worth over \$82,000/year. [The panels could be paid for with 2 years of Climate Leadership grants.]

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members:

Julie Chalfant, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
James Cambias, Secretary	Term Expires: 2026
Mark Brennan, Member	Term Expires: 2025
David Sharp, Member	Term Expires: 2025
John Paresky, Member	Term Expires: 2026
Elizabeth Brown, Member	Term Expires: 2026
Margaret Nartowicz, Member	Term Expires: 2027

The Finance Committee provides an independent review of the municipal budget and makes recommendations to the people of the town. Further, the Committee is required by state law to consider every municipal question (warrant article) presented to the town for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the town residents. The Committee's primary role is the fiscal watchdog of the town, which is the lens through which the municipal questions are considered.

The Committee achieves this by meeting with the department head or committee chair responsible for each line item in the municipal budget and discussing the budget recommendation with them during open meetings. The Committee assesses the full budget along with warrant article expenditures and compares this to expected revenues, reserves, and other funding sources. The Selectboard has been invited to join in these meetings to provide input on town priorities. The meetings for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and warrant articles are still ongoing at the time of writing this report, so the Committee will issue a set of recommendations at the Annual Town Meeting.

Financial Indicators

The Finance Committee has reviewed the financial position of the town using data for fiscal years 2014-2024, with some data available for FY 2025. The Massachusetts fiscal year (FY) runs from July 1 through June 30, so most of the data we reviewed ended in June 2024 (since 2024 is the most recent complete fiscal year).

Overall, the financial position of the Town of Deerfield continues to be strong. Revenues, assessed values, new growth and reserves are all in good shape. Some specific details:

- The assessed values of property in town in all categories (residential, commercial and industrial) have increased significantly in recent years, and there has been genuine new growth in both housing and commercial/industrial properties. This places us in a strong position relative to our levy ceiling.
- We have healthy reserves in our general stabilization fund for use in emergencies. In fact, we used the general stabilization fund to support the emergency road repairs after the 2023 flooding and then replenished the fund in FY25.
- The low percentage of uncollected receivables shows that Deerfield residents responsibly pay their taxes, and the town collector thoroughly collects taxes.
- Our pension liability is on track to be paid off well within the State mandated timeline.

There are several areas of concern that warrant attention during the coming years:

- Growth in single-family parcel average tax bills has been hovering around 4% per year for the past nine years, on top of a large jump in 2015 caused mainly by the highway garage debt exclusion. Total increase between 2014 and 2025 was 46%. The library construction project debt, not yet included in this value, will cause an even greater increase next year.
- Use of free cash for operating expenditures means that free cash is not available for capital improvements.
- Our debt load and debt service, while still within the acceptable limits of state law, continue to increase due to the major capital projects that the town has voted to support.
- The town is not yet addressing the Other Post-Employment Benefit liability to any significant degree, although a plan is in place to begin addressing this once the pension liability is paid off.
- The town has not adequately maintained road infrastructure and buildings nor replaced aging equipment.
- School budgets are a very large percentage of the overall town budget. Although the total school budgets have kept increases in line with Prop 2½ requirements, state support of schools has not kept pace with expenses or state mandates, and declining enrollments have not yielded a decrease in total budgets.
- The town population has been roughly constant since 1990, but the proportion of inhabitants who are age 55 and older is increasing.

The Financial Indicators used in this study are available publicly on the Finance Committee page of the Town website: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/273/finance-committee>

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (DHC)

Members:

John Nove, Chair	Term Expires: 2026
Ben Bensen, Clerk	Term Expires: 2025
Henrietta Kocot	Term Expires: 2025
Bonita Conlon	Term Expires: 2026
Jason Clark	Term Expires: 2027
Analeee Wulfkuhle	Term Expires: 2027

I would like to begin this year's report by formally thanking Deerfield 350, and especially Peter Thomas, for all the work they and others - including the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA), Historic Deerfield, Inc. (HD) and Deerfield Academy (DA) - did throughout the past year's celebration to increase awareness of Deerfield's rich history. From the Sunday afternoon lecture series (kielbasa chowder!) to special events in both Old Deerfield and South Deerfield, the year was one that will long be remembered. Additional thanks go to Historic Deerfield Inc. for dedicating its annual magazine to Deerfield's 350th anniversary and for making it free-of-charge available to the first 350 residents who claimed one at the Museum Shop.

The Deerfield Historical Commission (DHC) membership rose from four to six by year's end (and will reach a full complement of seven in January, 2025 when Geoff Brown comes aboard.) Unfortunately, the Chair had a rough year with health issues and could only actively participate in meetings for the first half of the year. Commissioner Bensen ably took over administrative duties and the meetings were presided over by a rotating roster of Commissioners. Thanks to you all.

The only permits for archaeological research issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for work in Deerfield this year were to Heritage Consultants LLC of Berlin, Connecticut. The permits were for the domino-effect plans of Deerfield Academy to renovate its Dining Hall on Albany Road. The renovation required creating a new temporary dining facility across the street which, in turn, meant taking over part of an athletic field. A new playing field was then constructed at a site owned by the Academy along Rtes. 5/10 just north of the Deerfield Market. As per State law, each of the three sites required archaeological clearance before work could begin. The process required the involvement of archaeologists from Heritage Consultants as well as representatives of several local Native tribes who monitored their work. Although artifacts from several centuries were recovered from the sites, there was no evidence of an extensive Native settlement. As the year drew to a close, preparatory work and monitoring began on a DA dormitory extension just beyond the Albany Road Cemetery along Little Meadow Road. The DHC wishes to acknowledge both Heritage Consultants LLC and the Facilities Staff at DA for keeping the DHC 'in the loop' and providing the documentation that is an integral part of the Town's Archaeological Accountability Policy.

The DHC undertook no new CPA-funded projects in 2024. It continued to offer its expertise and 'clout' to support several other Town projects including grant applications for renovation of the 1888 Building and the restoration of the Augustus Tack mural that formerly hung in St. James' Church. The canvas mural is currently owned by Friends of Deerfield and is being stored in the Town-owned former church. It was vandalized during the spring but deemed repairable.

As part of an action taken by the Selectboard, most of the Town's pre-20th Century municipal records (including one document dating back to the 17th Century), were scanned and digitized by Peter Thomas. They were then taken mostly from the vault in the basement of the 1888

Building and brought to the PVMA library where they will be stored in archival boxes and made available to researchers. The DHC spent half of our annual budget to purchase those boxes. The remainder of our budget was used to purchase a metal support to hold a fiberglass interpretive panel at the Laurel Hill Cemetery. A similar support for a panel at the Sugarloaf Street Cemetery was purchased several years ago. Text and photographs for the signs are currently being assembled.

The year 2024 marked the end of the ten-year research phase of a regional study funded by a series of grants from the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program to the Town of Montague. An Advisory Board consisting of representatives from five local Historical Commissions (including Deerfield) as well as Tribal Preservation Officers from several New England tribes (Nipmuc, Abenaki, Narragansett, Wampanoag) and under the leadership of David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project, Inc. met monthly for a decade. Its focus was the massacre at Peskeomskut (Turner’s Falls) in 1676 as well as the events that took place in and around King Philip’s War leading up to and following the event. Archaeologists working for Heritage Consultants LLC gathered Colonial records along with first-person accounts and Native oral histories to document the pre-dawn raid on the Native encampment in what is now the Riverside neighborhood of Gill (part of Deerfield at the time). They used metal detectors to locate musket balls fired by both sides, enabling them to trace the path of the Colonists’ retreat after the pre-dawn raid with Native Americans in pursuit across Gill and Greenfield (also a part of Deerfield at the time), fording the Green and Deerfield Rivers and finally reaching the North Meadows. In the process of the study, much was learned about Native military tactics and the political and social forces that shaped King Philip’s War. A last phase of the grant will be the development of an educational component (website, interpretive signage and markers, curriculum materials, etc.) to pull together and share the project’s findings. A final report will be posted on the Montague town website in 2025, and a hard-copy of that report will be deposited at the PVMA Library. In the meantime, interim reports by Dr. Kevin McBride, lead archaeologist, can be found under the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board heading on the Montague town website. In addition, an excellent overview of the project, written by David Brule, can be found in the October 28, 2024 edition of the Village Broadside, Historic Deerfield Inc’s online blog.

In closing, the DHC welcomes Christopher Dunne, Town Planner as the year began and Town Administrator as it ended. We look forward to working with him, especially as plans for the Town Campus and the revitalization of downtown South Deerfield move forward.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Members:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Julie Caswell, Chair | Term Expires: 2027 |
| Christopher Curtis | Term Expires: 2025 |
| Andrea Leibson | Term Expires: 2025 |
| Alan Swedlund | Term Expires: 2027 |

The Committee has been greatly aided by the work of its dedicated volunteers: Deborah Yaffe, Denise Schwartz, Emily Johnson, Karen Fitzpatrick, and Greg Henricks.

The Open Space Committee works to implement the priorities of the Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023-2030. Having an approved plan makes Deerfield eligible for several grant programs offered by the state focused on land protection, recreation, and parks. The Deerfield

plan includes analysis of the community setting and all aspects of the Town's environment and resources, including environmental challenges. A detailed inventory of lands identifies levels of open space protection across the Town. The last sections outline the community vision for open space and recreation, goals and objectives, and a seven-year action plan. The full plan and links to maps are available at: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/557/Deerfield-Open-Space-Recreation-Plan-202>.

The top priorities of the Action Plan for 2023-2030 are:

- Increasing land under permanent protection in Town.
- Making Deerfield more walkable and hikeable through development of and publicizing of trails and town walking loops.

In 2024, to work on increasing land under permanent protection, the Committee:

- Sought to put five parcels of land owned by the town that are of recreational interest but not permanently protected under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, which would give the parcels permanent protection. The Committee conducted detailed research on each parcel and took these actions:
 - Birchwood Nature Refuge (Map 138, Lot 5, 36 acres): Worked with Town Administrator and Town Counsel. Town Counsel found that this parcel is already protected under Article 97 based on its deed to the Town.
 - Deerfield Pine Nook Memorial Forest (Map 81, Lot 3, 18 acres): Worked with Town Administrator and Town Counsel to present warrant article at Fall 2024 Town Meeting to approve putting the parcel under Article 97. The warrant article was approved, and this parcel is now permanently protected.
 - Pocumtuck Rock (Map 80, Lot 1, 63 acres): Worked with Selectboard, which wanted more information on leases held on the parcel before taking Article 97 action. The Committee applied for a \$35,730 grant to survey the Pocumtuck Rock parcel from the MA Land Conservation Assistance Grant Program, and applied for a \$4,000 match, which was recommended by the Deerfield Community Preservation Committee to be approved at Spring 2025 Town Meeting. The MA grant application was approved in January 2025 and work will be completed by June 2025. Information from the survey will be used to consider the next steps for Article 97 protection.
 - The Committee thanks Liam Cregan of Franklin Land Trust for his contribution to writing the survey grant.
 - Steam Mill Forest (Map 79, Lot 39, 31 acres) and Deerfield River off Mill Village Road (Map 87, Lot 8, 5.5 acres). The Committee continues to work on Article 97 protection for these two parcels.
- Supported the efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to acquire and permanently protect 256 acres of forested land along Pine Nook Road and on the Pocumtuck Ridge. The Committee supported DCR's grant applications, titled Pine Nook Forests North and South, by contributing research and comments, providing a letter of support, and soliciting letters of support from the Deerfield Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Historical Commission. The DCR application is pending before the U.S. Forest Service.

In 2024, to work on making Deerfield more walkable and hikeable, the Committee:

- Worked on writing an application to the MassTrails grant program for the River and Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 1. This grant application was submitted in February 2025.
 - The grant is for repairing and improving the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail from Hillside Road to Stage Road (1.1 miles) and for design of a new Connecticut Riverview Loop (1.7 miles) along the Connecticut River at the intersection of Hillside and River Roads. The total grant application is for \$52,000 from the state, with a \$18,000 match that was recommended by the Deerfield Community Preservation Committee to be approved at Spring 2025 Town Meeting, and \$3,000 of in-kind services as match.
 - Committee members met with leadership of the Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to discuss permission for these two trails on UMass farmland in South Deerfield. We secured permission for work on the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail segment and for design of the Connecticut Riverview Loop.
 - The Committee thanks Pete Westover for his contributions of vision, trail building information, and budget design to this grant application.

Supporting all its work in 2024, the Committee:

- Formed an Indigenous Partners Working Group. The Group will focus initially on research, including what other towns and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation are doing in their Indigenous partnerships. Funding for work by this Group is included in the budget of the MassTrails grant application.
 - The Group is led by Deborah Yaffe, with members Denise Schwartz, Emily Johnson, and Karen Fitzpatrick.
- Continued to work with Franklin Land Trust on open space efforts in Deerfield.
- Continued to work with DCR on open space and recreation efforts in Deerfield.

In 2025, the Committee plans to continue to pursue Article 97 protection for town parcels and identify further opportunities to protect open space in Deerfield. We will also be working on grant applications for the River and Ridge Trail Complex, Phase 2, which would include the construction of the Connecticut Riverview Loop. Longer term, the Committee is interested in public access to the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers, trail easements, use of the North Main Street lot for recreation, and town walking loops for South Deerfield and Old Deerfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Caswell, Chair

PERSONNEL BOARD

Members:

Raloon Bialek, Chair	Term expires: 2028
Eric J. Farrell, Member	Term expires: 2028
G. David Sharp (Finance Committee Representative)	Term expires: 2027
Tim Drumgool, (Elected Employee Rep.)	Term expires: 2026
Christopher Dunne, (ex-officio, non-voting)	

TOWN BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The main actions of the Town Building Advisory Committee (TBAC) in 2024 were to compile a first draft maintenance schedule for town-owned buildings for use in the town's capital planning effort, to compile a draft charter for the committee going forward, and to perform a review of town-owned buildings and building plans. Following is a summary of town-owned buildings and plans.

Town-owned Building List:

- Municipal Office Building: 8 Conway Street, west end of building
- Police Station: 8 Conway Street, east end of building
- 1888 Building: 67 North Main Street (corner of Main Street and Conway Street)
- The Meetinghouse: the old Congregational Church building at 71 North Main Street
- Tilton Library: 75 North Main Street
- Deerfield Elementary School: 21 Pleasant Street
- South County EMS Building: 88 Greenfield Road
- Transfer Station: 42 Lee Road
- St. James Church Building/Property: 85 North Main Street, north of Library.

A vision and status of building infrastructure in Deerfield

Numerous recent and current building projects are improving the municipal building infrastructure in Deerfield. The Tilton Library building, South Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and Highway Garage projects were approved as debt-excluded increases to property taxes, while the Municipal Office upgrade (1888 Building) was approved using funds that will not increase property taxes. New projects on the horizon include an expansion or new building for Franklin Tech (not under direct control of Deerfield but financially supported by all member towns), and the Old Deerfield WWTP, which still needs resolution. In addition, there is much non-building infrastructure such as sewer piping and roads which also needs upkeep. With that in mind, here is a fiscally mindful vision (and status) for the buildings currently owned by the Town of Deerfield, categorized by function:

Town Hall / Municipal Offices: Move to the 1888 Building (formerly the Senior Center and before that the town Grammar School, on the corner of North Main Street and Conway Street). The 1888 building is planned to be refurbished with a two-story addition built on. This will be accomplished using federal grants and Community Preservation Act funds and thus will cause no increase to property taxes. The project was passed by Town Meeting and is on track for a Request for Proposals to be issued in April 2025, with a final completion in 2026.

Senior/Community Center, Nurse and Recreation: While the final location of the South County Senior Center (SCSC) is still under discussion and must be decided in conjunction with the towns of Sunderland and Whately, two options exist within the town of Deerfield: 1) the building currently being used as the Deerfield Municipal Offices or 2) the Meetinghouse (aka the old Congregational Church building), which is currently being used as the temporary library. The Deerfield town nurse should be housed along with the senior center since a large portion of the town nurse patients are seniors. The Deerfield town recreation department may also be housed with the senior center since the type of space needed by the rec department and the senior center is similar; this would also help the movement toward a "community" center that reaches many ages, while maintaining appropriate services to seniors.

There is some desire within the senior center community to build a new building for the senior center, and the SCSC Board of Oversight commissioned a study to explore possible sites. The two highest-ranked sites are:

- the Whately town offices on Sandy Lane (an expansion to the current building)
- the Deerfield town offices on Conway Street (replacing the current building).

The current Deerfield municipal office building and/or the Meetinghouse could be used as an interim location while the SCSC organization seeks grant funding and support for a new building.

Tilton Library: The new addition and refurbishment of the original Tilton Library building is scheduled to be completed in summer 2025. The library is temporarily housed in the Meetinghouse (aka the old Congregational Church building), which was donated to the town several years ago.

Senior Housing: A Request for Proposals has been issued to solicit plans from private developers to design and build subsidized Senior Housing on the property occupied by the St. James church building. If successful, the town will either donate or lease the property to the effort, and no additional funding will be provided by the town. The resulting housing will be a private enterprise which will then pay taxes to the town. This same approach was used to create Sanderson Place, a subsidized senior housing complex in Sunderland.

Police Station and South County EMS: Emergency Services (Police and EMS) will remain in their current respective locations for the foreseeable future. A potential expansion to the police station is being explored; this expansion would add 3 drive-through bays to the back of the building and convert the existing bays to additional police station space. Note that the South Deerfield and Old Deerfield fire departments are separate entities from the Town, as is the South Deerfield Water District.

Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs), Highway Department: The South Deerfield WWTP and Highway Garage are new buildings that should serve for decades to come. The Old Deerfield WWTP is in extremely poor shape; studies are underway for refurbishment/ replacement, but no clear plan is in place yet.

Schools: Deerfield Elementary School (built in 1991) and Frontier Regional School (1997) buildings are being cared for as they age. Franklin Tech is planning an expansion or new building within the next couple of years.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Members:

David Potter, Chair	Term Expiration: 2027
Mark Brennan, Member	Term Expiration: 2027
Laura Pontani, Member	Term Expiration: 2026
Gaby Richard-Harrington, Member	Term Expiration: 2025
G. David Sharp, Member	Term Expiration: 2025
Tia Christiansen, Alternate	Term Expiration: 2026
Dan Nitzsche, Alternate	Term Expiration: 2026

During the past year, the Deerfield ZBA has received applications for and held hearings for zoning variance and special permit applications and made decisions in compliance with the Deerfield Zoning Bylaws.

Thank you to the residents of Deerfield for their engagement and support throughout the year. Thank you to the members who are currently volunteering and former members who have volunteered in the past. It has been an honor to serve the Town of Deerfield as both a member and as Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

David Potter
Chairperson

Zoning Board Decisions 2024

Address		Special Permit	Variance
25 Greenfield Road	Oversize Sign	Y	Y
16 Elm Street	Nonconforming Setback		Y
16 Elm Street	12,245 sq ft Building	Y	
84 Greenfield Road	Communications Tower Extension	Y	
4 Industrial Drive W	Use: Warehouse/Office/Repair Shop	Y	
282 Greenfield Road	Certified Kitchen & Restaurant Space	Y	
70 N Main Street	Bed & Breakfast	Y	
1 Pocumtuck Drive	Bed & Breakfast	Y	

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

ACCOUNTANT

Brenda K. Hill..... Town Accountant

Free Cash was certified on September 6, 2024 for \$1,859,592. The calculation of Free Cash is the result of a combination of many factors, including unspent Free Cash from the previous certification year, receipts in excess of estimated for the year just ended, and unspent appropriation balances for the year just ended. In Deerfield, Free Cash has historically been used to finance capital purchases. In some years, it has also been used to cover budget shortages due to tax levy limitations.

The South County EMS Enterprise Fund completed its tenth full year of operations as of June 30, 2024. Retained Earnings was certified at \$395,613.

The Sewer Enterprise Fund finished its sixth full year of operations as an “Enterprise Fund” and had Retained Earnings certified at \$1,299,009.

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Expenditure Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Moderator	400.00	350.00	50.00
Selectboard's Salaries	16,000.00	15,500.08	499.92
Selectboard's Staff Salaries	343,268.00	309,401.25	33,866.75
Selectboard /Administrator Expense	18,350.00	18,161.85	188.15
Finance Committee Expense	500.00	258.00	242.00
Reserve Fund	48,000.00	-	48,000.00
Accountant Salary	91,613.00	84,652.16	6,960.84
Accountant/Audit Expense	17,350.00	17,290.54	59.46
Assessor's Salaries	11,000.00	11,000.00	-
Assessor's Admin Assistant Salary	74,322.00	74,112.90	209.10
Assessor's Expense	18,525.00	12,819.24	5,705.76
Quinquennial Recertification	38,387.47	19,000.00	19,387.47
Treasurer/Collector Staff Salaries	157,648.00	147,701.86	9,946.14
Treasurer/Collector Expense	41,540.00	30,680.38	10,859.62
Legal Expense	114,500.00	112,151.64	2,348.36
Personnel Board Expense	750.00	360.09	389.91
IT Hardware	5,000.00	4,581.12	418.88
PEG Access Capital	55,866.03	-	55,866.03
Office Contracted Services	260,375.00	232,072.01	28,302.99
Encumbered Contracted Services FY23	18,500.00	8,444.16	10,055.84
Town Clerk Salaries	95,980.00	84,668.92	11,311.08
Town Clerk Expense	28,750.00	28,703.32	46.68
Conservation Commission Expense	1,700.00	816.62	883.38
Open Space Committee Expense	250.00	-	250.00
Planning Board Expense	2,000.00	443.79	1,556.21
Zoning Board of Appeals Expense	1,300.00	1,248.75	51.25

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Agriculture Commission Expense	100.00	-	100.00
Capital - Streetscape Planning	8,738.61	8,000.00	738.61
Energy Committee Expense	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Encumbered Energy Committee Exp FY23	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Town Office Building Maintenance	104,900.00	98,822.73	6,077.27
Town Office Expense	20,376.64	19,779.11	597.53
Capital - Church Feasibility Study	8,000.00	-	8,000.00
Capital - Senior Center Needs Assess/Feas	32,500.00	335.32	32,164.68
Capital - Municipal Office Repairs	52,118.00	-	52,118.00
Capital - Church Building Repairs	295,140.00	295,140.00	-
Capital - Police Dept HVAC System	250,000.00	208,025.31	41,974.69
Capital - SCEMS Station Alert System	30,000.00		30,000.00
Capital - SCEMS Intercept EV Charger	15,000.00		15,000.00
General Insurance	71,020.00	70,853.00	167.00
Police Department Payroll	1,083,917.00	1,034,303.48	49,613.52
Police Department Expense	115,100.00	113,228.37	1,871.63
Capital - Police Cruiser	55,000.00	55,000.00	-
SCEMS Expense	346,898.00	346,898.00	-
Inspections Department Payroll	175,292.00	160,781.60	14,510.40
Inspections Department Expense	4,950.00	3,458.84	1,491.16
Emergency Management	2,800.00	2,600.00	200.00
Animal Control Program	21,527.00	21,527.00	-
Elementary School Expense	5,265,247.00	5,265,247.00	-
Encumbered Elementary School Exp FY22	1,079.52	-	1,079.52
Encumbered Elementary School Exp FY23	113,904.31	109,917.99	3,986.32
Encumbered Elementary School Exp FY24		(84,789.17)	84,789.17
Frontier Regional School Expense	4,306,795.00	4,299,666.00	7,129.00
Frontier - Dickinson Trust	1,726.49	-	1,726.49
Frontier - Debt payment	11,290.00	11,290.00	-
Frontier - Transportation	96,311.00	96,311.00	-
Franklin County Tech Expense	471,415.00	471,415.00	-

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Out of District Placement Exp	132,240.00	51,619.33	80,620.67
Franklin County Tech Capital	17,827.00	17,826.52	0.48
Capital - DES Generator	27,000.00	-	27,000.00
Capital - DES Air Conditioning	45,000.00	45,000.00	-
Capital - DES Commercial Dishwasher	2,744.94	2,744.94	-
Capital - DES Front Entry Repairs	80,000.00	-	80,000.00
General Highway Payroll	588,676.00	564,559.89	24,116.11
General Highway Expense	309,900.00	289,459.28	20,440.72
Capital - Complete Streets	40,000.00	2,750.00	37,250.00
Capital - Asphalt Sidewalk Repairs	241,400.00	241,400.00	-
Capital - July 2023 Storm Damage	600,000.00	555,301.44	44,698.56
Capital - Freightliner	325,000.00	-	325,000.00
Snow and Ice Removal	125,000.00	125,000.00	-
Street Lighting	20,000.00	9,206.81	10,793.19
Transfer Station Expense	244,200.00	198,891.49	45,308.51
Landfill Monitoring	42,000.00	42,000.00	-
Board of Health Payroll	93,369.00	92,654.40	714.60
Board of Health Expense	14,975.00	10,698.47	4,276.53
Council on Aging Expense	500.00	-	500.00
Senior Center Expense	75,822.00	75,822.00	-
Veterans Services Assessment	14,195.00	14,194.55	0.45
Veterans Benefits	21,000.00	20,473.11	526.89
War Memorial Maintenance	375.02	375.02	-
ADA Coordinator	250.00	-	250.00
Tilton Library Expense	210,068.00	210,047.97	20.03
Tilton Library - Dickinson Trust	2,367.44	1,374.90	992.54
Summer Swim Program	6,310.00	6,310.00	-
Tri-Town Beach Expense	41,022.00	41,022.00	-
Recreation Director Salary	63,108.00	63,106.50	1.50
Capital - Town Common Design	21,700.00	-	21,700.00
Historic Commission Expense	1,175.00	999.10	175.90
Vet/Memorial Day Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	-

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Principal - Maturing Debt	423,651.00	423,592.97	58.03
Interest - Maturing Debt	233,341.00	190,163.97	43,177.03
Interest - Temporary Loans	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Air Pollution District	1,666.00	1,666.00	-
RMV Marking Surcharge	2,740.00	2,740.00	-
Regional Transit Authority	34,529.00	34,529.00	-
Charter School Assessment	197,600.00	140,388.00	57,212.00
School Choice Assessment	174,956.00	213,250.00	(38,294.00)
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	42,264.00	42,264.00	-
Sick Leave/Vacation Reserve	10,000.00	1,701.19	8,298.81
Franklin County Retirement	640,352.00	640,352.00	-
Workers Compensation	48,901.00	43,695.00	5,206.00
Workers Compensation 2000	42,956.93	-	42,956.93
Unemployment Insurance	22,000.00	13,111.65	8,888.35
Group Insurance - Town	338,070.00	334,465.87	3,604.13
Group Insurance - Deerfield Elementary	694,739.00	694,280.37	458.63
Medicare Expense	111,159.00	107,569.96	3,589.04
Transfer to OPEB Trust	39,308.00	39,308.00	-
Transfer to Ambulance Fund	142,343.00	142,343.00	-
Transfer to Opioid Special Revenue Fund	32,214.00	32,214.00	-
Transfer to MVP Grant Fund-Cash Match	92,176.00	92,176.00	-
Transfer - Miscellaneous		0.21	(0.21)
Total Expenditures Fiscal Year 2024	21,164,210.40	19,697,378.17	1,466,832.23

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Revenue Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Personal Property Taxes	858,176.33	857,220.28	(956.05)
Real Estate Taxes	13,077,247.30	12,954,003.58	(123,243.72)
Tax Liens Redeemed	-	25,961.66	25,961.66
Other Taxes	-	24,573.01	24,573.01
Motor Vehicle Excise	660,000.00	798,415.11	138,415.11
Abated MV Taxes Recovered	-	1,338.26	1,338.26
Pen & Int on Prop Taxes	20,000.00	21,136.52	1,136.52
Pen & Int on Excise Taxes	14,000.00	21,287.20	7,287.20
Pmts in Lieu of Taxes	100,000.00	233,653.89	133,653.89
Room Occupancy Tax	218,000.00	275,211.19	57,211.19
Local Meals Tax	110,000.00	141,344.33	31,344.33
Total Tax Revenue	15,057,423.63	15,354,145.03	296,721.40
Rentals	45,000.00	13,623.66	(31,376.34)
Fees-Assessors	100.00	180.00	80.00
Fees-Collector	2,700.00	2,675.00	(25.00)
Fees-Registry Markings	1,800.00	3,220.00	1,420.00
Fees-Comcast Subscriber	500.00	657.50	157.50
Fees-PEG Access	90,000.00	99,645.27	9,645.27
Fees-Town Clerk	8,000.00	10,599.30	2,599.30
Fees-Conservation Comm	400.00	304.01	(95.99)
Fees-Zoning Board	1,000.00	5,090.58	4,090.58
Fees-Police	25,000.00	30,667.34	5,667.34
Fees-Canine Control	2,500.00	8,275.00	5,775.00
Fees-Dump Stickers	70,000.00	95,089.00	25,089.00
Fees-Bulky Items	8,000.00	10,210.00	2,210.00
Fees-Mattress Disposal	5,000.00	7,570.00	2,570.00
Fees-Trash Bag Receipts	77,000.00	88,121.00	11,121.00
Fees-Health Board-Septic	12,000.00	13,800.00	1,800.00
Fees-Health Board-Other	20,000.00	25,235.00	5,235.00
I & E Delinquent Charges Rev	11,000.00	12,600.00	1,600.00
Total Fee Revenue	335,000.00	413,939.00	78,939.00
Licenses-Liquor	28,900.00	33,389.10	4,489.10
Licenses-Other	16,500.00	2,353.00	(14,147.00)
Total License Revenue	45,400.00	35,742.10	(9,657.90)

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Permits-Trench	100.00	1,010.00	910.00
Permits-Police Dept	1,500.00	2,187.50	687.50
Permits-Building Insp	140,000.00	486,559.42	346,559.42
Permits-Plumbing Insp	11,000.00	15,260.00	4,260.00
Permits-Electrical Insp	52,000.00	79,147.72	27,147.72
Total Permit Revenue	204,600.00	584,164.64	379,564.64
Medicaid Reimbursement	18,000.00	33,196.00	15,196.00
Reimb for State Owned Land	145,560.00	145,405.00	(155.00)
Veterans Abatements	-	25,249.00	25,249.00
School Aid Chapter 70	1,157,053.00	1,157,053.00	-
School Transportation	-	-	-
Charter Tuition Reimb	42,251.00	29,477.00	(12,774.00)
Unrestricted Govt Aid	574,180.00	574,180.00	-
Veterans Benefits	14,220.00	10,341.07	(3,878.93)
Other State Revenue	-	6.00	6.00
Total State Revenue	1,975,213.00	1,980,429.07	5,216.07
Fines-Court	32,500.00	56,572.04	24,072.04
Fines-Parking	500.00	560.00	60.00
Fines-District Court	1,000.00	3,220.00	2,220.00
Total Fine Revenue	34,000.00	60,352.04	26,352.04
Earnings on Investments	45,000.00	170,074.97	125,074.97
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	4,001.00	4,001.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	6,000.00	33,301.86	27,301.86
Refunds & Reimbursements	5,000.00	68,318.57	63,318.57
Tr From Special Revenue Funds	148,100.00	171,640.96	23,540.96
Tr from Stabilization Funds	1,082,343.00	1,082,343.00	-
Tr From Trust Funds	1,503.00	1,503.00	-
Tr From Enterprise Funds	140,000.00	140,000.00	-
Total Other Revenue	1,427,946.00	1,671,183.36	243,237.36
Total Revenue Fiscal Year 2024	19,124,582.63	20,113,578.90	988,996.27

Special Revenue Funds Fiscal Year 2024

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance
<u>Highway Funds</u>				
Mass Highway Funds (Chapter 90)	-	-	225,593.16	(225,593.16)
July 2023 Flood Relief Fund	-	1,580,000.00	1,580,000.00	-
Shared Streets & Spaces Grant	-	-	210.85	(210.85)
Fair Share Fund	-	-	131,148.08	(131,148.08)
<u>Revolving Funds</u>				
Recycling Program Revolving Fund	26,361.06	4,730.55	5,897.25	25,194.36
Police Detail Revolving Fund	(43,974.00)	348,412.40	342,983.40	(38,545.00)
Wetlands Protection Fund	35,883.95	1,537.50	4,700.00	32,721.45
Recreation Revolving Fund	10,476.30	36,723.04	35,869.11	11,330.23
Swim Program Revolving Fund	11,794.15	650.00	335.25	12,108.90
Planning Board Revolving Fund	17,903.75	4,385.59	731.22	21,558.12
Plan Bd/ConsComm Peer Review Funds	-	17,850.00	12,850.00	5,000.00
350th Celebration Fund	34,509.02	-	34,509.02	-
EMS Details Revolving Fund	-	750.00	3,210.00	(2,460.00)
<u>Receipts Reserved For Appropriation</u>				
Sales of Cemetery Lots	25,232.82	2,100.00	10,000.00	17,332.82
Sales of Real Estate	125,060.00	-	125,000.00	60.00
Insurance Claims	960.70	57,198.09	58,158.79	-
TNC Surcharge Distribution	627.20	90.90	-	718.10
<u>Other Special Revenue Funds</u>				
School Resource Officer Fund	14,283.14	62,074.00	69,481.86	6,875.28
HEET Grant Fund	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00
Greenfield PHE Shared Grant Fund	-	905.00	754.50	150.50
Opioid Settlement Receipts Fund	-	83,232.71	-	83,232.71
Veterans Street Sign Fund	819.21	-	-	819.21
Police Donations Fund	6,354.25	25,600.00	30,749.50	1,204.75
Deerfield Academy WWTP Donation Fund	2,354.97	-	-	2,354.97
Senior Center Gift Fund	8,881.52	15,882.54	18,433.47	6,330.59
Recreation Dept Gift Fund	8,981.44	1,370.00	1,225.00	9,126.44
Roadside Mower Fund	5,633.97	-	5,633.97	-
Sci Fri Library Grant	493.91	-	493.91	-
Memorial Day Gift Fund	2,728.54	1,175.00	999.55	2,903.99
350th Anniversary Celebration Gifts	44.00	-	44.00	-
Tri Town Beach District Operations Fund	915.82	69,944.00	60,141.52	10,718.30
SCEMS Gift Fund	7,961.57	5,386.00	9,978.80	3,368.77
UMass Apprenticeship Grant Fund	-	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
Fred Wells Health Grant	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	-
EWP Donations	28,263.27	-	28,263.27	-
LifePath Church St Home Grant	1,566.20	1,602.00	757.59	2,410.61
Albany Road Cemetery Donation Fund	1,640.57	-	-	1,640.57
Senior Center Operations Fund	26,273.89	152,310.09	150,976.82	27,607.16
Senior Center EOEA Grant Fund	8,335.06	42,378.00	48,226.64	2,486.42
Title 3D 6K Senior Fitness Grant	(1,347.50)	5,767.50	4,420.00	-
Title 3D 3K Senior Fitness Grant	(975.00)	2,925.00	1,950.00	-
Public Works Donation Fund	12,066.13	-	97.56	11,968.57

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance
<u>Community Preservation Act</u>	4,357,314.51	699,373.27	534,368.54	4,522,319.24
<u>State & Federal Grants</u>				
Community Policing Grant	901.71	-	-	901.71
Bulletproof Vest Grant	-	1,042.50	2,085.00	(1,042.50)
Drug Forfeiture Grant	52,226.99	20,805.53	54,625.88	18,406.64
Task Force Grant	-	36,776.16	43,902.72	(7,126.56)
Council on Aging Grant	-	22,946.00	22,946.00	-
Library State Aid	8,728.79	13,696.26	15,388.55	7,036.50
Cultural Council Grant	7,888.83	6,098.43	5,400.00	8,587.26
Mass RDP Small Scale Grant	3,274.01	6,650.00	7,267.09	2,656.92
MEMA EMPG Grant	(2,800.00)	5,400.00	2,600.00	-
Green Community Grant	1,803.19	-	-	1,803.19
COA Service Incentive Grant	-	13,135.05	14,209.77	(1,074.72)
Early Voting Fund	5,291.28	5,178.36	3,078.21	7,391.43
CC Employee Policies Grant	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	-
EOAF Mosquito Control Grant	17,086.45	-	2,800.18	14,286.27
Green Community Grant	5,119.50	-	-	5,119.50
MVP Action Grant #4	18,850.69	-	-	18,850.69
EPS Mobile Terminals Grant	-	-	27,274.32	(27,274.32)
SHRAB Veterans Records Grant	4,240.00	-	2,896.98	1,343.02
ARPA Grant	1,352,750.32	-	378,909.95	973,840.37
FEMA-Vaccination Clinic Costs	9,114.78	-	9,114.78	-
MVP Action Grant #6	2,690.30	-	-	2,690.30
Bridge Academy Grant	7,404.68	6,694.41	12,643.75	1,455.34
DMH Jail Diversion CIT Grant	(32,607.18)	65,319.29	51,543.21	(18,831.10)
2021 Storm Damage Grant	263,049.50	-	228,799.50	34,250.00
MCOA Walk MA Challenge Grant	275.00	-	275.00	-
NACCHO Grant	23,842.92	-	3,391.50	20,451.42
CC Employee DEI Grant	30,000.00	-	-	30,000.00
CC Regional & Efficiencies Grant	75,000.00	-	-	75,000.00
Mass in Motion Grant	(8,920.92)	8,920.92	12,690.00	(12,690.00)
Senior Digital Literacy Grant	-	100,000.00	70,383.39	29,616.61
Senior Transportation Grant	-	1,027.37	14,014.52	(12,987.15)
FEMA AFG Cardiac Monitor Grant	-	45,150.72	47,600.90	(2,450.18)
FY23 Earmark for Senior Center	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
MVP 2.0 Planning Grant	-	45,000.00	24,451.50	20,548.50
MVP Green Infrastructure Grant	-	92,176.00	13,256.25	78,919.75
Hybrid Programming COA Grant	-	119,953.94	27,584.42	92,369.52
GAP III DEP Grant	-	-	179,173.00	(179,173.00)
<u>Education Funds</u>				
School Lunch	261,385.30	213,893.49	178,197.53	297,081.26
School Choice	1,110,305.68	294,669.00	282,525.56	1,122,449.12
Grant Funded Stipends	(1,572.50)	29,339.50	27,964.50	(197.50)
Title I Grant	(2,307.70)	30,000.00	31,153.85	(3,461.55)
REAP Grant	(15,706.12)	48,549.38	38,150.46	(5,307.20)
Circuit Breaker Rev Fund	7,078.00	57,473.00	43,496.00	21,055.00
SPED Assistance Grant	(6,906.13)	81,612.29	83,244.59	(8,538.43)
Dionne Mem Music Award	40.00	-	-	40.00

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense/ Transfers Out	Ending Balance
School Building Use Fund	9,511.21	550.00	-	10,061.21
Fall Daybreak Program	39,928.12	-	4,222.50	35,705.62
Summer Daybreak Program	14,898.97	-	-	14,898.97
Community Partnership (EC) Program	49,683.13	90,414.20	100,249.35	39,847.98
After School Program	128,460.81	149,592.40	146,011.04	132,042.17
Retail Store Gift Fund	6,146.26	-	-	6,146.26
River Valley Day Camp Fund	108,615.28	151,279.88	126,598.17	133,296.99
Wm Benoni DES Library Fund	90.14	-	-	90.14
School Health Services Grant	-	1,862.56	1,862.56	-
DES Yankee Candle Gift Fund	4,880.58	4,000.00	-	8,880.58
Rural School Aid Grant	15,692.89	97,107.15	112,800.04	-
LFJ Educator Grant	2,500.00	-	752.07	1,747.93
<u>South County EMS Enterprise Fund</u>	675,457.41	1,636,660.14	1,801,004.61	511,112.94
<u>WWTP Enterprise Fund</u>	1,504,718.75	1,765,544.87	1,808,654.67	1,461,608.95
<u>Capital Project Funds</u>				
School Roof Project	(38,486.21)	38,486.21	-	(0.00)
Albany Road Gravestones Project	1,006.25	-	-	1,006.25
Sewer Upgrade Phase 1	(7,892,795.61)	5,991,501.00	3,602,817.41	(5,504,112.02)
Sewer Upgrade Phase 1 Finance Costs	7,936.41	25,596.41	33,208.91	323.91
Sewer Upgrade Phase 2	(606,532.60)	-	356,814.45	(963,347.05)
Library Expansion	642,475.45	1,596,426.09	1,945,705.28	293,196.26
SCEMS Ambulance	-	242,343.00	71,400.00	170,943.00
EMS Intercept Vehicle	-	60,000.00	49,390.00	10,610.00
Police Dept HVAC Upgrade	-	200,000.00	154,578.00	45,422.00
1821 Building Truss Repairs	-	266,434.59	46,149.00	220,285.59
Sidewalk Replacement	-	240,082.84	54,608.52	185,474.32
<u>Trust Funds</u>				
Dickinson Library Trust	112,619.17	5,587.89	1,503.00	116,704.06
Dickinson/Billings Fund	3,023.43	1.51	-	3,024.94
Cemetery/Brookside Fund	34,382.70	1,725.87	41.61	36,066.96
Fr Wells/Pine Nook Fund	62,358.63	3,052.78	-	65,411.41
Mary Topp Cemetery Fund	13,829.53	117.13	-	13,946.66
Surp War Bonds/Conway Forest	18,665.40	9.35	-	18,674.75
Deerfield/Whately Veterans	2,147.68	1.08	-	2,148.76
Stabilization Fund	1,443,113.85	56,210.62	600,000.00	899,324.47
Capital Stabilization Fund	574,174.75	919.00	467,343.00	107,750.75
OPEB Trust Fund	215,013.37	67,839.16	-	282,852.53
SCEMS Rent Stabilization Fund	82,215.71	31,540.74	15,000.00	98,756.45
<u>Agency Funds</u>				
Firearm ID Cards	1,737.50	6,337.50	6,975.00	1,100.00
S Mill Village Development Escrow	26,497.23	39.81	-	26,537.04
Deputy Collector Fees	-	9,474.59	9,474.59	-
Districts	-	1,549,445.28	1,549,445.28	-
Student Activities Fund	24,519.16	28,483.58	41,391.43	11,611.31
Total Activity	\$ 5,234,537.14	\$19,044,328.01	\$18,725,131.98	\$ 5,553,733.17

Town of Deerfield							
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups							
as of June 30, 2024							
(Unaudited)							
	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	4,783,343.58	8,121,773.35	2,518,400.52	2,176,972.73	1,687,494.69		19,287,984.87
Receivables:							
Personal property taxes	3,166.08						3,166.08
Real estate taxes	209,276.39	4,352.30					213,628.69
Allowance for abatements & exemptions	(66,770.14)						(66,770.14)
Tax liens	112,715.76	1,354.24		423.62	9,545.22		124,038.84
Motor vehicle excise	48,171.02						48,171.02
User fees				1,654,102.46			1,654,102.46
Utility liens added to taxes				204.25			204.25
Departmental	500.00						500.00
Due from other governments		670,726.60					670,726.60
Foreclosures/Possessions	29,949.28						29,949.28
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds						13,845,572.13	13,845,572.13
Total Assets	<u>5,120,351.97</u>	<u>8,798,206.49</u>	<u>2,518,400.52</u>	<u>3,831,703.06</u>	<u>1,697,039.91</u>	<u>13,845,572.13</u>	<u>35,811,274.08</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Warrants payable	309,413.98	609,345.80	1,069,699.84	135,413.96	3,584.60		2,127,458.18
Accounts payable	7,777.95	2,315.39	89,820.62	15,783.18			115,697.14
Accrued payroll	530,537.14	72,813.23		53,053.70			656,404.07
Withholdings	71,539.71						71,539.71
Other liabilities			109,578.80				109,578.80
Deferred revenue:							
Real and personal property taxes	145,672.33	4,352.30					150,024.63
Tax liens	112,715.76	1,354.24		423.62	9,545.22		124,038.84
Foreclosures/Possessions	29,949.28						29,949.28
Motor vehicle excise	48,171.02						48,171.02
User fees				1,654,102.46			1,654,102.46
Utility liens added to taxes				204.25			204.25
Departmental	500.00						500.00
Due from other governments		670,726.60					670,726.60
Notes payable			6,789,499.00				6,789,499.00
Bonds payable						13,845,572.13	13,845,572.13
Total Liabilities	<u>1,256,277.17</u>	<u>1,360,907.56</u>	<u>8,058,598.26</u>	<u>1,858,981.17</u>	<u>13,129.82</u>	<u>13,845,572.13</u>	<u>26,393,466.11</u>
Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances	85,514.17						85,514.17
Reserved for expenditures	1,021,128.00			278,100.00			1,299,228.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	788,599.31	718,433.77					1,507,033.08
Reserved for premiums	28,198.04						28,198.04
Reserved for working deposit		144,280.00					144,280.00
Undesignated fund balance	1,940,635.28	6,574,585.16	(5,540,197.74)		1,683,910.09		4,658,932.79
Unreserved retained earnings				1,694,621.89			1,694,621.89
Total Fund Equity	<u>3,864,074.80</u>	<u>7,437,298.93</u>	<u>(5,540,197.74)</u>	<u>1,972,721.89</u>	<u>1,683,910.09</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,417,807.97</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>5,120,351.97</u>	<u>8,798,206.49</u>	<u>2,518,400.52</u>	<u>3,831,703.06</u>	<u>1,697,039.91</u>	<u>13,845,572.13</u>	<u>35,811,274.08</u>

ASSESSORS

Board of Assessors as of May 2024 Elections

Frank Leone, Chair	2025
Francis (Skip) Sobieski	2026
Charles Shattuck III	2027

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors

Karen S. Menard

How the Assessors Determine Value

Real property valuation in Massachusetts is based on “full and fair cash value,” the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller on the open market. Assessors must collect, record, and analyze a great deal of information about property and market characteristics to estimate the fair market value of all taxable properties in their communities. All properties, including churches, educational institutions, State and Town-owned land, are also valued, even though they may be exempt from taxation.

Personal property valuation in Massachusetts (property not considered real estate and, generally, not part of one’s home) is based on a combination of market value and utility value. Personal property located within the Town as of January 1 preceding the next fiscal year is required to be reported to the Town on a Form of List by March 1.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that the assessed values be reviewed annually with sales statistics for the previous calendar year and that all properties be recertified every five years, starting fiscal year 2018. Deerfield has completed interim updates for fiscal year 2025. The Town of Deerfield uses an independent appraisal service to inspect properties and to analyze sales.

Why Assessments Go Up When a Property Has Not Changed

Since assessments reflect market value, rising/falling real estate prices in the community will result in generally higher/lower assessments. As several factors influence market value, the changes to assessments may not be uniform. One such factor is the style of the building. For example, one year, colonials will be in demand, thus raising their market value more than other styles and, another year, capes will be more popular. Another factor is location. For various reasons, certain neighborhoods are more attractive to buyers (in-town for one year, rural the next...). Again, the resulting demand raises the price for homes in the preferred neighborhood. In addition, the condition of the property will affect its value. For two homes comparable in style, grade, and location, the better maintained home would have a higher value. While changes made to a property can affect value, these other factors must also be considered.

If You Disagree With the Assessed Value of Your Property

If, in your opinion, the assessment of your property is incorrect, discuss it with the Board of Assessors. At the meeting, you will need to specify the items about which you disagree with such as misinformation on the property record card or values of comparable properties lower or higher than yours. Cite specific examples. Information on all properties is available in the Assessors’ Office and on-line at www.deerfieldma.us.

Abatements and Appeals

Once the tax bills have been mailed, an aggrieved taxpayer must go through the more formal process of filing for an abatement. These forms may be picked up at the Assessors' Office. They must be filed with the Assessors on or before the due date of the actual tax bill.

If the Assessors do not grant the desired abatement, the taxpayer then has the right to appeal to the State's Appellate Tax Board. The appeal must be filed within three months of the denial from the Board of Assessors. Information and applications are available from:

The Appellate Tax Board
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617)727-3100
<http://www.mass.gov/atb/>

How Property Taxes Are Computed

Before Proposition 2½ went into effect in Massachusetts in Fiscal Year 1982, the amount to be raised by the property tax in each community was essentially determined by what the community decided to spend in the coming year, either through its Annual Town Meeting, or its City and Town Council. Budgets were so determined and then the tax rates were set to raise that amount. With Proposition 2½ in effect, the process is reversed. The tax limitation law sets the maximum amount a community may collect, or levy, from the property tax to "...2.5 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all real and personal property in the community" based on the previous year's valuation plus new growth. At the Annual Town Meeting, a budget is adopted. Budgets must be made to fit within that limit (except for any override(s) or debt exclusion(s) passed by the voters). The budget total less the monies anticipated from other sources, such as state aid and local receipts from fees, etc., is the amount that needs to be raised through property taxes.

Determining the Tax Rate

Before the tax rate can be set, the Town must decide if they want all property to be taxed at the same rate, or if they prefer separate rates for a certain class of property, such as commercial/industrial. The Assessors prepare a Tax Rate Recapitulation sheet showing the total value for each class of property and its percentage of the town total. Using this information, the Selectboard holds a Classification Hearing to decide if there will be a single or multiple tax rate(s).

What Assessors Do Not Do

Assessors do not make the laws that affect property owners. Tax laws are enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Various guidelines and regulations to implement the legislation are established by the Department of Revenue. The Assessors must follow these procedures and act in accordance with the law.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024
TOWN APPROPRIATIONS VOTED APRIL 24, 2023**

Appropriations To Be Raised:

From Raise and Appropriate	\$17,401,866.00	
From Free Cash	1,150,076.00	
From Other Available Funds	622,481.00	
From CPA Funds	959,000.00	
From Enterprise Funds	<u>3,493,075.00</u>	<u>\$23,626,498.00</u>

Other Amounts To Be Raised:

Amounts Certified for Tax Title	10,000.00	
Overlay Deficits	0.00	
Cherry Sheet Offsets	358,793.00	
State and County Cherry Sheets Charges	411,491.00	
Overlay Reserve	<u>69,279.63</u>	<u>\$849,563.63</u>

Total Amount To Be Raised: **\$24,476,061.63**

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources:

Estimated Receipts From State:

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$2,316,006.00	
Mass. School Building Authority Payment	0.00	<u>\$2,316,006.00</u>

Local Estimated Receipts:

Motor Vehicle Excise	\$660,000.00	
Other Excise	0.00	
Room Occupancy Tax	218,000.00	
Meals Tax	110,000.00	
Cannabis Tax	0.00	
Penalties & Interest	34,000.00	
Payment In Lieu Of taxes	100,000.00	
Trash Disposal	160,000.00	
Fees	175,000.00	
Rentals	45,000.00	
Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries	0.00	
Other Departmental Revenue	0.00	
Licenses & Permits	250,000.00	
Fines & Forfeits	34,000.00	
Investment Income	45,000.00	
Medicaid Reimbursement	18,000.00	
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	<u>11,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,860,000.00</u>

Free Cash	<u>\$1,150,076.47</u>
Free Cash to reduce tax rate	<u>0.00</u>
Enterprise Funds	<u>\$3,633,075.00</u>
Community Preservation Act Surcharge	<u>\$959,000.00</u>
Other Available Funds	<u>\$622,481.00</u>

Total Estimated Receipts & Revenue **\$10,540,638.47**

Total Tax Levy **\$13,935,423.16**

Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property **\$1,006,167,771.00**

Total Levy ÷ Total Value x 1,000 = Tax Rate **13,935,423.16 ÷ 1,006,167,771.00 x 1,000 = \$13.95**

BOARD OF HEALTH

Local Boards of Health in Massachusetts are required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. These requirements reflect the legislature's understanding that many critical health problems are best handled by the involvement of local community officials familiar with local conditions.

In November 2024, Ned Saviski was hired as the new full-time Public Health Agent for the Town of Deerfield. This position replaced two part-time Health Agents; Richard Calisewski, and Valerie Bird. We are extremely grateful for their years of service and commitment to overseeing the health and well-being of the Town of Deerfield.

In addition, the Board of Health adopted a new permitting system; Permit Eyes, to help streamline the communication and permitting process for all Health Department Permits. This process began in September 2024 and has been well received in the community.

The Deerfield Board of Health is overseen by the Town Selectboard, which consists of three members. Meetings for the Board of Health are held jointly with the Selectboard meetings every other Wednesday at 6:00pm. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

Specifically, the Board of Health has responsibilities in each of the designated areas listed below:

Nursing Services – Deerfield's Nursing Services are in part allocated by a shared services grant that serves six towns, including Deerfield. These include office hours for services such as Flu clinics, Covid tests, consultations, blood pressure checks, referrals, and home visits. This grant has also been used to pay for personal supplies to those in need.

Wells – The Board of Health issues well drilling permits. The major purpose of the permit is to ensure that all wells are the appropriate distance from septic systems, property lines, foundations etc. and, most importantly, provide adequate potable water to the premises.

Septic Systems – Another major responsibility involves the treatment of wastewater. A Health Agent or board member is required to be present at percolation tests. The Board of Health approves Soil Absorption System (SAS) plans, oversees septic system installations, and issues Certificates of Compliance. When a property in Deerfield is sold or transferred, a Title 5 Inspection must be completed.

Food Inspections – Wherever food is served or manufactured for sale, that facility must be inspected and licensed annually by the Board of Health.

Camp Inspections – Camp dining, sleeping and recreational facilities, as well as health centers, are inspected annually by the Board of Health for basic first-aid safety, and adequate treatment areas under the care of medical professionals, including licensed doctors, nurses, and aides.

Public and Semi-Private Beaches – All beaches serving more than one family are required to have water testing at least 15 times a year. The Board of Health oversees and monitors the testing program to ensure the water is safe for bathing and swimming.

Beavers/Muskrats – The Board of Health is responsible for issuing a 10-day Emergency Permit, when needed, to mitigate animal threats that endanger human health and safety.

With COVID becoming a less novel and more manageable virus, we observed many of our residents walking, riding and hiking in our community with increased vigor. The Board of Health also participated in the COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program as another epidemiological tool.

Our efforts to partner with other agencies proved quite effective as the Board of Health collaborated with:

- The Pioneer Valley Tobacco Collaborative, a regional tobacco control program.
- The Pioneer Valley Healthy Air Network, a regional project to install air sensors for communities to monitor air quality levels.
- The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Sharps Disposal Program for residents to exchange their used sharps for new containers.

Board of Health Activity 2024	No.
Title 5 Inspections	35
Percolation Tests	22
Housing Complaints / Inspections	16
Well Permits	4
Food Establishments Permits	50
Food Inspections	80
Temporary/Mobile Food Inspections	150
Hotel Permits	2
Tobacco Sales Permits	6
Title 5 Septic Installers, Pumper-Hauler Permits	22
Offal Permits	7
Recreational Camps for Children Permits	8
Semi / Public Pool Permits	6
Ice Rinks	2

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Robert WaldenBuilding Commissioner
Wayne Shaw Wiring Inspector
Austen Iglehart Alternate Wiring Inspector
Steven BaranoskiPlumbing and Gas Fittings Inspector
Mark Wendolowski... Alternate Plumbing and Gas Fittings Inspector
Amy Hahn Administrative Assistant

The Building Inspections office ensures safety and code compliance.

Detailed below are the new permits issued by the Building Department in 2024, and annual permits issued in 2024.

PERMIT TYPE	# of Permits
Residential Building	296
Commercial Building	53
Electrical	177
Gas Fittings	48
Plumbing	69
Total	643

Certificate of Inspection	Certificate of Occupancy
126	17

Building permits may be required when work on a home or business is being done either by the homeowner or a contractor. If you are unsure if you need a building permit, please contact the Building Inspections office.

Work Requiring a Permit (examples)

- New homes, additions, garages or storage sheds (over 200 sq. ft.)
- Interior renovations, involving the cutting away of any wall or structural member.
- Decks and ramps.
- Roofing (when re-roofing more than 25% of existing roof).
- Siding (when re-siding more than 25% of existing house).
- Windows or exterior door replacement.
- Fences over 7ft high.
- Retaining walls over 4ft high.
- Wood stoves, fireplace inserts, fireplaces, chimneys, outdoor wood furnace.
- Demolition of any existing structure.
- Signs-new or alterations of existing signs.
- Changes of use (e.g., from storage to living space).

Why Should I Get a Permit?

It's the law. Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR 5110.1.0) states: It shall be unlawful to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove or demolish a building or structure without first filing a written application with the building official and obtaining the required permit, therefore. In addition, a building permit is for your own protection. The building official will require the work performed to meet the standards of the Massachusetts Building Code, which translates into *your* security. Insurance companies may require a Certificate of Occupancy or approval of the building official for certain work.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Kayce Warren, Town Administrator (until September)
Christopher Nolan, Assistant Town Administrator (until June)
Greg Snedeker, Assistant Town Administrator (beginning in September)
Christopher Dunne, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator
Christopher Dunne, Acting Town Administrator (beginning in September)
Christopher Dunne, Town Administrator (beginning in December)
Patricia Martin, Administrative Assistant

TOWN CLERK

Current Population: 5,136 Median Age: 51.9

The Clerk's office managed an exceptionally busy and productive year. In addition to our regular duties, we seamlessly executed five elections. Due to the 2022 Votes Act, where several pandemic-era policies gained permanence, vote-by-mail was a popular option for all elections resulting in 4,804 vote-by-mail and absentee ballots processed. Part of the State election coverage included 160 hours of early in-person voting hours staffed by Deerfield's exceptional cohort of election workers.

The 2024 election cycle began with a Special Election on January 16 where the Town asked for a proposition two and one-half exemption to help pay for extraordinary road and sidewalk damage due to severe summer storms. The question passed by majority vote: 555 Yes, 458 No. The Presidential Primary was held next on March 5 where 1289 ballots were cast. Many residents spoke about rising tensions between neighbors as Presidential campaigns began to gain traction. The Annual Election held on May 6 reflected this tension and created its own tenseness due to a contested Selectboard race with Blake Gilmore running against incumbent Carolyn Shores Ness and a Deerfield School Committee Write-in battle between long-time educators Amy Severance and Dana Lavigne. With 1767 ballots cast Gilmore claimed the Selectboard seat by a margin of 39 votes and Severance became Deerfield's newest School Committee member by a margin of 91 votes. The year's fourth election held on September 3, the Massachusetts State Primary, was a relatively quiet affair with 820 ballots cast.

Comparatively the November 5 General Election was heartily attended with 3308 ballots cast or 80% of our voting population; this number included 1789 early vote-by-mail ballots. As in 2016, Deerfield's Presidential pick did not mirror the national outcome, but we shared common safety concerns. Many thanks go to Chief Paciorek for being a well-grounded sounding board and to Officers Adam Sokoloski and Tim Capuano for not only providing election day security but for allaying the fears of residents as they exercised their right to vote.

In 2024, we staffed and recorded minutes for two Town Meetings, the Annual held on April 29 and a Special held on October 7. All Town Meeting minutes, and election results can be found on the Town Clerk's page on the Town Website: deerfieldma.us or by request.

Endless thanks go to our amazing election workers who answered the call to serve and made these profound accomplishments possible. They are (in no particular order):

Judy Kundl, Julie Cavacco, Dave Robinson, Kathy Stier, Mark Pichette, Nathalie McCormick Ray Burniske, Jane Wrisley, Marge Michalski, Terry Yusko, Reenie Clancy, Stanley Stokarski Dave Grace, Martha Grace, Jack McKenzie, Maureen Casey, Sharyn Paciorek, Jane Frydenlund, Olivia Leone, Cathy Bertinuson, Margaret Nartowicz, Adam Sokoloski, Pam Fisk, Paul Sorrentino, Laura Cary, Peg Kostiuik, Penelope Tarasuk, Andrea Leibson, Jack Wileden, Jan Wolfram, Nora Owens, Chrissy Kopp.

A special thank you goes to the local League of Women Voters for volunteering countless hours to assist with mailing out and advance processing thousands of ballots. The League members who pitched in are:

Marge Michalski, Ruth Odom, Denise Petrin, Catherine Keppler, Jean Wall, and Janice James.

Deerfield's Board of Registrars are:

Joanne Carney, Richard Andriole, and Kathlene Sanderell

The Clerk's Office issued 893 dog licenses (yielding \$9,350 in collected fees), filed Marriage Intentions for 28 couples, certified 29 new Marriage Certificates, processed more than 150 Vital Records requests, issued 31 new Business Certificates, renewed Certificates for 21 existing businesses, and filed 11 Discontinuances for Businesses no longer operating in Deerfield.

In 2024, Deerfield experienced the loss of 51 residents and welcomed 32 precious babies.

The Clerk's office lost one of our beloved former Clerk's, *Mary Stokarski*. Mary was a mentor to many and upheld the truest definition of public service in her 30+ year tenure serving the residents of Deerfield with tenacity and kindness, she will be sorely missed.

VITAL RECORDS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Births	32	31	25	25	19	34	18	36	31	40
Deaths	51	44	35	48	44	39	51	48	38	31
Marriages	29	10	17	23	30	20	29	25	35	26

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathlene A. Sanderell – Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2024

I, Kathlene Sanderell, duly appointed and qualified Town Clerk of the Town of Deerfield hereby verify that the following votes were taken at the Deerfield Annual Town Meeting held on Monday, April 29, 2024, in the Frontier Regional School Auditorium, 113 North Main Street in the Village of South Deerfield, with 293 voters in attendance. Moderator, Daniel Graves Esq., called the town meeting to order at 7:06 pm, declaring that the warrant was in order, and the quorum requirement was met.

Moderator led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator's Motions:

Voted that the reading of all articles be waived and that prior to the reading of a motion under the article, the Moderator briefly summarize the content of the article to be considered; and, further, that unless an objection is raised, the reading of detailed motions be waived where the article as printed can, in the opinion of the Moderator, be incorporated by reference in any motion presented.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted the following people be allowed to address the audience during the Town Meeting:

- Attorney Lisa Mead, Town Counsel
- Brenda Hill, Town Accountant
- Kayce Warren, Town Administrator
- Darius Modestow, Superintendent, Frontier Regional/Union 38 Schools
- Shelly Poreda, Director of Business Administration, Frontier Regional/Union 38 Schools
- Tina Gemme, Principal, Deerfield Elementary School
- Richard Martin, Superintendent, Franklin County Technical School
- Russell Kaubris, Business Manager, Franklin County Technical School
- Jessica Corwinn
- Josephine Silva
- Araceli McCoy
- Jimin Ahn
- Joshua Sparks, South County EMS Chief

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Moderator Friendly Amendment:

Voted the following people be allowed to address the audience during the Town Meeting:

- Kathlene (Cassie) Sanderell

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 1: Consent Article

Voted that the Town approve Article 1 on the following matters: A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

A. Reports of Officers

That the Town will hear the reports of the Selectboard, the Deerfield School Committee, and all other Town officers, boards, committees, and commissions.

B. Elected Officials Compensation

That the Town will vote to establish the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as contained within the omnibus budget of the Town, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024:

Official	Requested	Recommended
<i>Moderator, Annual Town Meeting</i>	<i>\$300</i>	<i>\$300</i>
<i>Moderator, Special Town Meeting (\$100/mtg.)</i>	<i>\$200</i>	<i>\$200</i>
<i>Selectboard, Chair</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>
<i>Selectboard, Associate Members (2)</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Assessors, Chair</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>

<i>Assessors, Associate Members (2)</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>
<i>School Committee, Chair</i>	<i>\$150</i>	<i>\$150</i>
<i>School Committee, Associate Members (4)</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>\$100</i>

C. Acknowledgement of Gifts

That the Town will vote to acknowledge the following monetary gifts made to the Town in appreciation of services rendered, that have been deposited by the Treasurer in the General or related Special Funds of the Town; and to acknowledge countless non-monetary gifts made to the Town by our non-profit partners:

Donations Received by the Town of Deerfield

	<i>Received in the past year</i>
<i>In appreciation for services rendered</i>	
Deerfield Academy	\$174,962
Bement School	\$10,000
Woolman Hill	\$1,000
<i>For the School Resource Officer Program and/or the School Resource Officer vehicle</i>	
Deerfield Academy	\$55,000
Eaglebrook School	\$12,000
<i>For a peer review for the Old Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Facility</i>	
Deerfield Academy	\$12,850
<i>Renovations for Temporary Library Space; Potential future space for Senior Services (former South Deerfield Congregational Church Fellowship Hall)</i>	
Eaglebrook School Construction Work	\$154,269
Eaglebrook School Annual Gift in appreciation of services	<u>\$26,000</u>

rendered dedicated to
Construction

Total \$180,269

**Monetary Pledges and amounts remaining for
Replacement of the Deerfield Elementary
School Roof**

	Original Pledge	Received in the past year	Remaining
Deerfield Academy	\$105,000	\$10,500	\$21,000
Bement School	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Eaglebrook School	\$75,000		\$22,500
Historic Deerfield, Inc.	\$25,000		\$0

The Town of Deerfield gratefully acknowledges countless non-monetary gifts made by all our non-profit partners during the last 12 months.

D. Library Interest

That the Town will vote to transfer the interest earned for the preceding year from the Dickinson Library Trust fund to the Tilton Library, and to Frontier Regional School for Library use, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, as referenced in this article:

Dickinson Library Trust Interest

Tilton Library for Library Use (85%)	\$3,257
Frontier Regional School for Library Use (15%)	\$575
Total	\$3,832

E. Acceptance of Grants

That the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to apply for, accept and expend for specific purposes, any monies provided by any Federal or State Grants or Programs which may be awarded to the Town.

F. Selectboard Contract Authority

That the Town, in accordance with G.L c. 30B §12(b), will vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate and enter into contracts with vendors as it deems necessary or beneficial, for a term of no more than five (5) years.

G. Assessors Contract Authority

That the Town, in accordance with G.L c. 30B §12(b), will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to negotiate and enter into contracts with vendors as it deems necessary or beneficial, for a term of no more than five (5) years.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 2: Consent Article – Special Appropriations

Voted to transfer from free cash for the following items A, B, C.

A. Reserve Fund Appropriation

The sum of **\$100,000** for the Reserve Fund of the Town, in accordance with G.L. c.40 §6, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

B. OPEB Liability Trust Fund Appropriation

The sum of **\$41,071** for the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

C. Out of District Placement (Vocational Education) Appropriation

The sum of **\$104,000** for the tuition and transportation expenses of students to the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 3: Revolving Funds

Voted to fix the maximum amount that may be spent for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, for the revolving funds established in the Deerfield General Bylaws, c. 20 §20-3, Departmental Revolving Funds, for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with G.L. c.44 §53E½.

FUND	SPENDING LIMIT
Recycling	\$20,000.00
Parks and Recreation	\$75,000.00
Planning	\$25,000.00

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4: Personnel

Voted to amend Chapter 35, Personnel, of the Deerfield General Bylaws by deleting the entire chapter and substituting in its place the following language, to become effective on July 1, 2024.

Chapter 35, Article I Personnel Bylaw

§ 35-1 Purpose and intent.

The purpose of this Personnel Chapter is to establish a system of personnel administration based on merit principles that ensures a uniform, fair and efficient application of personnel policies. The intent of this chapter is to provide a method of recruitment, selection and development of a workforce that is skilled and effective in accomplishing the service delivery missions of the Town. Personnel actions are to be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy or a condition related to said pregnancy, ancestry or veteran status or other non-job-related factor and shall be based on merit and fitness.

§ 35-2 Statutory authority.

The Personnel Bylaw is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by Article LXXXIX of the Constitution of the Commonwealth and MGL c. 41, §§ 108A and 108C.

§ 35-3 Applicability.

All Town departments and positions shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, excluding elected officers of the Town of Deerfield. To the extent that any collective bargaining agreement conflicts with any provision of this chapter with respect to employees covered under such labor agreements, the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail.

§ 35-4 Effect on prior laws and other policies.

This personnel chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant to its provisions are intended to supersede any other previously adopted Personnel Bylaw or other regulations or policies.

§ 35-5 Personnel Board.

A. Composition; mode of selection; terms of office. There shall be a Personnel Board, to consist of six (6) members. The Selectboard shall appoint two members to the Personnel Board, who shall be appointed to staggered four (4) year terms. The Moderator shall appoint one member to the Personnel Board, who shall be appointed to a four (4) year term. The Finance Committee shall appoint one (1) of its members to the Personnel Board annually. These four (4) members shall be residents of the Town and shall not be employed by the Town or elected officials of the Town. The fifth member of the Personnel Board shall be elected by a majority of Town employees covered by the Personnel By-law Classification and Compensation Plan to serve a two (2) year term as the "Employee Representative". The Employee Representative shall be a voting member of the Personnel Board but shall not serve as a member of the Personnel Relations Review Board. The Town Administrator, or their designee, shall serve in ex-officio, non-voting capacity on the Personnel Board. All six appointed and elected members shall serve without

compensation. All members shall continue to hold office until their successor has been appointed and duly qualified. In the absence of a Personnel Board, the Selectboard shall act in lieu of a Personnel Board and may appoint a mediator or independent third party to address issues involving personnel actions by the Selectboard. A quorum of the Board shall be required for a meeting of the Personnel Board. Of the quorum present which may include ex-officio members, a simple majority of the Board excluding the ex officio member shall be required to take any action on a matter before the Boa Street. A majority of the Selectboard may remove a member of the Personnel Board before the expiration of such a person's term of office. The person so removed shall receive a copy of the reasons for such removal and may contest the same before the Selectboard. Such a person may be represented by counsel at the hearing. The absence of any member of the Personnel Board from twenty-five (25) percent of the regular meetings of the Personnel Board, in any consecutive twelve-month period, shall constitute a reason for removal.

- B. Powers, duties and responsibilities. The Personnel Board is responsible for developing a compensation schedule, classifying all such employees into groups and classes doing substantially similar work or having substantially equal responsibilities, and preparing proposed personnel policies for all Town employees, except those filled by popular election or those covered by a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract. Such classification plan shall provide minimum and maximum salaries to be paid to such employees in positions so classified and for the attainment of such maximum salaries by periodical step rate increases, such salaries to be appropriately related, if possible, to salaries paid by comparable municipalities as well as reliable cost-of-living indices.
- C. The Personnel Board is authorized to employ professional consultants.

§ 35-6 Establishment of personnel policies.

Personnel policies shall be established by the adoption of rules and regulations by the Selectboard. The personnel policies may include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- A. A method of administration.
- B. A method of recruiting and selecting employees.
- C. A classification-compensation plan.
- D. A centralized record-keeping system.
- E. Personnel rules and regulations which indicate the rights and obligations of employees.
- F. Disciplinary procedures.
- G. And other elements that are deemed necessary.

§ 35-7 Adoption of personnel rules and regulations.

Personnel rules and regulations defining the rights, benefits, and obligations of employees subject to this chapter shall be adopted or amended as follows:

- A. Preparation of rules and regulations.
 - (1) The Personnel Board shall prepare proposed personnel rules and regulations. Any member of the Selectboard, the Personnel Board, any appointing authority or any 2 or more employees may suggest rules and regulations for consideration by the Personnel Board. The Personnel Board need not consider any proposal already considered by the Board in the preceding 6 months.
 - (2) Any person suggesting new or amended rules and regulations shall provide the proposed language and reason for the rule or regulation change in writing.
- B. Public meeting. The Personnel Board shall hold a public meeting on proposed rules and regulations. Any proposed rules and regulations or amendments to rules and regulations shall be posted in a prominent work location at least 5 business days prior to the public meeting at which such proposals are to be considered. The Personnel Board shall submit a copy of any proposed rules or regulations to the Selectboard.
- C. Personnel Board action on proposed rules and regulations. Within a reasonable period of time after the public meeting, the Personnel Board shall vote to determine if the proposed rules or regulations shall be recommended for adoption by the Selectboard.
- D. Action by the Selectboard. The Personnel Board shall transmit any recommendations for the adoption of personnel rules and regulations or amendments in writing, including the text of any proposed rules and regulations, to the Selectboard. The Selectboard shall consider the recommendations of the Personnel Board and may adopt or reject the recommendations or adopt modified personnel rules and regulations; provided, however, that if the Selectboard fails to act, recommended rules and regulations shall be deemed adopted upon the expiration of 45 days from the date of transmittal of the recommendations to the Selectboard.
- E. In the event the Selectboard determines that prompt action is in the best interest of the Town, the Selectboard may vote to adopt policies and procedures that affect personnel, without the prior recommendation of the Personnel Board. In such an instance, a copy of the Board's vote shall be promptly provided to the Personnel Board.
- F. Posting of rules and regulations. The Selectboard shall cause the posting of the text of adopted rules and regulations in prominent work locations.
- G. Official record. The Town Clerk shall maintain a compilation of all personnel rules and regulations adopted by the Selectboard.

§ 35-8 Personnel Relations Review Board

The Personnel Board shall serve as the Town’s personnel relations review board, pursuant to G.L. c. 40 § 21B, and, in accordance with Town personnel rules and regulations, shall have the authority to adjust the grievances of all full-time and regular part-time employees of the Town other than those employees appointed by the school committee or subject to a grievance process set forth in a collective bargaining agreement; provided that the Personnel Board, by such an adjustment, shall not involve the Town in an expenditure of money in excess of the appropriation made for the use of such board. As used in this section, the word “grievance” shall be construed to mean any dispute between an employee of the Town and their appointing authority arising out of an exercise of administrative discretion by such authority, except a dispute which is, or upon proper appeal would be, within the jurisdiction of the contributory retirement appeal board.

§ 35-9 Severability.

The provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter are severable. If any chapter provision or regulation is held invalid, the remaining provisions of the chapter or regulations shall not be affected thereby.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: Classification-Compensation Plan

Voted to adopt a Classification-Compensation Plan per the Deerfield General Bylaws c.35, Personnel, Article III, Classification-Compensation Plan, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

Grade	Position	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12
A													
	Landfill Attendants	17.86	18.31	18.77	19.24	19.72	20.21	20.72	21.24	21.77	22.31	22.87	23.44
	Library Assistant(s)	17.86	18.31	18.77	19.24	19.72	20.21	20.72	21.24	21.77	22.31	22.87	23.44
B													
	Adult Circulation	20.54	21.05	21.58	22.12	22.67	23.24	23.82	24.42	25.03	25.66	26.30	26.96
	Circulation & Technical Services Assistant(s)	20.54	21.05	21.58	22.12	22.67	23.24	23.82	24.42	25.03	25.66	26.30	26.96
	Program Coordinator	20.54	21.05	21.58	22.12	22.67	23.24	23.82	24.42	25.03	25.66	26.30	26.96
C													
	Head of Adult Services	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01
	Head of Young Adult Services	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01
	Operator-in-Training	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01
	Outreach Coordinator	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01

	Administrative Assistant(s)	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01
	EMT-Basic(s)	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.08	26.73	27.40	28.09	28.79	29.51	30.25	31.01
D													
	Children's Librarian	27.16	27.84	28.54	29.25	29.98	30.73	31.50	32.29	33.10	33.93	34.78	35.65
	Advanced EMT	27.16	27.84	28.54	29.25	29.98	30.73	31.50	32.29	33.10	33.93	34.78	35.65
	Operator(s) - Sewer	27.16	27.84	28.54	29.25	29.98	30.73	31.50	32.29	33.10	33.93	34.78	35.65
E													
	Paramedic(s)	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
	Senior Center Director	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
	Assistant to Board of Assessors	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
	Assistant Town Clerk	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
	Recreation Director	31.23	32.01	32.81	33.63	34.47	35.33	36.21	37.12	38.05	39.00	39.98	40.98
F													
	Health Agent	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	EMS Deputy Chief	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	Asst Town Administrator	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	Chief WWTP Operator	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	Library Director	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	Planning/Econ Develop Coordinator	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
	Asst Public Works Supt	35.91	36.81	37.73	38.67	39.64	40.63	41.65	42.69	43.76	44.85	45.97	47.12
G													
	Public Works Superintendent	39.50	40.49	41.50	42.54	43.60	44.69	45.81	46.96	48.13	49.33	50.56	51.82
	Town Clerk	39.50	40.49	41.50	42.54	43.60	44.69	45.81	46.96	48.13	49.33	50.56	51.82
	Treasurer/Collector	39.50	40.49	41.50	42.54	43.60	44.69	45.81	46.96	48.13	49.33	50.56	51.82
	Building Commissioner	39.50	40.49	41.50	42.54	43.60	44.69	45.81	46.96	48.13	49.33	50.56	51.82

LONGEVITY	10-14 Yrs. \$200	15-19 Yrs. \$300	20-24 Yrs. \$400	25+ Yrs. \$500
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The following positions are classified as Grade G, but do not appear in the Classification-Compensation Plan. These positions are contracted according to:

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6: Snow and Ice Shortfall

Voted to transfer from the Vocational Education appropriation or otherwise provide **\$30,000** to fund a Fiscal Year 2024 shortfall related to Snow and Ice Removal Expenses.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 7: Sewer Enterprise Fund Transfer

Voted to transfer **\$1,726.84** from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to pay FY2023 bills for testing services at the Old Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Facility; to pay **\$397.20** from South County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) Retained Earnings to pay various individuals for overtime earned in FY2023 and a portion of FY2022 as required under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA); and to see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$376.64** from Free Cash to pay an FY2023 bill for publication costs.

Motion passed Unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 8: Free Cash Transfer – Opioid Settlement

Voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$32,214, to a special fund established pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, Section 9, for the purposes of using Opioid Settlement money received by the Town in Fiscal Year 2023 for Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) Treatment; Support Programs for People with OUD in Treatment and Recovery; Connects to Care for People with or at risk of developing OUD; Harm Reduction efforts to prevent overdoses deaths or other opioid related harms; Support of diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD; Support of Pregnant or Parenting Women And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; And To Prevent Misuse of Opioids And Implement Prevention Education.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 9: Omnibus Budget

Voted to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money for general municipal purposes and services to operate the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2024. Such amounts are designated under Requests in the Omnibus Budget as shown in the Report of the Finance Committee for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and may be decreased but not increased.

The FY2025 Omnibus Budget

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2025
100 SERIES - GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
114-5100 - MODERATOR	\$400	\$500	\$500
122-5100 - SELECTBOARD SALARIES	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000

122-5110 - SELECTBOARD STAFF SALARIES	\$349,168	\$378,497	\$378,497
122-5400 - SELECTBOARD ADMINISTRATION EXP	\$15,950	\$19,000	\$19,000
131-5400 - FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$500	\$250	\$250
135-5110 - ACCOUNTANT SALARY	\$91,613	\$126,532	\$126,532
135-5400 - ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	\$17,350	\$18,250	\$18,250
141-5100 - ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
141-5110 - ASSESSORS ADMIN ASSISTANT	\$74,322	\$77,699	\$77,699
141-5400 - ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$18,525	\$19,110	\$19,110
142-5400 - ASSESSORS QUINQUENNIAL RECERT	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
145-5110 - TREAS / COLLECTOR SALARIES	\$157,648	\$151,900	\$151,900
145-5410 - TREASURER / COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$31,540	\$36,250	\$36,250
151-5110 - LEGAL EXPENSE	\$96,000	\$105,000	\$105,000
152-5400 - PERSONNEL BOARD	\$750	\$500	\$500
155-5400 - IT HARDWARE	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
155-5800 - PEG ACCESS CAPITAL EXPENSE	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
159-5410 - CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$260,375	\$268,334	\$268,334
161-5110 - TOWN CLERK SALARIES	\$101,880	\$109,527	\$109,527
161-5400 - TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$22,850	\$26,050	\$26,050
171-5400 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
172-5400 - OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE	\$250	\$250	\$250
175-5400 - PLANNING BOARD	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
176-5400 - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
179-5400 - AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	\$100	\$100	\$100
182-5400 - ENERGY COMMITTEE	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
192-5400 - TOWN OFFICE BLDG MAINTENANCE	\$92,900	\$106,800	\$106,800
192-5430 - TOWN OFFICE EXPENSE	\$16,500	\$17,000	\$17,000
196-5400 - GENERAL INSURANCE	\$65,520	\$78,000	\$78,000
TOTAL - GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,478,141	\$1,604,549	\$1,604,549

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2025
200 SERIES - PUBLIC SAFETY	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
210-5110 - POLICE PAYROLL	\$1,083,917	\$1,127,865	\$1,127,865
210-5400 - POLICE DEPT EXPENSE	\$115,100	\$118,300	\$118,300
210-5800 - POLICE DEPT - CRUISER	\$55,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
241-5110 - INSPECTIONS DEPT PAYROLL	\$175,292	\$178,324	\$178,324
241-5400 - INSPECTIONS DEPT EXPENSE	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
291-5400 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800
292-5400 - ANIMAL CONTROL	\$21,527	\$22,266	\$22,266
TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY	\$1,458,586	\$1,519,505	\$1,519,505
300 SERIES - EDUCATION			
300-5400 - DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$5,265,247	\$5,341,279	\$5,341,279
310-5400 - FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL	\$4,306,795	\$4,377,770	\$4,377,770
310-5800 - FRONTIER REGIONAL - DEBT SERVICE	\$11,290	\$19,360	\$19,360
315-5800 - FRONTIER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION	\$96,311	\$94,894	\$94,894
320-5410 - FRANKLIN TECH ASSESSMENT	\$471,415	\$660,007	\$660,007
320-5800 - FRANKLIN TECH - DEBT SERVICE	\$17,827	\$18,183	\$18,183
TOTAL - EDUCATION	\$10,168,885	\$10,511,493	\$10,511,493
400 SERIES - PUBLIC WORKS			
422-5110 - GEN HIGHWAY PAYROLL	\$588,676	\$645,739	\$645,739
422-5400 - GEN HIGHWAY EXPENSE	\$321,900	\$327,000	\$327,000
423-5400 - WINTER SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
424-5400 - STREET LIGHTING	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
433-5400 - TRANSFER STATION EXPENSE	\$244,200	\$249,300	\$249,300
439-5400 - TEST WELL MONITORING / MAINT	\$41,000	\$61,000	\$61,000
TOTAL - PUBLIC WORKS	\$1,310,776	\$1,393,039	\$1,393,039
500 SERIES - HUMAN SERVICES			
512-5110 - BOARD OF HEALTH PAYROLL	\$88,369	\$101,769	\$101,769
512-5400 - BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	\$14,975	\$11,575	\$11,575

512-5500 - EMERGENCY COVID-19 EXP	\$0	\$0	\$0
541-5400 - COUNCIL ON AGING	\$500	\$250	\$250
541-5420 - SENIOR CENTER EXPENSE	\$75,822	\$90,299	\$90,299
543-5400 - VETERANS DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	\$14,195	\$15,505	\$15,505
543-5410 - VETERANS BENEFITS	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
549-5400 - ADA COORDINATOR	\$250	\$250	\$250
TOTAL - HUMAN SERVICES	\$215,111	\$241,648	\$241,648
	FY2024	FY2025	FY2025
600 SERIES - CULTURE AND RECREATION	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
610-5400 - TILTON LIBRARY	\$210,068	\$215,391	\$215,391
630-5400 - SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM	\$6,310	\$6,310	\$6,310
630-5410 - TRI-TOWN BEACH EXPENSE	\$41,022	\$34,842	\$34,842
634-5110 - RECREATION DEPT DIRECTOR SALARY	\$63,108	\$65,955	\$65,955
691-5400 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$1,175	\$1,175	\$1,175
692-5800 - VETERANS DAY / MEMORIAL DAY EXP	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL - CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$323,683	\$325,673	\$325,673
700 SERIES - DEBT SERVICE			
710-5900 - MATURING DEBT	\$422,051	\$401,679	\$401,679
751-5900 - INTEREST ON MATURING DEBT	\$234,941	\$205,704	\$205,704
752-5900 - INTEREST ON TEMPORARY LOANS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL - DEBT SERVICE	\$661,992	\$612,383	\$612,383
800 & 900 SERIES - BENEFITS			
830-5400 - FRCOG CORE ASSESSMENT	\$42,264	\$41,698	\$41,698
910-5800 - UNFUNDED SICK LEAVE AND VACATION	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
911-5400 - FRANKLIN CTY REGIONAL RETIREMENT	\$640,352	\$646,145	\$646,145
912-5400 - WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$48,901	\$51,370	\$51,370
913-5400 - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
914-5400 - GROUP INSURANCE - TOWN	\$338,070	\$409,825	\$409,825

914-5410 - GROUP INSURANCE - SCHOOL	\$652,739	\$781,385	\$781,385
916-5400 - MEDICARE INSURANCE	\$111,159	\$120,089	\$120,089
TOTAL - BENEFITS	\$1,865,485	\$2,080,512	\$2,080,512
TOTAL - OMNIBUS BUDGET	\$17,482,659	\$18,288,802	\$18,288,802

Voted to appropriate \$18,288,802 to fund the accepted amounts voted, and to meet this appropriation, transfer:

- \$60,000 From Overlay Surplus**
- \$66,500 From SCEMS Enterprise Fund**
- \$15,900 From SCSC Fund**
- \$73,700 From Sewer Enterprise Fund**
- \$5,086 From Receipts Reserved for Debt**
- \$4,700 From the Wetlands Protection Fund**
- \$10,000 From the Cemetery RRA Fund**
- \$170,189 From Free Cash**

and raise and appropriate \$17,882,727.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 10: Sewer/WWTP Enterprise Fund

Voted to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide **\$2,164,537** to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53F¹/₂, such amount to be funded from enterprise revenue as noted below.

Revenues

User and Hookup Fees	\$2,039,537
Retained Earnings	\$120,000
Investment Income	\$5,000
Total Revenues	\$2,164,537

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$463,692
Operating Expenses	\$748,900

Debt Service	\$837,245
Indirect Administrative Costs	\$73,700
Operational Reserve	\$41,000
Total Enterprise Fund Expenses	\$2,164,537

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 11: SCEMS Enterprise Fund

Voted to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide **\$1,783,497** to operate the South County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53F½, such amount to be funded from enterprise revenue and the Town’s Free Cash, and to meet the Town of Deerfield’s allocated share of costs as follows:

Revenues

Medical Service Fees	\$800,000
CPE Fund Reimbursement	\$45,000
Retained Earnings	\$80,000
Deerfield Assessment (from Free Cash)	\$444,368
Sunderland Assessment	\$270,227
Whately Assessment	\$143,902
Other	\$0
Total Revenues	\$1,783,497

Expenses

Salaries/Wages	\$1,464,664
Operating Expenses	\$252,333
Indirect Costs	\$66,500
Total Enterprise Fund Expenses	\$1,783,497

Town of Deerfield Allocated Share of Total Enterprise Fund Expenses:

FY2025 Subsidy from Free Cash	\$444,368
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Information Only:

FY2025 Assessments Calculation

Total Expenses	\$1,783,497
<i>Less Estimated Medical Service Fees</i>	<i>-\$800,000</i>
<i>Less CPE Fund Reimbursement</i>	<i>-\$45,000</i>
<i>Less Retained Earnings</i>	<i>-\$80,000</i>
Equals Amounts to be Assessed	\$858,497

Deerfield	51.76%	\$444,368
Sunderland	31.48%	\$270,227
Whately	16.76%	\$143,902

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 12: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Projects

Voted to appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide **\$105,000** to fund Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvements for the South County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53F½.

Projects	Amount	Funding Source			
		SCEMS Retained Earnings	SCEMS Rent Stabilization	Reallocate Exhaust Project	Reallocate SCEMS Cardiac Monitor Project
FY2024 Station Alert System	30,000			30,000	
FY2024 (ALS) Paramedic Intercept Electric Vehicle	60,000	16,000			44,000
FY2024 (ALS) Paramedic Intercept EV Charger	15,000		15,000		
Total	105,000	16,000	15,000	30,000	44,000

Motion carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 13: Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Projects

Voted to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide **\$179,600** to fund the Capital Improvements Plan pursuant to Deerfield General Bylaws, Article VI, Capital Improvement Plan Committee, §10-17, Capital Improvement Plan, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

Deerfield FY2025 Proposed Capital Improvement Plan

Projects	Amount	Source of Funds		
		Free Cash	Sewer EF Ret. Earnings	SCEMS EF Ret. Earnings
DES Air Conditioning Phase 2 - 6 rooms	72,000	72,000		
Server Replacement	17,000	17,000		
Sewer/WWTF Truck Replacement for Snow Rmvl	42,600		42,600	
Replacement Stretcher	35,500			35,500
Senior Center Van	12,500	12,500		
Total	179,600	101,500	42,600	35,500

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 14: Community Preservation Fund

Voted to act on the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for the Community Preservation Fund budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Annual Revenue Appropriations

<i>Action Requested</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Percentage of Estimated Revenues</i>
Transfer to Reserve	Community Preservation Historical Reserve	\$46,000	10%

Transfer to Reserve	Community Preservation Open Space Reserve	\$46,000	10%
Transfer to Reserve	Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve	\$46,000	10%
Appropriation	Community Preservation Administrative Expenses	\$23,000	
Transfer to Reserve	Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve	\$299,000	

Community Preservation Reserve Balances as of June 30, 2023:

Reserve for Open Space	\$25,000
Reserve for Historic Resources	\$33,525
Reserve for Community Housing	\$43,455
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$3,092,455

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 15: Quarterly Tax Payments

Voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c.59, §57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026).

Motion carried by majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 16: Separation of Tilton trustees and The Tilton Fund Inc

Voted to approve the Board of Trustees of the Tilton Library filing a petition with the Franklin County Probate and Family Court or in the alternative, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Said petition would be seeking certain modifications of the testamentary charitable trust of Chauncey B. Tilton and ratification of past actions of the Trustees, and certain actions taken by the Tilton Library, Inc./Tilton Fund, Inc. in conjunction with the Trustees in line with the Summary outlined in the letter from the Trustees as on file with the Town Clerk. Such past actions are in connection with the operation and management of the Tilton Library. Actions taken will separate the Tilton Trustees and the Tilton Fund Inc. and said membership. Further the Town authorizes the Selectboard to enter and approve any necessary filings to accomplish same.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 17: Amend General Bylaw Article VII, Section 10-22

Voted to amend the Town of Deerfield General Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10-22, Community Preservation Committee, as follows:

§ 10-22 Membership of the Committee.

A. There is hereby established a Community Preservation Committee, consisting of nine voting members pursuant to the provisions of G.L., c. 44B, Section ~~5(a)~~5-5. The composition of the committee, the appointing authority, and the term of office for the committee members shall be as follows:

- (1) One member of the Conservation Commission as designated by said Commission.
- (2) One member of the Historical Commission as designated by said Commission.
- (3) One member of the Planning Board as designated by said Board.
- (4) One member of the Recreation Committee as designated by the Committee.
- ~~(5) One member of the Regional Housing Authority, who is a resident of Deerfield, as designated by said Authority.~~
- ~~(6)~~**(5)** One member of the Open Space Committee as designated by said Committee.
- ~~(7)~~**(6)** One member of the Board of Assessors as designated by said Board.
- (7) One resident of the Town who is interested in promoting affordable housing in the Town, appointed by the Selectboard.**
- (8) One resident to be appointed by the Moderator; and
- (9) One resident to be appointed by the Selectboard.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 18: Use Change for Board of Assessor's Record Map 169, Lot 186 (former Allis Property).

Voted to change the use of the parcel of land indicated on the Board of Assessors records as Map 169, Lot 186 (former Allis Property), from general municipal purpose to land for disposition and to further authorize the Selectboard to convey, sell or otherwise dispose of said parcel and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into and negotiate all necessary documents subject to such restrictions and limitations as the Selectboard deems appropriate, in order to effectuate the disposition of said parcel in the best interest of the Town.

Motion carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 19: General Stabilization Transfer to Fund Road/Sidewalk Reconstruction

Voted to appropriate and transfer from General Stabilization or otherwise provide **\$600,000** to fund extraordinary road and sidewalk re-construction and repairs and for all of the costs related and incidental thereto, including engineering and design.

Motion carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 20: Rescind Borrowing Authority

Voted to rescind all the borrowing authority approved for extraordinary road and sidewalk re-construction and repairs and for all of the costs related and incidental thereto, including engineering and design approved through Article 10 of the Special Town Meeting on October 23, 2023, and approved at a Special Election held on January 16, 2024.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 21: Citizens Petition

Voted to determine if the Town will authorize and request the Selectboard to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth for Home Rule Legislation to allow any citizens in the Town of Deerfield, notwithstanding the provisions of M.G.L. 51 Sections 1 and Section 47A, who have reached the age of 16 or older, to register and vote in municipal elections within the Town of Deerfield.

Motion Made to move the question. Motion carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Motion did not carry, so declared the Moderator.

Special Town Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024

I, Kathlene A. Sanderell, duly appointed and qualified Town Clerk of the Town of Deerfield hereby verify that the following votes were taken at the **Deerfield Special Town Meeting held on Monday, October 7, 2024**, in the Frontier Regional School Auditorium, 113 North Main Street in the Village of South Deerfield, with 363 voters in attendance. Moderator, Daniel Graves Esq., called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:04 pm, declaring that the warrant was in order, and the quorum requirement was met. Moderator led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator's Motions:

Voted that the reading of all articles be waived and that prior to the reading of a motion under the article, the Moderator briefly summarize the content of the article to be considered; and, further, that unless an objection is raised, the reading of detailed motions be waived where the article as printed can, in the opinion of the Moderator, be incorporated by reference in any motion presented.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted the following people be allowed to address the audience during the Town Meeting:

- Attorney Lisa Mead, Town Counsel
- Brenda Hill, Town Accountant
- Dan Pallotta

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

The following business was transacted:

Article 1 – PASSED OVER the motion to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum (or sums) of money to pay for unanticipated prior fiscal year bill(s).

Motion passed over, so declared the Moderator.

Article 2 – VOTED to transfer \$29,730 from Free Cash to provide for the installation of 3 additional mini-split air conditioning units at Deerfield Elementary School.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 3 – PASSED OVER the motion to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$130,000.00, or any other sum, to complete restoration work as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to an Administrative Consent Order, Enforcement Document Number 000018562, in relation to emergency work undertaken by the Town to address July 2023, storm damage.

Motion passed over, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4 – VOTED to transfer \$300,000 from Free Cash to General Stabilization.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5 – VOTED that the Town appropriate \$3,806,825 for the “1888 Building Project” request, and to meet said appropriation, transfer \$3,585,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, \$121,825 from the CPA Fund Reserve for Historic Preservation and \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, all in a manner consistent with the proposal submitted by the Selectboard and approved by the Community Preservation Committee, said funds to be expended within five years under the direction of the Selectboard in accordance with the terms of an agreement to be entered into by the applicant and grantor, and any unused funds to be returned to the Community Preservation Fund as required by statute.

Motion carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6 – VOTED that the Town authorize the Selectboard to convey, sell or otherwise dispose of the parcel of land identified as approximately 2.1 acres +/- set forth in the Assessor’s records as Map 169, Lot 14, and owned by the Town of Deerfield by deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 8306, Page 228, for purposes of Senior Housing; and that the Selectboard be authorized to enter into and negotiate all necessary and related documents, subject to such restrictions and limitations as the Selectboard deems appropriate, in order to effectuate the disposition of said parcel accordingly.

Call the Vote/Passed, so declared the Moderator

Call to Order- additional speakers in line/Motion Successful, so declared the Moderator

Call the Vote/Failed, so declared the Moderator

Call to Order- Resident speaks more than twice/Motion Successful, so declared the Moderator

[Article 6 AMENDMENT – Resident Motion, proposed amendment in writing – To add language – Subject to approval by Town Meeting after the agreement is reached

Motion Failed, so declared the Moderator.

Motion Carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 7 – VOTED that the Town establish permanent protection of land located on Pine Nook Road, Deerfield, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Deerfield Assessor’s Map 81, Lot 3, including 18 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 731, Page 33 of the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, for the exclusive purpose of conservation as Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Motion Carried by 2/3, so declared the Moderator.

Article 8 – PASSED OVER the motion requesting the Town establish permanent protection of land located on Old Pine Nook Road, Deerfield, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Deerfield Assessor’s Map 80, Lot 1, including 63 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 731, Page 33 of the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, for the exclusive purpose of conservation as Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Such transfer and designation shall exclude the portion of land leased to Cingular Wireless PCS, and exclude the portion of land leased to Western Massachusetts Electric Company, the successor in interest to Deerfield Cable Systems, Inc., as shown on the plan in the Lease recorded in Book 1604 Page 273 of the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, and further exclude that portion of the property, if any, that includes any easements and or appurtenances from the adjacent cell tower owned by Delta Sand and Gravel Inc., whose deed is recorded as Parcel VII in Book 1632 Page 344 of the Franklin County Registry of Deeds.

Motion passed over, so declared the Moderator.

Article 9 Citizen’s Petition – VOTED that the Town authorize and request the Selectboard to take the necessary steps to purchase 300 electronic vote tabulators and associated equipment and any subscription services, if applicable, to be used for voting at all Town Meetings.

[Article 9 AMENDMENT – Resident Motion, proposed amendment in writing – To add language – Purchase of more than 300 Clickers dependent on Selectboard recommendation.

Motion carried, so declared the moderator.]

Motion Failed, so declared the Moderator.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05PM

TOWN COLLECTOR

FROM THE TOWN COLLECTOR							
TO THE SELECTBOARD AND THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD							
REPORT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024							
	BALANCE AS OF 7/1/2023	COMMITMENTS	PAYMENTS RECEIVED	ABATEMENTS/ EXEMPTIONS	REFUNDS	MOVED TO TAX TITLE OR RE	BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2024
REAL ESTATE TAX							
FY2023	\$ 168,279.42	\$ -	\$ 168,570.45	\$ -	\$ 6,771.55	\$ 6,480.52	\$ -
FY2024	-	\$ 13,077,254.01	\$ 12,815,622.35	\$ 56,971.83	\$ 23,417.67	\$ 18,801.11	\$ 209,276.39
CPA							
FY2023	\$ 3,583.27	\$ -	\$ 3,478.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104.59	\$ 0.00
FY2024	\$ -	\$ 305,781.18	\$ 300,279.60	\$ 872.72	\$ -	\$ 276.56	\$ 4,352.30
SEWER LIEN							
FY2024	\$ -	\$ 23,579.92	\$ 23,375.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 204.25
INCOME & EXP							
FY2024	\$ -	\$ 13,100.00	\$ 12,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
PERSONAL PROP							
FY2021	\$ 145.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY2022	\$ 438.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438.48
FY2023	\$ 1,958.15	\$ -	\$ 1,472.08	\$ -	\$ 15.71	\$ -	\$ 501.78
FY2024	\$ -	\$ 858,176.41	\$ 855,852.02	\$ 186.68	\$ 88.11	\$ -	\$ 2,225.82
EXCISE TAX							
CY2020	\$ 1,819.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,819.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CY2021	\$ 2,265.65	\$ -	\$ 241.28	\$ 2,080.59	\$ 56.22	\$ -	\$ -
CY2022	\$ 7,078.95	\$ -	\$ 2,807.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,271.40
CY2023	\$ 23,219.06	\$ 67,449.31	\$ 83,524.89	\$ 3,827.58	\$ 4,009.68	\$ -	\$ 7,325.58
CY2024	\$ -	\$ 764,235.79	\$ 721,315.49	\$ 11,754.46	\$ 5,408.20	\$ -	\$ 36,574.04
SEWER USAGE							
FY2024	\$ 662,758.80	\$ 1,754,059.13	\$ 1,670,810.91	\$ 47,495.69	\$ 1,319.92	\$ 21,597.67	\$ 678,233.58*
<i>* FY2024 Winter Commitment bills were mailed 2 weeks before the close of the fiscal year resulting in a large outstanding balance</i>							
TAX TITLE - REAL ESTATE TAX ONLY							
ALL YEARS	\$ 101,523.67	\$ 25,281.63	\$ 22,761.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 542.15	\$ 103,501.25
	\$ 973,070.40	\$ 16,888,917.38	\$ 16,682,712.87	\$ 125,154.50	\$ 41,087.06	\$ 47,802.60	\$ 1,047,404.87
TOTAL INTEREST COLLECTED ON DELINQUENT TAXES			\$ 26,979.89				
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED ON DELINQUENT TAXES			\$ 25,156.11				
Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kimball - Tax Collector							

TOWN TREASURER

REPORT OF THE TREASURER			
TO THE SELECTBOARD AND THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD			
REPORT OF FY2024 ACTUAL CASH BALANCES			
ACCOUNT TYPE	BALANCE AS OF 7/1/2023	BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2024	TOTAL INTEREST EARNED IN FY2024
General Cash Accounts:	\$ 13,168,901	\$ 11,732,309	\$ 240,612
Operational Accounts, Money Markets (13)			
Trust and Agency Accounts:			
Cemetery Trust Funds (4)	\$ 96,959	\$ 99,851	\$ 2,934
CPA Fund	\$ 4,309,814	\$ 4,448,472	\$ 135,870
Library Trust Funds (2)	\$ 112,877	\$ 114,798	\$ 3,424
OPEB	\$ 223,616	\$ 271,070	\$ 8,146
Other Town Trust Funds (6)	\$ 116,390	\$ 82,739	\$ 310
SCEMS Fund (added 6/30/22)	\$ 82,404	\$ 97,144	\$ 2,740
Stabilization (2)	\$ 2,020,592	\$ 992,390	\$ 39,140
Grant Accounts:			
Tilton Library (new as of March 2023)	\$ 642,475	\$ 1,332,020	\$ 18,690
Total Funds held by Treasurer	\$ 20,774,029	\$ 19,170,793	\$ 451,867
<i>* All balances rounded to the nearest dollar</i>			
Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kimball - Treasurer			

PUBLIC SAFETY

DEERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

"We, the members of the Deerfield Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions and diversity of Deerfield. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision."

I am pleased to present to you the 2024 Deerfield Police Department Annual Report. The officers, supervisors, and staff continue to work hard to deliver a superior service to the residents of Deerfield.

Staffing

The Deerfield Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police, three (3) full-time police Sergeants, seven (7) additional full-time Officers, nine (9) part-time Officers and one (1) Administrative Assistant. Officers are organized into three shifts with two officers per shift who are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. On each shift, there is one Officer assigned to the Old Deerfield area (District Two), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District One). This ensures that residents across town get equal response and patrol time.

The Police Department employs a full-time Administrative Assistant who performs a variety of complex and highly confidential administrative, technical, and general support duties to assist the police department, police Chief, and emergency management team. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for equipment acquisition, fleet maintenance, accounts receivable /payable, document review, preparing discovery for court, and assisting citizens in the lobby and over the phone. Cassandra Jerome is entering her second year as our Administrator. She brings with her a unique set of skills including ten years of knowledge and experience working at the Northwestern District Attorney's Office as a Superior Court Paralegal and the Franklin County Office Supervisor. Her knowledge of the criminal justice system and day-to-day office operations has been a great asset to the police department. In her short time here, she has streamlined processes to go paperless, brought us into the modern century, and assisted the Emergency Management Director with storm damage matters among other projects. This year, she became the President of the Chiefs of Police Administrator's Association.

New to the department this year after an extensive search is Officer Tanner Finch, who graduated from the MPTC Full Time Police Academy in October. Officer Finch grew up in Deerfield and Sunderland and attended Frontier High School where he was a member of the Wrestling Team. He looks forward to helping his hometown community.

Officer Gary Sibilis retired after 50 years in Law Enforcement, many of those years spent working part-time here in Deerfield. Gary is known to bring a smile to the faces of those around him and for his love of all things Law Enforcement. Officer Fitzgerald moved across the state to join Newbury Police Department and enjoy the beach. As these wonderful officers move forward

in their new careers and enjoy their retirements, they will be greatly missed, and we wish them the best. We continue to search to find new officers to help fill these vacancies.

We continue to navigate the challenges that the POST laws regarding police staffing creates within our agency with staffing shortages and difficulty finding new officers. In the past years we have been known as a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who would become exceptional full-time officers for our agency and others. However, with new POST standards there are no longer academies to train part-time personnel. We employ many retired full-time officers that bring a lifetime of experience and help us fill open shifts while we search for another full-time officer.

Co-Response

The Regional Co-Response program continues to expand. Currently, Kaitlin Richotte-Rock and Katherine Russell (LICSW) serve the Deerfield Community as well as Greenfield and Montague Police through his program. Kaitlin is the Assistant Program Director for the Co-Response programs through Clinical and Support Options (CSO) and helps in overseeing both the Franklin and Hampshire County Co-Response teams. Kaitlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Substance Use as well as a Master of Arts with a focus in Forensic Mental Health Counseling. Kaitlin is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. She is an outstanding asset to our community. Katherine earned her master's in social work at Savannah State University and holds her clinical license in South Carolina and Massachusetts. Katherine's previous clinical work with populations suffering from chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, and the incarcerated population has provided her the necessary experience to be an incredible asset in assisting police departments as they respond to their community members in moments of crisis.

We are excited to see the Regional Co-Responder program grow through grant funding by The Department of Mental Health (DMH) jail diversion initiative. Sgt. Bartak has authored and oversees this grant which allows the department to offer officers 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and other mental health-related training courses. These trainings allow officers to better understand and respond to people in a mental health crisis. This grant provides officers weekly opportunities to collaborate with the Co-Responder in the three designated communities to mental health emergencies. Follow-up services and options after a crisis are provided as well. We are proud to have been a part of the pilot Co-Responder program, which has now expanded to many other towns and police departments across Franklin County. This year with funds from the grant, Clinician Katherine and Officer Capuano travelled to Indianapolis, Indiana to the International CIT Conference to learn more about police and mental health agencies working together to serve the Deerfield residents.

The CIT programs is a first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to assist people with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorder. CIT Officers effectively divert people in mental health crisis away from jail and refer them to the appropriate local community service providers, promoting safety for officers and the individual in crisis. The program aims to overcome the negative stigma associated with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorder and connect people with appropriate services. In 2024, Deerfield officers responded to 109 specifically mental-health related calls for service, of which 94 had specially trained CIT officers respond. The program was able to divert 9 incidents from a criminal charge into mental health treatment, diverting the parties from jail into treatment.

Our officers are also working with the Opioid Task Force CONNECT Program. This program connects people who have experienced or witnessed Opioid overdoses with free and confidential support programming with recovery coaches within 72-hours of an overdose. Statistics have shown that the most successful time to get a person experiencing addiction into recovery is within 72 hours (about 3 days) of the overdose event. This program also includes a database that is statewide to identify high risk candidates who have overdosed in multiple jurisdictions and connect them with support services.

The Opioid Task Force has expanded this year in an initiative to help the Unhoused community in Franklin County. They have started a community Warming Shelter for nights below 20 degrees and assist with getting needed supplies to the unhoused.

Equipment

The police department continues to replace one cruiser annually. This is due to the mileage driven, idle time, and wear and tear on an emergency vehicle. With two personnel on duty twenty-four hours a day, our annual mileage is around 140,000 miles. We continue to be conscious of our carbon footprint, and we are excited to announce that our patrol fleet of vehicles are all Hybrid. These Hybrid cars are proving to use about half the fuel as the fully gas-powered cruisers. Some of our cruisers are being equipped with trunk-vaults to keep emergency equipment organized and accessible.

We have moved to using Electronic Citations, with in-car printers. In the past, we used handwritten carbon copy citations that required manual entry and mailing to the RMV. Electronic Citations are sent to the RMV at the time of issuance electronically and are printed out in the car.

This year we began the process for a new HVAC system that is energy-efficient and replaces our old outdated system. As part of this transition, we cleaned out and organized years of old records in compliance with the state public records guidelines, to make space. Four tons of old records were shredded and properly recycled.

Calls for Service

The Department is very active in responding to calls for service. Calls for service within this area are defined as requiring police action; this does not include mere directions, parties that come to our station to speak with officers, administrative duties such as LTC renewals, or questions. Officers also respond to all fire and medical calls when available. Officers are often first on scene and assist with rendering emergency medical aid and if needed, traffic control, and are authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility. The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2024 calendar year was 22,637. This is an average of 62 calls for service on the average day, including patrols and business checks.

There were 140 arrests, 288 active investigations, 109 motor vehicle crashes, 998 motor vehicle stops, and 473 medical emergencies in 2024. Our officers also helped in responding to over 109 mental health-related calls and worked diligently with Crisis Services to ensure that our residents received the best possible available care and follow-up treatments. With the new program, 9 people this year were diverted from being arrested. Treatment options were explored instead of criminal charges.

Our Officers patrol all areas of the Town of Deerfield, looking for any unusual activity, while keeping all residents and visitors' safety in mind, making notifications to the utility companies as well as reporting any road hazards to the appropriate highway agency. We continue to have open communication with business owners and perform business checks daily. Officers continue to perform vacant house checks and provide target traffic enforcement in problem areas. We respond to areas of concern from citizen reports, and work to mitigate those problems through targeted enforcement.

Our officers work diligently to solve fraud, crimes against property, as well as against persons, but due to the sensitive nature of some of these crimes we cannot include them in this report to protect the privacy of the victims.

Officers on road patrol perform law enforcement patrol activities including, but not limited to, arresting violators of the law, checking on property and persons, conducting security checks of buildings, and dwellings, investigating traffic crashes, and enforcing traffic offenses, such as Operating Under the Influence (OUI) investigations. Aside from road patrol, these officers also assist with criminal investigations, including searching for missing persons, runaways, and wanted persons. Activity is documented in reports, logs and calls for service as officers are responsible for presenting testimony and evidence in court. The Police Department daily logs are available on the Department's website. They can be found on the bottom right-hand corner, under "Weekly Logs." This allows the residents to view the day-to-day activities, as well as research events that may have transpired in your area.

This year we had an increase in serious motor vehicle crashes and investigations, including 25 arrests for Operating Under the Influence of drugs or alcohol. 2024 saw an increase in serious motor vehicle crashes including one fatality, many serious injuries, and one crash into a house that caused a fire. Our officers work diligently to save lives and investigate each incident to hold offenders accountable.

Throughout 2024, the Deerfield Police Department continued to have an officer assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force (NDATF) on a full-time basis however, due to staffing shortages our task force officer has been covering shifts as well.

The investigations, arrests, and search warrant executions conducted by NDATF personnel in 2024 resulted in multiple felony arrests, seizures of trafficking weight quantities of narcotics, seizures of substantial amounts of US Currency, seizures of stolen property, as well as the seizures of illegal firearms and ammunition.

During 2024, investigators with the NDATF initiated 125 cases, conducted 112 controlled purchases of narcotics, and seized narcotics on an additional 143 occasions, resulting in 139 arrests in our area. The NDATF also applied for, and were granted, 77 search warrants. In addition to the narcotics seizures made by the NDATF, investigators also produced the following (approximate) seizures:

- Firearms- 13
- Vehicles seized- 4
- US Currency seized- \$47,885.24

As a member of the NDATF, our Task Force Officer also regularly collaborates with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

In 2024, our Task Force Officer partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as they conducted a wiretap investigation targeting a high-level drug trafficking organization. As a result of the investigation, search warrants were granted and executed on ten locations in Massachusetts and one location in Puerto Rico. In total during the wiretap investigation, approximately thirteen (13) kilograms of cocaine, \$100,000.00 in U.S. Currency, and \$350,000.00 in vehicles were seized. In addition to the seizures, prosecutors were able to bring Massachusetts state cocaine trafficking charges (200+ grams) on fourteen individuals, and a federal firearms charge on one.

These investigators continue to work meticulously and conduct thorough investigations to keep illegal and dangerous narcotics out of our town.

In addition to the NDATAF, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and Deerfield Police Department have joined with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force. The NWDA received a grant to focus on more training in Human Trafficking and child exploitation crimes. This task force aims to keep children safe online and more effectively investigate and bring perpetrators to justice. Officer Marissa Smith works with this task force and has received specialized training in child abuse and internet crimes. Officer Smith along with team members investigated and charged perpetrators of multiple child exploitative crimes this year.

Events

We annually support and work to coordinate safe events at Eaglebrook, Deerfield Academy, Bement School, PMVA, Franklin Land Trust, and Yankee Candle Company. Expect to see more out-of-town officers assisting us at these events. Officers provided traffic control and safety for sixteen concerts as well as a half-marathon hosted by Treehouse Brewing. We also assisted with the Triad spaghetti supper to raise money to assist senior citizens. This year's annual Halloween Hayride was the best attended so far due to beautiful weather, filling ten hay wagons with excited community members and children. Thank you to all of our mutual aid partners for assistance in 2024 and years to come.

Training

December 31, 2020, Governor Charles Baker signed the Criminal Justice Reform Act into law. We continue to navigate the changes to our and other small agencies with the elimination of the part-time police academy – thereby eliminating most part-time personnel in the State. In addition, there have been modifications of Use of Force Standards, as well as many additional requirements for Police Officer certification. These changes will have a large financial impact on the vast majority of communities under ten thousand, and more especially Deerfield's size and smaller. Many of the small towns' police departments (population 500-3,000) will cease to exist.

This year members of our department attended specialized training in:

Crisis Intervention including the CIT conference to learn advanced de-escalation methods and programs that are available through the mental health system.

Cyber Crimes Conference to learn about ever-changing technology and how it is being used in criminal activity as well as how to use technology in investigations to solve and prove crimes.

All officers participated in hands-on scenario based Active Shooter Training at Frontier High School led by the Massachusetts State Police STOP team in which officers participated in live fire simmunition (blank) scenarios.

TASER training where officers participated in live-action scenarios where they worked to de-escalate an armed suspect and were able to simulate live-fire with Velcro-like cartridges and an instructor wearing a protective suit.

Firearms training including low light as well as scenarios that involve de-escalation and different use of force scenarios in a special firearms trailer. We also trained with our shields and ballistic equipment and transitioning between rifles and pistols while moving and using scenario-based training.

All officers completed in-service training that includes Firearms, Use of Force, Legal Updates, CPR and First Responder, Taser, Rules of the Road, OUI Refresher, Reports and Testimony, Police Reform and POST Commission, Officer Wellness.

Grants

Grants continue to be scarce within law enforcement with the vast majority going to large cities with exceptionally high crime data statistics.

The Department of Mental Health grant covers the Co-Response program that we share with Greenfield and Montague. The grant covers a CIT trained officer to ride with the Co-Responder to respond to mental health related called in Deerfield, Greenfield, and Montague. The grant also covers training expenses to send officers to the 40-hour CIT training, as well as other relevant mental health response training for police

School Safety

We are in constant partnership to make sure the schools are as safe as possible. As most are aware, this is challenging since Deerfield has five schools; Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional High School, Bement, Eaglebrook, and Deerfield Academy. In total there are over 2,500 students in Deerfield. This does not include school staff. The schools, including students and staff, bring in a daily influx of over 4,000 people.

As part of school safety, we have an active partnership and leadership role in the four-town safety committee which is comprised of EMS, Police, Fire, and School Officials from all Union 38 schools and towns. This includes quarterly meetings, active shooter training, lockdown drills, and shelter in place drills, as well as annual review of school safety documents and plans. Officers have participated in specialized training in active shooter/ active threat scenarios.

Sergeant Ravish who is the School Resource Officer worked to educate students in health classes about the dangers of drugs and addictions and participated in a seminar in the social studies classes about safety awareness and dangers of the world. He also educated students on the dangers of drunk driving with the pedal car course, which each school participated in and is a very eye-opening exercise. He hopes to re-start the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) class in 2025 which has not run since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Initiatives

Sergeant Bartak and other police leaders in the community worked to start the Franklin County Police Cadet Program this year where interested youth ages 14-21 can get experience and learn about all aspects of law enforcement. Sergeant Bartak and team hosted a cadet academy each

Wednesday night where the students learned about criminal law, constitutional law, motor vehicle law, defensive tactics, environmental law, stop sticks, mental health and co-response, among many other helpful and relevant topics in the field of criminal justice. Some of the members of the Cadet program also volunteered their time to assist with community fundraisers and built great relationships with citizens and local departments. We hope that as they get older some of these cadets will become police officers and work with us.

On January 1, 2018, I started as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association. I am also the Franklin County appointed representative to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Executive Board (since 2014). In addition, I serve as the police representative to the Western Mass. Homeland Security Council, which has been a Governor's appointment (since 2015). I was also appointed in 2022 as the Statewide Law Enforcement Liaison on the State Child Fatality Review Team. There are eleven regional teams across the State that report their findings to the State Team.

As always, the Deerfield Police Department is dedicated to serving the community, residents, and visitors to the Town of Deerfield. As the days, months, and years continue to pass, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a question or concern, we are available 24/7 365 days a year.

Sincerely,

John P. Paciorek, Jr.
Chief of Police
Emergency Management Director

"NPAS LQS aVC MVG RLPBaVC ATP QAK K TVaSX,

The Law Enforcement Oath of Honor

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the Constitution, my community and the agency I serve.

SOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

South County Emergency Medical Service’s mission is to provide progressive prehospital emergency care with an emphasis on safety, advocacy, and commitment to our community. We are honored to serve the towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. As one of the premier Advanced Life Support services in Western Massachusetts, we are proud of our ability to promote best practices and quality across the region.

2024 was a year of opportunity and change for our department. Annual calls for service increased, and new equipment was placed in service. We have a few new faces on our roster, and our long-time providers remain dedicated in their pursuit of excellence. While remaining capable of caring for the residents and callers within our three-town service area, we have been fortunate to provide mutual aid and intercept responses to surrounding communities more than we have in previous years. This has greatly subsidized our service and is central to our strategy for remaining cost effective. Our primary purpose will always be to provide excellent EMS care within our primary service area, and we take pride in being a resource that can be relied on.

Writing this, we are well into 2025 and looking at the FY26 budget process. While there is some uncertainty about federal funding, we are well-positioned to maintain the same high-quality level of care and service as we look forward. We are continually thankful for the support we receive from our three towns, and we are proud to serve as caretakers for the community.

I am optimistic about the year ahead, and we are successfully reducing taxpayer costs while improving availability and capabilities. As a regional leader, South County EMS’s crews are called for their reliable expertise. Our staff delivers outstanding care, and face challenges with sophistication and integrity. I hope you’ll join me in being proud of this service and the work we do.

~ Joshua Sparks, Chief of EMS

South County EMS Board of Oversight and Administration

Tom Fydenkevez, Sunderland (chair)
Crystal Drake-Tremblay, Sunderland BOS
Tim Hilchey, Deerfield BOS
Matt Russo, Deerfield
Fred Baron, Whately BOS
Gary Stone, Whately
Blake Gilmore, Fiscal Agent
Joshua Sparks, Chief of EMS
Matt Shapiro, M.D., Medical Director

CY24 Roster

In addition to a full-time chief, 5 new employees were hired in 2024, bringing us to 23 total employees.

Full-time paramedics	Per diem paramedics	Per diem EMTs	Total
11	5	7	22

Call volume

In 2024, we enjoyed a 21.75% increase in total requests for service from CY23. We saw the biggest change with mutual aid response but are pleased that we have remained available for our 3-town service area and that the amount of mutual aid received has changed little.

Total for CY24: 1657
Deerfield: 622
Sunderland: 346
Whately: 228
Mutual aid and Intercept (all communities): 461

The nature of requests for our assistance continues to be varied, necessary, and often complex.

Equipment

- Two new power stretchers are in service, obtained through AFG grant funds.
- New high-quality portable equipment, or “first in” bags were purchased and are in use. Thank you to the Deerfield Lions Club for your generous donation!
- We have taken delivery of our intercept vehicle which is the final stages of outfitting.
- A new stairchair was obtained through CSX grant funds.

Our Station

- Plymovent vehicle exhaust systems were installed in our station. Essentially, these are hoses that connect to the exhaust of our ambulances, which vent vehicle emissions outdoors. The system was donated by Greenfield Fire Department and installation was paid for through capital funds.
- New telephone and internet infrastructure was installed. These are critical systems for us, and our enhanced service is at a reduced cost from previous years.

Clinical Care

- All our paramedics are now trained in surgical airways. This life-saving procedure is rarely performed but can make a difference in survival when needed. Training occurs twice a year at minimum under the direction and guidance of our affiliate hospital medical director.
- BiPAP masks have replaced the older CPAP systems. This has been a huge improvement in respiratory care, allowing our paramedics to offer highly effective, comfortable, non-invasive assistance for several causes of breathing difficulties.

Car Seat Installation

We are proud to offer infant and child car seat installation and inspection for our community free of charge by our certified installer.

Car Seat Installation & Safety



Inspections!

Have your car seat installed or inspected by our certified technician!

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Email: info@socems.org



Community

We are grateful to have been involved in several community events with regional, town, and private sponsors. In addition to supporting numerous sporting events at Frontier Regional School, we participated in the FRS career day, Deerfield fun fair, Treehouse half-marathon, Mother's Day half-marathon, Treehouse cyclocross race, D2R2, and several more events.

We are also happy to offer free informational CPR classes, and low-cost CPR certification classes.

If you or your organization is interested in event coverage or are planning a CPR course, please reach out to us at contact@socems.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Kevin Scarborough Superintendent of Public Works
Chris Miller Asst. Superintendent of Public Works
Jason Miller Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Brian Chyz Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Michael Kolakoski Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Kevin Kolakoski Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Brandon Savigne Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Jaden Melnik HEO in Training/Maintenance Mechanic
Dianne Cornwell Administrative Assistant

At the end of June 2024, we said goodbye to Kevin Scarborough who served as Superintendent of the DPW for fourteen years. Kevin’s early years at the DPW began bringing to life the new Public Works Facility and reorganizing and implementing a Facilities Maintenance plan. During his tenure, Kevin participated in a wide range of efforts that contributed to the growth and development of the Campus plan. He was relied on to help the town weather many storms that resulted in road and culvert repair emergencies, especially the storms of July of 2023. This past year, finally, many of these repairs to completion. Kevin was a devoted hands-on professional and an asset to the Town of Deerfield. We wish Kevin the very best for his retirement.

Description of Services

The Town DPW overall function is the maintenance and development of public infrastructure. Our highway department helps to ensure public safety services through road maintenance (including snow removal), road drainage, flood mitigation, tree work, wastewater collection and treatment, special projects, maintenance projects etc. These services are provided on a 24/7/365 basis in cooperation with our public safety partners Police, Fire and EMS. The Highway Department is responsible for maintaining the town’s 77.3 miles of public roads, ensuring safe travel by maintaining the roads as well as the infrastructure underneath such as sewer and drainage systems. During the winter, the Department focuses on keeping the roads free of snow and ice. In the summer, mowing is a weekly duty for roadsides, cemeteries, town buildings and commons.

Road Repairs

We are working with a pavement management program, to properly analyze and document the road conditions, and determine what roads need repair. Priority for repair is established by traffic counts, safety, and roadway conditions. Through a combination funds from the Fair Share Program and Chapter 90 were able to chip seal Matthews Road, resurface River Road, complete an engineering study of slope failure at #21 and 57 River Road, mill and fill Graves, Cross, and Eastern Avenue. With storm damage and ARPA funds, we continued with the road and culvert repairs from July 2023 storm damage including work on severely damaged asphalt on River Road, Stillwater Road and Pine Nook, washouts on Hawks Road, Hoosac Road, Lower Road, Matthews Road, McClelland Farm Road, Pine Nook, River Road, Stillwater Road and elsewhere.

Culverts

To assist with culvert repairs, we utilize contractors with larger equipment as needed. The Highway Department supervises and completes the culvert jobs, saving the town money. We continue to work with Mass DOT and Mass DEP to identify all our culverts within the town and to set priorities for repair, replacement, and/or upgrades. In 2012, the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, along with Fish and Game Division of Ecological Restoration established very strict “stream crossing” regulations which insures that in making culvert repairs we are making the proper ecological restorations. Over this past year, because of the July 2023 rainstorms, we have had to continue to replace/upsized culverts at many locations around town.

Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance

In addition to tracking repairs and performing preventive maintenance on highway vehicles and equipment, we have also been able to service the vehicles and equipment for the Recreation, Police, and Wastewater Departments.

Building Maintenance Operations

The DPW maintains the Municipal Offices, Police Department, South County EMS, the 1888 Building, Tilton Library in its temporary location at the church, the DPW, Transfer Station, Captain Lathrop Drive Lift Station. During this past year, we have upgraded the network for the DPW. As the town acquires properties for the campus plan, we have assisted with cleaning up, some upgrades and security of multiple building projects.

Cemeteries

The town owns and maintains 10 cemeteries. Maintenance is performed by the Highway Department including grass cutting, string trimming, bush/shrub pruning during the growing season.

Sewer Collection System

The town has been looking at the entire sewer collection system. Every manhole is being documented for the condition, size and materials of construction, all sewer pipe for condition and landl to see if ground water is infiltrating into our system. The town sewer system infrastructure consists of 2 wastewater treatment plants - Old Deerfield and South Deerfield and 85,854 feet / 17 miles of pipe and 1 Lift Station. Most notable, the South Deerfield plant has completed the upgrades and expansion construction. The Old Deerfield Plant needs upgrades that are in the planning phase. While the DPW maintains the distribution part of the system, other licensed employees operate the treatment plants 7 days a week. In the past year, the new Chief Operator has been able to have all employees upgraded in training and required licensures.

Asset Management

Over the past few years, the town has invested in specialty software to manage workflow, track costs of projects and better project expenditures and services that impact the residents of the town. The future goal is to have residents be able to report issues and concerns online and be able to produce a job ticket to make our departments' services more efficient.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Miller
Interim Superintendent of Public Works Operations

TRANSFER STATION

James Schaefer..... Transfer Station Attendant
Kyle Kabaniec..... Transfer Station Attendant
Andrew Kolakoski Transfer Station Attendant
Daryl Cornwell Transfer Station Attendant

The Deerfield Transfer Station is open to town residents on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. We continue to work to improve the sales and sticker enforcement practices. Over this past year, we have seen increased use in our bulky waste and recycling. We continually look for ways to lower expenses at the Transfer Station by revising the hauling schedules and compacting more to reduce trucking and tipping costs. The food waste composting and the book recycling bin are well-utilized. Through Mass DEP, we receive funds from the Recycling Dividend Program (RDP). We strongly encourage Deerfield residents to continue their recycling efforts, and to make every effort to curb their solid-waste generation and to be aware of those items that have special rules regarding disposal, such as:

- Appliances
- Automotive
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Containers
- Electronics
- Furniture
- Glass
- Hazardous Waste
- Lighting
- Medications
- Metal
- Paints
- Paper
- Plastics
- Yard Waste
- Building/Remodeling & Construction/Demolition

Residents are also encouraged to speak to a transfer station attendant, or to visit the town's website, for more information. Thanks are extended to the Transfer Station staff for their continued service to the town especially during hot summer and cold winter days. Their courteous and helpful assistance to town residents helps to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our Transfer Station.

WWTP

The Town of Deerfield's two Wastewater Treatment Plants process raw sewage from two separate collection systems. The collection system for South Deerfield is made up of approximately 12.4 miles of gravity sewer mains, 344 manholes, and one pump station while the collection system for Old Deerfield is made up of 3.8 miles of gravity sewer mains with 71 manholes. South Deerfield and Old Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plants combined to treat over 209 million gallons of raw sewage in 2024, which is a decrease of 39 million gallons over the previous year. The sludge that was generated and shipped out of both facilities was 1,242,000 gallons of liquid sludge. The liquid sludge was transported off-site to be processed at Lowell Regional Wastewater Facility and Montague Clean Water Facility.

This year, the focus at the Old Deerfield Plant has been to start getting a plan together to upgrade the plant in a more methodical phased approach. The operations staff keeps meeting the problems and issues that arise head on and finds cost effective ways to keep the plant running. They continue to paint and preserve the treatment plant to ensure it lasts for many more years.

The South Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project finished in early summer 2024, with Waterline removing all trailers and equipment by July 2024. There have been a few mechanical and process issues with the upgraded plant, but the treatment plant staff handled the issues immediately without affecting the effluent quality. The plant staff continue to learn and grow as operators and continue running the plant effectively and efficiently.

Thank you for your commitment to support the Wastewater Treatment Plants and their staff. We promise to continue to work hard to ensure the town and its residents' needs are met, long into the future.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Meals
Chief Wastewater Operator

EDUCATION

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Carey Etchells, Chair
Deerfield School Committee
Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Carey:

I respectfully submit the 2024 Annual Report for the Deerfield Elementary School:

DEERFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Carey Etchells, Chair	2025
Anne Curtis, Vice Chair	2025
Amy Severance, Secretary	2026
*Mary Ramon, Member	2027
William Dziura, Member	2027

*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Education, Elementary Focus	Lara Ramsey
Director of Early Childhood	Kimberly McCarthy
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Patrick McCarthy
Principal	Tina Gemme
Assistant Principal	Sarah Thomas

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Raquel Chlosta
Administrative Assistant (Student Services)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Accounting Specialist	Michael DeBarge
Secretary to Principal	Christine Thurston
School Secretary	Lisa Jackson
Special Education Secretary	Rhonda Lutenegger

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2024

Grade	Residents	Non Resident	Total	Oct 2023 Total	
PreK	24	3	27	29	
Grade	Resident students	Tuition-In students	School Choice students	Total	Oct 2023 Totals
K	31	1	3	35	31
1	29	0	5	34	37
2	30	0	8	38	39
3	32	0	6	38	30
4	30	0	3	33	55
5	47	1	10	58	41
6	29	0	9	38	51
K-6 Subtotal	228	2	44	274	284
	Current Total	Oct 2023 Total			
Grand Total PK-6	301	313			

Union #38 Teacher Salary Schedule
Union #38 Teachers
Effective July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

FY25	2%					
STEP	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30	M+45
1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3	\$49,261	\$50,798	\$52,385	\$54,025	\$55,713	\$57,369
4	\$50,798	\$52,385	\$54,025	\$55,713	\$57,456	\$59,112
5	\$52,385	\$54,025	\$55,713	\$57,456	\$59,251	\$60,907
6	\$54,025	\$55,713	\$57,456	\$59,251	\$61,098	\$62,754
7	\$55,713	\$57,456	\$59,251	\$61,098	\$63,007	\$64,662
8	\$57,456	\$59,251	\$61,098	\$63,007	\$64,977	\$66,633
9	\$59,251	\$61,098	\$63,007	\$64,977	\$67,007	\$68,664
10	\$61,098	\$63,007	\$64,977	\$67,007	\$69,100	\$70,755
11	\$63,007	\$64,977	\$67,007	\$69,100	\$71,258	\$72,915
12	\$64,977	\$67,007	\$69,100	\$71,258	\$73,487	\$75,142
13	\$67,007	\$61,097	\$71,258	\$73,487	\$75,788	\$77,445
14	\$73,348	\$75,565	\$78,288	\$80,642	\$83,835	\$85,508
15	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
19	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
20	\$75,625	\$77,884	\$80,662	\$83,065	\$86,323	\$87,996

Nature's Classroom Teacher: One hundred dollars (\$100) per day of attendance by a teacher. Workshop Presenters: \$30 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses. Tutoring Rate: \$33.00 per hour. Head Teachers: \$1,500. Placement on Step 20 occurs when a teacher has completed 19 years as a teacher in Union #38. Mentors: \$500 per new teacher, \$250 for second-/third-year teacher, \$250 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year. The Town of Deerfield currently pays 65% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remaining 35% of the health insurance premium contribution.

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS						
	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	IA	IAB	IA	IAB	IA	IAB
3	\$16.18	\$16.68				
4	\$16.72	\$17.22	\$17.05	\$17.55	\$17.40	\$17.90
5	\$17.23	\$17.73	\$17.58	\$18.08	\$17.93	\$18.43
6	\$17.76	\$18.26	\$18.12	\$18.62	\$18.48	\$18.98
7	\$18.30	\$18.80	\$18.66	\$19.16	\$19.04	\$19.54
8	\$18.82	\$19.32	\$19.20	\$19.70	\$19.58	\$20.08
9	\$19.35	\$19.85	\$19.73	\$20.23	\$20.13	\$20.63
10	\$19.91	\$20.41	\$20.31	\$20.81	\$20.71	\$21.21
11	\$20.51	\$21.01	\$20.92	\$21.42	\$21.33	\$21.83
12			\$21.54	\$22.04	\$21.97	\$22.47

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NURSES, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA

STEP	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	\$24.91	\$25.41	\$25.92
2	\$25.98	\$26.50	\$27.03
3	\$27.04	\$27.58	\$28.13
4	\$28.10	\$28.67	\$29.24
5	\$29.16	\$29.75	\$30.34
6	\$30.23	\$30.83	\$31.45
7	\$31.30	\$31.92	\$32.56
8	\$32.37	\$33.02	\$33.68
9	\$33.44	\$34.11	\$34.79
10	\$34.48	\$35.17	\$35.87

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities promoting the growth of every student.

Enrollment and School Choice: The October 1, 2024 enrollment for Deerfield Elementary School totaled 301 (PreK-6) students. This is a decrease of 12 students from the October 1, 2023 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 313 students. Of those 301 (PreK-6) students, 44 were School Choice students. This is a decrease of 3 students from the October 2023 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 47 students.

Staff Retirement: Catherine Eckert, Principal's Secretary

New Staff: Chrstine Thurston, Principal's Secretary

Faculty Retirements: Kathleen Dorval, Grade 1 Teacher; Charles Edgerly, ESL Teacher; Sue Boraski, Occupational Therapist; Katherine Glime, Speech and Language Pathologist;

Faculty Resignations: Julie Fallon, Grade 2 Teacher; Mackenzie Brown, Preschool Teacher

New Faculty: Susan Wang, Speech and Language Pathologist; Lyndsey Pisano, Occupational Therapist; Amanda Berg, EC Special Education Teacher; Mackenzie Brown, Preschool Teacher; Sarah Chase, Preschool Teacher

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Deerfield School Committee members Chair Carey Etchells. Vice Chair Anne Curtis, Secretary Amy Severance, and Members Mary Ramon and William Dziura.

The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Deerfield. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Deerfield Elementary continues to focus on academic excellence, student well-being, and family engagement. This year, we were able to enhance educational opportunities through competitive grants and valuable partnerships. One of the most significant initiatives was the Early Literacy Consortium Grant, a collaboration between Northampton Public Schools, Frontier Regional Schools, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College. This grant provides specialized training in LETRS for Tier II and Tier III specialists, ensuring a system-wide, evidence-based approach to reading instruction.

Curriculum improvements remain a priority, with continued implementation of high-quality English Language Arts and mathematics programs. Teachers have worked diligently to deepen their understanding of instructional materials and best practices, ensuring students receive effective literacy and numeracy instruction. Science and Digital Literacy/Computer Science (DLCS) curricula are under review, with teacher committees exploring best practices to guide future instruction. Social-emotional learning is also an ongoing focus, with updated programs and training in bullying prevention and child safety, ensuring students develop essential emotional and social skills.

Professional development for faculty has been an integral part of supporting student success. This year's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) initiatives have included conferences on de-escalation strategies, relationship-building, and restorative practices. Special sessions with experts such as Mandy Levine and Lynn Lyons have provided training on topics like micro-aggressions, managing social media, and addressing student anxiety. Looking ahead, additional professional learning opportunities will further strengthen teachers' ability to support diverse learning needs.

Family engagement remains at the heart of our mission. Throughout the year, we have hosted a variety of district-level events designed to keep families connected and involved in their children's education. These events included a screening of *The Right to Read* in collaboration with Smith College, an author's night with local writer and illustrator Mischa Archer, and a presentation by nationally recognized psychologist Lynn Lyons on the impact of social media and smartphones on student stress. Additional events, such as a community conversation on our K-5 math curriculum and a screening of *Counted Out*, have provided valuable insights and strengthened our partnership with families.

Our elementary school has also undergone important upgrades. Deerfield Elementary School completed the installation of heat pump mini-splits in all classrooms and, in partnership with the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, reconstructed the front entrance walkway with rain gardens, a stamped asphalt walkway, and a new drop-off area.

These initiatives demonstrate our district's ongoing commitment to both academic excellence and student well-being. With continued support from our communities, we look forward to building on these successes and ensuring that every student receives a high-quality, well-rounded education.

Darius E. Modestow
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Initiatives In Detail

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Second year of implementing Expeditionary Learning Language Arts program.
- Teachers collaborate to refine instructional practices.
- Renewed focus (grades 3-5):
 - 60-minute block for foundational skills (grammar, fluency, spelling).

Math

- Bridges in Mathematics (K-5) was fully implemented this year.
- Illustrative Math (Grade 6) was fully implemented this year.
- 18 hours of teacher training completed.
- Early NWEA data shows strong student growth.

Science and Digital Literacy/Computer Science (DLCS)

- Committee reviewing research on effective science teaching.
- Input from faculty and families will guide curriculum resource selection.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Latest edition of the Second Step SEL curriculum purchased, and teacher training completed.
- Weekly 30-minute SEL lessons (K-6) on emotional and social skills.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

- Focus on professional development to strengthen student support.
- November MTSS Conference featured:
 - Keynote speakers and breakout sessions on de-escalation, relationship-building, and restorative practices.
 - Workshops by Mandy Levine (microaggressions) and Lynn Lyons (social media, anxiety management).
- April training by Sarah Ward on executive functioning skills.

Family Engagement

- District-wide events to connect families with schools:
 - **August:** *Right to Read* documentary screening (with Smith College).
 - **October:** Author's Night with Mischa Archer.
 - **November:** Lynn Lyons on social media and stress.
 - **January:** Math curriculum night and *Counted Out* documentary screening.

Early Literacy Consortium Grant

- Partnership with Northampton Public Schools, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College.
- Funded a year-long LETRS training course for 27 teachers (3rd year of offering).
- Supports an evidence-based, system-wide approach to teaching reading.

Hitchcock Center/MWEE Grant

- Collaboration with Hitchcock Center for the Environment.
- 4th graders: *Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) Grant*.
- Younger students (Sunderland): *Take It Outside project*.
- Grants fund:
 - Outdoor environmental science classes.
 - Professional development for teachers on field-based science instruction and climate action projects.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

Melissa Novak, Chair
Frontier Regional School District Committee
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Melissa:

I respectfully submit the 2024 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Melissa Novak, Chair, Deerfield	2026
Olivia Leone, V. Chair, Deerfield	2027
Christopher White, Secretary, Sunderland	2025
*Robert Halla, Member, Whately	2025
William Smith, Member, Whately	2025
*Philip Kantor, Member, Conway	2025
*Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield	2025
Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland	2026
*Jessica Corwin, Member, Sunderland	2025
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	2025
Jared Campbell, Member, Conway	2025

*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for a one-year term.

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Secondary Education	Sarah Mitchell
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of Food Services	Patrick McCarthy

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Raquel Chlosta
Administrative Assistant (Student Services)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Substitute Coordinator	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper, FRS	Donna Lloyd
Treasurer	Michael DeBarge
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
SIS Data Specialist	Megan Donovan
Network Administrator	Stuart Dusenberry
Information Technology Specialist	Keith VanBuren
Education Technologist	Maureen Beeltje

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

George Lanides	Principal
Scott Dredge	Assistant Principal
Roberta Reiter	Principal's Secretary
Grace Evangelista	School Secretary
Courtney Parent	Special Education Secretary
Michelle Russell	Attendance Secretary
Mary Lapinski	Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2024

Grade	Resident Students	Tuition-In	School Choice-In	In-House Enrollment	Out-Placed/Service Only	Total Students	Oct 2023 Totals
7	85	2	21	108	2	110	119
8	88	1	30	119	0	119	115
9	67	1	28	96	2	98	74
10	50	1	21	72	0	72	102
11	66	1	29	96	2	98	103
12	64	0	29	93	1	94	100
SP	6	0	3	9	1	10	9
Total	426	6	161	593	8	601	622

FRONTIER REGIONAL

UNIT A SALARY SCHEDULE

	FY25			
STEP	B	M	M+30	CAGS/DOC
0	\$48,112	\$50,430	\$53,272	\$55,936
1	\$50,592	\$52,623	\$55,288	\$58,051
2	\$52,691	\$54,871	\$57,373	\$60,242
3	\$53,989	\$57,197	\$59,533	\$62,508
4	\$55,879	\$59,027	\$61,718	\$64,804
5	\$57,342	\$60,963	\$64,036	\$67,237
6	\$59,811	\$62,907	\$66,150	\$69,455
7	\$61,387	\$64,905	\$68,281	\$71,693
8	\$63,013	\$66,540	\$71,363	\$74,931
9	\$66,149	\$70,322	\$74,535	\$78,262
10	\$69,617	\$74,395	\$77,805	\$81,697
11	\$70,771	\$77,139	\$81,397	\$85,467
12	\$73,522	\$79,989	\$84,315	\$88,531
13	\$75,356	\$81,984	\$86,418	\$90,739
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20L	\$76,356	\$82,984	\$87,418	\$91,739
21				
22				
23				
24				
25L	\$77,356	\$83,984	\$88,418	\$92,739

FRONTIER REGIONAL

UNIT C INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARY SCHEDULE
2024-2025

STEP	IA	IA B	IA SP	IA SP B	IA ALPS	IA ALPS B
1						
2						
3						
4						
5	\$17.69	\$18.19	\$20.64	\$21.14	\$21.64	\$22.14
6	\$18.23	\$18.73	\$21.26	\$21.76	\$22.26	\$22.76
7	\$18.83	\$19.33	\$21.97	\$22.47	\$22.97	\$23.47
8	\$19.36	\$19.86	\$22.58	\$23.08	\$23.58	\$24.08
9	\$19.94	\$20.44	\$23.26	\$23.76	\$24.26	\$24.76
10	\$20.52	\$21.02	\$23.94	\$24.44	\$24.94	\$25.44
11	\$21.10	\$21.60	\$24.62	\$25.12	\$25.62	\$26.12
12	\$21.73	\$22.23	\$25.35	\$25.85	\$26.35	\$26.85
13	\$22.38	\$22.88	\$26.11	\$26.61	\$27.11	\$27.61

Unit C Educational Support Nurses

	NURSE
1	\$25.79
2	\$26.90
3	\$28.00
4	\$29.10
5	\$30.19
6	\$31.29
7	\$32.40
8	\$33.51
9	\$34.62
10	\$35.70

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2025

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

*Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities
promoting the growth of every student.*

Hello Frontier Regional Community,

I am pleased to present our annual town report, which serves as our "community report card," highlighting the achievements of our graduates, new initiatives, and significant changes within our schools. Frontier Regional and Union #38 Schools continue to expand opportunities for students by strengthening academic programs, enhancing social-emotional support, and investing in professional development for faculty and staff.

Frontier Regional School

Overview: Frontier Regional School opened in 1954 in the town of South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The school includes students in grades 7 through 12 with an enrollment of 593 students. This is a decrease of 23 students from the October 1, 2023 enrollment figures of 616 students.

The class of 2024 had 94 graduates; 52% planned to attend a four-year college, 23% a two-year college, 1% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 4% will enter military service, 0% will take a gap year, and 19% plan to enter the labor market. This is different from previous years. There were 87 graduates in the class of 2023: 62% planned to attend a four-year college, 14% a two-year college, 1% vocational schools, 5% military, 0% will take a gap year, 16% planned to enter the labor market and 2% plans were unknown.

Staff:

Retired Faculty: Carla Nelson, Foreign Language Teacher

Faculty Resignations: Sarah Crawford, Special Education Team Leader, Martha Pomputius, School Psychologist, Raina Kittilstved, Chemistry Teacher

New Faculty: Nicole Duprey, School Psychologist; Stephanie Recore, Special Education Team Leader; Glenn Sullivan, Athletic Director/PE Teacher; Michelle DeSorgher, Special Education Teacher; Louann Krebs, School Adjustment Counselor; Meghan Lena, Special Education Teacher; Jessica Levy, Chemistry Teacher;

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Melissa Novak, Vice Chair Olivia Leone, Secretary Christopher White, Members Bob Halla, Bill Smith, Mary Ramon, Jessica Corwin, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, and Jared Campbell. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Report: Over the past year, we have deepened our commitment to providing students with meaningful learning experiences that prepare them for success. Our Innovation Pathways program, now in its third year, has continued to thrive. This initiative offers hands-on career training in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Criminal Justice, and International Studies. We are excited to announce that beginning in the fall of 2025, we will introduce new pathways in Business and Computer Science, giving students the chance to explore high-demand career fields while earning industry certifications and gaining practical experience through internships and independent study projects.

Beyond career pathways, our focus on social-emotional learning remains a priority. The implementation of restorative practices has helped strengthen school culture by fostering positive relationships and conflict resolution strategies. Restorative circles have provided students with structured opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue, creating a stronger sense of belonging and mutual respect. Additionally, our faculty continues to participate in professional learning focused on microaggressions and reinforcing our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive school environment. This year, we also introduced a new social-emotional learning curriculum for grades 7-10 called *Changing Perspectives*, which promotes empathy, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence.

Professional development remains a cornerstone of our district's success. Teachers have engaged in training on emerging technologies, including the integration of AI writing tools like ChatGPT, to enhance student learning while maintaining academic integrity. Faculty members have also participated in workshops on the new Individualized Education Program (IEP) process to ensure they are well-equipped to support students with diverse learning needs. Additionally, professional development on managing anxiety has provided teachers with effective strategies to foster a supportive classroom environment that prioritizes student well-being.

Alongside our academic initiatives, we remain dedicated to maintaining and improving our school facilities. This past year, we have made significant progress in addressing critical infrastructure needs. At Frontier Regional, we completed Phase 1 of the roof replacement over the music room, locker rooms, and C-wing, a \$525,000 project funded through school choice funds. The school is also in the process of replacing the fire alarm system at \$465,000 using a combination of Excess and Deficiency funds, School Choice funds, and Rural Aid funds.

Darius E. Modestow

Superintendent of Schools

Our School in Detail

FRONTIER REGIONAL

Innovation Pathways

- Designated an Innovation Pathways School in Fall 2022 by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Innovation Pathways connect students to high-demand industry sectors in the regional and state economy.
- Grant funding has enabled the purchase of equipment for hands-on training.
- Current Innovation Pathways programs:
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
 - Health Care and Social Assistance
 - Criminal Justice
 - International Studies
- Students engage in:
 - Hands-on experiences (fabrication lab, CPR/First Aid certification, OSHA training)
 - Internships in local businesses, healthcare, and research institutions
 - Independent study projects for in-depth learning
- New pathways (Fall 2025):
 - Business (courses in personnel management, accounting, financial literacy)
 - Computer Science (courses in cybersecurity, programming, data analysis)

Restorative Practices

- Faculty and support staff engaged in professional development to implement restorative practices.
- Focus areas include:
 - Restorative circles for student reflection and relationship-building.
 - Training on microaggressions to create inclusive classrooms.
 - Introduction of Changing Perspectives SEL curriculum (grades 7-10):
 - Promotes empathy, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence.
 - Delivered by counselors and the restorative practice coordinator.
 - Uses interactive activities and guided discussions.

Professional Learning

- Faculty engaged in diverse professional development opportunities, including:
 - Use of AI writing tools (e.g., ChatGPT) to support learning.
 - Training on the new IEP process for special education.
 - Emerging technology advancements for instruction and assessment.
 - Workshops on anxiety management to support student mental health.
 - Culturally responsive teaching to foster inclusive education.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) support collaboration and best practices.



ADMINISTRATION

Rick Martin
Russ Kaubris
Brian Spadafino
Nathan May
Margaret Nugent
Ben Niles
Amber Crochier
Joe Gamache

ROLES

Superintendent-Director
Business Manager
Principal
Director of Student Services
Director of Career and Technical Education
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principal/ Curriculum Coordinator
Dean of Students

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Brad Stafford
Adam Griffin
Nicole Slowinski
John Pelletier
Bob Decker
Jacquie Boyden
Sandy Brown
Paul Doran
George VanDelinder
Barb Yetter
Matthew Duley
Arthur Schwenger
Gerald Levine
Richard Kuklewicz
Christopher Bonnett
Bryan Camden
Laura Earl
Tim Currier
Amber Robidoux
Robert Miller
James Bernotas
Todd Weed
Jeffrey Budine
Amy Lavallee

COMMUNITY

Bernardston
Buckland
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Heath
Leyden
Montague
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Orange
Orange
Shelburne
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2024-25 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2024 enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2024, the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 590 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students
Bernardston	25	Erving	31	Montague	73	Sunderland	9
Buckland	24	Gill	16	New Salem	12	Warwick	5
Colrain	29	Greenfield	135	Northfield	50	Wendell	6
Conway	8	Heath	13	Orange	87	Whately	14
Deerfield	32	Leyden	10	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 143 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2024. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS to receive a high school diploma, and once again, our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted its measures for evaluating district/school accountability, and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5- point scale, with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets the Department of Education set for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility, saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 in capital improvement projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023, FCTS had approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid co-op jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has been translated into new vocational-technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. Unlike other school districts, which may offer a 45-minute course in a specific trade area, FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are

immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS has received an occupancy permit and is completed with a new 4,800-square-foot Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The building is located on the FCTS campus. This facility will be used to provide students with real-world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program will include a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Graduating students of the AMT program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. Upon leaving high school, an FAA certification will send our students on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has approval for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for either a renovation or core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We are currently in the design phase of the project to determine what is feasible for FCTS and its member towns to renovate, build new, or seek other alternatives. The design phase will take a couple of years for completion prior to seeking town approval.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in State grants over the last 7 years. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-Century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2024. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult

program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses, with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

The following lists our many projects conducted in the past few years:

- Home building project on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Funded by a non-profit foundation.
- Storage shed for the Charlemont Federated Church
- Pavilion for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Town of Heath parking lot and office lights retrofitting
- Landscaping design for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Landscaping at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery
- Landscaping at Veteran's Memorial Park in Pelham
- Landscaping at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls
- Tree planting for South Deerfield and Turners Falls
- Wreaths made and hung at the Conway Covered Bridge
- Technology support to the Montague Senior Center
- Website development for the UCC Church in Conway
- Audio and video help for online church services at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield
- New construction assistance on the new FCTS Hangar and Veterinary buildings
- Culinary presentation to the Northfield Senior Center
- Luncheons for the Montague Housing Authority and the Erving Red Hat Society
- Breakfast Catering for the Chamber of Commerce, School Resource Officer's and Light Up the Fairgrounds
- Repairs to the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls
- Fabrication of an air conditioner cover for the Town of Warwick
- Installed a bench at the French King Bridge in Erving
- Installed brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage
- Repairs to recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair
- Time capsule design and construction for the towns of Deerfield and Northfield
- Blood pressure clinic and nail clinic for the Erving Senior Center.
- Volunteer work at the Arbors Assisted Living and Regal Care facilities in Greenfield
- Holiday meals served at the Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield
- Cosmetology services for Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor Assisted Living, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center
- Volunteer work at the Dakin Humane Society

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

RESIDENT SERVICES

RECREATION COMMITTEE AND PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Committee Members (Current):

Gretchen Bysiewski, Chair
Eileen Skribiski-Banack
Beth Brown
Jeff Galli
Rod Warnick
Meagan Washburn

Recreation Department Director: Sue Antonellis

The 2024-2025 year has been a continued pursuit of program developments and offerings for residents by the Deerfield Recreation Committee and Parks and Recreation Department. The department provides comprehensive programs and activities for adults and children. These programs are a vital part of the community promoting physical activities, recreation, entertainment, art, and family as well as providing a social network and major health and wellness outlets for all who are involved.

The Deerfield Recreation programs are part of a regionalized effort with surrounding towns, collaborating and meeting with the Chairperson or Directors of Conway, Hatfield, Hadley, Sunderland and Whately. The coordination requires regularly scheduled organizational meetings to ensure the needs of our community's teams and leagues are met and carefully programmed and scheduled.

Overall, the department had a successful year with an increase in participants in soccer, field hockey, basketball, baseball and softball programs.

Throughout this past year, a variety of programs have been offered. These programs all require similar administrative support including selection of coaches, teams, team drafts, scheduling of practices and games, scheduling of fields/facilities, hiring and training referees, umpires, instructors, etc. The programs offered this year include:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- **Soccer** – Our Start Smart Soccer program, for ages 3 and 4, continues to grow with the help of soccer players from Deerfield Academy. We had over 150 players in the entire program.
- **Field Hockey** – Grades 4-6. Deerfield runs the program for girls from the Union 38 towns. This is the fifth year we have offered team play. We had 18 girls participating in the Western Mass League. They also participated in 2 jamborees, winning the Valley Cup. This is quite a feat since the team plays against towns in the lower Pioneer Valley with many more girls participating. We also started an Intro to Field Hockey program for girls in grades 1- 4 with 24 participants
- **Volleyball** – Grades 3-6: Sunderland runs the program for girls from Union 38 towns, but Deerfield has a highly active set of girl participants.

- **Basketball** – Grades 1-6 play teams from Conway, Hatfield, Sunderland and Whately. Grades 7-12 combined players from Frontier to form teams. We had 142 participants.
- **Baseball** – Grades K-6: This program involves team play and organizations from Conway, Hadley, Hatfield, Sunderland, Whately and Amherst. We had 92 players.
- **Softball** – Grades 2-6: This program combined girls from Union #38 towns. The Recreation Directors from Deerfield and Sunderland organize and implement this program. This year, we had 65 players.
- **Skiing at Berkshire East** – There was renewed interest in the ski program this year. Berkshire East offered lift tickets, rentals and lessons at a reduced and reasonable cost.

Scholarships – We offer scholarships for high school students who are dedicated and give back to the local community through work and volunteer efforts in assisting the department. The students who have helped in the department during their high school years as referees, umpires, scorekeepers, and councilors, assisted at clinics, assessments and special programs are encouraged to apply. We have supported 40 students through our scholarship program.

ADULT PROGRAMS

These adult programs are open to surrounding towns, but Deerfield residents have first priority. There is an additional fee of \$5.00 for non-residents. All of these programs have participants ranging in age from the mid-20's to mid-70's.

Pilates – We offered a combination of beginner/intermediate classes this year.

Indoor Walking at Frontier – Seniors are welcome to walk the corridors of Frontier after school hours during the winter months.

Sea Glass Trees and Wreaths – An adult class for making sea glass trees and wreaths was held at the Polish Club. They were beautiful. A welcome addition to Christmas decorations in the home.

Community Events

Summer Concerts were held at Memorial Field in July. These were great entertainment for the community with the most ever in attendance.

Deerfield Donates was a toy and food drive. The Salvation Army, which gives to local families, was the beneficiary of a carload of toys. The Franklin Area Survival Center also received donations of food for the county. Our community went above and beyond helping those in need this year.

You Light Up My Heart Luminary Night was held on Valentine's Day to celebrate those we love and make us happy. It was beautiful to drive throughout town.

The department has continuous correspondence with local schools for mutual support – Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional, Deerfield Academy and Eaglebrook School. We extend our appreciation to these groups for assisting the community in offering a space for these valuable programs. Without their continued assistance, recreation for the town residents would be minimal.

The Recreation Committee would like to thank the Selectboard, the Deerfield Town officials/staff, the Deerfield Highway Department, the Deerfield Police Department, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Sokoloski's Landscaping, the Polish American Citizen's Club and the many businesses that contribute throughout the year, the youth participating in community service, and others for their continued interest and support in our committee's efforts.

Within the community, there are always those individuals and businesses that contribute extra time and effort to volunteer for recreational activities. These include coaches, assistants, officials and scorekeepers, event organizers and program supporters. The committee would like to extend **special thanks** for your continued endeavors to support the Community of Deerfield.

Due to the Deerfield Recreation Committee's work this year, the committee remains active in continuing our ambitious efforts. We strive to maintain a minimal growth budget by creating and enhancing our programs to be self-funded where possible and to support the residents' financial concerns of taxation growth by keeping fees low and giving residents the choice of a user's pay programming philosophy. We would like consideration from the town's residents to support our current budget requests to maintain our Parks and Recreation Department for a broad cross-section of the community and to ensure a healthy and active community wellness initiative.

SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

South County Senior Center
22 Amherst Road, PO Box 225
Sunderland, MA 01375
413.665.2141 • 413.665.9508 • 413.768.1066
Email: scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us
Website: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/203/South-County-Senior-Center> and
www.southcountyseniorcenter.org

Jennifer M Remillard, Director
Chris Goudreau, Outreach Coordinator
Tom Patria, Program Coordinator
Joyce Palmer Fortune, Chair, Board of Oversight (Whately)
Trevor McDaniel, Board of Oversight (Deerfield)
Daniel Murphy, Board of Oversight (Sunderland)

The South County Senior Center (SCSC) provides resources and services to older adults who reside in Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. We also welcome older adults from other communities who find value in our programming. Programs are regularly offered on Monday thru Friday, in person and online via Zoom.

Programs are currently offered multiple locations throughout South County: Our main location of 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland; Whately Town Hall, 4 Sandy Lane, Whately; The First Congregational Church of Sunderland, 91 South Main Street, Sunderland; Deerfield Town Hall, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield; and Cadence Yoga, Rte. 116, Sunderland.

In addition to hosting programs and offering space for our staff, our 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland location offers a permanent food pantry (open to anyone), a computer lab, a lending library, an arts center, a television area, and a sitting area.

Community Partnerships

During 2024, we focused to expand our community partnership and connections. We were grateful to host students from Frontier High School. They were able to assist with taking inventory, participating in social activities to build the intergenerational connections with our older adults. We are grateful for their support.

Intergenerational programming is important for our members and our local schools. We look to expand on this.

Staff

In January 2024, we welcomed Tom Patria as our new Program Coordinator. Tom has been a great addition to our team. We were able to increase this position from 19 hours per week to 35 hours per week. With this increase, we have adequate staffing to provide program support for our members.

Membership, Programs & Services

To track our analytical data, we pay \$1,300 annually to utilize the secure, online database, MySenior Center. Each new member at our Center receives an individual ID card to scan in each time they attend an event. In instances where someone forgets their card, we can manually enter members into the database.

During calendar year 2024, the SCSC membership increased as 143 new members joined. Of those new members, 75 reside in Deerfield, 28 reside in Sunderland, 17 reside in Whately, and 23 reside in surrounding communities. The residency for our total active members during 2024 is as follows: 252 reside in Deerfield; 118 reside in Sunderland; 42 reside in Whately; and 65 reside in surrounding communities.

Over 2024, 466 members attended events 15,579 times, attending 1,294 individual events; 37 members received 430 rides in our van; 110 members received 777 services/referrals; and more than 52 members made calls requiring support. This totals 16,860 times that someone connected with the SCSC. In addition to our members, 436 guests aged 60+ and 68 guests under 60 have attended the SCSC during 2024.

During 2024, the SCSC began to offer programming with a hybrid option. These events include Enhanced Fitness, Chair Yoga, Seated Dance, Tai Chi, African Drumming, Fine Arts & Fiber Arts programs, Cultural Events, Information Sharing programs, Recreation, Socialization, Congregant Meals, and Food Support. Our hybrid classes offered opportunities to those who were homebound or otherwise unable to attend programs in person.

Our average Daily Attendance for programs during 2024 was 62 members per day, per month, offering 250 program days. *This was an increase of 12% for program days, up from 222 program days during 2023.* By offering an additional 28 days of programming, we were able to increase participation an additional 1,736 times, increasing our total attendance for the calendar year to 480 members participating in a total of 1,076 events/services/rides/cases, including 23 members who participated via our hybrid programming. This is an *increase of 14% of active members and an increase of 2.56% of events/services/rides/cases* over calendar year 2023 where 421 members participated in 16,439 times for events/services/rides/cases.

Through our partnership with LifePath, 49 seniors were able to regularly receive daily Grab n' Go meals (weekdays only), with more than 2,460 meals distributed amongst them.

Through our community partnership with the Franklin Area Survival Center, we continue to offer a monthly food distribution program. This program is offered on the second Wednesday of each month and is one of our most attended days at the Center. We average between 50-75 households who receive support. During 2024, we had more than 140 individuals receive support from our monthly pop-up food truck.

In addition to our monthly food truck distribution program, the SCSC partners with The Food Bank of Western Mass to offer the Brown Bag program. This program has approximately 54 recipients each month. It offers a free bag of groceries to those who meet specific income guidelines. This is a *68.75% increase* from 2023 where we provided support to 32 recipients – showing the need for food support is growing in our communities.

We offer a food pantry which is accessible daily at our 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland location.

The SCSC continues its partnership with the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and UMass to become an application site for SNAP benefits. In doing so, we have been able to reach more individuals in our community experiencing food insecurity.

In August, we hosted our third Informational Fair & Cruise night at Herlihy Park in Whately, offering connections to more than 17 community partners. More than 200 people were in attendance. This event will continue to take place annually.

During the holiday season in 2024, we hosted our annual Friendsgiving lunch on December 2. 108 individuals attended the congregant meal. It is also on a date on which LifePath has an administrative day where no meals are provided or delivered via Meals on Wheels or their Grab 'n Go programs.

For the third year, we partnered with the Sunderland Men's Club, the First Congregational Church of Sunderland, and community volunteers to prepare and deliver 105 meals to older adults within South County on December 25. We are happy to share the Sunderland Elementary School provided student created cards to include with each meal.

Funding

Our funding is based on a fiscal year. Our local funding (7/1-6/30) is provided by the towns of Deerfield (50%), Sunderland (25%), and Whately (25%). In addition to the funds the Towns provide, we receive additional funds from the Commonwealth - Formula Fund Grant (7/1-6/30).

Following are grants utilized during calendar year 2024 not previously reported on the 2023 Annual Town Report (note: some grants overlap calendar years due to disbursement date and fiscal years):

1. **Formula Fund Grant** (EOEA). This grant funded by the EOEA increased to **\$45,405**. This money is distributed through the State Budget based on the 2020 Census data and is a non-competitive grant. Each town receives \$15/per older adult age 60+ (up from \$14/per older adult for FY24).
2. **Service Incentive Grants**. We applied for and received two Service Incentive Grants (SIG) thru MCOA (who receives grant funding through the EOEA):
 - a. **\$20,000** Age & Dementia Friendly Needs Assessment. These funds are used to hire UMass Boston Gerontology Institute to expand our initial assessment conducted in 2021-2022 to include community partner stakeholders to address these issues in South County. A focus group including more than 20 community partners is ongoing.
 - b. **\$7,500.00** Marketing. To use towards increasing the visibility of the SCSC and our Community Forums.
3. **\$12,690** FRCOG Mass in Motion Grant (Non-Competitive) through FRCOG.

4. **\$119,953.94** Hybrid Programming Grant (EOEA). Through a partnership with the Town of Conway, we received this grant. Funds were used to purchase 75 iPads for the older adults in Conway (our Digital Literacy Grant for \$100,000 provided opportunities for us to purchase iPads for residents of South County and provide Internet Access Stipend Reimbursements for up to \$500 per person as well). This funding allowed us to purchase technology to offer hybrid programming, including OWL systems, iPad stand, and other supportive equipment. These funds also covered the cost of hybrid programming offered, including fine arts, fiber arts; historical presentations; genealogy programming and online ancestry.com access; musical entertainment; technology classes; movement classes; subject matter expert presentations; and additional programming. Funding staff salary for hosting hybrid classes and administrative time to track information, and the completion of administrative reports was also provided through this grant.
5. **\$90,800.00** MassDOT Community Transit Grant. This grant funds 80% of a new 14 passenger van with 2 accessible seats. This was awarded during calendar year 2024 but will be received during July 2025. 20% of the matching funds are provided by Deerfield (50%), Sunderland (25%), and Whately (25%).

The above grants total **\$296,348.94**.

Over the last 3 years, I have applied for and received **\$573,690** in grant funding for the South County Senior Center.

In addition to the above funds, the Cultural Councils from Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately provided funding in support of various activities, including dance programming and musical performances by a variety of local artists. These applications were submitted by the individual instructor/performer/artists and are not included in our grant total.

There are several areas of priority moving into 2025. They include continuing to expand and build new community partnerships; continuing to work with the Board of Oversight and edmSTUDIO on the feasibility study for a new senior center building; build grassroots momentum in support of a new senior center; continue to address and respond to food insecurity and transportation needs; expand and create programs to attract current and new members; work to bring senior tax work off programs to South County; and continue to work on the 5-year strategic plan for the South County Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M Remillard, MBA
Director, South County Senior Center

TILTON LIBRARY – Deerfield’s Public Library

The Tilton aims to enrich our community through opportunities for learning, sharing, growth, and fun.

Tilton Library Board of Trustees

Appointed: Nancy Maynard, Elizabeth Schmitt, Cynthia Von Flatern (Secretary), Satu Zoller (Chair)

Elected: James Cambias, Kathleen O’Rourke, Marjorie Shearer (Vice Chair)

2024 WAS A YEAR OF PROGRESS, serving our community while building our future facility.

Building Project

2024 was the year that the Tilton Library broke ground for an expanded and improved library! After more than a decade of hard work by staff, library trustees, and other committed volunteers, the Town of Deerfield will finally have the library it deserves. We can now fully see all that will come to our community: with added space comes more ways to learn, gather, relax, make, and inspire than ever before, for all ages.



Not to mention having space for many more books, computers, and items in our Library of Things collection! Architecturally it will be a source of pride for the town as the design will beautifully blend the old and the new in a way just right for our town center.

During this year our team has been busy putting up walls, floors, and a roof, installing HVAC systems and new larger parking lot, picking out furniture and interior finishes, getting our expanded technology systems ready for patron usage, and continuing our capital campaign with fundraising activities. To help the library continue to operate during construction, the library moved into the former Congregational Church which became the library’s temporary home until construction on the library building is complete. We are scheduled to open the doors in the summer of 2025.

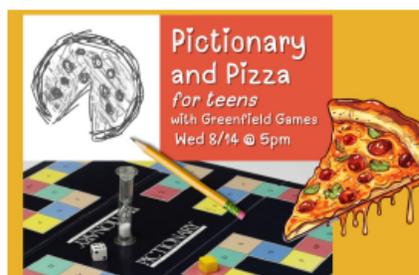


Programs

In 2024 we were able to offer a range of in-person programs including craft workshops, live music, a mushroom growing demo, dance class, watercolor painting, worm bin composting, live animal presentations, game nights, story time, therapy dog visits, and book discussion groups. Our drop-in crafts tables in the children’s area are always well attended. Patrons loved our “Take and Make Kits” covering topics like crafts, bird feeding, writing, and cooking. Both the teen and children’s librarians did outreach at the local public schools. The most popular library offering is still Mango the bearded dragon!

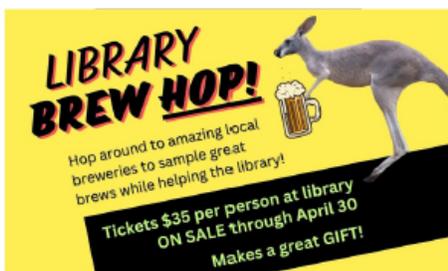


The library is well versed in offering diverse programs, whether it be virtual, outdoors, indoors after hours, or via take and make kits, sponsored by grants from Deerfield Cultural Council and support of The Friends of Tilton Library.



Collection and Services

As the Tilton Library building has been under construction most of 2024 and our smaller temporary location houses a fraction of our collection (with the rest in offsite storage), we decided to make the newest of the adult and teen books, DVDs, and audiobooks available, and a good portion of the children's collection present. In order for our patrons to get all of the library items they wanted, the interlibrary loan program requests increased quite a bit. We loaned all of our Library of Things items, which include a guitar, snowshoes, Nintendo Switch, sewing machine, mobile hotspots, and an induction cooktop. Our online resources and streaming platform offerings have grown with the addition of programs like Hoopla - a digital collection of ebooks, e-audiobooks, movies, tv series, and music. We continued the Homebound Delivery Service of library items to Deerfield residents of any age who are unable to visit the library due to illness, disability, or other mobility issues.



The Tilton Board of Trustees and the Tilton Fund, Inc. worked closely with the director and capital fundraising campaign committee toward the Tilton Fund's capital goal of \$2M, in order to offset the cost of the library expansion project to the town. A popular self-directed activity called The Library Brew Hop sold punch cards to four local breweries with 100% proceeds going to the campaign. A public crowdfunding campaign called I Heart Tilton brought in over \$50K from the community, including a few matching donations from generous donors. Outside of those events, The Fund secured several new gifts and pledges from community members, organizations, and businesses toward the campaign. As of January 31 the amount raised was \$1.25M.



The Trustees also reviewed and updated policies, monitored the library budget, and advocated for the library in multiple settings.

Thank you! Generous donations from our community were made to Tilton Fund's Annual Appeal (which supports the annual purchases of library collection items) and Building Project Capital Campaign. Contributions to these funds in 2024 include those made by the South Deerfield Women's Club, Greenfield Savings Bank, Bement School, Eaglebrook School, Deerfield Academy, The Peddar/Kittredge Family Fund, Barker Family Charitable Fund, the Oakes Family Charitable Fund, the Elizabeth and Frank Odell Family Fund, and other family trusts. Proceeds from fundraising sponsored by Tilton Fund, Inc. and Friends of Tilton Library helped pay for building project consultants, library programs, equipment and furniture purchases, the collection, and membership fees for library staff. A special thank you to Eaglebrook School for helping the town make the library temporary space so comfortable and attractive. And finally many thanks to BBC, Element Brewing, Four Phantoms Brewing, and Brewery at Four Star Farms for your in-kind donations.

Tilton Library's regular hours are Monday 10-4; Tuesday 1-7; Wednesday 10-4; Thursday 1-7; Friday 1-4; and Saturday 10-1. Visit us on our website www.tiltonlibrary.org to reserve books, DVDs, audiobooks, and to borrow from our shared digital collections through Overdrive, Kanopy Films, Consumer Reports, Creativebug, and the Boston Public Library eCard. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Bradbury-Carlin - Library Director

REGIONAL PARTNERS

FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING and REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



January 31, 2025

Select Board
Deerfield Town Hall
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Select Board,

I am writing to provide you with an annual report on activity in Deerfield's Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund (HRRLF) account during the period **January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.**

The terms of HRA's agreement with the Town of Deerfield establish the process for handling proceeds repaid from Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation loans.

The following chart provides a summary of **THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY** during this period:

A	Beginning Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2023	\$61,260.09
B	Deposits - loan repayment and interest	\$.00
C	Withdrawals - loan funds expended	\$.00
	If applicable, funds returned to Town	\$.00
D	Withdrawals - fees paid (24%, 2% HRA, 2% DHCD)	\$.00
E	Ending Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2024 (*HRA will serve qualified residents with emergency needs)	\$61,260.09

This next chart provides information on **THE PROJECTS** completed or in progress during this period:

F	Number of new loans closed from the HRRLF (1/1/24- 12/31/24)	0
G	Total amount of new loan funds committed	\$.00

Rental Assistance • Housing Development • Housing Management • Community Development
Municipal Assistance • Rehab Financing • Homeownership • Public Infrastructure

Equal Housing Opportunity



HRA administers the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund for the town on a fee-for-service basis. HRA charges two types of fees: a program administration fee at the time that loans are initiated through the Revolving Loan Fund Account, and a loan servicing fee deducted at the time that loans are repaid. The fee structure, according to the signed contract dated 9/12/2012, provides for a 24% program administration fee and a 2% loan servicing fee. The MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities also requires the town to pay a 2% fee on funds deposited and retained in the revolving loan fund during the preceding calendar year. The following chart provides a summary of fees paid between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

I	Program administration fees (24% of funds loaned)	\$.00
K	HRA loan servicing fees (2% for subordinations, re-financing, discharges)	\$.00
L	DHCD program fees (2% for fees received during the period)	\$.00
M	Total fees	\$.00

As of December 31, 2024, the balance of all outstanding housing rehabilitation mortgages in the Town of Deerfield was \$466,888.11.

HRA appreciates the opportunity to assist income-qualified residents of Deerfield requesting emergency assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund program.

Regards,

Sharon L. Pleasant
Community Development Program Manager

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one-member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, training, and educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2024 shows that it was almost identical to the recycling tonnage in 2023. District residents recycled just under 2,500 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2024. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Senior Center and Highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 578 households and collected over 58 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2024 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 390 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$98,600 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*



Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Deerfield in 2024

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Deerfield

Climate Resilience, Land Use and Housing

- Prepared a memo to towns summarizing the latest guidance from the state regarding the new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning changes to assist towns as they prepare their own bylaws.
- As part of a 6-town Complete Neighborhoods “Greenfield Area” grant project, worked on a zoning and building permit analysis of the area, to draft recommendations for increasing housing diversity.
- Held a pollinator habitat workshop with Deerfield residents and completed a Deerfield Pollinator Action Plan as part of the 2024 Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County.
- Held a community roundtable for communities involved in the Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County, including Deerfield, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding, enhancing, and protecting pollinator habitat.
- Completed a MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)-approved watershed-based plan for the Bloody Brook, which qualifies the town for Nonpoint Source Pollution grant funding.
- In collaboration with the Deerfield Conservation Commission and the Franklin Conservation District and as part of watershed-based planning work, published and mailed to every landowner in the watershed the *Resident and Business Owner’s Guide to Understanding and Stewarding the Bloody Brook Watershed*.
- Completed the Unpaved Roads Stormwater Management Toolkit under a MA DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant and distributed a copy to Deerfield. Conducted outreach to highway staff and conservation commission members.
- Organized and facilitated the Small-Town Housing Working Group, which met 5 times in 2024. A Deerfield representative attended at least one meeting, along with reps from 16 other Franklin County towns, 2 other municipalities, and several organizations.
- Assisted the Energy Conservation Committee and town administrator with completing the FY24 MA Green Communities annual report.

- Organized and facilitated quarterly meetings of the Franklin County Coalition of Energy Committees. Deerfield Energy Conservation Committee members attended at least one meeting.
- Amended the town's Energy Reduction Plan for the Green Communities program to include the Frontier Regional School so that it is eligible for grant funding through the Department of Energy Resources.
- Wrote and secured a Green Communities competitive grant for weatherization, insulation, and building control upgrades at the Frontier Regional School.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School District (FRSD) administrators on results from 212 students, representing 68% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning. The 2024 survey includes the US Department of Education's School Climate Survey.
- Recruited two youth leaders from Frontier Regional High School into the Communities That Care Coalition's Youth Leadership Program. One attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America conference in Chicago, IL. One presented the 2024 Student Health Survey data at the Communities That Care Coalition's Full Coalition meeting in October.
- Collaborated with the school's restorative practices coordinator on implementing Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided technical assistance in grant writing to procure public school opioid settlement funds earmarked for mental health, social-emotional health, special education, restorative practices and school climate and culture.
- Provided regional networking opportunities with other school districts, youth-serving organizations, community mental and physical health organizations, and community resource centers.
- Provided mentoring support and professional development training opportunities to public health inspection staff via three webinars, monthly email updates, individual phone calls and correspondence, and on-site visits.
- Hosted county-wide opioid listening session, with the aim of having local board of health members and health department staff to hear from community members impacted by the opioid crisis on how to spend opioid abatement funds. This listening session was attended by 35 county individuals, representing many in recovery and local recovery organizations.
- Gathered available data around opioids - EMS incidents, deaths, and treatment - and created opioid data fact sheets.
- Supported local health departments and boards of health in hosting and publicizing state-funded COVID and flu vaccine clinics at community and school settings. County-wide, these clinics served over 1,000 residents and provided over 1,500 vaccines.
- Supported the South County Senior Center and community members on Mass in Motion age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiatives. Mass in Motion funded additional staff time for the South County Senior Center Director and Outreach Coordinator to hold planning groups on the Senior Tax Work-off program, increase communications with residents, and provide digital literacy training and equipment. Senior Center staff and residents successfully advocated for a new Pioneer Valley Transit Authority bus route connecting Sunderland to Greenfield. The Senior Center leveraged staff time provided by Mass in Motion funding to seek additional funding for age- and dementia-friendly planning and for transportation.

- Created and distributed outreach materials about safe storage of cannabis, parenting tips, and resources to local cannabis businesses and veterinary clinics.
- Provided a stipend and opportunities for development to a Deerfield resident with lived experience of addiction and mental health challenges to engage with health improvement work in the region.

Economic Development

- Drafted the Deerfield Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Economic Development Plan.
- Updated municipal officials on the status of the federal National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process.

Shared Municipal Services

- Deerfield contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment and heating and vehicle fuel. Staff assisted the town with bids for shared streets and spaces pedestrian safety improvements, sidewalk improvements, Deerfield Elementary School front entrance reconstruction and police station HVAC Improvements.
- Compiled, published, and distributed the results of the *Franklin County Municipal Wage and Salary Survey*, providing detailed municipal compensation and benefits packages data for local officials. Staff expanded the project in 2024, gathering information from 12 towns outside of the county for a regional compilation, along with relative MA Division of Local Services municipal statistical data to further assist all surveyed towns and cities with budget building and hiring comparisons.
- Used grant funding to organize, facilitate, and present at local official capacity-building workshops throughout the year.
- Staff researched historical county commissioners’ records, road layouts, and maps, assisting residents and municipal officials as they prepared for the FRCOG Executive Committee hearing on a petition to discontinue a portion of Rice’s Ferry Road.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions that Deerfield public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Community Health

Aging Listening Session - 1
 CHIP Progress Review - 1
 CPR/First Aid - 1
 Food Safety/Reduced Oxygen Packaging - 1
 Franklin-Hampshire Training Hub Navigation - 1
 How to Inspect Rec Camps for Children - 1
 Mass in Motion Community Engagement - 3
 NARCAN Trainer Certification - 1
 Restorative Practices - 2

Emergency Prep and Homeland Security

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support - 1
 Situational Awareness - 2

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

Selectboard 101 - 1

Planning, Conservation, and Development

Housing Myth Busting - 2

Transportation

- Continued coordinating marketing campaign for the Valley Flyer to support passenger train operation in the region.
- Continued to support the implementation of a MA Shared Streets and Spaces project to improve two pedestrian crossings on North Main Street.
- Facilitated the design of information panels for kiosks at trail heads on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Coordinated the installation of Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs.
- Conducted traffic counts by town request on Elm Street, Industrial Blvd, North Main and Pine Streets.
- Created a map for the South County Senior Center Committee showing current transit stops and routes with food retailers to show access to food from transit.
- Worked with the FRTA and South County Senior Center to apply for grant funding to expand the FRTA's Access Program to stop at the Senior Center for additional connections in the region.
- Participated in a road safety audit with recommendations for improvements at the intersection of Greenfield Road (Rtes. 5/10) and North Main Street.

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

101 MUNSON STREET, SUITE 108
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301-9675

Annual Report for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2023

To the reader:

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 659 retirees, 45 beneficiaries, 993 active employees, and 795 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). We contract with an independent auditor to do a full audit of our system each year. We also contract with an actuary to perform a complete actuarial valuation every two years. PERAC audits our operations and financial records every three years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the members, and combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds is spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2023, we are 78.4% funded at 35 years (87.5%) into the 40-year mandate. Our fiscal year is the calendar year; therefore, our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and consequently the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website:
www.FRRSMA.com.

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our state oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

	CY 2023	CY 2022	CY 2021
<u>Balances</u>			
Cash	1,656,694	1,446,341	1,428,506
Investments	194,273,958	178,624,410	207,207,180
Receivables	178,850.78	91,548	97,899
Payables	2,144,768	2,858,413	2,581,944
Annuity Savings (members)	37,178,587	35,595,132	33,909,443
Retirement Reserves	155,129,454	140,262,413	170,813,691
<u>Revenues</u>			
Member’s contributions	5,307,283	4,772,807	4,423,787
Towns, Schools, Agencies	8,618,449	8,126,405	7,684,673
Retirement Cost Sharing	482,556	717,106	546,491
Miscellaneous Revenue	22,802	5,102	21,318
Investment Income (net)	21,273,379	(24,772,785)	35,121,918
<u>Expenses</u>			
Retirement Benefits	14,287,852	13,254,653.81	12,576,161
Operating Expenses	749,554	600,163	605,897
Investment Expenses	982,374	1,026,228	1,056,568
Retirement Cost Sharing	2,533,784	2,230,307	1,808,102
Refunds to Members	700,410	602,871	591,658
<u>Investment Performance</u>			
Target	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%
Since 1984	8.37%	8.28%	8.89%
10 years	7.74%	8.45%	11.26%
5 years	9.60%	6.36%	12.32%
Current Year	12.10%	-12.16%	20.40%
<u>Demographics</u>			
	1/1/2022	1/1/2022	1/1/2022
Members’ Average Age	48.00	48.00	48.00
Members’ Average Service	9.50	9.50	9.50
Members’ Average Salary	41,628.00	41,628.00	41,628.00
Retirees’ Average Age	72.90	72.90	72.90
Retirees’ Average Pension	18,949.00	18,949.00	18,949.00
Disabled Members’ Average Age	60.60	60.60	60.60
Disabled Members’ Average Pension	28,793.00	28,793.00	28,793.00

Kristine Mathis
 Executive Director
 Franklin Regional Retirement System

FRONTIER COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION



2024 was one of FCAT's most ambitious years to date! Along with its usual duties, the station has been focused on expanding our media services and production tools to community producers and students. In addition, FCAT has also begun some exciting infrastructure projects, one of which will revolutionize how government meetings are recorded and presented to the community.

FCAT's usual duties that it fulfilled to the town of Deerfield consisted of covering community events, covering government meetings, managing its three channels (12, 23 and DCTV-15) and providing educational opportunities to Frontier Regional School students. Management of the channels was overseen by the station manager Jonathan A. Boschen and consisted of scheduling community programming and maintaining the bulletin board to communicate important information and events. Deerfield government meeting coverage was overseen by FCAT staff and by the town of Deerfield. Individual Meetings were recorded by FCAT Staff (Jonathan Boschen, Kevin Murphy, Ben Roberts, Morgan Hoyle-Combs, Tom Alber, Marie Thomas, Emily Laus, and Leo Franceschi), while the Annual and Special Town Meetings were recorded by the entire FCAT team. The coverage of Frontier Regional School functions was overseen by Kevin Murphy and consisted of school activities and school sports. These events utilized a student volunteer from the school thus giving them an educational experience working on a professional media production set. In addition, Kevin provided other unique educational, hands-on experience to student volunteers by participating in Northampton Open Media's "Crowdsource Cinema" and assisting a Frontier Student with the production of a short film.

Along with its usual duties, FCAT also oversaw the production of several important infrastructure projects, which were spearheaded by Jonathan Boschen and Ben Roberts. A new archival server was designed and built by Ben Roberts, which will allow FCAT to digitally preserve and easily access its vast history. All known existing videos (which exist in digital form) that have been made since the station's founding in 2008 have been archived onto the server. In the future, FCAT may digitize programs that were produced on VHS and archive them as well. Along with this project, Ben Roberts also began work on a Roku channel for FCAT. As the industry is moving away from cable and more towards streaming, the station is getting on board by making a streaming option available to South County residents.

Amongst one of the exciting projects that FCAT began for the town of Deerfield in 2024, is extensively upgrading the live meeting coverage system in place at the town hall. FCAT is working with Wassman AV to install a Dual DTEN board to cover hybrid zoom meetings. These AI driven boards, which have a 4K Wb Camera, UHD 3840 x 2160 Resolution and 16-Microphone Array, have the capability to professionally cover meetings that are held in person without the need of a camera operator. These devices will allow for more meetings to be professionally covered by FCAT and the town, and will also provide clear, audible recordings that residents can watch. In addition, these devices will also be installed in a manner so that they can be broadcast to DCTV-15 by the click of a button, which will allow Deerfield committees and board members to easily do so.

2025 is going to be an exciting year for the station, as much is underway to build its presence in the community and attract community volunteers. FCAT hired Bella Levavi in the beginning of the year as an Assistant Station Manager, who will be working with the station to help grow its volunteer base. Along with continuing to work with the school, the studio will also be looking to work and do programs with the South County Senior Center to provide video production activities to members of the center. Once the meeting coverage upgrades are completed, FCAT will be working with the towns of Conway, Sunderland and Whately, and other institutions within our four towns to further upgrade and streamline how their meetings are covered.

Jonathan A. Boschen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan A. Boschen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

General Manager
Frontier Community Access Television

MISCELLANEOUS

DEERFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (DEDIC)

John P. Paciorek, Sr.	Chairman
Robert J. Decker III	Vice Chairman
Richard C. Andriole	Treasurer
Ralph E. Healy	Secretary
Chris Harris	Member
Frank Moro	Member
“Open” position	Member

The focus of activities for the DEDIC Board in 2024 was: continued scheduled maintenance and repairs to the infrastructure systems within the Deerfield Industrial Park.

In 2015, the DEDIC Board updated the original 1977 Economic Development Plan when DEDIC was formed to create the Park. The updated 2015 Economic Development Plan is forward-thinking and ultimately resulted in Massachusetts House Bill #4596 being passed and signed by Governor Baker in January 2017 granting DEDIC commercial development authority. However, no further commercial development occurred since this park is presently filled with industrial entities.

While DEDIC’s granted authorities as an Economic Development Industrial Corporation are designated to the operations and management of the park, the DEDIC Board has offered to engage in working with the governing Boards and Committees on numerous occasions over the years. The purpose being to share resources, experience, and expertise of DEDIC Board members on commercial construction and business development. The Board remains optimistic this extended offer will one day be accepted to benefit the Town.

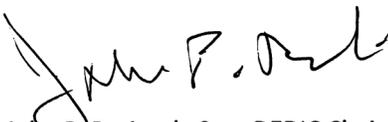
The Town of Deerfield received in 2024 approximately \$370,000 in taxes and fees.

DEDIC thanks the governing Boards and Committees, whom DEDIC was engaged with during the year. Also, special thanks to Christopher Dunne and Patricia Martin, Town Administrators serving in 2024, Chris Miller, Interim Superintendent of Public Works Operations and Robert Walden, Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer, who all provided their assistance to the DEDIC Board during the year.

DEDIC also wishes to thank the FRCOG Planning Board Members, Jennifer Atwood, and Ted Harvey for their exceptional work on our DEDIC Economic Development Plan. This plan is scheduled for a public hearing approval in 2025.

Most importantly, the DEDIC Board expresses continued appreciation to the property owners / business operators within the Deerfield Industrial Park for their continued contributions towards town and area economic development and their support and cooperation with the DEDIC Board.

Sincerely Yours,



John P. Paciorek, Sr. – DEDIC Chairman

OLIVER SMITH WILL

January 10, 2025

To the Residents of the Town of Deerfield

PART 1: SMITH CHARITIES' 2024 BENEFICIARY DISTRIBUTIONS

Below please find a breakdown of the following applicants who were paid monetary gifts as beneficiaries under the Oliver Smith Will between January 1, 2024 through the December 31, 2024 Year End:

<u>Recipient(s)</u>	<u>Gift Distribution(s)</u>	
	<u>Beneficiary(ies)</u>	<u>Total Gift Amount</u>
0	Brides	\$ 0.00
1	Nurse	\$ 1,200.00
0	Tradespersons	\$ 0.00
<u>1</u>	Widow	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
2		\$ 1,800.00

PART 2: SMITH CHARITIES' 2024 BENEFICIARY DISTRIBUTIONS 2/1/24-1/31/25

I just wanted to reach out to let you know that in the month of January 2025, which is the last month of our fiscal year, **we did not pay out any more additional gifts so the total for Deerfield remains \$1,800.00 in the 2024 calendar year.**

Please note that the Annual Smith Charities' Total Beneficiaries Paid Report (including ALL 9 towns/cities accounting for our full fiscal year of 2/1/24-1/31/25 and the dollar payout to date as a charity) will be emailed to you after our upcoming Trustees meeting set for February 25, 2025, as it is important that it first be presented to and approved by our Trustees.

Carla M. Kone, Treasurer

Leslie Dwight, Elector
Under the Oliver Smith Will

\$20,203 TOTAL BENEFICIARY GIFTS FYE 1/31/2025
177th Annual Report of Trustees
The Trustees of The Smith Charities

During the past fiscal year, February 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025, the following beneficiary activity has occurred within the #9 designated communities of Amherst, Deerfield, Easthampton, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Northampton, Whately, and Williamsburg:

<u>Brides</u>	<u>Paid Gift Total</u>
• NEW & GIFTS: #2 new brides received a \$200 marriage gift.	\$ 400
<u>Nurses</u>	
• GIFTS: #2 nurses graduated this year, who each received a \$1,200 gift.	\$ 2,400
• NEW: #2 new student nurses were enrolled, with future maturity date.	
<u>Tradespersons</u>	
• GIFTS: #1 tradesperson received a \$1,200 apprentice gift.	\$ 1,200
• NEW: #3 new tradesperson was enrolled, with future maturity date.	
<u>Widows</u>	
• RENEWAL GIFTS: #10 widows, who renewed, were paid annual gifts of \$600 for first child under 18 years old, and \$200 for each additional child under 18 years.	\$ 9,168
• NEW, PRORATE, & RENEWAL GIFTS: #1 new widow became eligible.	
• NEW, PRORATE GIFTS: #2 new widows became eligible.	_____
#18 Total Beneficiary Gift Recipients	<u>\$13,168</u> Total Beneficiary Gifts Paid

Total Sum - The total sum disbursed as gifts to beneficiaries, was *\$20,203, which includes the *\$7,035 that will be paid to the City of Northampton, after our monthly Trustees meeting on February 25, 2025, for the account of Smith's Agricultural School, being the net income from the permanent fund established for the school.

→ Total Sum Breakdown
 \$ 13,168 Individual Beneficiary Total
\$ 7,035 City of Northampton 2025
***\$ 20,203 BENEFICIARY GIFTS TOTAL**

Beneficiaries from the #9 communities have been paid the following since the provision of the Will went into effect:

- \$1,499,600 Bride Gift, originally designated in the Will as Indigent Young Women
- \$ 821,333 Nurse Gift, originally designated in the Will as Indigent Female Children
- \$2,933,100 Tradesperson Gift, originally designated in the Will as Indigent Boys
- \$1,864,913 Widow Gift
- \$1,587,366 Smith's Agricultural School Yearly Distribution
- \$ 5,000 One-Time Cash Donation to Smith's Agricultural School for 2022 fire damage
- \$ 35,374 Annuities
- \$ 613,717 Taxes
- \$9,360,403 Grand Total Amount Paid to Date

Mortgage payments have been made promptly and outstanding loans are up to date.

Current Trustees
 David A. Murphy, Lydia Szych, Richard Kisloski

*Special Note: All figures above have been rounded to the nearest dollar. The exact amount to be paid to the City of Northampton for the benefit of Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School is \$7034.89.

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT



Department of Veteran Services

294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301

Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401

www.greenfield-ma.gov

Christopher Demars, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Stacey Genezcko, Deputy Director
Jeffrey Cochran, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

Ashfield
Bernardston
Buckland
Charlemont
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Hawley
Heath
Leverett
Leyden
Monroe
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Plainfield
Rowe
Shelburne
Shutesbury
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

District Annual Report CY24

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in \$2,060,625.34 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY24 of \$54,703.81 a month.
- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- District added three more outreach satellite office hours to be more assessable to the Veterans who live in the out shirts of our District.
- Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control
- We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2026.
- The Office has produced 270 claims and 80 appeals with the VA for Veterans and their Dependents this year. A 150 net increase from last FY. Mostly due to the PACT ACT.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

The 2024 Annual Town Report

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