**DEDICATION**

We dedicate this year’s Annual Town Report to

Tammy Pierce, Roger Johnson, Jeff Jordan and Kathy Gideon

for their years of service, counsel and guidance to our Town.



**Kathy Gideon**

Historical Commission

Council on Aging

Library



**Tammy Pierce**

School Committee



**Jeff Jordan**

Planning Board



**Roger Johnson**

Conservation Commission

Planning Board

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Board of Assessors Library Trustees**

Linda Burdick, Chairman 2021 Connie Chase 2021

Christie Moran 2023 Joan Burdick 2023

Renee Hanson 2022 Jane Roberts 2022

**Board of Health Moderator**

John Quimby, Chairman 2021 Brian Fairbank 2021

Melissa Leab 2021

Wendy Kipp 2021 **Planning Board**

Melanie Jackson 2022 Christie W. Moran, Chairman 2021

Greg Canales 2022 Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2023

Zach Hanson 2022

**Board of Selectmen** Leo Laviolette 2022

Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Chairman 2023 Barbara Markessenis 2021

Don Rancatti 2021

Dave Boyer 2022 **School Committee**

Alex Kastrinakas, Chairman 2022

**Cemetery Commission** Melissa Turner 2023

Donald Cassavaugh, Chairman 2023 Bruce Weiner 2022

Lydia Cassavaugh 2022 Patricia Bishop 2021

Tanya Rathbun 2021 Mark Gaskill 2021

**Constable Tax Collector**

Mark Gaskill 2022 Julie Williams 2022

**Finance Committee Town Clerk**

Linda Burdick, Chairman 2021 Linda Burdick 2022

Sharon Hyde 2021

Renee Hanson 2022 **Treasurer**

Joan Burdick 2022

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**Agricultural Commission:** Judy Leab 2021, Elizabeth Hyde 2023, Carolyn Sebring 2022

**Animal Control Officer:** Donald Cassavaugh 2021

**Auxilary Police:** Don Rancatti 2021

**Board of Registrars:** Lydia Cassavaugh 2021, Renee Hanson 2021

**Building Inspector:** Rob Rosier 2021

**Conservation Commission:** Paul Hyde 2022, Robert Leab 2023, Kevin Nichols 2021,

Rick Ehle 2022, Robin Keeney 2021, One unfilled appointment

**Council on Aging:** Margaret Fenander, Chairman 2021,Joan Burdick 2021, Kathleen

Gideon 2021, Marjorie Feathers 2021, Lydia Cassavaugh 2021

**District Commissioner to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste:** John Quimby 2022

**Emergency Management Director:** David Rash 2021

**Fire Chief:** Michael Williams 2021

**First Assistant Fire Chief:** Anthony Anderton 2021

**Second Assistant Fire Chief:** Ross Jackson 2021

**Fire Police:** David Rash 2021

**Forest Warden:** Michael Williams 2021

**Gas Pipe Inspector and Plumbing Inspector:** Thomas DiCicco 2021

**Assistant Plumbing Inspector:**

**Health Inspector:** Scott Krzanik, 2021

**Highway Supervisor:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2021

**Historical Commission:** Marjorie Feathers, Chairman 2021, Elna Rodda 2023,

Jennifer Fenander 2021, Hiram Greene 2022, Kathleen Gideon 2023, Cynthia Grauman 2022,

Nan Derby 2023

**Insurance Agent:** Dave Boyer 2021

**911 Numbering Official:** Dave Boyer 2021

**Northern Berkshire Cultural Council:** Erica Wetherell 2022

**Police Chief:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2021

**Procurement Officer:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2021

**Assistant Procurement Officer:** Rebecca Phillips 2021

**Special Police:** Dave Boyer 2021

**Superintendent of Streets:** Don Rancatti 2021

**Tree Warden:** Dave Boyer 2021

**Trench Permitting Authority:** Dave Boyer 2021

**Veteran’s Agent and Veteran’s Burial Agent:** Valerie Tallet 2021

**Wiring Inspector:** Shawn Derby, Jr. 2021

**Assistant Wiring Inspector:** Joseph P. Kynsh 2021

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Donald Whitman 2021, Barbara Markessinis 2023, Robert A. Smith 2023, Scott Burdick 2022, One unfilled appointment

**Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate:** Two unfilled appointments

Our town website is **town.hancock.ma.us**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S REPORT**

The Selectmen would like to thank all elected and appointed officials for their help to maintain financial stability of the Town of Hancock during the Covid-19 crisis.

The policy/handbook is still being worked on and should be complete by the end of the year.

Snowplowing on Route 43 and Route 20 is done by the MA Highway Department whose telephone number is 413-637-5700. The contract for all other Town roads is held by

D. Condron Construction, who can be reached at 413-281-3756 or 413-499-7007 (during office hours). Please call them with any snow road situations that need emergency attention. If the problem is not resolved please call the Town Office at 413-738-5225. There is a pile of a mixture of sand and salt at the Town Hall for use by Town residents.

Whitman Road was resurfaced using a Chapter 90 Grant. The Board has applied for a Chapter 90 Grant to resurface Main Street in the Village this summer.

We received $60,000.00 from the Cares Act Grant. The money was used to purchase three radios for the Fire Department at a cost of $8,800.00 each and to install internet in Goodrich Hollow.

The Selectmen are in negotiations with MEMWIC (windtowers) for a three year in lieu of taxes PILOT agreement.

The Veterans’ Memorial site was cleared and all brush and debris removed by volunteers. The foundation for the new monument has been poured and is in place. The Vermont granite monument with the veterans’ names, which consists of three large stones, has been ordered and will be here on site in the month of May. There is a lot of manual work left to be done on the walkways and flower planting; and anyone who wishes to volunteer, no matter what your capabilities are, we have a spot for you. At this time the Selectmen would like to thank the Hancock Veterans Memorial Committee for all the work that they have done. The Committee has been able to raise $64,826.18 through community (**THANK YOU**) donations and a $15,000.00 SHRAB Grant. This should be enough to complete the project.

Because of the virus we will not be able to hold our town meeting at the Hancock School. Jiminy Peak has offered the Town the use of JJ’s Lodge, which we used last year. The **Town Meeting will be held Monday, May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The election will be held at the Hancock Town Hall on Monday, May 10th from 12 noon to 6 p.m.**

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in restoring the cemeteries at the Johnson and Summit Farms. Anyone interested in helping should contact the Historical Commission.

We would like to remind the people of Hancock that a pass for free entrance to state parks can be signed out at the Town Hall by contacting the Town Secretary. There are two pieces of property in Town to be used by residents for hiking and camping. One is 90 acres adjacent to the salt shed and the other is 278 acres called the Jones Farm just south of Hancock School on Route 43. If you want further information to locate it, Assessors map 7, lot 19 will help you. Also, if you bring ID that you are a Hancock resident, you can visit the Hancock Shaker Village at no charge.

**Respectfully Submitted:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Chairman, Don Rancatti and Dave Boyer

**TOWN MEETING**

**WARRANT**

**BERKSHIRE, SS;**

TO: Constable of the Town of Hancock, Massachusetts in the County of Berkshire

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hancock qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at **JJ’s LODGE AT JIMINY PEAK**, on Corey Road in said Hancock on **MONDAY,** **THE THIRD DAY OF MAY, 2021** at **6:00 P.M.** to act on Article 2 through 21 as applicable to Fiscal Year 2022 unless otherwise indicated.

And furthermore to meet at the **HANCOCK TOWN HALL**, 3650 Route 43 in Hancock, on **MONDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF MAY, 2021** then and there to act on Article 1 calling for the election of the necessary Town Officers. The polls will open at 12:00 NOON and close at 6:00 P.M. It will be held outside unless there is inclement weather, and then it will be held inside the Town Hall. If the election is held inside the building, **accommodations will be made for folks that cannot climb the stairs into the Town Hall.**

**FIRST** - To Choose the Following Town Officers:

One Assessor for three years (currently Linda Burdick who is retiring from this position)

One Board of Health member for three years (currently Melissa Leab)

One Board of Health member for three years (currently John Quimby)

One Board of Health member for two years (currently Wendy Kipp)

One Cemetery Commission member for three years (currently Tanya Rathbun)

One Finance Committee member for three years (currently Linda Burdick who is retiring)

One Finance Committee member for two year (currently Sharon Hyde)

One Library Trustee for three years (currently Connie Chase)

One Moderator for one year (currently Brian Fairbank)

One Planning Board member for three years (currently Barbara Markessinis)

One Planning Board member for three years (currently Christie Moran)

One School Committee member for three years (currently Patricia Bishop)

One School Committee member for three years (currently Mark Gaskill)

One Selectman for three years (currently Donald Rancatti)

**SECOND** – Town Reports

To see if the Town will accept the Report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers as printed in the Town Report and to act thereon.

**THIRD** - Transfer from Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $500,000.00 or any other amount to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action thereon.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommends this amount to be

$500,000.00.

**FOURTH** – Elected and Appointed Town Officials Salaries

To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation of elected officials as shown below (indicated by a \*) and to raise and appropriate the sum of **FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWELVE ($57,912.00) DOLLARS** as compensation for both elected and appointed Town Officials, as shown below or take any other action thereon.

Accountant $15,606.00 \* Finance Committee $152.00

Animal Control Officer 743.00 \* Moderator 79.00

Animal Inspector 186.00 Plumbing Inspector Keeps ¾ fees

\* Assessors (3) 5,901.00 Police Chief 1,345.00

Board of Registrars 152.00 \* School Committee (5) 1,431.00

\* Board of Health (5) 3,221.00 \* Tax Collector 6,686.00

\* Board of Selectmen (3) 5,274.00 \* Town Clerk 5,944.00

Building Inspector/Keeps ¾ adjusted fees \* Treasurer 7,353.00

\* Constable 262.00 Veteran’s Agent 298.00

Fire Chief 1,313.00 Wire Inspector Keeps ¾ fees

& keeps smoke detector insp. fees 911 Numbering Official 137.00

Assistant Fire Chief 787.00 Emergency Manager 255.00

2nd Assistant Fire Chief 787.00

**TOTAL $57,912.00**

**FIFTH** – Town Personnel

To see if the Town will vote to pay Town Personnel at the following hourly rates, or any other amounts. The hourly rates may be changed at any time either upward or downward as needed to fill positions, provided such change is approved by a majority of both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Assessors $13.77 Police Work 14.39

Cemetery Burial 13.77 Road Superintendent 14.49

Equipment Operators 13.77 Road Supervisor 14.49

Laborers 13.77 Secretary 15.96

Fire Chief 14.49 Transfer Site Operator 14.49

Assistant Fire Chief 14.49 Veteran’s Administrator 13.77

Fire Fighters 13.77

**SIXTH** – Cemeteries; Health and Sanitation; Highways; Operating Budgets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums as listed below or any other sums, or take any other action thereon.

1. **CEMETERIES - SIX THOUSAND FIFTY ($6,050.00)** **DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Burial Expenses $1,000.00

Cemetery Maintenance and Upkeep 4,550.00

Secondary Cemeteries Maintenance 500.00

**TOTAL $6,050.00**

1. **HEALTH AND SANITATION – SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY**

**($75,050.00)** **DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Transfer Site Operation $75,000.00

Water Resource Expenses 50.00

**TOTAL $75,050.00**

(3.) **HIGHWAYS – ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR ($113,834.00)** **DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Highway Maintenance $40,000.00

Street Lights 1,500.00

Winter Roads 72,334.00

**TOTAL $113,834.00**

(4.) **OPERATING BUDGETS – ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND**

**FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE ($120,585.00) DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Library 22,502.00

Accountant Expenses $1,500.00 Planning Board Expenses 700.00

Computer Backup Exp. 1,400.00 Secretary, Town 13,929.00

Animal Control Exp. 750.00 Tax Collector Expenses 9,084.00

Assessors Expenses 26,500.00 Tax Collector Clerk 1,000.00

Board of Health Exp. 16,500.00 Town Clerk Expenses 1,800.00

Board of Registrars Exp. 30.00 Town Clerk Assistant 500.00

Conservation Comm. Exp. 600.00 Town Hall Maintenance,

Election and Census 1,800.00 Operation and Repair 7,000.00

Voting Machine Maintenance Town Hall Paint & Repair 1,500.00

& Programming 1,000.00 Town Operating Expense 8,000.00 Finance Committee Exp. 140.00 Treasurer Expenses 3,200.00

Historical Commission Exp. 650.00 Zoning Board of Appeals 500.00

**TOTAL $120,585.00**

**SEVENTH –** Revolving Funds Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote by a 2/3 vote to enact a bylaw to maintain separate Revolving Funds pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for the following fees. Fees received by Town Officials shall be credited to the respective revolving fund and expended for payment only by the authorization of the Town Treasurer. Respective expenditures from said Revolving Funds shall not exceed the amounts shown below for fiscal year 2021 without prior approval from the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action thereon. Said bylaw shall read as follows:

**Section I**: There are hereby established in the Town of Hancock pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, 53E ½, the following Revolving Funds:

Building Inspection Fees & Charges for Building Inspections

Plumbing/Gas Fees & Charges for Plumbing/Gas Inspections

Wiring Inspector Fees & Charges for Wiring Inspections

Fire Department False Alarm Fees & Charges for False Alarm Fines

**Section II** Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c. 44, 53E½.

Building Inspector receipts from permit fees $14,200.00

Plumbing Inspector receipts from permit fees $10,000.00

Wiring Inspector receipts from permit fees $10,000.00

Fire Department False Alarm fines $ 800.00

**EIGHTH –** Fire Alarm Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Fire Alarm Account the sum of **EIGHT HUNDRED ($800.00) DOLLARS,** which is the amount collected by that revolving fund during the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be expended for wages to be paid to the fire fighters of the Hancock Fire Department or take any other action thereon.

**NINTH –** Public Safety; Unclassified Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums listed below or any other sums,

or take any other action thereon*.*

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY – SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY ($71,840.00) DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Building Insp. Expense 500.00 Forest Fires & Equip. 500.00

Wire Insp. Expense 500.00 Housing Authority Exp. 50.00

Plumbing Insp. Expense 700.00 Police Work and Supplies 700.00 Fire Dept. Maint. & Exp. 51,000.00 Gas Pipe Inspection Exp. 50.00

Firemen’s Wages 16,000.00 Emergency Manager Expense 840.00

Tree Warden and

Public Nuisance Expense 1,000.00 **TOTAL $71,840.00**

(2.) **UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES – NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR ($98,384.00)** **DOLLARS** to be expended as follows:

Attorneys' Fees 7,000.00

Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Assessment 572.00

Berkshire County Retirement Expenses 16,212.00

Berkshire Regional Purchasing Program 600.00

Community Christmas 500.00

Insurance-Group Life and Health 10,000.00

Insurance-Property, Bldgs. & Liability for School Board, Town Officers

& Police 15,000.00

Interest on Loans 5,000.00

Medicare Employee Tax 12,000.00

Reserve Fund 24,000.00

Unemployment Compensation 3,500.00

Veterans' Fund 4,000.00

**TOTAL $98,384.00**

**TENTH –** Board, Commission, and Committee Appointments

To see if the Town will vote to allow members of

1. The Board of Assessors to be employed by the Town for services over and above their usual salaried duties pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 268A and Chapter 41, Section 4A.
2. The members of the Board of Health to be employed in the supervision of percolation testing, ground water level determination under Title V of the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code and all other inspections required by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Health of the State of Massachusetts and to work at the transfer station.
3. The Board of Selectmen to:

Appoint one or more of its members as Superintendent of Streets, Chief of Police and Special Police; be employed where necessary to meet pressing needs; provide material and services to the Town, or to take any other action thereon.

1. The members of the Cemetery Commission and Library Trustees to be employed in the Cemetery and Library respectively, or take any other action thereon.

**ELEVENTH –** Animal Control Officer

To see if the Town will permit the Board of Health to appoint the Animal Control Officer, whose duties shall also encompass the duties of the Animal Inspector and the Dog Officer or to take any other action thereon.

**TWELFTH -** Land Purchase Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($2,500.00) DOLLARS** for the Land Purchase Stabilization Fund, which also includes the purchase of Chapter 61 lands under MGL Chapter 40 Section 5b or take any other action thereon.

**THIRTEENTH –** Emergency Equipment Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **EIGHT THOUSAND**

**($8,000.00)** **DOLLARS** to be used to pay for MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) grants. These grants will be 100% reimbursed by MEMA to the Town of Hancock’s General Fund.

**FOURTEENTH –** Emergency Management

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **FOUR HUNDRED ($400.00)** **DOLLARS** or any other sum for emergency generator maintenance and repairs.

**FIFTEENTH –** FY22 Hancock Educational Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE MILLION, NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED, SIXTY-FOUR ($1,955,564.00) DOLLARS** or any other sum for school operating expenses or take any other action thereon.

**NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**SIXTEENTH -** Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **THIRTY THOUSAND ($30,000.00) DOLLARS** from the Fire Alarm Account to the Fire Truck Stabilization account, or take any other action thereon.

**SEVENTEENTH –** Firefighter Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED ($7,900.00)** **DOLLARS** to be used to pay the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant (for Extractor washer & dryer). This grant will be 100% reimbursed to the Town of Hancock’s General Fund.

**EIGHTEENTH –** Fire Fighter Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($7,500.00) DOLLARS** for the Town’s portion of a $75,000.00 Grant (for radios)**.**

**NINETEENTH –** Payment for Richmond Fire Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED ($1,200.00) DOLLARS** or any other amount for paying Richmond Fire Department for responding to all accidents, fires, and medical calls on Route 20 and adjacent streets in the Town of Hancock or take any other action thereon.

**TWENTIETH** – Council on Aging

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THREE** **THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED** **($3,500.00)** **DOLLARS** to be used for the operating expenses of the Council on Aging, or take any other action thereon.