

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the TOWN OFFICERS of the*

## TOWN OF HANCOCK MASSACHUSETTS



Town website - [town.hancock.ma.us](http://town.hancock.ma.us)

**For the Year Ending  
June 30, 2024**

## DEDICATION

We dedicate the Annual Town Report to people who volunteer their time and service with no compensation. This year we are recognizing the Planning Board for their years of service, counsel, and guidance to our Town.

Christie Derby, Chair



Sherman Derby, Sr



Leo Laviolette



Barbara Markessinis



Zach Hanson



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## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **Board of Assessors**

Kristin Hickey, Chairman, 2025  
Therese Rodda, 2027

### **Board of Health**

John Quimby, Chairman, 2027  
Melissa Leab, 2027  
Wendy Kipp, 2026  
Melanie Jackson, 2025  
Greg Canales, 2025

### **Board of Selectmen**

Sherman, L. Derby, Sr., Chairman, 2026  
Don Rancatti, 2027  
Dave Boyer, 2025

### **Cemetery Commission**

Donald Cassavaugh, Chairman, 2026  
Lydia Cassavaugh, 2025

### **Constable**

Mark Gaskill, 2025

### **Finance Committee**

Linda Burdick, Chairman, 2025  
Sharon Hyde, 2026  
Danielle Chretien, 2027

### **Library Trustees**

Connie Chase, 2027  
Lydia Cassavaugh, 2026  
Jane Roberts, 2025

### **Moderator**

Brian Fairbank, 2025

### **Planning Board**

Christie W. Derby, Chairman, 2027  
Sherman L. Derby, Sr., 2026  
Zach Hanson, 2025  
Leo Laviolette, 2025  
Barbara Markessenis, 2027

### **School Committee**

Kayt Turner, Chairman, 2027  
Alex Kastriakos, 2025  
James Rodda, 2026  
Bruce Weiner, 2025  
Elizabeth Kryskow, 2027

### **Tax Collector**

Julie Williams, 2025

### **Town Clerk**

Linda Burdick, 2025

### **Treasurer**

Joan Burdick, 2025

## **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**Agricultural Commission:** Laurie Boyer 2027, Jan Lillie 2025, Carolyn Sebring 2026  
**Animal Control Officer:** Donald Cassavaugh 2025  
**Assessor:** Patricia Bishop 2025  
**Board of Registrars:** Lydia Cassavaugh 2025, Renee Hanson 2025, Vicki Fairbank, 2025  
**Board of Registrars Alternate:** Jan Lillie 2025  
**Board of Selectmen Chair:** Sherman L. Derby Sr. 2025  
**Building Inspector:** Rob Rosier 2025  
**Community Christmas Committee:** Ana Bradbury 2025, Katie Hyde 2025, Cahill LeBarron 2025, Amanda Lahey 2025, Kayt Turner 2025  
**Conservation Commission:** Eric Lillie, Chairman 2026, Paul Hyde 2025, Kristin Hickey 2027, Leo Laviolette 2027, Francis Derby 2027  
**Council on Aging:** Joan Burdick 2025, Kathleen Gideon 2025, Marjorie Feathers 2025, Lydia Cassavaugh 2025, Renee Wagar 2025  
**District Commissioner to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste:** John Quimby 2026  
**Elections Commissioner:** Linda Burdick 2027  
**Emergency Management Director:** David Rash 2025  
**Fire Chief:** Michael Williams 2025  
**First Assistant Fire Chief:** Anthony Anderton 2025  
**Second Assistant Fire Chief:** Ross Jackson 2025  
**Fire Police:** David Rash 2025  
**Forest Warden:** Michael Williams 2025  
**Gas Pipe Inspector and Plumbing Inspector:** Thomas DiCicco 2025  
**Assistant Plumbing Inspector:** Unfilled Appointment  
**Hazard Mitigation and MVP Planning Committee:** David Boyer 2025, David Rash 2025, Sherman L. Derby Sr. 2025, Michael Williams 2025  
**Health Inspector:** Scott Krzanik 2025  
**Highway Supervisor:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2025  
**Historical Commission:** Marjorie Feathers, Chairman 2025, Jan Lillie 2026, Hiram Greene 2025, Kathleen Gideon 2026, Cynthia Grauman 2025, Nan Derby 2026, Donald Leab 2025  
**Insurance Agent:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2025  
**911 Numbering Official:** Dave Boyer 2025  
**Northern Berkshire Cultural Council:** Cameron Hastie-Etchinson 2025  
**Police Chief:** David Boyer 2025  
**Procurement Officer:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2025  
**Assistant Procurement Officer:** Rebecca Phillips 2025  
**Records Access Officer:** Linda Burdick 2027  
**Special Police:** Eric Lillie 2025  
**Superintendent of Streets:** Don Rancatti 2025  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Jan Lillie 2025  
**Tree Warden:** Dave Boyer 2025  
**Trench Permitting Authority:** Dave Boyer 2025  
**Veteran's Agent and Veteran's Burial Agent:** Valerie Tallet 2025  
**Veteran's Memorial Committee:** Linda Burdick 2025, Valerie Tallet 2025, Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2025  
**Wiring Inspector:** Joseph Knysch 2025  
**Assistant Wiring Inspector:** Unfilled Appointment  
**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Donald Whitman 2027, Barbara Markessinis 2026, Robert A. Smith 2026, Scott Burdick 2025, Sherman Derby, Sr. 2025  
**Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate:** David Boyer 2025, Eric Lillie 2025

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REPORT

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all of the residents and taxpayers of Hancock for helping the Selectmen reach their goals this 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 Darcy Construction who can be reached at **518-441-8332** (Joe) or **518-791-8476** (Pete). 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 and one at the Route 20 #2 Firehouse for use by Town residents – **please only take away in 5 gallon pails**.

The Town was awarded a grant to do field data collection and engineering for a new culvert to replace the old boiler tube on Whitman Road. The Selectmen are currently completing the grant applications to secure funding for the construction portion of the culvert replacement.

The cannon was completed and debuted at the Memorial Day parade before being placed at its permanent location next to the Veterans Memorial. It has made a beautiful addition to the Town Hall grounds.

A new tradition of an Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was held at the Town Hall – the ceremony was well attended and the Town enjoyed seeing the festive lights throughout the month of December. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year!

The aggregate with Colonial Power has been approved by the State. Residents have begun to sign up and enjoy the savings on their electric bills. If you would like to opt in or out of the aggregate – please contact Colonial Power at 866-485-5858 X-1. If you have any questions, please contact Jan at the Town Hall.

Residents may now conveniently pay online for many services such as Transfer Station stickers, tax payments, LTC fees, dog licenses, etc. – look for the green “Town Payments” button on the Town website: **town.hancock.ma.us** to utilize this service.

The Town will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026, we are in the beginning stages of planning a celebration with a potluck gathering on the Town Hall grounds. If anyone is interested in helping plan the festivities, please contact Marge Feathers or any member of the Historical Commission.

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 Taylor Memorial Library. 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 David Boyer

**TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT**

**BERKSHIRE, SS;**

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

**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 the Hancock School, Route 43 in Hancock on **MONDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF MAY, 2025** at 7:00 P.M. to act on **Article 1** through **20** as applicable to Fiscal Year 2026 unless otherwise indicated.

And furthermore to meet at the Hancock School, Route 43 in Hancock, on **MONDAY, THE TWELTH DAY OF MAY, 2025** 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.**

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

- One Assessor for three years (currently Kristin Hickey)
- One Assessor for two years (currently appointed and running Patricia Bishop)
- Two Board of Health members for three years (currently Melanie Jackson and Gregory Canales)
- One Board of Selectmen member for three years (James Rodda running)
- One Cemetery Commission member for three years (currently vacant)
- One Constable for three years (currently Mark Gaskill)
- One Finance Committee member for three years (currently Linda Burdick)
- One Library Trustee for three years (currently Jane Roberts)
- One Moderator for one year (currently Brian Fairbank)
- Two Planning Board members for three years (currently Zach Hanson and Leo Laviolette)
- Two School Committee members for three years (currently Bruce Weiner, running Wesley Lamore and Ana Bradbury)
- One Tax Collector for three years (currently Julie Williams)
- One Town Clerk for three years (currently Linda Burdick)
- One Treasurer for three years (currently Joan Burdick)

**SECOND – Town Reports**

To see if the Town will accept the Report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers as printed in this 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 **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00)** or any other amount to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action thereon. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

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

To see if the Town will vote to set compensation for elected and appointed officials, the sum of **SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$68,348.00)** as listed or take any other action thereon. (Elected \*)

Accountant	\$18,136.00	* Finance Committee	181.00
Animal Control Officer	882.00	* Moderator	93.00
Animal Inspector	231.00	Plumbing Inspector ¾ fees collected	
* Assessors (3)	7,002.00	Police Chief	1,595.00
Board of Registrars	181.00	* School Committee (5)	1,699.00
* Board of Health (5)	3,822.00	* Tax Collector	7,934.00
* Board of Selectmen (3)	6,258.00	* Town Clerk	7,053.00
Building Inspector 3/4 fees collected		* Treasurer	8,726.00
* Constable	311.00	Veteran’s Agent	354.00
Fire chief salary	1,558.00	Wire inspector Keeps ¾ fee collected	
& keeps smoke detector insp. fees		911 Numbering Official	163.00
Assistant fire Chief salary	933.00	Emergency Manger	<u>303.00</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assis. Fire Chief salary	933.00		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,348.00</b>

**FIFTH – Personnel Hourly Rates**

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	\$16.95	Police Work	17.06
Cemetery Burial	16.95	Road Superintendent	18.95
Equipment Operators	16.95	Road Supervisor	18.95
Laborers	16.95	Secretary	19.22
Fire Chief	18.95	Transfer Site Operator	17.19
Assistant Fire Chief	18.95	Veteran’s Administrator	16.95
Fire Fighters	16.95		

**SIXTH – Budgets**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THREE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$308,749.00)** as listed below or any other sums, or take any other action thereon.

Burial Expenses	\$1,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance and Upkeep	5,700.00
Secondary Cemeteries Maintenance	<u>500.00</u>
<b>CEMETERY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>
Transfer Site Operation	\$95,000.00
Water Resource Expenses	<u>50.00</u>
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,050.00</b>



Library		<u>\$24,449.00</u>
	<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,449.00</b>
Highway Maintenance		\$40,000.00
Street Lights		3,900.00
Winter Roads		<u>73,400.00</u>
	<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$117,300.00</b>
Council on Aging		<u>\$3,500.00</u>
	<b>COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
Fire Department Maint. & Exp.		\$53,000.00
Forest Fires & Equipment		750.00
Fire Fighters Equipment Grant		<u>7,500.00</u>
	<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 61,250.00</b>
		=====
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$308,749.00</b>

**SEVENTH – Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE (\$134,989.00) DOLLARS** to be expended as follows or take any other action thereon:

Accountant Expenses	\$3,090.00	Police Work & supplies	700.00
Animal Control Exp.	750.00	Secretary, Town	14,275.00
Assessors Expenses	33,300.00	Tax Collector Clerk	1,000.00
Board of Health Exp.	16,500.00	Tax Collector Expenses	9,084.00
Board of Registrars Exp.	30.00	Town Clerk Expenses	2,200.00
Building Inspector Exp.	500.00	Town Clerk Assistant	500.00
Computer Backup Exp.	1,400.00	Town Hall Maintenance,	
Conservation Comm. Exp.	600.00	Operation and Repair	7,000.00
Election and Census	1,800.00	Town Hall Paint & Repair	2,500.00
Emergency Manager Exp.	860.00	Town Operating Expense	9,500.00
Finance committee Exp.	100.00	Treasurer Expense	7,000.00
Fire Department Wages	16,000.00		
		Tree Warden &	
Gas Pipe Inspection Exp.	50.00	Public Nuisance Exp.	1,000.00
Historical Commission Exp.	650.00	Voting Machine Maintenance	
Payment to town of Richmond Fire Dept.		& Programming	1,000.00
for responding to Accidents, fires,		Wire Inspector Exp.	500.00
and medical calls on Rt. 20 and		Zoning Bd. Of Appeals	<u>500.00</u>
adjacent streets.	1,200.00		
Planning Board Expenses	700.00		
Plumbing Inspector Exp.	700.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$134,989.00</b>

**EIGHTH – 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 2026 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	\$ 1,800.00

**NINTH – Fire Alarm Account**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Fire Alarm Account the sum of **ONE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00)**, which is the amount collected by that revolving fund during the 2023-2024 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.

**TENTH – Unclassified Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$146,994.00)**, or any other sum, to be expended as follows:

Attorneys' Fees	7,000.00
Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Assessment	678.00
Berkshire County Retirement Expenses	15,960.00
Community Christmas	500.00
Insurance-Group Life and Health	50,456.00
Insurance-Property, Bldgs. & Liability for School Board, Town Officers & Police	17,000.00
Interest on Loans	5,000.00
Medicare Employee Tax	17,000.00
Reserve Fund	24,000.00

Unemployment Compensation	5,400.00
Veterans' Fund	<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,994.00</b>

**ELEVENTH – Employment of Boards and Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to allow members of the boards and commissions listed to be employed where needed to carry out any and all of the functions related to their office or take any other action thereon.

- Board of Assessors
- Board of Health
- Board of Selectman
- Cemetery Commission
- Library Trustees

**TWELTH – Permission to Appoint or take any other action thereon**

- (A) To see if the Town will permit the Board of Selectmen to appoint one or more of its members as Superintendent of Streets, Chief of Police, and Special police and be employed in those positions and provide equipment material and services.
- (B) 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.

**THIRTEENTH – Emergency Equipment Grant**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000.00)**, or any other sum 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. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

**FOURTEENTH – Emergency Management**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1000.00)**, or any other sum for emergency generator maintenance and repairs. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

**FIFTEENTH – Land Purchase Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by a 2/3 vote the sum of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)** 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. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

**SIXTEENTH – FY 25 Hancock Educational expenses**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY- SEVEN DOLLARS**

(\$1,762,257.00), or any other sum for school operating expenses or take any other action thereon. RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

**SEVENTEENTH – Historical Commission**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)**, or any other sum for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Town to be held on Town Hall property.

**EIGHTEENTH – Fire Truck Stabilization**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by a 2/3 vote the sum of **THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000.00)** for the purchase of a fire truck to be put in the Stabilization Fund or take any other action thereon. Per contract with the Fire Department and Selectmen.

**NINETEENTH – Assessor Services Contract**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to enter a five-year agreement with Catalis for assessment services provided to the town, said agreement to be for \$23,000 per year for five years, or take any other action relative thereon.

**TWENTYTH -** To transact any other business that legally comes before said meeting. You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting at least (5) five attested copies thereof in public places in Town at least (14) days before said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due returns of your doing to the Town Clerk at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid.

CONSTABLE Mark A. Gaskill  
Mark A. Gaskill

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Sherman L. Derby, Sr.  
Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Chairman  
Donald E. Rancatti  
Donald E. Rancatti  
David J. Boyer  
David J. Boyer

A True Copy Attest  
Linda C. Burdick  
Linda Burdick, TOWN CLERK

April 4, 2025  
Date

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

### RECORDED MARRIAGES (4)

Rejan Oyala & Lorraine Damata  
 Richard Donati & Gabrielle Derby  
 Michael Gonson & Jamie Roberts  
 Trevor Patch & Heather Whitman

### D.O.M.

02/24/2024  
 07/21/2024  
 07/27/2024  
 09/27/2024

### RECORDED BIRTHS (5)

### RECORDED DEATHS (12)

Martin Oszmian  
 William Spaulding  
 Ernest LeBarron  
 Clayton Nichols  
 Carole Remmington  
 Edward Derby, Sr.  
 John Adams  
 Adolph Rosier  
 Frederick Kruger  
 Patricia Barbeau  
 Shirley A LaRoche  
 Chanlilyana Chandra

### D.O.D

03/20/2024  
 03/24/2024  
 04/25/2024  
 05/13/2024  
 06/16/2024  
 08/08/2024  
 08/28/2024  
 09/07/2024  
 09/27/2024  
 11/11/2024  
 11/23/2024  
 11/21/2024

### DISPOSITION

Hebrew SBA  
 Cremation  
 Cremation  
 Cremation  
 Bennington, VT  
 Hancock Cemetery  
 Hancock Cemetery  
 Cremation  
 Stephentown Cremation  
 Burial  
 St Joseph's Pittsfield  
 Cremation

### DOG LICENSE FEES

		<b># DOGS</b>
Male	\$10.00	12
Neutered	\$ 5.00	65
Female	\$10.00	12
Spayed	\$ 5.00	64

### KENNELS

		<b># KENNELS</b>
4 Dogs or less	\$20.00	
10 Dogs or less	\$40.00	1
Over 10 Dogs	\$100.00	0

### DOG LICENSES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1, 2025

The below By-Law was passed at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, 2001 and approved by the Attorney General on August 30, 2001.

C. If the owner/keeper fails to license animals pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 140 and this By-Law, the owner/keeper shall be subject to a fine of **TEN DOLLARD (\$10.00)**. If the animal is not licensed within 10 days notification of this violation, owner/keeper shall be subject to a fine of **FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)**. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Town Clerk's Hours at Town Hall: Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

First Saturday of the month 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, the clerk's office will be open on the second Saturday of the month same hours.

### Other Hours By Appointment ONLY

**Website [town.hancock.ma.us](http://town.hancock.ma.us) (for forms and Unipay)**

Town Clerks Telephone 413-738-5225 ext. 2 FAX 413-738-5310

Notary Service for Town Residents is no longer available. EMAIL: [clerk@town.hancock.ma.us](mailto:clerk@town.hancock.ma.us)

Respectfully Submitted: Linda C Burdick, Town Clerk

## BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT

The Board of Health welcomed John Quimby and Melissa Leab for another three year term. John Quimby is the Chairman of the Board and deals with everyday workings of the Board, septic responsibilities, transfer station operations, and is the Town's representative to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Board. Greg Canales, Melanie Jackson and Wendy Kipp will perform all food service and lodging inspections for the Board of Health. Greg Canales will work on the Town's Emergency Plan as needed. Melissa Leab and Wendy Kipp are the Board's RN, dealing with health issues.

The Board of Health continues to be a part of the Berkshire Health Alliance and its Public Health Nursing program. The public health nurse helps with any infectious disease reporting, case investigation and follow-up and immunization programs. This year we also experienced RSV, seasonal flu, and the continuing Covid-19 monitoring. We will be sharing programs and opportunities that the Health Alliance team can offer our community.

The Board of Health oversaw all events at Bloom Meadows, Hancock Shaker Village and Jiminy Peak. The Board met with caterers, inspected and gave permits. The Board also oversaw the Paradise Tattoo Gathering at Jiminy Peak for the second year in a row.

All restaurant, lodging, pool and hot tub inspections were completed twice yearly as required.

### **ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION**

To enter the landfill, you need a current dump sticker. It must be on your vehicle or on you. If you don't have a current sticker you will be asked to leave or buy a new one. You also have to sign a form that you will enter the landfill at your own risk (insurance request).

Residents are entering at their own risk.

Residents should not enter the premises until the attendant has deemed it safe and is at the transfer station itself, not still at the top by the gate. Residents will take responsibility for their actions on the transfer station property and understand that all weather conditions cannot be controlled and that they will proceed with caution.

Scott Krzanik is the Board's Health Agent.

There is a clothing and shoe box at the dump. Please put all clothes in there – not in the trash. **New State mandate requires NO mattresses or textiles allowed in the trash. Textiles go in the clothing box and mattresses and box springs need to go to the Dalton Transfer Station.**

### **Routine Board of Health Activities**

The Board of Health meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Hancock School, but will convene at other times as circumstances require and following appropriate public notice. The primary responsibility of the BOH is disease prevention and control, and community well-being. Duties include: enforcement of State Public Health regulations, development and enforcement of local regulations, reviewing and inspecting proposed developments and projects, public hearings

on variances and new regulations, inspecting restaurants, food service facilities, and waste haulers. Other duties include oversight of the State's septic regulations under the Title V program. It oversees and supports the Animal Control Office, Transfer Station Operator, and Certified Sanitarian, Scott Krzanik, who at the BOH's request, assists with inspections of pools and hot tubs and septic issues.

<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Number of Inspections Done</u>
Food services	Twice/year	17
Motels	Twice/year	9
Percolation Tests	April 1-Nov. 15	As requested
New/repaired Septic Systems (Title V)	As requested	8
Complaint Investigation	As necessary	2
Pools	Twice/year	9
Hot tubs	Twice/year	9
Tobacco Sales	Intermittently	0

**REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION**

**John Quimby, Operator** Telephone **597-9882**  
**Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** **Saturdays: 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Closed Sunday and Holidays**  
**Certified Trash Haulers: Casella Waste Systems (trash/wood), TAM (recyclables) and Sayers (metal).**

Transfer Station Services: trash disposal, recycling area, metal and wood disposal, electronics recycling including computers, monitors, keyboards, mice, televisions, telephones, stereos, speakers, printers, VCR's, radios, etc. are collected in the red dumpster.

<u>Tires</u>	<u>Recycling Charge</u> (Please pay Mr. Quimby at drop-off)
Automobile	\$7.00 each
Tractor-trailer (rimless)	\$10.00 each
Refrigerators	\$10.00 each

**PLEASE NOTE**

1. Off-road vehicle tires are not accepted (4-wheel recreational vehicle tires and tractor tires).
2. Recyclables will not be accepted as general waste. Please put these into their respective containers.
3. Sites and dates for hazardous waste collection will be posted at the Transfer Station. Copies of these waste bans may be obtained from John Quimby.
4. Propane tanks and air-conditioners should not be put in the metal dumpster but must be left on the ground. Used hearing aid batteries may be given to the Transfer Station attendant for disposal.
5. All residents must purchase stickers by July 1, 2024 in order to use the Transfer Station. The cost is \$15.00/year for one vehicle. Homes with more than one vehicle may purchase stickers for \$5.00 for each additional car.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED OF RECYCLING RULES**

**Acceptable Items In Paper Box**

White Envelopes  
 Computer, Fax and Copy Paper  
 Kraft Paper (brown grocery bags)  
 Magazines and Catalogs  
 Chipboard/Box Board and Gift Boxes  
 White and Colored Ledger Paper  
 Newspaper  
 Notebook Paper and Wrapping Paper  
 Paper Egg Cartons  
 Construction Paper  
 Telephone and Paperback Books – Covers can be left on  
 Junk Mail (including envelopes and coupons)

**Acceptable Items In Bottle & Can Box**

Plastic Containers (marked with numbers 1-7)  
 Aluminum Cans  
 Glass Bottles (green, clear, brown)  
 Tin and Bi-Metallic Containers  
 Aseptic Milk/Juice Cartons  
 Aluminum Foil (pie plates, eg.)  
 Rigid Plastics with Recycling Symbol

**Unacceptable Items**

Styrofoam  
 Plastic Bags  
 Caps or Lids  
 Pizza Boxes

**Report of Municipal Solid Waste Removal:**

	<u>Solid Waste Cost/Ton</u>	<u>Tons Collected</u>	<u>Total Cost to Town</u>
'22	Trash (21 hauls) \$102.24/ton-368/haul	219.92	\$30,212.62
'23	Trash (17 hauls) \$120.32/ton-397.07/haul	203.00	\$31,175.15
'24	Trash (20 hauls) \$120.32/ton-397.07/haul	229.48	\$34,390.30
	<u>Recyclables</u>	<u>Cost per ton/haul</u>	<u>Tons Collected</u>
'22	Wood (8 hauls)	\$102.24/ton-368/haul	42.18
'23	Wood (7 hauls)	\$110.32/ton-397.07/haul	41.00
'24	Wood (10 hauls)	\$120.32/ ton-397.07/haul	47.24
'22	Metal (6 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	26.76
'23	Metal (5 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	26.80
'24	Metal (5 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	30.82
'22	Paper (14 hauls)	\$60/ton – 368 haul	27.03
'23	Paper (20 hauls)	\$-10/ton – 397.07 haul	24.79
'24	Paper (21 hauls)	\$-10/ton – 397.07 haul	33.00
	<u>Plastic, glass, cans</u>		
'22	9 hauls	\$170.66/ton-\$368/haul	17.76
'23	8 hauls	\$176.00/ton-\$397.07 haul	15.51
'24	10 hauls	\$125.00/ton-397.07/haul	19.00
'22	Electronics (2 hauls)	\$1252.00	6.80
'23	Electronics (3 hauls)	\$1375.00	8.00
'24	Electronics (2 hauls)	\$1375.00	6.80



## Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District 2024

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD) was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. We have a vision to seek regional solutions to attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The 14 member towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. Each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board. Board Officers for 2024 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough), Douglas McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Treasurer Barbara Belisle, (Savoy) and Representative.

### **In 2024, NBSWMD services included:**

- Linda Cernik, District Administrator, was certified in September 2023 as a Third-Party Inspector by MassDEP for Operations and Maintenance of a Transfer Station 310 CMR. 10.018.
- Collectively the District recycled 845 tons of paper/cardboard & comingle.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for hauling and processing of waste, recyclables with Casella Waste Systems Inc.
- Member Towns Cheshire, Windsor and Williamstown are accepting Food Waste, under the organics program. Food waste diverted from the Waste Stream collectively is over 23,167 pounds.
- Negotiations FY26 hauling and processing contract.
- Coordinating special collections that are open to all 14 member towns, including annual Bulky and Electronics recycling events, Household Hazardous waste collections and community paper shredding events, and Subsidized Home Composting Units and more.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, swap shops (household goods in Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor).
- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP “Green Team” Program, Youth Center Inc, Hoosac Valley Middle and High School and Plunkett Elementary, Wahconah High School and various other member Town’s School District’s Schools. Green team schools were awarded recycling equipment for their schools continued support within the environment.
- The district diverted over 96,420 pounds of textiles (clothing, bedding, etc.) from the waste stream to CMRK clothing recycling ~upcycling ~re-use programming. Textiles joined the Waste ban regulations 310 CMR 19.017 on November 1, 2022. Massachusetts State regulations prohibit it. Town of Williamstown has added a NEW Textile Bin at their Transfer Station, from “Goodwill of the Berkshires”.

- Established Mattress Recycling “HUB” in Partnership with the Town of Dalton the District diverted 359 mattresses from the waste stream. Our Contract is with Raw Materials Recovery, State Contract
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grants Through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs (SMRP) and all reporting.

Solid Waste District held its annual household hazardous waste collections April 26, 2025, will be held in the Town of Adams for all 14 member Town’s residents. Kick off to Earth Day~ This allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products that are deemed hazardous.

The district continues to host special events for Recycling, Community paper shredding days with Pro-Shred, 4 Bulky waste and Electronics, and our Annual HHW event held in April. View our web site [www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com) for a list of all of our events, view 2024 RRR guide and resources.

The day-to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Director Linda Cernik. Who also serves as a representative of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, The Solid Waste Advisory Committee, The Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials. New committee creating our Annual RRR guide

In 2024, all NBSWMD member-towns were eligible for and received grants under MassDEP. Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Collectively the Towns received \$52,539 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programming. Towns that were also awarded Swap Shop, drop off equipment grants are as follows, Dalton, Peru and Savoy.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Cernik, Director

**The Board of Health would like to thank John Quimby for keeping the Transfer Station working so smoothly, Shawn Derby, Sr. for packing our wood and metal dumpsters, all Boards, Committees, Departments, and Town Secretary Jan Lillie, for their help throughout the year. We also want to thank Jeff and Greg for helping at the transfer station.**

**Respectfully submitted: BOARD OF HEALTH**  
John Quimby, Chair; Melanie Jackson, Melissa Leab,  
Greg Canales and Wendy Kipp

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER’S REPORT**

We had several calls of loose dogs again this year. Remember to have your dog license tags on your dog when you let them out so that we can reunite you with your dog if it leaves your yard. You are required by law to have your dog licensed at the Town Clerk’s Office every year. All vaccines are required to be up-to-date before you can purchase your license. We also had a few calls of cattle getting out.

There are a total of 13 farms in Hancock. They include the following:

2	Alpacas	300	Poultry
73	Equine	53	Cattle
		13	Goats

**Respectfully submitted,**

Animal Control Officer/Inspector, Donald L. Cassavaugh

## **CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT**

The mowing and trimming were kept up regularly in the main cemetery.

Please contact the Cemetery Commission before you schedule to have cornerstones, foundations or monuments put in. There are restrictions and State by-laws that the Town of Hancock has to follow.

Remember that the cemetery closes for the winter on November 15<sup>th</sup> and reopens April 1<sup>st</sup> – depending on the weather. If the chains are up, don’t take them down. Please park on the side of the road and walk in or park at the Town Hall and walk over into the cemetery.

If you see any suspicious activity in any of the cemeteries please contact the Town Hall.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Cemetery Commission

Donald Cassavaugh, Chair and Lydia Cassavaugh

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Conservation Commission is responsible for reviewing projects that may impact wetland areas, as mandated by the Wetlands Protection Act, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40. This law prohibits any activities such as filling, excavation, or alteration of land surfaces, water levels, or vegetation in wetland areas without obtaining a permit from the local Conservation Commission. Any proposed projects within 200 feet of a river or stream, or within 100 feet of a wetland, must be presented to the Commission for approval. The Commission is also tasked with protecting these natural resources to prevent pollution, safeguard drinking water, improve flood control, and protect wildlife and fisheries.

Our mission is to protect our natural resources while considering the rights of residents to legally use their land as they see fit.

During the 2024 calendar year, the Commission reviewed multiple applications and held hearings for various projects. Notably, the Commission processed Notices of Intent (NOI) for:

- 140 Main Street
- 162 Main Street
- The Right-of-Way (R.O.W.) cutting for Eversource
- The Huttoopia project on Kittle Road, where a peer reviewer was used due to the scale of the project

Additionally, the Commission issued an emergency order for the removal of a beaver dam at Tilden pond in Pittsfield State Forest, initiated by the state.

The Commission remains committed to ensuring compliance with environmental regulations while facilitating responsible land use, all while respecting the rights of landowners. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd non-holiday Monday of the month at 7:00 PM and are open to the public. Public Hearings are scheduled as needed to review filed projects. All such Hearings are posted as required by Massachusetts General Law, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Town of Hancock bylaws. We encourage inquiries and participation from all town residents. We would like to extend our gratitude to Rick Ehle, Kevin Nichols, Greg Holland and Robin Keeney for their many years of service and dedication to the commission and community your presence will be missed.

We continue to seek individuals interested in contributing to this important mission. Those willing to commit time and effort to the Commission's work should contact the Town Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Conservation Commission  
Paul Hyde, Kris Hickey, Eric Lillie

## VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Veterans Memorial Committee continues to work on keeping the grounds clean and mowed with thanks to the Cemetery Committee and all helping hands in weeding, mulching, and replanting the poppies. After a very mild winter the Poppies bloomed in all their splendor for the Memorial Day Weekend, where friends and families could come to see the monument and walkway. Visitors continue to give us complements for the beautiful Memorial and the Cannon completed by Sherman Derby and his crew. A pad was poured and cured for placement of the cannon. A Ceremony was held after the Memorial Day Services. The Cannon was also displayed in the Memorial Day Parade with the winner of Name the Cannon contest and other members. The winner of the contest was Emily of the 3-4 Diamond Room with the name Spirit. Our sincere thanks to all who participated and joined in the dedication. Donations from the Johnson family were received, and we thank them very much for their continued support of the Hancock Memorial Monument and in honor of those who gave their lives for us to be free. Flags need to be replaced on a regular basis once they become tattered and torn. Anyone wishing to donate to that cause will be appreciated as we seem to be in a wind, snow, and rain belt around Town Hall.

Respectively submitted: Linda Burdick, Chairman, Valerie Dean Tallet, Veterans Agent, and Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Selectmen

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Planning Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 5pm, excluding July and August. Anyone requesting to be on the Agenda must do so 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

There were (4) four Form A Applications submitted in 2024. All of them were approved.

The Board reviewed the State's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Draft Regulation 760 CMR 71.00, that will be put into effect in early 2025. The Town currently has a Bylaw in place addressing this. After further discussion and consulting with Legal Counsel, the Board agreed that what we have in place is sufficient and does not require any modifications at this time.

Excerpt from the Town of Hancock Zoning Bylaws, amended May 6, 2019 –

### Section 2: USE/DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

2.2 There shall be a minimum requirement of one acre of land per dwelling unit.

### Section 3: DEFINITIONS

3.1 Dwelling Unit: A residential building designed for one or two families.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Christie Derby - Chair, Sherman Derby, Sr., Barbara Markessinis, Zach Hanson and Leo Laviolette.

## HANCOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

	# INCIDENTS
111 - Building fire	2
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	73
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	7
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
444 - Power line down	3
500 - Service Call, other	2
561 - Unauthorized burning	1
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	4
600 - Good intent call, other	1
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	4
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	2
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	2
<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>	2
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	29
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	13
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1
900 - Special type of incident, other	1

**Total Incidents**

**157**

The following permits were issued:

Fire Works	1
Oil Tank Installation	4
Oil Tank Removal	1
Propane Tank Installation	17

The Fire Department responded to a record number of incidents this year. We were able to host two Car Shows with great turn outs. Thank you to Ioka Valley Farm for their help with that. The dedication and support of the Department Members and their families cannot be overstated.

All fire department permits (excluding open burning permits) are \$20.00. This includes Oil Burner inspections, Oil tank installations, Oil tank removals, LP Tank installations, Fire Works Permits, and Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Inspections.

Burning permits for burning brush are available on line at [bcburnpermits.com](http://bcburnpermits.com) daily January 15 thru May 1 from 8:30AM to 1 PM. If permits are available for that day, click on submit application and fill in the blanks then print your permit.

The Hancock Fire Department continues to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. Please join us in remembering and honoring our past and present veterans.

**SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.  
Don't forget to change the batteries in your detectors at least once a year and to test them regularly.**

**DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES.**

**Respectfully submitted: Fire Chief  
Michael Williams**

## **BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The Building Department has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Rob Rosier at (518) 653-4565 or email at [Hancockbuildinginspector@gmail.com](mailto:Hancockbuildinginspector@gmail.com). Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

During the period from July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2024, the Building Commissioner issued **51** permits. These consisted of **12** accessory structures, **7** renewable energies, **8** roof replacements, **1** wood/pellet stoves, and 23 renovations.

**15** annual inspections were performed on commercial structures to ensure continuing compliance with life safety requirements. State Building Code requires such annual inspections on all restaurants, places of assembly, and transient lodging facilities.

**Respectfully submitted: Building Commissioner**

**Rob Rosier**

## **GAS PIPE INSPECTOR & PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The Gas Pipe / Plumbing Inspector has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Thomas DiCicco at 413-738-5750. Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular hours, Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, or on the website: [town.hancock.ma.us](http://town.hancock.ma.us) under “Forms”.

The Gas Pipe / Plumbing Inspector issued **28** permits consisting of **18** gas permits and **10** plumbing permits.

**Respectfully submitted: Gas Pipe / Plumbing Inspector**  
Thomas DiCicco

## **WIRING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The Wiring Inspector has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Joe Knysh at 413-822-9391. Electrical permit applications may be obtained by going to the Town's website: [town.hancock.ma.us](http://town.hancock.ma.us) under “Forms”.

The Wiring Inspector issued (**46**) electrical permits in 2024: (**3**) Generators, (**2**) Commercial, (**11**) HVAC / Mini Splits, (**1**) New Houses, (**4**) Solar Residential, (**2**) Additions, (**5**) Remodel Jobs, (**2**) Garages, (**6**) Services, (**1**) Barn, & (**9**) Misc. Electrical Jobs.

**Respectfully Submitted: Wiring Inspector**  
Joe Knysh



## COUNCIL ON AGING

Most of this year's activities centered around food. During colder weather, we met in the Baptist church basement, and in warmer weather we met at the town pavilion. Our two brunch meals in the spring and fall were especially well attended. Throughout the year, committee member Renee Wagar prepared several foods we hadn't served before. Attendance was good. For the first time since COVID, our Christmas dinner was a shared meal at the church rather than take-out. It felt good to again visit with neighbors while enjoying this annual meal. Our regular caterer had decided to move on from the tradition of preparing our meal, so we found another caterer.

Our popular balance and strength-training class led by physical therapist Therese Rodda continues to meet twice a week, helps keep our elderly bodies in good physical shape, and serves participants from not only Hancock, but other nearby towns.

Likewise, the Tuesday morning coffee hour at former Green Valley Equipment attracts a consistent group of friends and neighbors from Hancock and nearby towns. Socializing is as important for the elderly as when all were working and regularly seeing and talking with other people, so this weekly event offers that pleasant as well as healthful benefit.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) is offering para transit services to the Hancock elderly or disabled for appointments, trips to the store, visits to friends, activities, etc. An application must be submitted and approval received from BRTA. Price one way on Monday through Saturday during normal business hours is \$7.50. If interested, call BRTA at 499-2782 for an eligibility application.

With sadness, we said goodbye to our director of many years, Margaret Fenander. Margie had fallen, hit her head on a stone, and sustained a brain injury. Unable to fully care for herself, she had to sell her house and move to New Hampshire to live with daughter Becca. Correspondence indicates that she continues to very slowly improve, but is not one hundred percent able yet. She appreciates hearing from friends and neighbors. Renee Wagar was appointed to take Margie's place on Council on Aging Committee, and Joan Burdick again assumed the position of director.

"*The Silver Source*," the Council on Aging newsletter, continues to be printed and sent out to townspeople age 60 and older most months. Besides announcing upcoming events, the newsletter informs about such subjects as fuel assistance programs, wellness topics, new services offered to the town's elderly, current scams, events in town, free summertime events in nearby towns, and more.

**Respectfully submitted: Council on Aging**

<b>Joan Burdick, Director</b>	<b>Kathy Gideon, Chairman</b>
<b>Marjorie Feathers, Publisher of <i>The Silver Source</i></b>	
<b>Renee Wagar</b>	<b>Lydia Cassavaugh</b>

## ASSESSORS REPORT

The reclassification determinations with subsequent adjustments for tax year 2025 were completed with the first half tax bills going out in late December with a tax rate of \$2.68 down from \$2.79 in FY 2024. The second half semi-annual billing will be mailed by April 1, 2025 with a May 1, 2025 due date. The current contract with Catalis, Inc. formerly known as, Patriot Properties, Inc., will end June 30, 2025. Proposals were solicited by publication with only one response by Catalis, Inc. which we expect to be executed by March 30, 2025. It was a busy year for the Board of Assessors, providing notifications and being available to taxpayers during the week long Public Disclosure period following final reassessments.

This year the assessors will be onboarding Patricia Bishop to the assessor office following the departure of Felicity Cassavaugh in the Fall of 2024. They will continue to work on updating and maintaining the data base with upgraded software to insure that all residents are assessed at fair market value. The Assessors may be taking photographs of residential properties to update Property Record Cards during the warmer months.

Informational brochures and forms are located outside of the Assessors' office and are available Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon or can be found on the Town website at [town.hancock.ma.us](http://town.hancock.ma.us) under the Assessor tab.

If you are filing for an abatement on your motor vehicle excise tax bill and you transferred your plates to a new vehicle or returned your plate to RMV, please provide the Assessors with a copy of your new registration, bill of sale, or disposition of vehicle and plate return receipt so that we can grant your abatement in a timely manner. You may leave the information in our mailbox at Town Hall or mail to P.O. Box 1006, Hancock MA 01237.

The Assessors hours are Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or by appointment. Our phone number is 413-738-5225 ext. 4 and the fax number is 413-738-5310. You may also e-mail [assessor@town.hancock.ma.us](mailto:assessor@town.hancock.ma.us)

Respectfully submitted: Board of Assessors  
Chairman, Kristin Hickey, Therese Rodda, Patricia Bishop

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Commission is continuing the work on the addition to and reprinting of *Hancock Through the Years*.

The work on identifying places mentioned by author Nellie Cameron using street listing numbers that didn't exist at the time of her writing has now been completed.

Each section of the book is being reviewed to add any changes or updates over the years. If anyone has pictures they think would be appropriate to add to the book, please let any of the below-listed commission members know, or drop them off at the Town Hall in an envelope marked Historical Commission.

Thank you for your help and support.

**Respectfully submitted:** Chairman Marjorie Feathers, Hiram Greene, Kathy Gideon, Cynthia Grauman, Nancy Derby, Donald Leab, and Jan Lillie

## TAYLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Our library collection has over 5,309 items to offer the community as well as computers to use, copier available to the public, and can print items for patrons. We were open 658 hours. The library had a total of 577 in attendance, with 74 on Halloween. For circulation, we received 161 items from other libraries for our patrons, we provided 699 items to other libraries through Interlibrary Loan. There were 837 items taken out directly for a total of 1,536 items circulated this year.

Our hours continue to be  
Monday 2pm-6pm and 6:30pm to 8pm (Craft Night)  
Thursday 9:30am to 11:30am and 2pm-6pm  
Saturday from 10am to noon

Other items available for circulation are; metal detector, handheld GPS unit, telescope, snowshoes, and KILL A WATT units to measure electrical use. Museum passes are Norman Rockwell, Mass MoCA, The Clark, USS Slater, Arrow Head, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Bidwell House, Hancock Shaker Village, and Ventfort Hall.

We continue to pursue building an addition for a bathroom and handicap accessibility. To help us with this, The Association for Rural & Small Libraries awarded us \$15,000 for the 2023-24 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant.

We thank the town and community for their continuing support.

Respectfully,  
Lydia Cassavaugh, Connie Chase, and Jane Roberts

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT  
FISCAL 2024**

	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle</u>
Committed	\$1,027,263.17	\$39,833.16	\$136,333.47
Collected	\$992,920.49	\$38,470.20	\$89,191.59
Abated	\$2,622.93	\$98.27	\$2,278.36
Refunded	\$7,597.22	\$115.80	\$153.01
Outstanding	\$39,316.97	\$1,380.49	\$45,016.53

Pilot Payments:

\$155,000.00 Wind Turbines First Phase  
 \$52,000.00 Wind Turbines Second Phase

Report Submitted by Julie Williams, Tax Collector  
 Telephone 413-738-5225 EX: # 3      Fax 413-738-5310  
 Tax Collector's Office Hours:  
 Tuesday Mornings: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday Afternoons: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\*The Tax Collector's Office is accepting online payments for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle Excise through the Town of Hancock website, as long as the bills are current. Any bills that are owed after the due date on the bill will have to be paid by personal check, bank check or money order.

**INFORMATION REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE**

When registering or re-registering a motor vehicle please make sure that **HANCOCK** is listed as your place of residence at both the Registry of Motor Vehicles and your insurance company. There is a line designated for those of us who have a different mailing address from our residential address. **If you have a P.O. Box – please use it!**

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS REPORT

The Emergency Management Director continues to ensure the town is 100% NIMS compliant.

There were no Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) mobilization incidents in the town this year.

The Emergency Management Department did receive a \$2500.00 grant from MEMA and was forwarded to the Town of Hinsdale, MA for a county project to refurbish the Hinsdale Fire Departments rehab vehicle. This vehicle will respond to any town upon request to support emergency operations. Hancock has had this unit respond to our Town on several occasions in the past and we will rely on them for future emergencies.

We currently are members in The Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee that meets every month. I will continue to attend these meetings as well as the quarterly MEMA meetings in Agawam.

Continuing to review the Emergency Sheltering Plans and the Emergence Dispensing Sites (EDS) with the Board of Health and the Selectmen.

The Town of Hancock has been awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program grant in the amount of \$27,000.00 to complete a Community Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation Planning process that will examine the community's vulnerabilities and strengths and identify priority actions to build resilience as the climate changes. The Select Board appointed a board to complete this process and we have been meeting monthly to work on updating our program. The Committee is still meeting and working to complete this program.

Still working to update the COOP (Continuity Of Operation Plan) with Town leaders.

**Respectfully submitted:** EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
David Rash

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Hancock School District continued to provide robust educational experiences for its students. Hancock Central School served approximately 59 students, while an additional 52 students were supported through tuition agreements with neighboring school districts and technical schools. Currently, the district has tuition agreements for secondary students with both the Mt. Greylock Regional School District and the New Lebanon School District.

### Grade Configuration and Curriculum Alignment

This academic year opened with a shift in grade configuration to better meet the needs of our students. While Cricket Cove, our preschool program for three- and four-year-olds, remained unchanged, Kindergarten became a stand-alone classroom. Grades 1 and 2 were combined, as were Grades 3 and 4, and Grades 5 and 6. This restructuring aimed to enhance curriculum alignment, increase collaborative learning opportunities, and optimize instructional resources.

### Professional Development and Data-Driven Instruction

The school year began with professional development sessions focused on meeting the needs of diverse learners, implementing tiered interventions, strengthening number sense, and fostering flexible thinking skills. Throughout the year, staff continued to collect and analyze benchmark data, expanding assessment efforts to include targeted early literacy skills for students in Kindergarten through third grade. These initiatives supported the district's commitment to data-informed instruction and student-centered learning.

### Enrichment Programs and Community Engagement

The district provided numerous enrichment opportunities and community engagement events that fostered student development beyond the classroom. Notable events and programs included:

- **School Play:** The production of *The Wizard of Oz* was a significant undertaking, involving approximately 50 Hancock School students, numerous staff members, and the support of many community members.
- **Talent Show:** A showcase of student abilities and creativity, highlighting the diverse skills of our learners.
- **Community Events:** The district hosted various gatherings, including a Spaghetti Supper, Special Friend and Grandparent breakfast, Thanksgiving celebration, and a Holiday Concert.
- **Girls on the Run Program:** A successful implementation that combined physical activity with life skills coaching.
  
- **Seasonal Activities:** Hancock students participated in trick-or-treating at Sweetwood, had the opportunity to pick apples at Hilltop Orchards, and were able to experience ski lessons through the Jiminy Peak program.
- **Educational Excursions and Collaborations:** Students took part in BIOEyes in partnership with LES, visited MASS MoCA, attended a Civil War cannon exhibit, and had the opportunity to name the cannon. Additional experiences included internet safety workshops, Boys and Girls Club swimming sessions, Ramblewild outdoor activities, and attending a theater production at MGRSD.

- **Field Trips and Special Events:** The school year was filled with engaging experiences such as a storytelling workshop with John Porcino, movie nights, the Ioka and Sweetwood Harvest Fest, and a campus visit from a hot air balloon.

#### Legislative Advocacy

The district worked closely with legislators to navigate the proposal of a home rule bill addressing the school choice/tuition statute. The bill was filed in February with substantial support from Senator Barrett and Representative Mark's offices. A hearing was held in April, and the bill was moved to study in July. The district remains committed to advocating for legislative solutions that support our students and community.

#### School Nutrition Program

The district successfully implemented a School Lunch and Breakfast Program, ensuring that all students had access to nutritious meals at no cost. This initiative was well received and supported student well-being.

#### Community Support and Partnerships

The Hancock Organization of Parents and Educators (HOPE) played a vital role in supporting the school through a variety of activities and community events. Their ongoing contributions have significantly enhanced the educational experience for our students.

The 2023-2024 school year was marked by strong academic initiatives, meaningful community engagement, and unwavering dedication to student success. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year.

Dr. Rebecca Phillips

Superintendent of Schools

## **HANCOCK SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

### Community

As part of School Union #70, Shaker Mountain School District we continue to be connected to the New Ashford School Committee. We continue our collaboration with Lanesborough Elementary in terms of curriculum coordination and sharing activities. We continue to strive to strengthen the lines of communication at both Mount Greylock and New Lebanon. Sixth graders are given an opportunity to visit both schools. We invite representatives from both schools to meet with parents to discuss curriculum, sports and musical opportunities.

### Staff

In 2023-2024 school year we welcomed Greta Facchetti was hired as the Physical Education Teacher, Aldonna Girouard was hired as the Music Teacher, Devin Lamke was hired at the Occupational Therapist, Grace Lillie was hired to work in the office, Margaret Deane was hired as the speech and language pathologist and Courtney Bopp was hired as the school psychologist. At the end of the school year Donna Beguin, special education teacher and Carol Stein-Payne, school nurse retired.

### **Committee changes**

Katherine Tuner was appointed chair. Elisabeth Kryskow remained as secretary.

### Programs

We maintained our unofficial Level 1 standing on the MCAS testing done last spring, which is a great reflection on the combined strengths of the leadership, faculty and staff, and families all working towards the mission statement of Hancock School (To create a positive, safe and rigorous educational setting that fosters a student-centered learning environment based on mutual respect). To prepare our students for an ever-changing world, we believe education is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school, and community.

The public is invited to attend School Committee Meetings. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month (except for July) at 6:00 P.M. at the school. Please visit our website: [www.hancockschool.org](http://www.hancockschool.org) for information about our school, teachers, specialists, school calendar and more.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Turner, Chair

Bruce Weiner, Elisabeth Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis and James Rodda



## HANCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As principal of the Hancock Central School, it is an honor to share the daily successes and growth strides of our school community. Each day, our teachers, staff, students, and families demonstrate a shared commitment to learning, growth, and the core values that shape our mission. Together, we create a thriving environment where students feel empowered to explore their potential and contribute positively to the world around them.

At Hancock School, we believe in the transformative power of education. Nelson Mandela said, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* Guided by this idea, we cultivate not just academic excellence but also character, creativity, and curiosity. Our students continue to achieve remarkable milestones in all areas. Beyond the traditional academics, they also show compassion, collaboration, empathy, and leadership through activities such as student government, drama, chess club, and the simple yet important daily recesses and playtime activities so essential to a child's growth.

I am continually inspired by the dedication of our staff, who embody John Dewey's belief that *"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."* Their tireless efforts ensure that every student feels seen, supported, and challenged to grow.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture a love of learning in all our students. Together, we will continue to embrace opportunities for innovation while holding true to the values that define our school community.

To our families and community partners, thank you for your unwavering support. Your belief in our students and school and the shared investment in their success makes all the difference. Margaret Mead reminds us *"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."* With your ongoing partnership and support, we are equipping our students to think critically, act compassionately, and dream boldly.

Here's to continued learning, growth, and success at Hancock School. Together, we are building a brighter future for all.

With gratitude,

John G. Merselis III (Jay), Principal  
413-738-5676  
jmerselis@hancockschool.org

**School Committee**

Katherine Turner, Chair 413-329-4823  
Alex Kastrinakis 413-464-1700  
Elisa Kryskow 970-531-2499  
Jim Rodda 301-801-3534  
Bruce Weiner 413-738-5488

**Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips 413-738-5676

**Special Education Director**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips 413-738-5676

**Administrative Assistant to Superintendent and Special Education Director**

Amy Scott 413-698-4001

**Principal**

John G. Merselis III 413-738-5676 or 413-441-0081 (cell)

**Hancock Central School Staff and Specialists**

Secretary: Grace Lillie  
Art Teacher: Amanda Lahey  
Custodian: John Quimby  
Music Teacher: Aldonna Girouard  
Occupational Therapist: Devin Lamke  
Physical Education/technology: Gretta Facchetti  
School Nurse: Hilary Bashara  
School Adjustment Counselor: Jane Shiyah  
Special Ed Teacher: Cornelia Alden  
Paraprofessionals: Lisa Buell  
Alecia Williams  
Amanda Lahey (Special Education)  
Cahill LeBarron  
Amy Anderton

**School Entrance Regulations**

A child must have reached the age of five on or before September 1 in order to be eligible to enter Kindergarten. Students who are potty trained and 2 years nine months as of September 1 may enroll in PreK. Students who join us at two years nine months will need to meet the kindergarten age when the time comes; they will be in PreK for three years. Any and all Hancock residents who meet the age requirements are welcome at the Hancock School. No child may begin school until she/he presents a birth certificate

**Total Number of Students as of January 1, 2025, 48**

**Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Williams Sapphire Room (Early Childhood)**

10 residents

3 school choice (New Lebanon, Cheshire, Williamstown)

**Ms. Lincoln, Mrs. Anderton, Ruby Room (grades 1, 2)**

13 residents

3 school choice (Williamstown, North Adams, Lanesborough)

**Mrs. Beguin, Mrs. Buell, Diamond Room (grades 3, 4)**

6 residents

1 school choice (North Adams)

**Mrs. Mills, Mrs. LeBarron, Emerald Room (grades 5, 6)**

8 residents

4 school choice (Cheshire, Lanesborough, Williamstown, North Adams)

**HANCOCK TUITION/CHOICE STUDENTS**

2024-2025 AS OF 2/25/2025

**RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**

GRADE PK: 1

GRADE K: 3

GRADE 2: 1

GRADE 3: 1

GRADE 4: 2

GRADE 6: 1

GRADE 7: 1

**MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

GRADE 4: 3

GRADE 7: 3

GRADE 8: 5

GRADE 9: 3

GRADE 10: 6

GRADE 12: 4

**C.H. MCCANN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

GRADE 9: 2

GRADE 10: 2

GRADE 11: 2

GRADE 12: 2

**TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL**

GRADE 9: 1

GRADE 10: 2

**NEW LEBANON**

GRADE 5: 1

**FY26 HANCOCK EDUCATION BUDGET**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY25 to FY 26 Change</b>	
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>UNION EXPENSES</b>				
Union Advertising	\$270.49	\$270.00	-\$0.49	-0.18%
MARS Dues	\$834.02	\$832.50	-\$1.52	-0.18%
MASS Membership	\$901.64	\$900.00	-\$1.64	-0.18%
Union Telephone	\$315.57	\$315.00	-\$0.57	-0.18%
Union Printing & Copying	\$586.07	\$585.00	-\$1.07	-0.18%
Union Postage	\$360.66	\$360.00	-\$0.66	-0.18%
Union Expenses	\$315.57	\$315.00	-\$0.57	-0.18%
Software Support	\$901.64	\$900.00	-\$1.64	-0.18%
Hardware Support	\$901.64	\$900.00	-\$1.64	-0.18%
Super. Admin. Assist. Salary	\$10,186.72	\$10,676.70	\$489.98	4.81%
Prof. Services & Fees - Shared Super.	\$29,076.07	\$30,197.70	\$1,121.63	3.86%
Supt. Prof. Development	\$1,150.82	\$1,150.82	\$0.00	0.00%
Admin Asst Pro Dev	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Sped Director Salary	\$20,001.97	\$20,563.20	\$561.23	2.81%
SPED Dir Prof Dev	\$135.25	\$135.00	-\$0.25	-0.18%
Student Services Expenses	\$90.16	\$90.00	-\$0.16	-0.18%
Superintendent Expenses	\$1,081.97	\$1,080.00	-\$1.97	-0.18%
<b>UNION Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$67,110.26</b>	<b>\$69,270.92</b>	<b>\$2,160.66</b>	<b>3.22%</b>
<b>SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXPENSES</b>				
SC Legal Counsel	\$7,400.00	\$7,400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
School Committee Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
MASC Dues	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>SCHOOL COMMITTEE Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>				
Principal Salary	\$86,520.00	\$90,000.00	\$3,480.00	4.02%
Teacher Salary	\$385,126.00	\$371,270.00	-\$13,856.00	-3.60%
Special Ed. Teacher Salaries	\$63,276.00	\$75,505.00	\$12,229.00	19.33%
General Education Para Salaries	\$73,170.00	\$92,374.00	\$19,204.00	26.25%
Special Education Para Salaries	\$38,493.00	\$47,364.00	\$8,871.00	23.05%
Counselor Salaries	\$32,026.00	\$32,666.00	\$640.00	2.00%
Nursing Salaries	\$61,439.00	\$73,425.00	\$11,986.00	19.51%
School Secretary Salaries	\$9,151.00	\$9,700.00	\$549.00	6.00%
Special Ed Prof Services & fees	\$93,984.00	\$94,528.00	\$544.00	0.58%
Special Ed Para Substitut Salaries	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Substitute Salaries	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Principal Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Postage	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Principal Office Printing & Copying	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Pupil Supplies	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Textbooks	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Special Education Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Nurse Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Technology Services	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Technology Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Technology Acquisition/Replacement	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Software	\$3,700.00	\$3,700.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Professional Development	\$6,270.00	\$6,270.00	\$0.00	0.00%

**FY26 HANCOCK EDUCATION BUDGET**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY25 to FY 26 Change</b>	
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Teacher Course Reimbursement	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Education Transportatin	\$100,161.00	\$103,166.00	\$3,005.00	3.00%
Special Arrangement Transportation	\$25,345.00	\$25,345.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Special Ed Transportation	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Field Trip Transportation	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	25.00%
Food Service	\$13,000.00	\$10,000.00	-\$3,000.00	-23.08%
<b>SCHOOL Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,064,161.00</b>	<b>\$1,108,813.00</b>	<b>\$44,652.00</b>	<b>4.20%</b>
<b>TUITION</b>				
Mt Greylock Tuition	\$482,521.00	\$391,952.00	-\$90,569.00	-18.77%
New Lebanon Tuition	\$24,000.00	\$33,776.00	\$9,776.00	40.73%
Monument Mt Tuition	\$48,410.00	\$48,410.00	\$0.00	0.00%
McCann Tuition	\$212,100.00	\$242,638.00	\$30,538.00	14.40%
Richmond Tuition	\$83,809.28	\$96,850.00	\$13,040.72	15.56%
Taconic Tuition	\$21,210.00	\$22,058.00	\$848.00	4.00%
New England Center For Children	\$457,649.00	\$0.00	-\$457,649.00	-100.00%
<b>TUITION Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,329,699.28</b>	<b>\$835,684.00</b>	<b>-\$494,015.28</b>	<b>-37.15%</b>
<b>CUSTODIAL, UTILITIES, MAINTENANCE</b>				
Custodial Salary	\$10,968.00	\$12,337.00	\$1,369.00	12.48%
Electricity	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Internet Service	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Heating	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Telephone	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Water	\$2,160.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,340.00	62.04%
Maintenance Of Grounds	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Maintenance of Building	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Custodial Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>CUSTODIAL/UTIL./MAINT. Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$45,328.00</b>	<b>\$48,037.00</b>	<b>\$2,709.00</b>	<b>5.98%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,517,298.54</b>	<b>\$2,072,804.92</b>	<b>-\$444,493.62</b>	<b>-17.66%</b>
	<b>-\$25,000.00</b>	<b>-\$25,000.00</b>	<b>Special Education Grants</b>	
	<b>-\$305,736.00</b>	<b>-\$144,000.00</b>	<b>Anticipated Circuit Breaker</b>	
	<b>-\$64,052.00</b>	<b>-\$45,000.00</b>	<b>PK Revolving Account</b>	
	<b>-\$20,000.00</b>	<b>-\$25,000.00</b>	<b>REAP</b>	
	<b>-\$75,851.00</b>	<b>-\$71,548.00</b>	<b>School Choice Funds</b>	
	<b>-\$490,639.00</b>	<b>-\$310,548.00</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	
	<b>\$2,026,659.54</b>	<b>\$1,762,256.92</b>	<b>-\$264,402.62</b>	<b>-13.05%</b>

## HANCOCK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

The Hancock Community Christmas Committee prepared one hundred three (103) gifts bags for the children of Hancock, filled with an age-appropriate gift, book, gift card, candy, and a variety of fresh fruit.

We sent postcards to all residents of Hancock and posted details, letting everyone know about the Community Christmas event. Our program depends on donations and even in tough economic times, the Hancock community came through for our children. We appreciate and thank everyone who donated.

This year the committee included Amanda Lahey, Katie Hyde, Ana Bradbury, Cahill Lebaron and Kayt Turner. We thank all those who donated time and/or money to make this year's event successful.

### Treasurer's Report Hancock Community Christmas

2024	
Balance Forward	\$16,786.43
Donation Received	\$ 5,200.00
Money Expended	\$3,436.26
Current Bankbook Balance	\$18,550.17
Bags and Supplies	\$106.19
Books	\$395.66
Fruit, Candy, Food	\$617.37
Postage	\$14.60
Postcards	\$128.84
Toys	\$2173.60

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Lahey, Chair 2024  
Community Christmas Committee

## TREASURERS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASS

Chapter 90	39,180.00
Chapter 70	361,224.01
Charter School	18,249.00
Council On Aging Grant	7,000.00
Department of Public Utilities	2.90
Extra Polling Hours	244.44
Elderly Abatements	1,845.00
ESSRR	16,433.00
Library State Aid	1,895.49
Library Comm.	1,900.82
MA Cultural – School	5,650.00
Emergency Management	2,498.28
Presidential Primary	144.35
RDP – Dump Recycling	3,500.00
Registry of Motor Vehicles	1,810.63
Room Tax	356,689.73
Rural Aid	33,696.82
School Choice	128,559.00
SPED	186,783.00
SPED Idea	8,159.00
State Owned Land	66,392.00
Teacher Quality	829.00
Unrestricted Govt. Aid	61,871.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,304,557.47</b>

### DEPARTMENTS

Board of Health	3,641.75
Building	13,861.04
Cemetery	835.00
Conservation Comm	1,224.67
Council on Aging	1,346.25
Electric	10,950.00
Fire	2,430.00
Hancock School	33,649.93
Memorial Gift – Veterans	5,000.00
Opioid Settlement	4,008.15
Planning Board Fees	75.00
Plumbing	2,525.00
Police	3,465.00
Town Clerk	1,490.00
Town Licenses	11,600.00
Refunds	380.58
Town of Richmond Teacher Pay	4,820.00
Taylor Library Gift	7,500.00
Taylor Library Grant	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123,802.37</b>

### TAX COLLECTOR

Charges & Fees	1,990.00
Interest	5,021.87
Motor Vehicle	126,845.02
Personal Property	38,695.13
Real Estate	1,149,052.17
Wind Turbine	211,140.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,532,744.19</b>

### TREASURER

Berkshire County Retirement	10,556.79
Federal Withholding	81,639.83
Group Insurance	17,648.70
Mass Teachers Retirement	58,483.53
Medicare	14,187.34
OBRA	13,223.91
State Withholding	46,370.38
Interest	9,252.23

**TOTAL** **251,362.71**

**GRAND TOTAL** **3,212,466.74**

**Town of Hancock  
All Department Revenue Report  
And Stabilization Balance  
07-01-2023 - 06-30-2024**

<b>General Property Taxes</b>	
Personal Property Tax	\$ 38,509.22
Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,008,975.27
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 104,481.64
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 124,662.21
Interest on Taxes & Excise	\$ 2,689.21
<b>Sub-Total General Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 1,279,317.55</b>
<b>Permits for Services</b>	
Highway Permits	\$ -
Board of Health Permits/Fees	\$ 3,456.75
<b>Sub-Total Permits for Services</b>	<b>\$ 3,456.75</b>
<b>Other Charges &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$ 14,166.09
Town Clerk	\$ 921.25
Zoning Board	\$ 25.00
Planning Board	\$ 50.00
Fire Dept	\$ 630.00
Conservation	\$ 1,224.67
Miscellaneous Rev	\$ 5,160.56
Other Dept Rev	\$ 383.29
Liquor License	\$ 10,410.00
<b>Sub-Total Other Charges &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$ 32,970.86</b>
<b>Revenue From State (Cherry Sheet)</b>	
Chapter 70	\$ 441,429.01
General Govt. State Aid	\$ 61,871.00
Charter School Reimbursement	\$ 18,236.00
Abate Elderly State Aid	\$ 5,629.00
<b>Sub-Total State Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 527,165.01</b>
<b>Revenue from other Governments</b>	
Fines-RMV	\$ 2,058.13
State Aid – Pilot	\$ 143,850.00
Local Room Tax	\$ 392,906.69
Fines – District Court	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total other Governments</b>	<b>\$ 538,814.82</b>
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,381,724.99</b>
<b>Stabilization Fund Balance As of 6/30/24</b>	
Stabilization	\$ 10,728.08
Land Purchase	\$ 42,334.73
Book Reprinting	\$ 103.84
Rescue Truck/Fire Dept	\$ 41,316.81
<b>Stabilization Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 94,483.46</b>



**TOWN OF HANCOCK  
ALL DEPARTMENTS EXPENDITURE REPORT  
FROM 07/01/2023-06/30/2024**

<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Moderator Salary	\$0.00	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00	\$0.00
Selectmen Salaries	\$0.00	\$5,676.00	\$0.00	\$5,676.00	\$0.00
Town Secretary	\$0.00	\$14,991.00	\$0.00	\$13,595.40	\$1,395.60
Community Christmas	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Street Lights	\$0.00	\$3,900.00	\$0.00	\$1,310.86	\$2,589.14
Computer Backup	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Public Nuisance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Finance Committee	\$0.00	\$164.00	\$0.00	\$123.00	\$41.00
Finance Committee Exp	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140.00
Reserve Fund	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	(\$13,009.05)	\$0.00	\$10,990.95
Accountant Salary	\$0.00	\$16,796.00	\$0.00	\$16,796.00	\$0.00
Accountant Expense	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$300.53	\$2,800.53	\$0.00
Assessor's Salary	\$0.00	\$6,351.00	\$0.00	\$6,351.00	\$0.00
Assessor's Expense	\$0.00	\$30,550.00	\$0.00	\$26,486.36	\$4,063.64
Treasurer Salary	\$0.00	\$7,914.00	\$0.00	\$7,914.00	\$0.00
Treasurer Expense	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,970.82	\$1,529.18
Tax Collector Clerk	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Tax Collector Salary	\$0.00	\$7,196.00	\$0.00	\$7,196.00	\$0.00
Tax Collector Expense	\$0.00	\$9,084.00	\$0.00	\$6,188.76	\$2,895.24
Town Counsel	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,647.80	\$1,352.20
Town Clerk Salary	\$0.00	\$6,397.00	\$0.00	\$6,397.00	\$0.00
Town Clerk Expense	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$55.37	\$1,855.37	\$0.00
Election & Census	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,372.89	\$427.11
Town Clerk Assistant	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Voting Machine Maint	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Board of Registrars	\$0.00	\$164.00	\$0.00	\$109.34	\$54.66
Board of Registrars Exp	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Con Com Expenses	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$164.89	\$435.11
Planning Board	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Zoning Expense	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Town Hall Maint	\$134.64	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,015.88	\$2,118.76
Town Hall Paint & Repair	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$5,200.00	\$0.00
Town Hall Operating	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$206.69	\$8,206.69	\$0.00
Medicare - Town Share	\$0.00	\$14,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,187.33	(\$187.33)
Council on Aging	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,406.00	\$2,094.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$134.64</b>	<b>\$191,738.00</b>	<b>(\$5,246.46)</b>	<b>\$151,956.92</b>	<b>\$34,669.26</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Emergency Management	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
Emergency Management exp	\$0.00	\$860.00	\$0.00	\$799.01	\$60.99
Emergency Generator	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$962.56	\$437.44
911 Numbering Official	\$0.00	\$148.00	\$0.00	\$148.00	\$0.00
Police Chief Salary	\$0.00	\$1,447.00	\$0.00	\$1,447.00	\$0.00
Police Work & Supplies	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$35.08	\$664.92
Constable Salaries	\$0.00	\$282.00	\$0.00	\$282.00	\$0.00
Asst. Fire Chief	\$0.00	\$847.00	\$0.00	\$847.00	\$0.00
2nd Asst Fire Chief	\$0.00	\$847.00	\$0.00	\$847.00	\$0.00
Fire Chief Salary	\$0.00	\$1,413.00	\$0.00	\$1,413.00	\$0.00
Firefighters Salary	\$0.00	\$16,200.00	\$0.00	\$5,147.81	\$11,052.19

Fire Dept Maint & Exp	\$0.00	\$53,000.00	\$0.00	\$52,410.54	\$589.46
Fire Fighter Equip	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,239.00	\$261.00
Forest Fires & Equip	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Gas Pipe Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Richmond Fire Dept	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Building Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Wire Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Plumbing Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$321.28	\$378.72
Animal Control Officer Salary	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00
Animal Inspector	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Animal Control Exp	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Tree Warden	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$90,369.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$74,099.28</b>	<b>\$16,269.72</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
School Committee	\$0.00	\$1,541.00	\$0.00	\$1,541.00	\$0.00
School Department	\$95,158.69	\$2,024,165.45	\$11,224.88	\$2,018,653.28	\$111,895.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,158.69</b>	<b>\$2,025,706.45</b>	<b>\$11,224.88</b>	<b>\$2,020,194.28</b>	<b>\$111,895.74</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>					
Highway Maintenance	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,010.82	\$24,989.18
Winter Roads	\$0.00	\$73,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00	\$3,000.00
Cemetery Maint & Upkeep	\$0.00	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$3,129.77	\$2,570.23
Secondary Cemetery Maint	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$349.68	\$150.32
Burial Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$249.76	\$750.24
Transfer Station	\$654.02	\$85,000.00	\$0.00	\$77,073.51	\$8,580.51
Water Resource Expense	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$654.02</b>	<b>\$205,250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$165,813.54</b>	<b>\$40,090.48</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Board of Health Salaries	\$0.00	\$3,467.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,467.00
Board of Health Expenses	\$140.00	\$16,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,786.06	\$10,853.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>	<b>\$19,967.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,786.06</b>	<b>\$14,320.94</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Housing Authority Exp	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Veterans Agent Salary	\$0.00	\$321.00	\$0.00	\$321.00	\$0.00
Veterans Aid	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$155.11	\$3,844.89
Library	\$1,558.19	\$23,852.00	\$0.00	\$18,846.27	\$6,563.92
Historical Commission	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Interest on Loans	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Berkshire County Reg Planning	\$0.00	\$644.00	\$0.00	\$644.46	(\$0.46)
Berkshire County Retirement	\$0.00	\$17,709.00	\$0.00	\$10,030.00	\$7,679.00
Unemployment Reserve	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,422.63	(\$1,922.63)
Group Insurance	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,039.31	(\$3,039.31)
Berk Regional Purchasing Program	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Insurance & Bonding	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,246.00	\$20,246.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,558.19</b>	<b>\$81,526.00</b>	<b>\$5,246.00</b>	<b>\$68,704.78</b>	<b>\$19,625.41</b>
<b>SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Emergency Equip Grant	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,498.28	\$5,501.72
Fire Truck Tank Match	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,000.00
Ladder Truck	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
Library Bathroom	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Historical Books	\$0.00	\$15,127.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,127.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$95,127.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$52,498.28</b>	<b>\$27,501.72</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$97,645.54</b>	<b>\$2,709,683.45</b>	<b>\$11,224.42</b>	<b>\$2,539,053.14</b>	<b>\$264,373.27</b>