

# 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, 2025**

## DEDICATION

We dedicate this year's Annual Town Report to the Conservation Commission for their years of service, counsel, and guidance to our Town.

Eric Lillie, Chair



Frank Derby



Kristin Hickey



Paul Hyde



Leo Laviolette



## INDEX

<b>Accountant's Report</b> .....	<b>38-40</b>
<b>Animal Control Officer's Report</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Appointed Officials</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Assessors Report</b> .....	<b>25-26</b>
<b>Board of Health Report</b> .....	<b>13-18</b>
<b>Board of Selectmen Report</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Cemetery Commission Report</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Community Christmas Committee Report</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>Conservation Commission Report</b> .....	<b>20-21</b>
<b>Council on Aging Report</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Elected Officials</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Emergency Management Director's Report</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Fire Department Report</b> .....	<b>22-23</b>
<b>Hancock School &amp; all Educational Reports</b> .....	<b>29-36</b>
<b>Historical Commission Report</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Inspector Reports (Building, Gas Pipe, Plumbing, &amp; Wiring)</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Planning Board Report</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Taylor Memorial Library Trustee Report</b> .....	<b>26-27</b>
<b>Tax Collector's Report</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Town Clerk's Report</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Veterans Memorial Committee Report</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Warrant</b> .....	<b>6-11</b>

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **Board of Assessors**

Kristin Hickey, Chairman, 2028  
Therese Rodda, 2027  
Patty Bishop, 2027

### **Board of Health**

John Quimby, Chairman, 2027  
Melissa Leab, 2027  
Wendy Kipp, 2026  
Melanie Jackson, 2028  
Greg Canales, 2028

### **Board of Selectmen**

Sherman, L. Derby, Sr., Chairman, 2026  
Don Rancatti, 2027  
James Rodda, 2028

### **Cemetery Commission**

Donald Cassavaugh, Chairman, 2026  
Lydia Cassavaugh, 2028

### **Constable**

Mark Gaskill, 2028

### **Finance Committee**

Linda Burdick, Chairman, 2028  
Sharon Hyde, 2026  
Danielle Chretien, 2027

### **Library Trustees**

Connie Chase, 2027  
Lydia Cassavaugh, 2026  
Jane Roberts, 2028

### **Moderator**

Brian Fairbank, 2026

### **Planning Board**

Christie W. Derby, Chairman, 2027  
Sherman L. Derby, Sr., 2026  
Zach Hanson, 2028  
Leo Laviolette, 2028  
Barbara Markessenis, 2027

### **School Committee**

Kayt Turner, Chairman, 2027  
Ana Bradbury, 2028  
James Rodda, 2026  
Bruce Weiner, 2028  
Elizabeth Kryskow, 2027

### **Tax Collector**

Julie Williams, 2028

### **Town Clerk**

Linda Burdick, 2028

### **Treasurer**

Joan Burdick, 2028

## **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**Agricultural Commission:** Laurie Boyer 2027, Jan Lillie 2026, Carolyn Sebring 2026

**Animal Control Officer:** Donald Cassavaugh 2026

**Auxiliary Police:** Eric Lillie 2026

**Board of Registrars:** Lydia Cassavaugh 2026, Renee Hanson 2026, Vicki Fairbank 2026

**Board of Registrars Alternate:** Jan Lillie 2026

**Board of Selectmen Chair:** Sherman L. Derby Sr. 2026

**Building Inspector:** Rob Rosier 2026

**Community Christmas Committee:** Ana Bradbury 2026, Katie Wetherell 2026, Cahill LeBarron 2026, Amanda Lahey 2026, Kayt Turner 2026

**Conservation Commission:** Eric Lillie, Chairman 2026, Paul Hyde 2028, Kristin Hickey 2027, Leo Laviolette 2027, Francis Derby 2027

**Council on Aging:** Joan Burdick 2026, Kathleen Gideon 2026, Marjorie Feathers 2026, Lydia Cassavaugh 2026, Renee Wagar 2026

**District Commissioner to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste:** John Quimby 2026

**Elections Commissioner:** Linda Burdick 2027

**Emergency Management Director:** David Rash 2026

**Fire Chief:** Michael Williams 2026

**First Assistant Fire Chief:** Anthony Anderton 2026

**Second Assistant Fire Chief:** Ross Jackson 2026

**Fire Police:** David Rash 2026

**Forest Warden:** Michael Williams 2026

**Gas Pipe Inspector and Plumbing Inspector:** Thomas DiCicco 2026

**Assistant Plumbing Inspector:** Unfilled Appointment

**Hazard Mitigation and MVP Planning Committee:** David Rash 2026, Sherman L. Derby Sr. 2026, Michael Williams 2026, James Rodda 2026

**Health Inspector:** Scott Krzanik 2026

**Highway Supervisor:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2026

**Historical Commission:** Marjorie Feathers, Chairman 2028, Jan Lillie 2026, Kathleen Gideon 2026, Cynthia Grauman 2028, Nan Derby 2026, Donald Leab 2028

**Insurance Agent:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2026

**Local Inspector:** Ryan Contenta 2026

**911 Numbering Official:** James Rodda 2026

**Northern Berkshire Cultural Council:** Susan Feathers 2026

**Police Chief:** James Rodda 2026

**Procurement Officer:** Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2026

**Assistant Procurement Officer:** Rebecca Phillips 2026

**Records Access Officer:** Linda Burdick 2027

**Special Police:** Eric Lillie 2026

**Superintendent of Streets:** Don Rancatti 2026

**Town Hall Committee:** Brian Fairbank 2026, Don Leab 2026, Sherman L. Derby Sr. 2026, Jared DiNicola 2026, Aldo Ghirin 2026, Gregory King 2026, Peter Morin 2026, Donald Rancatti 2026, James Rodda 2026, Robert Smith 2026

**Tree Warden:** James Rodda 2026

**Trench Permitting Authority:** James Rodda 2026

**Veteran's Agent and Veteran's Burial Agent:** Valerie Tallet 2026

**Veteran's Memorial Committee:** Linda Burdick 2026, Valerie Tallet 2026, Sherman L. Derby, Sr. 2026

**Wiring Inspector:** Joseph Knysh 2026

**Assistant Wiring Inspector:** Unfilled Appointment

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Barbara Markessenis 2026, Robert A. Smith 2026, Scott Burdick 2028, Sherman Derby, Sr. 2028, Eric Lillie 2027

**Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate:** James Rodda 2028, Peter Morin 2028

## 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 the Town Office at 413-738-5225 X-1 to report any problems with road conditions – the Highway Supervisor will contact Darcy Construction directly.**

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 for the construction of a new culvert to replace the old boiler tube on Whitman Road. Work on this project is anticipated to start in the spring of 2026.

Paving on Brodie Mt. Road and Old Smith Road was done with Chapter 90 funding and at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Selectmen are actively researching grants to replace the School roof in the upcoming year.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Town Official Holiday Potluck were held at Town Hall – they were both well attended and we look forward to seeing everyone again this year!

The aggregate with Colonial Power has been a welcome savings on electric bills. If you would like to opt in or out of the aggregate – there is no cost to do so and the current rate is \$0.13146 per kWh for Eversource customers and \$0.13199 per kWh for National Grid customers – this rate is locked in until November 2028. If you have any questions, please contact Jan at the Town Hall.

The Town will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a gathering and festivities on Saturday, July 11, 2026. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning, please contact a member of the Historical Commission.

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.

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 James Rodda

**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 FOURTH DAY OF MAY, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.** to act on **Article 1** through **22** as applicable to Fiscal Year 2027 unless otherwise indicated.

And furthermore, to meet at the Hancock School, Route 43 in Hancock, on **MONDAY, THE ELEVENTH DAY OF MAY, 2026** 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 Board of Health members for three years (currently Wendy Kipp)
- One Board of Selectmen member for three years (currently Sherman L. Derby, Sr. and also running Katherine Turner)
- Two Cemetery Commission member for three years (currently Donald Cassavaugh and one spot currently vacant)
- One Finance Committee member for three years (currently Sharon Hyde)
- One Library Trustee for three years (currently Lydia Cassavaugh)
- One Moderator for one year (currently Brian Fairbank)
- One Planning Board members for three years (currently Sherman L. Derby, Sr.)
- One School Committee members for three years (currently James Rodda)

**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 **SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$71,768.00)** as listed or take any other action thereon. (Elected \*)

Accountant	\$19,043.00	* Finance Committee	190.00
Animal Control Officer	926.00	* Moderator	98.00
Animal Inspector	243.00	Plumbing Inspector ¾ fees collected	
* Assessors (3)	7,352.00	Police Chief	1,675.00
Board of Registrars	190.00	* School Committee (5)	1,784.00
* Board of Health (5)	4,013.00	* Tax Collector	8,331.00
* Board of Selectmen (3)	6,571.00	* Town Clerk	7,406.00
Building Inspector ¾ fees collected		*Treasurer	9,162.00
* Constable	327.00	Veteran's Agent	372.00
Fire chief salary	1,636.00	Wire inspector ¾ fee collected	
& keeps smoke detector insp. fees		911 Numbering Official	171.00
Assistant fire Chief salary	980.00	Emergency Manager	<u>318.00</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assis. Fire Chief salary	980.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,768.00</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	\$17.80	Police Work	17.80
Cemetery Burial	17.80	Road Superintendent	19.90
Equipment Operators	17.80	Road Supervisor	19.90
Laborers	17.80	Secretary	20.18
Fire Chief	19.90	Transfer Site Operator	18.05
Assistant Fire Chief	19.90	Veteran's Administrator	17.80
Fire Fighters	17.80		

**SIXTH –Budgets**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND, FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$329,015.00)** 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>\$24,715.00</u>
	<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,715.00</b>
Highway Maintenance		\$40,000.00

Street Lights	3,900.00
Winter Roads	<u>93,400.00</u>
<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,300.00</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>\$329,015.00</b>
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**SEVENTH – Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR (\$138,594.00) 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	15,740.00
Assessors Expenses	35,000.00	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	2,000.00	Town Hall Paint & Repair	2,500.00
Emergency Manager Exp.	900.00	Town Operating Expense	9,700.00
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.	1000.00
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	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$138,594.00</b>
Planning Board Expenses	700.00		
Plumbing Inspector Exp.	700.00		

**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 2027 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	\$ 3,200.00

**NINTH – Fire Alarm Account**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Fire Alarm Account the sum of **THREE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,200.00)**, which is the amount collected by that revolving fund during the 2024-2025 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-NINE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$149,360.00)**, or any other sum, to be expended as follows:

Attorneys' Fees	7,000.00
Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Assessment	694.00
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	18,500.00
Interest on Loans	5,000.00
Medicare Employee Tax	17,850.00
Reserve Fund	24,000.00
Unemployment Compensation	5,400.00
Veterans' Fund	<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$149,360.00</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 27 Hancock Educational expenses**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$1,800,217.00)**, or any other sum for school operating expenses or take any other action thereon. **NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

**SEVENTEENTH – Historical Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$5,350.00)**, or any other sum for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Town to be held on Town Hall property.

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

**EIGHTEENTH – Accounting Software**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **SIX THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$6138.00)**, or any other sum toward the purchase of a new accounting software “Vadar”, to be approved by the Selectmen prior to purchase.

**NINETEENTH – Tax Collector Fees**

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of **THREE HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS (\$330.00)** to pay a past due bill to the Tax Collector for charges and fees collected in FY2025.

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

**TWENTIETH – Town Audit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00)** or any other amount to complete a Town audit for FY2025.

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

**TWENTY – FIRST – Fire Fighter Equipment**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THIRTY THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$30,760.00)** for the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression System for the Fire Department.

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

**TWENTY – SECOND** - 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., Chairman  
Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Chairman  
Donald E. Rancatti  
Donald E. Rancatti  
James A. Rodda  
James A. Rodda

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

April 16, 2026  
Date

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

### RECORDED MARRIAGES (5)

	D.O.M.
NICHOLAS OTTERBECK & CAITLIN CIPPERLY	8/1/2025
AUTUM WHEELOCK & WILLIAM SAWMA	9/13/2025
MACKENZIE FLYNN & NICHOLAS SANDERS	10/4/2025
KEITH ROBERTS & KRISTEN MARFONGELLA	10/11/2025
MEGHAN OSTROBINSKI & ZACHARY LAMBERT	10/11/2025

### RECORDED BIRTHS (2)

### RECORDED DEATHS (15)

	D.O.D	DISPOSITION
RONALD SABIN	11/18/2024	CREMATION
MELVIN FEATHERS	02/01/2025	HANCOCK
CRAIG BRUEGGMAN	03/14/2025	CREMATION
JOHN WALL	03/25/2025	CREMSTION
DONALD WHITMAN	05/14/2025	HANCOCK
WILLIAM PALMER	05/16/2025	CEMETERY OF EVERGREENS
MARIA FERNANDEZ	05/26/2025	CREMATION
RICHARD YOUNG	09/02/2025	SOUTHLAWN CEMETERY
JOHN VELLELA	10/03/2025	CREMATION
GENE WETHERALL	10/15/2025	CREMATION
CHARLES MONGUE, JR.	11/14/2025	UNKNOWN
EUNICE LAPIER	12/25/2025	CREMATION (SPRING BURIAL)
BEVERLY HAMILTON	12/28/2025	CREMATION (SPRING BURIAL)
JANE HEIDCAMP	11/17/2025	HANCOCK
ARNOLD ALDERMAN	10/1/2024	HANCOCK

DOG LICENSE FEES		# DOGS	KENNELS	# KENNELS
Male	\$10.00	14	4 Dogs or less	\$20.00
Neutered	\$ 5.00	56	10 Dogs or less	\$40.00
Female	\$10.00	10	Over 10 Dogs	\$100.00
Spayed	\$ 5.00	67		0

### DOG LICENSES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1, 2026

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 DOLLARS (\$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. 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 Melanie Jackson and Greg Canales 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. Wendy Kipp is 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 third year in a row.

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

**Please help the Transfer Station! Please flatten all cardboard boxes, we have so much wasted space. This way, we pay by the haul, so less hauls we save money. Also, remove all plastic bags and Styrofoam. "Flatten flatten".**

**We need to get all recyclables out of the trash, we are going to get fines with them in there.**

**Please save \$.05 soda and beer cans, bottles and glass bottles (no water bottles) for the kids at the School put in trash cans in front of the glass/can box.**

### **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	5
Complaint Investigation	As necessary	2
Pools	Twice/year	10
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: 12:00p.m -2:00 p.m.**  
**Closed Sunday and Holidays**  
**Certified Trash Haulers: Casella Waste Systems (trash/wood), Casella Waste Systems(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 (Please pay Mr. Quimby at drop-off)</u>
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, 2026 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 (with numbers 1-7)  
 Aluminum Cans  
 Glass Bottles (green, clear, brown)  
 Tin and Bi-Metallic Containers  
 Aseptic Milk/Juice Cartons  
 Aluminum Foil (pie plates, e.g.)  
 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>	
'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	
'25	Trash (20 hauls) \$130.00/ton-327.00/haul	206.00	\$33,320.00	
	<u>Recyclables</u>	<u>Cost per ton/haul</u>	<u>Tons Collected</u>	<u>Total Cost to Town</u>
'23	Wood (7 hauls)	\$110.32/ton-397.07/haul	41.00	\$7,302.61
'24	Wood (10 hauls)	\$120.32/ ton-397.07/haul	47.24	\$9,610.00
'25	Wood (10 hauls)	\$140.00/ ton-361.00/haul	25.00	\$7,110.00
'23	Metal (5 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	26.80	\$ 1,474.05 received
'24	Metal (5 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	30.82	\$ 1,695.10 received
'25	Metal (5 hauls)	Receive \$55.00	26.00	\$ 1,430.00 received
'23	Paper (20 hauls)	\$-10/ton – 397.07 haul	24.79	\$7,941.40
'24	Paper (21 hauls)	\$-10/ton – 397.07 haul	33.00	\$8,537.00
'25	Paper (23 hauls)	\$-10/ton – 325.00 haul	39.00	\$7,075.00

	<u>Plastic, glass, cans</u>			
'23	8 hauls	\$176.00/ton-\$397.07 haul	15.51	\$5,906.32
'24	10 hauls	\$125.00/ton-397.07/haul	19.00	\$6,345.00
'25	11 hauls	\$145.00/ton-249.00/haul	16.00	\$5,059.00
'23	Electronics (3 hauls)	\$1375.00	8.00	\$4,125.00
'24	Electronics (2 hauls)	\$1375.00	6.80	\$2,504.00
'25	Electronics (1 hauls)	\$1375.00	3.40	\$1,375.00

### Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District – CY2025

#### What is the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District?

The 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. The 14 member towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown.

Linda Cernik is the Program Director, and each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board. Board Officers for 2025 were: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough); Doug McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle (Savoy), Treasurer.

**Services.** In 2025, NBSWMD towns benefitted from the following services:

- Annual transfer station compliance inspections by a third-party Inspector from MassDEP pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018.
- Bid administration for the hauling and processing of waste and recyclables resulting in awarding of a three-year contract with Casella Waste Systems Inc.
- Coordination of special collections that are open to all 14 member towns.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, and swap shops.
- Outreach to local schools promoting the MassDEP “Green Team” educational program.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grant applications to the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) and all reporting.
- Facilitating waste reduction and reuse via textile collection.

#### Special Collections and Reuse Opportunities

- Hazardous Waste: Over 150 Residential households had the opportunity to attend A comprehensive household hazardous waste collection in April 2025 enabled residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products.
- Bulky Waste and Electronics: Collections were held in four communities to collect and recycle electronics, scrap metal, carpets, furniture and other miscellaneous materials.
- Shredding: Confidential paper shredding days were held in Cheshire, Williamstown and Dalton to offer residents a safe way to recycle secure documents. Donations that were collected from these events benefited the Town of Cheshire Food Pantry and Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown, Council on Aging, and Town of Dalton, Council on Aging.
- Compost bins: The district also offered member towns’ residents subsidized home composting bins, allowing food waste, leaves, and brush to be composted at home.

- Northern Berkshire Solid Waste “year of giving donated to the following organizations through our 2025 events. Town of Adams Scholarship fund, Town of Cheshire Food Pantry, Town of Cheshire Council on Aging, Town of Dalton Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown Council on Aging, Town of Lanesboro Council on Aging and Town of Clarksburg Volunteer fire department. Total Donations \$4355.00
- Our Special collections can be located on our website [www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com) view our 2026 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Calendar of events.

### **Management, Administration and Community Assessments**

Day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Program Director, Linda Cernik. Monthly Board meetings are a combination of in person, hybrid and remote. The NBSWMD has an annual operations budget that is approved by the district’s Board of Commissioners, and town assessments based on the current census 2020. The combined assessments for all fourteen towns were \$135,630. The Assessments are for operating costs, special collections, subsidized home composting units, and six universal waste collections sites, All outreach and educational services, Inspectional services under 310.CMR.19.018, professional Waste management Services.

### **Grant Funding Awarded to Towns**

In 2026, NBSWMD member-towns received grants from the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) totaling \$64,826 to further enhance recycling programming.

### **Waste Diversion through Recycling**

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively diverted 880 tons of Dual Stream recyclable materials to the Casella Waste Systems INC, Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Auburn MA, MRF.

### **NEW CY2025**

Town of Dalton started food waste diversion program at their towns transfer station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, under Equipment drop off the town was awarded \$6,000 grant. They have contracted with Tommy’s Compost for the food pick up and composted at a local farm.

Town of Cheshire installed a paper compactor using some Grant funds Sustainable materials Recovery Program, under Recycling Dividends Grants funds. This will allow the town to reduce the number of hauls per year to our recycling facility. Paper/cardboard is sorted and bailed at the Cheshire Casella Waste Facility and then sent out to buyer. Prior to the compactor, the Transfer station attendants had to hand pack the container appx 2 tons before a swap out, now with the compactor the average 5 to 6 tons before swapping out. This helps reduce the number of hauls monthly, down to one per month.

Town of Peru obtained a grant through Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment drop off for a Swap Shop. The value of the grant was \$6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle of materials. Residents can donate, shop at No cost and enjoy Reuse.

Town of Savoy obtained a grant through Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment drop off for a new Swap shop. The value of the grant was \$6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle materials. Residents can donate, shop at No cost and enjoy Reuse.

Town of Windsor started food waste diversion program at their towns transfer station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, Recycling Dividends grant program the town purchased a Bear proof cage area for the storage of the Totes for the Food Collection. They have contracted Second Chance Composting Services.

**Shared Services**

Shared services are CHARM recycling materials that are prohibited from being disposed of in Household Trash. Waste ban regulations 310.CMR.19.017. These services can be located under recycling resources [www.nbsmwd.com](http://www.nbsmwd.com), for residential use only. YOU don't need a transfer station permit to access shared services, such as Universal Waste, Tire, Mattress and Box Spring hub, also to utilize our special events 2026, NO permit required. See All details on our website.

Thank you to the Town's Transfer Station Attendants, the heart of the Facility. For maintaining compliance, excellent customer service, and understanding the importance of the Board of Health, DPW, all the district's contracted haulers and processors, and all the district volunteers and the residents of all the member towns for your continued support of waste reduction, composting and recycling.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Linda Cernik, NBSWMD Director of Programs  
March 23, 2026

**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**

This past year we had more than a dozen calls on loose dogs. Remember to tie or leash your dog's when they are outside if they tend to wander from your property. Also, you need to have tags on your dogs. We have had people pick up dogs that are running loose and take them home, call the State Police or Animal Control to tell them that they found a dog. If there is no tag on the dog it makes it very hard to find the owner.

Make sure that your dog is up-to-date with all of their shots before you go to the Town Clerk's office to get them licensed.

There are a total of 14 farms this year in Hancock. They include the following:

2	Alpacas	300	Poultry
93	Equine	93	Cattle
		2	Goats

**Respectfully submitted:** Animal Control Officer/Inspector, Donald L. Cassavaugh

## CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The mowing, trimming and clean-up were done as needed in the main cemetery.

Please remember to contact the Cemetery Commission before you schedule to have cornerstones, foundations or monuments installed due to State and Town bylaws.

Please do not throw your discarded plants and monument decorations over the side bank. Put them in the trash barrels that are next to the shed.

The cemetery is closed November 15<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> – depending on the weather. If the chains are up, park on the side of the road or at the Town Hall and walk 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

## 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 was (1) one Form A Application submitted in 2025 that was approved. The Board reviewed several neighboring towns Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning bylaws. The Board voted to retain Hancock's Zoning Bylaws as they are sufficient.

Excerpt from the Town of Hancock Zoning Bylaw, 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.

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

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Conservation Commission is responsible for reviewing projects that may impact wetland resource areas, as mandated by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. This law prohibits 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 review and approval.

The Commission is also tasked with protecting these natural resources to prevent pollution, safeguard drinking water supplies, improve flood control, and protect wildlife habitat and fisheries. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Commission works to apply the standards established by state law in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner for all applicants. The Commission is composed of volunteer members who dedicate their time to reviewing applications, conducting site visits, and administering the Wetlands Protection Act on behalf of the Town.

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 past calendar year, the Commission reviewed several applications and held hearings for projects within its jurisdiction. Notable filings included:

- **Notice of Intent** issued for the Baumann Bridge project (ongoing)
- **Ecological restoration project** for the Whitman Road culvert replacement, made possible through grant funding obtained by the Selectboard. This project represents an important step toward improving stream connectivity, aquatic habitat, and overall watershed health
- **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** for the installation of a stream gage on the Kinderhook Creek
- **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by Roger Johnson for well drilling
- **Request for Determination of Applicability** for ADA ramp improvements at bridges along Route 43 by Mass DOT

Projects such as the Whitman Road culvert replacement demonstrate how collaboration between town boards and the use of outside funding opportunities can support both infrastructure improvements and long-term environmental stewardship within the community.

The Commission remains committed to ensuring compliance with environmental regulations while facilitating responsible land use and protecting the natural resources that define the Town of Hancock. Commission decisions are based on the standards and performance criteria established in state regulations and the information presented during the public review process.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 PM and are open to the public. Public hearings are scheduled as needed to review filed projects. All hearings are posted in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Town of Hancock bylaws.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to work with residents, town boards, and state agencies to responsibly manage and protect Hancock's natural resources.

**Respectively Submitted:**

Hancock Conservation Commission

Eric Lillie, Chair, Kristin Hickey, Paul Hyde, Frank Derby, & Leo Laviolette

## **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 snowy and frigid winter, we await the blooming of the Poppies in all their splendor for the Memorial Day Weekend, where friends and families can come to see the monument, cannon, and walkway with names. Visitor continue to give us complements for the beautiful Memorial and the Cannon named SPIRIT. 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 bases 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. As the poppies bloomed so tall last Spring, it was decided to only place a few flags around the monument in veteran stands so as not to take away from the beauty of the poppies or the overshadowing of the flags. Discussion was conducted at a recent meeting on the purchasing of flags with service members pictures to be placed on telephone poles for viewing. Questions of how to obtain, who could put them up and take down, what the cost would be, and other particulars are still in process at this time. It was also discussed and approved for a covering to be built to protect the cannon from snow and rain to preserve the metal and wood pieces. Sherman Derby is looking into that and will build it once the material is purchased.

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

## HANCOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
111 - Building fire	1
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	83
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	11
340 - Search for lost person, other	1
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	2
422 - Chemical spill or leak	1
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
444 - Power line down	3
500 - Service Call, other	3
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1
561 - Unauthorized burning	1
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	7
600 - Good intent call, other	3
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	2
730 - System malfunction, other	1
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	2
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	8
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	3
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	32
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	10
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>183</b>

The following permits were issued:

Fire Works	1
Oil Burner Installation	1
Propane Tank Installation	12

We took delivery of our new Tanker in May and placed it into service in June. The new truck was awarded through the highly competitive Assistance to Firefighters Grant at a cost of less than \$25000 to the Town, thank you to the Department members that assisted in the grant writing process.

The Fire Department responded to a record number of incidents again this year. We were unable to host either of our annual car shows this year due to weather but hope to host one this year. The dedication and support of the Department Members and their families cannot be overstated, and we are always looking for more people to sign up and give back to their community. We are at the RT 43 Station every Thursday evening at 7PM. Please stop by and check things out to see if you may be interested in joining.

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. Paper permits can also be obtained from Bob's Camper and RV's from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Monday thru Saturday or by contacting the Chief.

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, 2024, until June 30, 2025, the Building Commissioner issued 54 permits. These consisted of 4 accessory structures, 6 renewable energies, 8 roof replacements, 2 wood/pellet stoves, 3 new homes, and 31 renovations. 14 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 413-281-9376. 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 **20** permits consisting of **14** gas permits and **6** 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 **(41)** electrical permits in 2025: **(2)** Generators, **(12)** Commercial, **(1)** HVAC / Mini Splits, **(3)** New Houses, **(5)** Solar Residential, **(1)** Additions, **(4)** Remodel Jobs, **(1)** Geo Thermal, **(7)** Services, **(1)** Alarm System, **(1)** Chapel, **(1)** Grounding for House Foundation & **(2)** Misc. Electrical Jobs.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Wiring Inspector  
Joe Knysh

## COUNCIL ON AGING

Finally, after several years of gradually working our group back from the COVID pandemic, Council of Aging became an active senior organization again, meeting all months except January and February and scheduling activities. Two highlights of 2025 were a short cruise and a train ride. In August, several of our group experienced a three-hour Elvis Presley tribute brunch cruise on the Hudson River. We were entertained by an Elvis impersonator and fed a delicious brunch. In December, we rode on the special Berkshire Scenic Rail Christmas Train that traveled from Adams to North Adams and back. At our April meeting, we showed the award-winning movie, *The Green Book*. We continued having meals at most regular monthly meetings, and in May sent a special birthday party invitation to all townspeople age 85 years and older.

Our popular \$3 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 for socializing.

Besides announcing Council on Aging meetings and activities, the monthly newsletter, *The Silver Source*, has included Stephentown Seniors Club trips, a Cheshire trip we were invited to join, lists of free events in nearby towns, short pieces of current health information from *Harvard Health Letter* and *Harvard Heart Letter*, local scams, and other bits of interest.

### **Respectfully submitted: Council on Aging**

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

## ASSESSORS REPORT

The interim adjustments for tax year 2026 were completed with the first half tax bills going out in January with a tax rate of \$2.18 down from \$2.68 in FY 2025. The second half semi-annual billing will be mailed at the end of March 2026 with a May 1, 2026 due date.

The current contract with Catalis, Inc. was renewed through 2030. The Assessors will continue to work on updating and maintaining the data base with upgraded software to ensure that all residents are assessed at fair market value. The Assessors may be taking photographs of residential properties to update Property Record Cards during 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 now Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 primary focus of Historical Commission this year has been making plans for celebrating the town's 250<sup>th</sup> year since its July 2, 1776 incorporation. The Commission is planning a Homecoming Day to be held on Town Hall grounds on July 11, 2026. In November, we held our first town-wide planning meeting at Hancock School to let townspeople know what had been planned so far, to ask for other ideas not only for Homecoming Day but maybe for other events throughout the year, and to seek volunteers for various projects. Several ideas emerged, including publishing a cookbook of townspeople's recipes. Danielle Chretien has taken charge of that project, and is seeking recipes. Send them to her at [hancockcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:hancockcookbook@gmail.com). Town-wide meetings will be held through the early months of 2026 to continue adding and fine-tuning plans and getting more townspeople involved.

With the reprinting of *Hancock Through the Years* coming up soon, the Commission is seeking pictures to be added to the book. Please submit your photos to any of the Commission members listed below.

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

## TAYLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Our library collection has over 5,412 items to offer the community as well as computers to use, copier/scanner available to the public, and can print items for patrons. We were open 652 hours. The library had a total of 577 in attendance, with 69 on Halloween. For circulation, we received 164 items from other libraries for our patrons, we provided 793 items to other libraries through Interlibrary Loan. There were 688 items taken out directly for a total of 1,705 items circulated this year and an additional 790 electronic materials used.

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

The Libby App offers millions of eBooks and audio books from local libraries using your library card, available in the Apple App Store and Android Google Play store.

Magazines available: Consumer Reports, National Geographic, Handyman, Family Tree, and National Geographic Kids.

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 are very appreciative to have a completed handicap accessible bathroom and continue to pursue a handicap ramp for the new entrance in the addition.

We thank the town and community for their continuing support.

Respectfully,  
Lydia Cassavaugh  
Connie Chase (Director)  
Jane Roberts

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FISCAL 2025**

	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle</u>
Committed	\$1,124,654.13	\$46,150.79	\$152,727.70
Collected	\$1,100,149.98	\$44,526.40	\$123,717.18
Abated	\$2,614.82	\$124.04	\$787.28
Refunded	\$6483.60	\$-	\$9.00
Outstanding	\$28,372.93	\$1,500.35	\$28,232.24

**Pilot Payments:**

\$172,050.00 Wind Turbines First Phase  
\$ 57,720.00 Wind Turbines Second Phase

**Report Submitted** by Julie Williams, Tax Collector  
Telephone 413-738-5129 X3      Fax 413-738-5310  
Email: TaxCollectorHancockMA@gmail.com

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.

#### **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.

## 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 MEMA grant update.

At the date of writing this report FEMA or MEMA have not given the Town a Notice of Funding for an EMPG grant. If funding becomes available at a later date we will apply for the grant.

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 was 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 committee and awarded a contract to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to guide us through the process. Through many monthly meetings and several public input meetings the Town has successfully completed the process and has been notified by FEMA and MEMA that they have approved our submitted plan. By having this plan in place, the Town will be qualified to submit projects to FEMA and MEMA for grant funding. This does not guarantee funding but enables the Town to apply for grants for qualified projects.

I wish to thank all the members on the committee for their time and work and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a successful completion of this project.

I would also like to thank all the Town citizens who participated in the planning process. There is a copy of the plan at the Town Hall for public viewing.

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

Working to update the Town CEMP (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan).

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

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The 2024–2025 school year began on August 26 with an enrollment of 46 students attending Hancock Central School. In addition, Hancock supported students through tuition agreements, with 23 students attending Mt. Greylock Regional School District, 9 attending Richmond Consolidated School, 2 attending New Lebanon School District, and 11 enrolled at McCann Technical School. These partnerships continue to provide our students with expanded academic and technical opportunities while maintaining strong ties to our local school community.

### Early Childhood Expansion

This year marked the implementation of a combined Early Childhood Education classroom serving both preschool and Kindergarten students. This decision was made in response to enrollment patterns and with the goal of providing a robust, developmentally appropriate educational experience for our youngest learners. The blended classroom structure allowed for flexible grouping, increased socialization opportunities, and intentional instructional planning that supports both readiness skills and early academic foundations.

### Staffing and Instructional Support

The district welcomed several new staff members this year:

- Hilary Bashara, School Nurse
- Diane Arduini, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Amy Anderton, Paraprofessional
- Cornelia Alden, Special Education Teacher
- Amanda Lahey, Part-Time MTSS Specialist and Art Teacher

We are deeply grateful to Donna Beguin, who came out of retirement to support the district during the first month of school while we secured a special education teacher. Ms. Beguin later returned to complete the second half of the school year as our Grade 3/4 classroom teacher, providing continuity and stability for students. Cornelia Alden joined the district in October as our Special Education Teacher. In addition to staffing adjustments, the district strengthened collaboration by implementing weekly consultation meetings between general education and special education teachers. Monthly attendance reviews were also conducted in partnership with the Special Education Director to ensure proactive monitoring and student support. The district also hosted a student teacher from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts during the first half of the school year in the Grade 1/2 classroom, contributing to a strong partnership with local higher education institutions.

### Professional Development and Academic Initiatives

The 2024–2025 school year reflected a continued focus on strengthening instruction. Opening day professional development included a full-day training on the implementation of Eureka Math<sup>2</sup>, facilitated by a consultant from the publisher. Staff also reviewed the new Individualized Education Program (IEP) form and process, with particular attention to updated eligibility requirements and documentation practices.

A follow-up half-day professional development session in October provided additional coaching and classroom-based support for the math program. Teachers who attended summer professional

development also facilitated an in-house workshop focused on Math Talks, further deepening instructional practice.

This year represented the first full implementation of Eureka Math<sup>2</sup> following a pilot year. The shift to this program reflects a deeper emphasis on conceptual understanding, mathematical discourse, problem solving, and analytical reasoning. Classrooms have increasingly engaged students in productive struggle, multiple solution strategies, and justification of thinking. Early results indicate growth in students' mathematical confidence, fluency with number sense, and ability to explain and defend their reasoning.

#### Enrichment, Field Experiences, and Community Partnerships

Hancock School continues to leverage its strong community connections to provide rich academic and social-emotional learning experiences. Students participated in numerous field trips and programs, including:

- Apple picking at Hilltop Orchards
- Ioka Farm field trip
- Hopkinton Forest exploration
- Ramblewild outdoor adventure
- Shaker Village field trip
- Clark Art Museum visit
- MASS MoCA field trip
- Attendance at Mt. Greylock Regional School District theater performance
- Reptile education program
- National Grid educational program
- BIO program in collaboration with Lanesborough Elementary School
- Trick-or-treating at Sweetwood
- Blue Moon Readers

These experiences reflect the district's commitment to experiential learning. Accessing community resources enhances academic content, fosters civic awareness, and supports students' social-emotional growth. Through collaboration with local organizations, colleges, businesses, and neighboring schools, Hancock students benefit from learning opportunities that extend well beyond the classroom walls. Drumming instruction continued to be a valued component of the Grade 5/6 classroom, strengthening rhythm, collaboration, and cultural appreciation. This tradition could not have been possible without our committed community volunteer. The year concluded with a Jiminy Peak pool celebration. Continuing what has now become a cherished tradition, students also participated in an end-of-year school sleepover followed by a pancake breakfast, reinforcing community bonds and creating lasting memories.

#### Performing Arts and Community Events

Community traditions remain central to the life of Hancock School. The Community Thanksgiving celebration was once again well attended, with senior citizens enjoying songs, skits, and musical performances presented by students.

The school production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a spectacular highlight of the year. With record attendance across all three performances, the production showcased the extraordinary effort of students, staff, parents, and volunteers. The performance would not have been possible without the significant volunteerism and unwavering support of our community. In addition,

students demonstrated remarkable growth and confidence through their Holiday and Spring Concert performances, showcasing musical skill development, stage presence, and a strong sense of pride in sharing their talents with families and community members.

#### Facilities Improvements

During the summer, both existing storage units were removed and replaced with a new storage shed. This project was accomplished through the combined efforts of the Town, the School Committee, and dedicated volunteers. The collaboration demonstrated the strong partnership that exists in support of the school's operational needs.

#### Legislative Advocacy

Legislative advocacy remained an important priority this year. Hancock refiled its home rule bill addressing the school choice and tuition statute. Oral testimony was heard before the Joint Committee on Education, and written testimony was submitted and accepted for consideration. The district continues to work closely with legislators to seek solutions that address the financial and structural challenges faced by small rural districts. As of June 2025, the bill remains under consideration, and the district remains committed to thoughtful and persistent advocacy on behalf of our students and community.

#### Closing Reflections

Hancock School remains a strong and vital part of the community. Students' daily experiences are grounded in a culture of support, high expectations, and meaningful relationships. Small class sizes allow for individualized attention while our extensive community partnerships broaden horizons and deepen learning. Academic rigor, creative expression, outdoor exploration, and social-emotional development are woven together to create a comprehensive educational experience. The school continues to serve not only as a place of learning, but as a gathering place and a source of pride for the entire community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Rebecca Phillips  
Superintendent of Schools

### **HANCOCK SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

As part of School Union #70, Shaker Mountain School District, we continue to collaborate with the New Ashford School Committee and Lanesborough Elementary on curriculum coordination and shared activities. We strengthen connections with Mount Greylock and New Lebanon by offering sixth-grade visits and inviting representatives to meet with families to discuss academics, athletics, and arts programs.

During the 2024–2025 school year, we welcomed Hilary Bashara as our School Nurse, Diane Arduini as Speech and Language Pathologist, Amy Anderton as a paraprofessional, Cornelia Alden as our Special Education Teacher and moved Amanda Lahey to Part-time MTSS Specialist and Art Teacher. Their expertise enhances Hancock's safe, supportive, and rigorous learning environment. Professional Development in the school focused on reading instruction improvements. Several staff completed Wilson Reading Training with one teacher beginning a yearlong Wilson certification program! These initiatives reflect the district's

commitment to supporting high-quality teaching across all classrooms. Hancock School continues to demonstrate strong academic performance. In 2025, Math MCAS scores reached or exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Students actively participated in performing arts and community events, fostering

creativity and strong community connections. Last year, the town elected Ana Bradbury to the Hancock School Committee and re-elected Bruce Weiner, both to three-year terms. The committee reviewed and approved:

- Employee Handbook
- Student Handbook
- Cellphone Policy
- Preschool Out-of-District Policy
- Out-of-State Tuition Policy

We supported the home rule bill through testimony and collaboration with neighboring districts at the state level!

We supported the FY26 budget, which decreases slightly from last year while maintaining high-quality academic programs and support services.

Our mission remains: To create a positive, safe, and rigorous educational setting that fosters a student-centered learning environment based on mutual respect.

The public is invited to attend meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month (except July) at 6:00 p.m. at the school. More information is available at [www.hancockschool.org](http://www.hancockschool.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Kayt Turner, Chair

Ana Bradbury | Bruce Weiner | Elisabeth Kryskow | James Rodda

## **HANCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

I continue to be filled with pride and gratitude for our students, staff, families, and the broader community. Together, we uphold a tradition of strong academics that challenge our students to think critically, communicate clearly, and grow intellectually. Our classrooms are places of curiosity and rigor, where students are supported in reaching high standards and discovering their individual strengths. In 2025 our students were recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for our growth in math MCAS scores. We continue to use data and best practices to ensure growth for all. Equally important is our shared focus on character. Education extends beyond textbooks and assessments. It is also about developing integrity, resilience, empathy, and responsibility. This year, we have seen countless examples of students demonstrating kindness, perseverance, and leadership, qualities that define not only successful learners, but thoughtful citizens. Martin Luther King Jr. wisely observed, "Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." This sentiment continues to guide our work and reminds us that who our students become is just as important as what they achieve. Our school thrives because it is deeply connected to the community it serves. The partnership between families, educators, town leaders, and community members enriches every aspect of student life. Whether through volunteerism, collaboration, or simple acts of encouragement, your support strengthens our mission and reinforces the sense that we are all invested in the success of

the children in Hancock. In the words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continuous growth. We will build upon our academic strengths, expand opportunities for student engagement, and nurture an environment where every child feels valued and inspired. Thank you for your trust, your involvement, and your unwavering belief in the power of education. Together, we look forward to continued learning, growth, and community.

With gratitude,

John G. Merselis III (Jay), Principal

413-738-5676

[jmerselis@hancockschool.org](mailto:jmerselis@hancockschool.org)

### **School Committee**

Katherine Turner, Chair	413-329-4823
Elisa Kryskow	970-531-2499
Ana Bradbury	413-212-4632
Jim Rodda	301-801-3534
Bruce Weiner	413-738-5488

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips	413-738-5676
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### **Special Education Director**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips	413-738-5676
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### **Administrative Assistant to Superintendent and Special Education Director**

Amy Scott	413-698-4001
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### **Principal**

John G. Merselis III	413-738-5676 or 413-441-0081 (cell)
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### **Hancock Central School Staff and Specialists**

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
	Grace Lillie
	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, 44**

**Mrs. Williams, Ms. Lillie, Sapphire Room (Early Childhood)**

7 residents  
2 out of town (Cheshire, Dalton)

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

11 residents  
3 school choice (Williamstown, North Adams, Lanesborough)

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

8 residents  
1 school choice (North Adams)

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

10 residents  
2 school choice (Lanesborough, North Adams)

**HANCOCK TUITION/CHOICE STUDENTS**

2025-2026 as of 3/4/2026

**\*RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**

Grade 1: 3 (t)  
Grade 3: 1 (t)  
Grade 4: 1 (t)  
Grade 5: 1 (t)  
Grade 7: 1 (t)  
Grade 8: 1(t)

**\*MT GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade 7: 3 (t)  
Grade 8: 3 (t)  
Grade 10: 4 (t)  
Grade 11: 4 (t)

**\*C.H. McCANN TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Grade 9: 3 (t)  
Grade 10: 2 (t)  
Grade 11: 2 (t)  
Grade 12: 4 (t)

**\*TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade 11: 1 (t)

**\*NEW LEBANON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade K: 1(t)  
Grade 4: 1 (t)

<b>FY27 HANCOCK EDUCATION BUDGET</b>				
	<b><u>FY26</u></b>	<b><u>FY27</u></b>	<b><u>FY26 to FY 27 Change</u></b>	
<b><u>Account Name</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>\$ Change</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>
<b>UNION EXPENSES</b>				
Union Advertising	\$270.00	\$318.75	\$48.75	18.06%
MARS Dues	\$832.50	\$842.41	\$9.91	1.19%
MASS Membership	\$900.00	\$910.71	\$10.71	1.19%
Union Telephone	\$315.00	\$318.75	\$3.75	1.19%
Union Printing & Copying	\$585.00	\$591.96	\$6.96	1.19%
Union Postage	\$360.00	\$364.29	\$4.29	1.19%
Union Expenses	\$315.00	\$318.75	\$3.75	1.19%
Software Support	\$900.00	\$910.71	\$10.71	1.19%
Hardware Support	\$900.00	\$910.71	\$10.71	1.19%
Super. Admin. Assist. Salary	\$10,676.70	\$11,236.39	\$559.69	5.24%
Prof. Services & Fees - Shared Super.	\$30,197.70	\$31,554.43	\$1,356.73	4.49%
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	\$20,563.20	\$21,433.66	\$870.46	4.23%
SPED Dir Prof Dev	\$135.00	\$136.61	\$1.61	1.19%
Student Services Expenses	\$90.00	\$91.07	\$1.07	1.19%
Superintendent Expenses	\$1,080.00	\$1,366.07	\$286.07	26.49%
<b>UNION Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$69,270.92</b>	<b>\$72,456.11</b>	<b>\$3,185.19</b>	<b>4.60%</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%
Financial Audit	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	*
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>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>18.18%</b>
<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>				
Principal Salary	\$90,000.00	\$93,600.00	\$3,600.00	4.00%
Teacher Salary	\$371,270.00	\$292,541.00	-\$78,729.00	-21.21%
Special Ed. Teacher Salaries	\$75,505.00	\$78,525.00	\$3,020.00	4.00%
General Education Para Salaries	\$92,374.00	\$97,177.39	\$4,803.39	5.20%
Special Education Para Salaries	\$47,364.00	\$80,000.00	\$32,636.00	68.90%
Counselor Salaries	\$32,666.00	\$32,666.40	\$0.40	0.00%
Nursing Salaries	\$73,425.00	\$74,894.00	\$1,469.00	2.00%
School Secretary Salaries	\$9,700.00	\$10,185.00	\$485.00	5.00%
Special Ed Prof Services & fees	\$94,528.00	\$84,954.00	-\$9,574.00	-10.13%
Special Ed Para Substitute Salaries	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Substitute Salaries	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	42.86%
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	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	25.00%
Software	\$3,700.00	\$4,000.00	\$300.00	8.11%
Professional Development	\$6,270.00	\$6,270.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Teacher Course Reimbursement	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Education Transportation	\$103,166.00	\$108,324.30	\$5,158.30	5.00%
Special Arrangement Transportation	\$25,345.00	\$25,345.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Special Ed Transportation	\$25,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$55,000.00	220.00%
Field Trip Transportation	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$500.00	10.00%
Food Service	\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00	-\$3,000.00	-30.00%
<b>SCHOOL Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,108,813.00</b>	<b>\$1,126,482.09</b>	<b>\$17,669.09</b>	<b>1.59%</b>
<b>TUITION</b>				

## HANCOCK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

The Hancock Community Christmas Committee proudly prepared ninety – four (94) gift bags for the children of Hancock. Each bag included an age-appropriate gift, a book, a stuffed animal, a popcorn ball, candy, and a selection of fresh fruit.

Postcards were mailed to all Hancock residents, and event details were shared to ensure everyone knew about the Community Christmas celebration. This program relies on donations, and even during challenging economic times, the Hancock community once again showed incredible generosity in supporting our children. We are truly grateful to everyone who contributed. This year’s committee members were Amanda Lahey, Katie Wetherell, Ana Bradbury, Cahill LeBarron, and Kayt Turner with Katie being voted into chair. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated their time and/or financial support to make this year’s event such a success.

### Treasurer’s Report Hancock Community Christmas

Balance Forward	\$18,535.57
Donation Received	\$ 9,990.00
Money Expended	\$ 3,607.38
Current Bankbook Balance	\$24,918.19
Bags & Supplies	\$ 67.97
Books	\$ 361.34
Fruit, Candy, Food	\$ 691.80
Postage	\$ 45.80
Postcards	\$ 159.45
Toys	\$ 2,281.02

**Respectfully submitted** by Katie Wetherell, Chair  
Amanda Lahey, Ana Bradbury, Cahill LeBarron, and Kayt Turner

## TREASURERS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASS

Chapter 70	369,870.00
Charter School	22,948.00
Council On Aging Grant	7,500.00
Department of Education	144,166.00
Department of Education IEP	5,410.00
Department of Fish & Game	34,249.00
Department of Public Utilities	8.00
Early Voting	225.23
Elderly Abatements	2,684.00
ESSRR	45,531.00
Fair Share	41,765.00
Library State Aid	4,330.43
Local Aid	1,019.00
RDP – Dump Recycling	1,470.00
REAP Grant	51,886.00
Registry of Motor Vehicles	1,712.86
Room Tax	354,275.12
Rural Aid	40,040.55
School Choice	75,992.00
SPED	206,426.00
SPED Idea	40,478.00
State Owned Land	77,450.00
Unrestricted Govt. Aid	69,520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,598,956.19</b>

### DEPARTMENTS

Assessors	12.78
Board of Health	12,670.65
Building	36,980.08
Cemetery	600.00
Conservation Commission	455.00
Council On Aging	2,014.50
Curb Cut	10.00
Electric	12,236.00
EOS School Breakfast	500.00
Fire	3525.00
Permits \$325.00	False Alarm \$3200.00
Opioid Settlement	1,944.10
Hancock School	26,778.57
After Sc \$5146.32	PreK \$21632.25
Planning Board Fees	50.00
Plumbing	6,240.00
Police	3,000.00
Tag Sale	5.00
Town Clerk	1,470.00
Town Licenses	12,492.00
Refunds	171.57
Town of Richmond Teacher Pay	5,958.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,113.25</b>

### TAX COLLECTOR

Charges & Fees	2,350.00
Interest	3,753.52
Motor Vehicle	155,645.80
Personal Property	45,038.41
Real Estate	1,116,493.04
Wind Turbine	229,770.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,553,050.77</b>

### TREASURER

Berkshire County Retirement	9,519.97
Federal Withholding	81,685.30
Group Insurance	39,057.30
Mass Tax	49,419.01
Mass Teachers Retirement	47,808.30
Medicare	14,509.31
OBRA	15,765.20
Interest	30,311.38
Redemption Back Taxes	167.83

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>288,243.60</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,567,363.81</b>

**Town of Hancock  
All Department Revenue Report  
And Stabilization Balance  
07-01-2024 - 06-30-2025**

<b>General Property Taxes</b>	
Personal Property Tax	\$ 48,810.01
Real Estate Tax	\$ 1,112,426.43
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 229,770.00
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 161,526.14
Interest on Taxes & Excise	\$ 3,904.02
<b>Sub-Total General Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 1,556,436.60</b>

<b>Permits for Services</b>	
Fire Permits	\$ 265.00
Highway Permits	\$ -
Board of Health Permits/Fees	\$ 9,090.15
<b>Sub-Total Permits for Services</b>	<b>\$ 9,355.15</b>

<b>Other Charges &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$ 27,944.41
Town Clerk	\$ 645.00
Zoning Board	\$ -
Planning Board	\$ 50.00
Fire Dept	\$ -
Miscellaneous Rev	\$ 6,642.35
Other Dept Rev	\$ 6,412.00
Liquor License	\$ 6,640.00
<b>Sub-Total Other Charges &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$ 48,333.76</b>

<b>Revenue From State (Cherry Sheet)</b>	
Chapter 70	\$ 425,373.00
General Govt. State Aid	\$ 64,691.00
Abate Elderly State Aid	\$ 2,452.00
<b>Sub-Total State Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 492,516.00</b>

<b>Revenue from other Governments</b>	
Fines-RMV	\$ 1,691.43
State Aid – Pilot	\$ 87,093.50
Local Room Tax	\$ 338,173.62
Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	\$ 20,819.00
<b>Sub-Total other Governments</b>	<b>\$ 447,777.55</b>

<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,554,419.06</b>
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<b>Stabilization Fund Balance As of 6/30/25</b>	
Stabilization	\$ 11,481.90
Land Purchase	\$ 43,834.73
Book Reprinting	\$ 103.84
Rescue Truck/Fire Dept	\$ 93,316.81
<b>Stabilization Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 148,737.28</b>

**TOWN OF HANCOCK  
ALL DEPARTMENTS EXPENDITURE REPORT  
FROM 07/01/2024-06/30/2025**

<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	\$89.00	\$0.00	\$89.00	\$0.00
Selectmen Salaries	\$0.00	\$5,960.00	\$0.00	\$5,960.00	\$0.00
Town Secretary	\$0.00	\$13,595.00	\$1,451.98	\$15,046.98	\$0.00
Community Christmas	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
legal advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$340.00	\$340.00	\$0.00
Street Lights	\$0.00	\$3,900.00	\$0.00	\$242.01	\$3,657.99
Computer Backup	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Finance Committee	\$0.00	\$172.00	\$0.00	\$172.00	\$0.00
Finance Committee Exp	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$17.59	\$82.41
Reserve Fund	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	(\$10,353.24)	\$0.00	\$13,646.76
Accountant Salary	\$0.00	\$17,636.00	\$0.00	\$17,636.04	(\$0.04)
Accountant Expense	\$0.00	\$2,900.00	\$0.00	\$2,900.00	\$0.00
Assessor's Salary	\$0.00	\$6,669.00	\$0.00	\$6,669.02	(\$0.02)
Assessor's Expense	\$49.00	\$30,550.00	\$0.00	\$28,373.01	\$2,225.99
Treasurer Salary	\$0.00	\$8,310.00	\$0.00	\$8,310.00	\$0.00
Treasurer Expense	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,012.49	\$1,987.51
Tax Collector Clerk	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Tax Collector Salary	\$0.00	\$7,556.00	\$0.00	\$7,556.04	(\$0.04)
Tax Collector Expense	\$90.00	\$9,084.00	\$0.00	\$5,415.26	\$3,758.74
Town Counsel	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk Salary	\$0.00	\$6,717.00	\$0.00	\$6,717.00	\$0.00
Town Clerk Expense	\$90.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,893.59	(\$3.59)
Election & Census	\$0.00	\$2,300.00	\$666.01	\$2,966.01	\$0.00
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	\$172.00	\$0.00	\$172.00	\$0.00
Board of Registrars Exp	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Con Com Expenses	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$516.40	\$83.60
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	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,487.51	\$5,512.49
Town Hall Paint & Repair	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,365.00	\$2,865.00	\$0.00
Town Hall Operating	\$70.00	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,118.93	\$451.07
Medicare - Town Share	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$22,926.17	(\$5,926.17)
Council on Aging	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,419.66	\$1,080.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$299.00</b>	<b>\$199,240.00</b>	<b>(\$6,530.25)</b>	<b>\$160,721.71</b>	<b>\$32,287.04</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	\$289.00	\$0.00	\$289.00	\$0.00
Emergency Management exp	\$0.00	\$860.00	\$1,597.46	\$2,457.46	\$0.00
Emergency Generator	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$149.99	\$850.01
911 Numbering Official	\$0.00	\$155.00	\$0.00	\$155.00	\$0.00
Police Chief Salary	\$0.00	\$1,519.00	\$0.00	\$1,519.00	\$0.00
Police Work & Supplies	\$76.95	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$290.81	\$486.14
Constable Salaries	\$0.00	\$296.00	\$0.00	\$296.00	\$0.00
Asst. Fire Chief	\$0.00	\$889.00	\$0.00	\$889.00	\$0.00

2nd Asst Fire Chief	\$0.00	\$889.00	\$0.00	\$889.00	\$0.00
Fire Chief Salary	\$0.00	\$1,484.00	\$0.00	\$1,484.00	\$0.00
Firefighters Salary	\$0.00	\$16,600.00	\$0.00	\$11,558.82	\$5,041.18
Fire Dept Maint & Exp	\$5,583.43	\$53,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,126.59	\$2,456.84
Fire Fighter Equip	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,160.94	\$5,339.06
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	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Building Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Wire Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$196.28	\$303.72
Plumbing Insp Exp	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$191.96	\$508.04
Animal Control Officer Salary	\$0.00	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
Animal Inspector	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$0.00
Animal Control Exp	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Public Nuisance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00

**TOTAL \$5,660.38 \$91,691.00 \$1,597.46 \$79,713.85 \$19,234.99**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
School Committee	\$0.00	\$1,618.00	\$0.00	\$1,574.56	\$43.44
School Department	\$35,486.26	\$2,026,659.53	\$0.00	\$1,826,836.85	\$235,308.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,486.26</b>	<b>\$2,028,277.53</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,828,411.41</b>	<b>\$235,352.38</b>

<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Highway Maintenance	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$19,664.99	\$20,335.01
Winter Roads	\$0.00	\$73,400.00	\$0.00	\$66,500.00	\$6,900.00
Cemetery Maint & Upkeep	\$1,200.00	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,148.48	\$4,751.52
Secondary Cemetery Maint	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Burial Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Transfer Station	\$0.00	\$85,000.00	\$0.00	\$77,586.03	\$7,413.97
Water Resource Expense	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$205,650.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$165,899.50</b>	<b>\$40,950.50</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	\$3,640.00	\$0.00	\$3,640.00	\$0.00
Board of Health Expenses	\$4,353.42	\$16,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,883.95	\$12,969.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,353.42</b>	<b>\$20,140.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$11,523.95</b>	<b>\$12,969.47</b>

<b>OTHER</b>	<b>CARRY FWD</b>	<b>ORIG BUD</b>	<b>AMENDED</b>	<b>EXPEND</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
Veterans Agent Salary	\$0.00	\$337.00	\$0.00	\$337.00	\$0.00
Veterans Aid	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$276.99	\$3,723.01
Library	\$564.85	\$23,852.00	\$0.00	\$19,998.31	\$4,418.54
Historical Commission	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$505.65	\$144.35
Interest on Loans	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Berkshire County Reg Planning	\$0.00	\$661.00	\$0.00	\$660.57	\$0.43
Berkshire County Retirement	\$0.00	\$18,602.00	\$0.00	\$9,301.00	\$9,301.00
Unemployment Reserve	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,169.79	\$6,669.79	\$0.00
Group Insurance	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,343.49	\$1,656.51
Insurance & Bonding	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$763.00	\$17,763.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$564.85</b>	<b>\$82,602.00</b>	<b>\$4,932.79</b>	<b>\$63,855.80</b>	<b>\$24,243.84</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	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Fire Truck Tank Match	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,000.00
STM 2.7.25 Deed Search	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
ATM Library Bathroom	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
ATM 5.01.23 Historical Book Print	\$15,127.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,127.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,127.00</b>	<b>\$24,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$84,690.91 \$2,651,600.53 \$0.00 \$2,310,126.22 \$395,038.22**