

Enterprise Fund	Beg Balance	YTD Revenues	YTD Expenses	Balance
WWTP Fund	\$71336.80	\$217553.29	\$-137293.08	\$151597.01
Capital Projects				
Capital Project-Highway Garage	1640.43	0.00	0.00	1640.43
Trust Funds				
Mary Priscilla Howes Fund	13056.98	57.30	0.00	13114.28
William Hathaway Fund	41089.79	217.76	0.00	41307.55
Susan Howes Fund	7941.59	37.87	0.00	7979.46
Major King Fund	18560.40	94.68	0.00	18655.08
Eliza Miller Fund	35440.98	189.36	0.00	35630.34
Whiting Street Fund	10342.76	56.82	0.00	10399.58
Henry Taylor Fund	19578.37	123.09	0.00	19701.46
Salmon Miller Fund	37356.78	227.23	0.00	37584.01
Fred Cross General Fund	61384.12	340.87	-2000.00	59724.99
Other Cemetery Fund	1250.00	0.00	0.00	1250.00
Mabelle Jordan Fund	240.79	1.26	-200.00	42.05
Fred Cross Library Fund	5000.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00
Fred Cross Cemetery Fund	2000.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00
Belding Endowment-Park/Library	20522.38	0.00	0.00	20522.38
Stabilization Fund	135710.22	753.61	-20000.00	116463.83
Capital Stabilization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$409475.16	\$2099.85	\$-22200.00	\$389375.01

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth J Braccia, Town Accountant

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Officers and Committees

of the town of

ASHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS

for the year ending 2010



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	Beg Balance	YTD Revenues	YTD Expenses	Balance
State & Federal Grants				
Comm Policing Grant	\$56.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56.35
Bulletproof Vest Grant	-3.34	823.50	-823.50	-3.34
Gov Highway Safety Grant	-1523.00	5049.00	-4184.00	-658.00
Local Preparedness Grant	0.00	3000.00	-3000.00	0.00
Homeland Security Grant	0.00	2500.00	-2178.35	321.65
FEMA Ice Storm Dec08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA Storm Emergency Funds	-229554.59	375542.43	-107015.18	38972.66
Council on Aging Grant	3300.00	3500.00	-3300.00	3500.00
Library State Aid	227.49	2192.04	-2192.04	227.49
Cultural Council	6004.54	4030.95	-3205.00	6830.49
Fire Gear Federal Grant	0.00	16588.00	-16588.00	0.00
Failed Septic System Grant	10064.08	0.00	0.00	10064.08
Fire Dept SAFE Grant	2355.91	3400.00	-3420.04	2335.87
Volunteer Firefighters Grant	389.26	0.00	0.00	389.26
Fire Dept Safety Equip Grant	441.59	0.00	0.00	441.59
EDS Grant	0.00	0.00	-319.96	-319.96
Agricultural Innovation Gr	1257.14	0.00	-298.99	958.15
MAPHO Minigrant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forest Fire Grant	0.00	1965.98	-1965.98	0.00
W Mass Homeland Security Grant	0.00	0.00	-480.00	-480.00
TOTAL	\$-208241.71	\$416625.92	\$-146226.07	\$62636.29

	Beg Balance	YTD Revenues	YTD Expenses	Balance
Steeple Donations	\$2336.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2336.82
Town Hall Restoration Fund	597.73	125.00	0.00	722.73
Ambulance Donations	995.24	0.00	0.00	995.24
Grant Program Income	17975.80	0.00	-2500.00	15475.80
Cultural Council Donations	2722.54	64.46	-2355.78	431.22
Septic Repair Program	74450.75	112.05	0.00	74562.80
Belding Endowment-Library	1031.63	385.91	0.00	1417.54
Library Investment Earnings	562.03	6626.40	-3024.71	4163.72
J Donald Art Fund	483.97	0.00	0.00	483.97
Belding Endowment-Park	926.88	208.00	0.00	1134.88
K-9 Support Fund	58.87	0.00	0.00	58.87
Library Donations, Fundraising	9234.92	8495.06	-3000.00	14729.98
Town History Fund	5256.84	3297.00	-3181.66	5372.18
Map Preservation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
T H Floor Preservation Fund	4401.54	0.00	0.00	4401.54
MIA Loss Control Grant	-1159.04	695.00	0.00	-464.04
Historic Commission Donations	300.70	0.00	0.00	300.70
Memorial Day Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WMRLS Grant	329.64	359.88	0.00	689.52
Agricultural Comm Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Library Antitrust Settlement	325.86	0.00	-325.86	0.00
Town Hall Employee Fund	176.68	0.00	0.00	176.68
TOTAL	\$129530.78	\$20418.76	\$-15277.90	\$135026.19

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Below is a list of the Special Revenue Funds:

	Beg Balance	YTD Revenues	YTD Expenses	Balance
Highway Funds				
Highway Funds	\$-232328.89	\$232328.89	\$-124881.59	\$-124881.59
	-232328.89	232328.89	-124881.59	-124881.59
Revolving Funds				
Wetlands Protection Fund	4334.11	0.00	0.00	4334.11
Dog Revolving Fund	8673.69	4054.00	-2554.93	10172.76
Youth Comm Revolving Fund	5366.00	0.00	0.00	5366.00
Library Fees Revolving Fund	7046.45	1770.00	-1500.00	7316.45
Swimming Program Rev Fund	1577.00	1085.00	-1211.04	1450.96
Bid Deposits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$26997.25	\$6909.00	\$-5265.97	\$28640.28
Other Special Revenue Funds				
Sanderson Barn-Ins Donation	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Town Comp Forensic Donations	0.00	1500.00	-1500.00	0.00
Town Common Donations	100.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00
Planning Brd Clerk Donations	121.34	0.00	-121.34	0.00
Con Comm Clerk Donations	338.48	0.00	-260.61	77.87
Human Relations	12.87	0.00	0.00	12.87
Record Preservation	7275.01	50.00	0.00	7325.01
Police Donations Fund	1634.70	0.00	-1215.75	418.95
O'Donnell Donations	101.34	0.00	0.00	101.34

Town Accountant's Report: Fiscal Year 2010

FY2010 General Fund Revenues Budget to Actual Summary:

Revenues:	Budget	Actual	Variance
Taxes	\$3,116,438	\$3,136,523	\$20,085
Licenses and permits	25,000	28,680	3,680
Intergovernmental	303,718	327,428	23,710
Charges for services	14,000	1,500	(12,500)
Fees and fines	67,000	106,788	39,788
Unclassified	0	46,101	46,101
Investment Earnings	5,000	2,839	(2,161)
Total Revenues	\$3,531,156	\$3,649,860	\$118,704

FY2010 General Fund Expenditures Budget to Actual Summary:

Expenditures:	Budget	Actual	Variance
General government	\$247,594	\$202,355	\$45,239
Public safety	277,357	272,851	4,505
Public works	531,941	500,916	31,025
Community services	160,224	96,828	63,396
Education	2,348,254	2,319,480	28,774
Insurance and fringe benefits	200,179	164,195	35,984
Unclassified	86,539	85,814	725
Debt service	115,495	112,969	2,526
Total Expenditures	3,967,583	\$3,755,408	\$212,174

This year's Town Report is dedicated to
Douglas & Muriel (Howes) Cranson



Ashfield is fortunate to have a group of citizens with a strong sense of community service. Some have moved here recently, others have grown up here and trace their heritage to the town's first families. All believe in cheerfully giving their time and talents to benefit the town. Doug and Muriel are two of these people. After graduating from Sanderson Academy in 1953, Muriel studied secretarial skills and Doug joined the Navy, serving on a submarine. They married in 1957. They raised their daughters Dawn, Wendy, and Andrea, on a house they built on Muriel's family property. Doug, an Eagle Scout, became Scout

Master in 1958, and continues to train Boy Scout leaders. Muriel served as Assessors' Clerk for many years. Both have served and continue to serve on many town committees. They attend and express their views at Town Meetings, "a necessary and important part of being a good town citizen."

Doug volunteers his plumbing and heating expertise whenever a town building needs him. Both worked on the restoration of the upper town hall floor. Doug was instrumental in raising the money for and planting the new trees that replace the aging maples lining Main Street; in forming Ashfield Community Hall, Inc., the group that maintains the former Grange Hall building, making it available for use by the community; and in creating Ashfield Trails to work with landowners to plan and maintain walking trails through town.

To Doug, Ashfield is a way of life: "I remember people helping and enjoying each other, being good neighbors respectful of each other's property and always willing to share what little they had. The Scout oath makes us ever mindful of our duty to God and our country, to others, and to ourselves. These ideals were part of family upbringing. People gave of themselves with wit and good spirit. The attributes I have enjoyed in Ashfield have been made possible by the unselfish, understanding people who live here and treat their town as family."

Eleanor Ward & Nancy Gray Garvin

Government Contact Information

GOVERNOR

Deval L. Patrick

Massachusetts State House, Room 360, Boston, MA 02133
617.725.4005 or 888.870.7770

STATE SENATOR

Benjamin Downing, Pittsfield

Massachusetts State House, Room 413F, Boston, MA 02133
617.722.1625 • benjamin.downing@state.ma.us

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Paul W. Mark

Massachusetts State House, Room B2, Boston, MA 02133
617.722.2460 • paul.mark@mahouse.gov

U. S. CONGRESS

Representative John W. Olver

1027 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
202.225.5335 • www.house.gov/olver

U. S. SENATE

Senator Scott P. Brown

317 Russell Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
202.224.4543 • www.scottbrown.senate.gov

Senator John F. Kerry

218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
202.224.2742 • www.kerry.senate.gov

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

425 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-774-3167 ext. 103 • lindad@frcog.org

Ashfield Town Hall Building Committee

The Building Committee was formed to address the needs of and issues related to the Town Hall building. These issues include use of building policies, ADA requirements for handicap accessibility, and energy efficiency, just to name a few. This committee works very hard to evaluate and solve the many concerns and needs of our Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Wayne Gardner, Co-Chair

Stuart Harris, Co-Chair

Ted Murray, Secretary

Nancy Garvin

Grace Lesure

Mary Quigley

Donna Scott

Doug Cranson

Norm Russell, Select Board rep

Ashfield Lighting Committee

Our recommendation for Ashfield lighting is to make a 3-phase transition from utility lighting to a neighborhood lighting program. The committee has reviewed information on cost, crime, light pollution, health issues and safety for both drivers and pedestrians and has made recommendations to the Select Board for implementing this transition.

Respectfully submitted,
Ricki Carroll
Nancy Hoff
Anne Yuryan

Town Officers

The Ashfield Select Board holds regular weekly meetings on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Assessors normally hold regular meetings, usually on the first and third Monday evenings of the month at 7 p.m.

ELECTED POSITIONS

One-Year Terms

Moderator Stuart Eisenberg
Tree Warden Thomas Poissant

Three-Year Terms and Term Expiration

Select Board

Dave DeHerdt, Chair	2011
Doug Field	2013
Norm Russell	2012

Board of Assessors

Rick Chandler, Chair	2011
Mark Graves (appointed to fill unexp. term)	2011
Sandy Lilly (elected 6/2010)	2013
Mary Quigley (resigned 7/20/10)	2012

Finance Committee

Carl Satterfield, Chair	2011
Tom Carter	2011
Ted Murray (elected 6/2010)	2013
Janet Rogers (elected 6/2010)	2013
Lynn Taylor (appointed to fill unexp. term)	2011

Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee

Emily Robertson (app. to fill unexp. term)	2012
Faye Whitney (elected 6/2010)	2013

Board of Health

Duncan Colter, chair	2011
JoAnne Ostrowski (elected 6/2010)	2013
Cindy Scott	2012

Constables

Donald Bates	2012
John Labelle (elected 6/2010)	2013
Elizabeth Lesure (elected 6/2010)	2013

Park Commission

Nina Coler, chair(elected 6/2010)	2013
Kurt Meyer	2011
Pat Thayer	2012

Sewer Commission

Mary Fitz-Gibbon (resigned 12/2010)	2013
Nancy Hoff	2012
Todd Olanyk	2011

Five-Year Terms and Term Expiration*Planning Board*

Michael Fitzgerald, Chair	2012
Walter Cudnohufsky, associate	2011
Judy Haupt (resigned 1/2011)	2012
Sarah Holbrook	2013
Ken Miller	2011
Alan Rice (elected 6/2010)	2013
Barb Sussbauer, assistant	

Library Trustees

Marcine Eisenberg, Chair	2012
Barbara Sussbauer	2015
Bonnie Coleman (resigned 1/2011)	2013
Renee Rastorfer	2012
Virginia Wiswell	2011

Sewer Commission

The greatest change at the Treatment Plant this year has been the installation of propane fired heaters in the greenhouses. These units replaced the failed oil-fired heaters that were original to the plant. The new heaters are fed by separate propane tanks which has led to the discovery that most of the fuel consumption occurs in the marsh greenhouse. On the agenda for 2011 is the formulation and implementation of a plan to reduce the amount of heat required by this greenhouse.

Voters have approved the use of \$30,000 from the Sewer Enterprise fund to replace the roof on the administration building. We hope to put this out to bid soon and have the project completed by the end of summer.

The treatment plant continues to receive overwhelming flows during Fall Festival. The sewer commissioners are hoping to work with the Fall Festival committee to increase the use of portable toilets and reduce the use of flush toilets during this event.

The sewer department is continuing with cellar inspections in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection's requirement that we reduce the amount of clean water entering the system. If someone from the sewer department knocks on your door, please give them a quick tour of your basement. We tend to see a spike with this problem during the winter when people run their taps to keep their pipes from freezing and in the spring during snow melt. If you run your tap, please divert the water outdoors and do not let it run down the drain.

One new customer connected to the sewer in 2010. This has brought the number of households on the system to 160.

In November, committee chair Mary Fitz-Gibbon resigned from the Sewer Commission in order to take on her new position as Assistant Administrator for the Town of Ashfield. Mary had served as a sewer commissioner since the plant was built and her resignation was noted with great regret. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her leadership and commitment over the last 15 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hoff
Todd Olanyk

Ashfield Council on Aging

After years without one, Ashfield's Council on Aging (COA) was appointed and reorganized in September of 2010 and was charged with duties as outlined in the Senior Citizen Task Force's report. Council members also serve on the Board of Directors of the Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, and Shelburne Councils on Aging Consortium, which manages the shared facility of the Shelburne Senior Center and its outreach resources.

The COA is working on an assessment of the needs of Ashfield's senior population of 440 residents who are 60 and older and, as specified in the Consortium's strategic plan, our "next generation" of 520 citizens over 45.

Monthly articles have appeared in The Ashfield News to inform residents of our progress. Information is also posted on the town website, ashfield.org.

The Ashfield COA also works with the Friends of the COA to explore funding for programs such as the monthly Senior Luncheon and to organize volunteers and other resources.

Working with the Franklin County Home Care Corporation this coming year, our COA will be sponsoring health-related classes on topics such as fall-prevention and self-management of chronic conditions.

The Town of Ashfield's senior van has long been a much needed and highly desirable resource for our seniors. It is used for local and regional activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Wickland, Chair
Dave Gold
Marcia Klein
Barbara Kuhns

APPOINTED POSITIONS

One-Year Terms

<i>Assessor's Assistant</i>	Faye Whitney-Lussier
<i>Municipal Town Clerk</i>	Ann Dunne
<i>Assistant Town Clerk</i>	Nancy Intres
<i>Town Administrator</i>	Mary Fitz-Gibbon
<i>Town Collector</i>	Laura Blakesley
<i>Treasurer</i>	Laura Blakesley

Three-Year Terms and Term Expiration

<i>Agricultural Commission</i>	
Tom McCrumm, Chair	June 2012
Betsy Blunt	June 2011
Robyn Crowningshield	June 2013
Nancy Garvin, associate	June 2011
Steve Gougeon	June 2011
Amy Klippenstein	June 2012
Johanna Anderson-Pratt	June 2011
<i>Board of Appeals</i>	
Stuart Harris, Chair	June 2011
Mollie Babize	June 2012
Kit Nysten	June 2012
Alan Surprenant	June 2011
Anne Yuryan, associate	June 2011
<i>Conservation Commission</i>	
Lester Garvin, Chair	June 2013
Brian Clark (app. 2/2011; filled unexp. term)	June 2013
Dave Fessenden	June 2012
Phil Lussier	June 2011
Willis Thayer	June 2013
Barbara Sussbauer, assistant	
<i>Council on Aging</i>	
Wayne Wickland, Chair	June 2013
David Gold	June 2013
<i>Cultural Council (2-term limit)</i>	
Tamsen Merrill, Chair	July 11, 2012
Abbot Cutler	December 16, 2013
Dawn Fessenden	September 23, 2013 (6)
Wesley Fleming	January 6, 2014 (7)
Harry Keramidas	January 31, 2013

Andrew Kinsey	January 6, 2014 (7)
Helene Leue	January 6, 2014 (7)
James Murphy	October 23, 2012
Andrea "Dre" Rawlings	December 16, 2013
Linda Taylor	December 16, 2013
<i>Historical Commission</i>	
Steve Gougeon, Chair	June 2013
Mollie Babize	June 2013
Nancy Garvin (app. to fill unexp. term)	June 2013
Gerard McGovern	June 2013
Tristan Romer	June 2012
<i>Personnel Board</i>	
Doug Field (Select Board rep.)	June 2013
Melinda Gougeon	June 2011
Kit Nysten	June 2012
Curt Pichette	June 2012
Janet Rogers (Finance Comm. rep.)	June 2013
<i>Registrars of Voters</i>	
	Muriel Cranson, Susan Gambino, Nancy Intres, Ann Dunne, alternate
<i>Ambulance Service</i>	
<i>Fire Chief/Forest Warden</i>	Mike Rock, Highland Ambulance Dir. Delmar Haskins
<i>Police Chief</i>	John Cotton (interim chief)
<i>Health Agent</i>	Glen Ayers, Foothills Health Director
<i>Building Inspector Program</i>	
	James Hawkins, Building Inspector James Slowinski, Wiring Inspector Andrew French, Plumbing & Gas Inspector
<i>Emergency Manager</i>	Doug Field
<i>Highway Superintendent</i>	Tom Poissant
<i>Veterans' Agent</i>	Leo Parent
<i>Burial Agent</i>	Thomas Graves
<i>Animal Control Officer</i>	Warren Kirkpatrick
<i>Inspector of Animals</i>	Kim Reardon
<i>Field Drivers</i>	David King, Roland Townsley
<i>Fence Viewers</i>	Alden Gray
<i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	Michael A. Buoniconti
<i>Surveyor of Wood & Lumber</i>	Ramon R. Sears

- To oversee a needs assessment of Ashfield's senior citizens and to participate in determining and prioritizing Ashfield seniors' needs and the resources (including people and funding) necessary to achieve the implementation plan.
- To make recommendations to the Select Board concerning Ashfield's participation in the Consortium.
- To provide representation, advocacy, and recommendations relative to the ongoing needs of and programming for Ashfield's senior population, oversee operations of Ashfield's local activities and resources for seniors, work with WCCCA staff to secure grant funding for necessary programming, and recruit and help organize a cadre of volunteers.
- To do outreach to local schools, civic organizations, and the like to make connections between seniors and others in the Ashfield community.

Since we, the Task Force, had fulfilled our commitment, we sent a letter of resignation to the Select Board, which was accepted in September of 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Boyden
Lindy Gougeon
Janice Howes

Senior Citizen Task Force Report

In April 2010 the Select Board appointed us—Helen Boyden, Lindy Gougeon, and Janice Howes—to the Senior Citizen Task Force to determine how Ashfield could most effectively respond to the West County Consortium of the Councils on Aging’s Strategic Plan, which had been formulated in response to input from a large number of people in the four towns comprising the consortium. We were to work with the Board, Senior Center director Jamie Godfrey, and others to make recommendations about what programs and activities would best serve the Ashfield community, how the town could make these services more accessible and inviting for senior citizens, and, if any physical facilities were needed within Ashfield, what options might be pursued.

We were also charged with determining what oversight organization and/or personnel would be best suited to meet Ashfield’s needs, e.g. an ongoing Task Force organization, a reconstituted Council on Aging, the need for a part-time or full-time coordinator. And we were to estimate costs associated with ongoing programs and services for senior citizens. (For example, does the FY2011 assessment of \$22,162 seem about right for the foreseeable future?)

After meeting with Jamie Godfrey and select board member Doug Field, and studying the long-range Strategic Plan “To Grow in Wisdom,” we realized the charge given was extensive. Our recommendation to the Select Board was to re-establish an Ashfield Council on Aging (COA) which would work with representatives from other participating towns to address relevant issues and to begin the implementation phase of the Plan.

The Select Board agreed that the establishment of a COA was the best way to respond to the Plan. The task force met with various townspeople to introduce them to the Strategic Plan and we searched for volunteers to serve as COA members. Many people voiced an interest in becoming involved within the community but chose not to be COA members. We were grateful to find four people willing to serve, and they were appointed to the COA: Dave Gold, Marcia Klein, Barbara Kuhns, and Wayne Wickland.

We met with the newly-appointed COA members to exchange information and share the knowledge we had gained, and we suggested a number of tasks for Ashfield COA, including:

- To participate in the implementation of the Shelburne Senior Center Strategic Plan “To Grow in Wisdom” and to represent Ashfield’s interests at Consortium meetings.

<i>Frederick W. Wells Trustee</i>	Molly Robinson
<i>Carl Nilman Scholarship Comm.</i>	Shelia Graves
<i>Town History Editorial Board</i>	Phyllis Kirkpatrick, Co-chair, Donald Robinson, Co-chair, Tom Carter, Liz Castro, Dave Fessenden, Stuart Harris, Harry Keramidas, Martha Tirk
<i>Town Website Committee</i>	Juliet Jacobson, Chair, David Kulp, Paultette Leukhardt, Virginia Wiswell
<i>Town Hall Building Committee</i>	Wayne Gardner, Co-chair, Stuart Harris, Co-chair, Doug Cranson, Nancy Garvin, Grace Lesure, Ted Murray (resigned 1/2011), Mary Quigley, Norm Russell, Donna Scott
<i>Telecommunications Committee</i>	David Kulp, Chair, Doug Cranson, David Newell, Andy Smith, Betty Stewart
<i>Wind Turbine Committee</i>	Andrew Wells, Chair, Brian Clark (resigned 2/2011), Ron Coler, Duncan Colter (alt.), Walter Cudnohufsky, Michael Fitzgerald, Todd Olanyk, Anne Yuryan
<i>Lighting Committee</i>	Ricki Carroll, Nancy Hoff, Anne Yuryan



Select Board Report

Transparency and transition best describe this year in Ashfield. From new state laws outlining requirements for local government openness to new technologies, everyday life in town has been anything but quiet. These changes, and those that may yet come, require each of us to closely question and examine what policies and approaches will be in the best interests of our town not only for the next decade but for the next generation as well.

This year, the town faced extreme economic pressures that forced reductions in every town budget, reductions in personnel, and the elimination of elected officials' stipends. Town services also had to be cut. The transfer station hours were reduced by one full day, while at the same time the cost of dump stickers increased. Additionally, the annual town meeting voted to purchase a truck for the highway department, funding this purchase by debt exclusion. To reduce the cost of the required loan to the town, the Select Board voted for the debt exclusion to be over a three-year period.

This year the new Massachusetts Open Meeting Law took effect. Every town board, commission and committee is required to comply with new meeting posting requirements. Along with posting each meeting 48 hours in advance, the new law also requires that the public be given adequate notice of every agenda item that could reasonably be anticipated to come up for discussion. To address this increased volume of postings, the Ashfield Water Commissioners graciously offered to provide a new bulletin board for Town Hall. This bulletin board will comply with the 24/7 posting demands and also meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions incorporated into the new Open Meeting Law.

The town also experienced major changes in positions and personnel in the Town Hall administrative offices, the Police Department, and the Highway Department. As a consequence of the FY2011 budget voted by Annual Town Meeting, the position of full-time Police Sergeant and one Highway Department position were eliminated. At the same time, the Town Administrator unexpectedly resigned. The reduced town budget resulted in a major reorganization taking place in the Town's administrative offices.

Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund

The fund was established under the provisions of the will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the school district and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post-high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year the Awards subcommittee read 96 applications, 35 from seniors and 61 from previous graduates of Mohawk. \$34,600 is to be awarded, using 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources, while graduates have far fewer resources. 26 scholarships totaling \$10,100 were awarded to seniors (80% of applicants). 45 scholarships totaling \$24,500 were given to graduates (74% of applicants). The awards committee is Sheila Graves, Marion Scott, Marge Porrovecchio, Eric Sumner, and Michelle Hillman.

From 1991-2010 a total of \$723,375 has been awarded in scholarships, \$223,525 to Mohawk seniors and \$499,850 to Mohawk graduates.

Co-chairs of the committee are Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett. The Finance Committee is composed of David Engle, Marion Taylor and Jim Pilgrim. Judy Hoyt is continuing her role as our financial advisor. Other members of the committee are: David Purington, Ellen Purinton and Rebecca Bradley. We welcome Marion Taylor, member at large, to our committee, she will join the Finance Committee, filling the vacancy left by Nancy Dole, who chose to leave the committee. We are grateful for Nancy's years of service.

The Mohawk community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nilman for his foresight in supporting higher education for the students of Mohawk. The committee members are honored to bring the wishes of his will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and were living in the nine-town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle F. Hillman, Secretary

The Mary Lyon Foundation has played an integral role in establishing and maintaining the Sister Village relationship between Mutianyu, China and Shelburne Falls. This past year we provided technical support for an official delegation from Shelburne and Buckland to visit Mutianyu. The Sister Village concept, inspired by former Shelburne Falls resident Julie Upton Wang, lends an international flavor to the educational aspects of our work. Leading the delegation was Senator Stanley Rosenberg; other representatives were John and Margaret Payne, Dena Willmore, Ginny Ray, Lynn Dole, Ann Hamilton, Paul Cheng and Sue Samoriski. The next official delegation from Mutianyu will visit Shelburne Falls in 2011.

The Mary Lyon Foundation sponsors a student spelling bee, 7 scholarships, an annual Gift Catalog which is a wish list of requested school supplies, the Gertrude Streeter Fund for middle school library books, an agriculture project, Colrain Vision of Excellence for the Colrain Central School, Field Memorial for Sanderson Academy, and Heath Horizons Fund for the Heath Elementary School. During the summer our annual tennis lessons, Children's Literature Festival and Discovery Days, respectively coordinated by Judy McWilliams, Toni Wilcox and a college intern, provided educational fun for children grades K-6. Through the Harper Gerry Student Assistance Fund we purchased warm clothing, eyeglasses, food and other basic necessities for many families. One of our major endeavors this year was the 20th annual 2-day special education conference held at Deerfield Academy in March for more than 500 western Massachusetts educators. Noted speakers included National Teacher of the Year Anthony Mullen, Macia Mittnacht, State Director of Special Education, and Rick Lavoie, highly acclaimed author and consultant.

The Board of Directors includes Marion Taylor, Past President; George Dole, President; Hugh Knox, Vice President; Sharon Hudson, Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Conway Lagreze, Recording Secretary; Tom Harmon, Treasurer; Karen Fairbrother, Treasurer Elect; Susan Todd, Jim Pilgrim, Stefan Kostka, Karen Harmon, Amy Love, Heather Viens, Winston Healy and Dan Field. Student representatives are Rachel Glod, Alina Schmidt and alternate Thomas Aurigemma. Gina Sieber is the Business Manager, and Dr. Bruce Willard is an Honorary Lifetime Member.

We are very grateful to the school district for classroom space at the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School where our office is located. Thank you also to the many generous donors and volunteers who continue to make a positive difference in local education.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Samoriski, Ed.D., Founding Executive Director

The new and existing administrative personnel have worked tirelessly in an effort to maintain continuity in the delivery of services. Nancy (Ann) Dunne assumed the duties of Municipal Town Clerk, Nancy Intres returned as the Assistant Town Clerk, Laura Blakesley assumed the full duties of Town Treasurer, and Mary Fitz-Gibbon stepped in to fill the new position of Assistant Administrator to the Select Board. Together they have forged a strong, cohesive team. They have successfully guided the town through a statewide election, a special town meeting, and have addressed the individual concerns of citizens in a friendly and professional manner.

At the same time, a Town Hall Building Committee was established to address compliance with ADA. Also, the Select Board appointed Wayne Gardner to the newly created position of Town Hall Steward, responsible for the physical maintenance of Town Hall along with oversight of its use for municipal and private events. The effort and hard work performed to date by both the Town Hall Building Committee and the Town Hall Steward have resulted in moving elections out of Sanderson Academy and back to Town Hall. Their ultimate goal is to develop a plan for the Town Hall that will ensure it remains in full ADA compliance and to upgrade its systems and structure so that our employees have a professional work environment. This will insure that future generations can appreciate and enjoy the history of this building.

The Police Department similarly underwent a rebuilding. In March, the Select Board appointed John Cotton as Interim Police Chief. During his tenure, Chief Cotton assessed and retooled the department. With many of the department's officers having resigned and the full-time Sergeant position having been eliminated, Chief Cotton quickly assessed the department's equipment status along with the training and abilities of the remaining officers. He resolved the department's crippling computer problems and put in place new policies and software systems to improve communication and supervision within the department. He also refocused the department's goals away from patrol mileage and back to community policing. His depth of experience as a senior law enforcement officer, along with a no-nonsense approach to police work, has ensured that throughout this difficult period public safety was given the highest priority. Upon Chief Cotton's recommendation, the Select Board appointed two new part-time reserve officers.

The Select Board then appointed a Police Chief Search Committee made up of citizens from diverse backgrounds. The Committee's jobs were to assess the town's policing needs; determine what the citizens wanted in a new police chief; redraft the police chief job description; search for potential candidates; conduct preliminary interviews of qualified candidates; and submit to the Select Board for final consideration the names of those candidates who the committee believed were the most qualified for the position. Members also contacted other communities that

had recently been through a similar search in order to avoid the same pitfalls those communities experienced. The committee presented three candidates to the Select Board. After conducting final interviews, the Select Board voted unanimously to appoint Patrick J. Droney as Ashfield's next police chief.

This year the Senior Center presented the Select Board with a new service delivery approach. The Board then revitalized the Council on Aging (COA), whose newly appointed members have been attending meetings with the Senior Center staff and COAs from other member towns to gather information about the new structure and programming aspect of the Senior Center. Their participation will insure that services to Ashfield's seniors remain strong and appropriate.

Throughout the year, the Select Board carried on its general business. It considered and approved the renewal of existing liquor licenses, motor vehicle sales licenses, the installation of new utility poles, various requests by the Trustees of Reservations and private individuals for conservation restrictions, several applications for the use of Town Hall, applications from the Fall Festival Committee, along with applications by local businesses and private groups to conduct various events in town. The Select Board also worked with the Park Commissioners to arrive at a mutual understanding of the time line and costs associated with the restoration of Belding Park. The Emergency Management Director submitted to the Select Board the passing results of the Ashfield Lake dam state-mandated inspection.

Along with its general business, the Select Board was presented with new issues and challenges. In early summer, the Board began monitoring a wind energy siting bill making its way through the state legislature. A central issue contained in the bill concerned the amount of local control a municipality would have in determining whether or not a proposed industrial wind turbine project was appropriate. Although the bill failed to pass this year, the Board understood that the bill would be reintroduced in the next legislative session. Shortly thereafter, a private company held an informational meeting in the Town Hall during which it described its plans to install several industrial wind turbine structures along a ridge in Ashfield. The Select Board then decided that it needed to get ahead of the curve on this issue and, in collaboration with the Planning Board, appointed a Wind Siting Advisory Committee. The committee was charged with gathering information and presenting it to the Planning Board and Select. If it is determined that a bylaw is necessary, the advisory committee will then make recommendations regarding such a bylaw.

Another issue that was of concern to many in town was the Select Board's decision to turn off many of the town's street lights. In response to these concerns, the Board appointed the Street Lighting Committee to explore this issue in more detail and to make recommendations to the Board regarding viable alternatives. Until then the Board agreed to maintain the present street lighting configuration.

The Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc. *Innovative Support of Local Education*

For 20 years the Mary Lyon Foundation has been providing innovative support for local education to schools and communities in West County. We are grateful for the incredible generosity which makes it possible for us not only to sustain a myriad of programs and services, but to expand and strengthen them. We especially appreciate the continuing financial support from the Cleveland Dodge, the Myrtle Atkinson and Xeric Foundations, local cultural councils, and the generous payroll deductions for the Student Assistance Fund from the staff in all our schools. Philanthropy is alive and well in West County, as evidenced by such unsolicited, generous donations as \$3,000 for the Hawlemont School Library to purchase the online Destiny cataloging and circulation program and \$1,000 for the Heath Elementary School to be used for the Drama Club's all school production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

The 5th annual community spelling bee in November raised over \$7,000 for the Mini-Grant program which provides competitive grants for school district staff for educational, replicable projects. The Grand Champion team this year was the Buckland Historical Society Mystorians comprised of Curtis Rich, David Henry and Michael Hoberman, who were sponsored by Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters and Boswell's Books. The Queen Bee sponsor of the event was the Franklin First Credit Union. Winner of the Best Dressed Team award was the Lyon's Lassies senior center team comprised of Jamie Godfrey, Peg Folgmann and Pat Weeks, sponsored by Attorney Kate Downes. It is a tribute to community spirit that teams from private and public educational, religious, political and civic organizations come together for this amazing fundraiser.

The annual spring Lyonnaise held at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center featured a farewell tribute to beloved art teacher Polly Anderson for her 35 years of service to the school district. An extensive exhibit of work created by her former students was on display. Dr. Sarah Kemble received the first annual Pat Kerrins Award; Judge William Mazanec was the Outstanding Mohawk Graduate; Karen Blom and Bruce Lessels received the Jim Boulger Spirit of Adventure Award sponsored by The Textile Company and Elmer's Store was the business award recipient.

In addition to distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to local elementary school children again this year, the Mary Lyon Foundation sent school supplies to needy children in Baja. A generous donation of hundreds of books from a publishing company in Scotia, NY, is providing books for students and adults in the 9-town community. These are in the process of being distributed through libraries and classrooms.

MTRSD: Special Education and Pupil Services

Eligibility for Special Education services is determined by a three-step process. The student must have a specific, identified disability, must fail to make effective progress in appropriate curriculum after general education interventions have been delivered, and must demonstrate the need for specialized instruction or related services to access the curriculum. The MTRSD has continued to provide education programs of specialized and individualized instruction and classroom support for qualifying students in all grades. Related services, including speech and language therapy, occupational and physical therapy, assistive technology, and counseling are also provided in each of the three districts.

Student Body Profile: The percentage of special education students in the Districts has declined steadily over the last few years. The percentage of enrollment on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in the Mohawk District has dropped from 21% in 2007 to 19% in the current year. In Hawlemont Regional the percentage has moved from a high in 2008 of 32% to 26%; and in Rowe, from 21% to 14%. The State average of students on IEPs is 17% of the enrollment. A combination of factors has influenced the number of students who participate in these specialized service programs.

Collaboration: Professional development of special and general education staff has lead to better understanding of the eligibility process and continues to support educators in their efforts to provide relevant services to all students. General education interventions have reduced the number of students referred for special education evaluation. The Districts' support of a tiered intervention system allows the truly disabled child to be included in the mainstream setting as fully as possible while providing all students the extra attention they may need from time to time with learning new skills and concepts. This system of instruction relies on frequent skill assessment that can inform instructional choices made by teachers and lead to quick a response when a student is falling behind.

Looking Ahead: As the Districts move forward in designing and delivering the best educational opportunity to students with a variety of needs, the path remains defined by the state standards, 21st-century living skills, and assistive technology. Our understanding of Special Education laws and regulations, as well individual student needs, continues to make the Mohawk Trail Regional School System a good place for students to achieve their best.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Bell, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Technology has been one of the primary issues facing this Board. The Town Website Committee developed and brought online a new town website at www.ashfield.org. Meeting schedules, minutes, forms and other information are now just a click away for many town residents. The website is still a work in progress and new information is constantly being posted there.

While many residents have high-speed Internet access, there are still a significant number who do not. To try and remediate this problem, the Select Board appointed David Kulp as its representative to the organization WiredWest, which consists of Western Massachusetts towns that are working together to bring broadband access to every town in our region. Ashfield took the first step towards this goal when, at Annual Town Meeting, it authorized the Select Board to begin discussions with other towns and potentially enter into agreements with such towns relating to establishment of an open-access, financially self-sustaining system for providing broadband services to residents. At the December Special Town Meeting, the town voted by a two-thirds majority to authorize the Select Board to establish a municipal lighting plant through which this visionary project could be conducted. That vote must be approved by a two-thirds approval of the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2011. At the same time, the state and federal funding was acquired through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the purpose of bringing broadband access to certain town buildings while also establishing points from which private vendors could make connections to individual residences. Finally, a private vendor is presently conducting live tests of its ability to deliver broadband service to the town from the company's existing network. Hopefully, these ongoing efforts will soon make the lack of broadband access a thing of the past.

The guiding principle of this Board has been and will always be to do what is in the best interests of Ashfield. We also recognize that what is in the best interests of Ashfield is informed by open, and sometimes heated, debate. We are grateful for the many citizens who have attended our weekly meetings and challenged us to consider all points of view on a particular issue. Many times we have been convinced to rethink earlier decisions and gently guided to new positions by the helpful input and information brought to us by citizens.

We thank the town for affording us the opportunity to serve on the Select Board. We also wish to thank those who have given of themselves by volunteering their time and expertise to assist with the many tasks performed by our town government. Finally, we wish to express our utmost gratitude and respect for all those individuals who have continued to serve in our town offices and town departments during these difficult economic times.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dave DeHerdt (Chair), Doug Field, Norman Russell

Treasurer's Report

Reconciliation of Treasurer's Cash

Balance of Cash 6/30/2009	\$1,288,623.04
Cash Received	\$4,711,787.55
Cash Disbursements	-\$4,859,110.47
Balance of Cash 6/20/2010	\$1,141,300.12
Balance consists of:	
Bank of Western Mass.	
General Fund: Checking	\$297,275.57
General Fund: CD	\$185,334.03
Payroll Account	\$878.73
Fred Cross: Library Trust Fund	\$5,000.00
Fred Cross: Cemetery Trust Fund	\$2,000.00
Consolidated Trust Fund	\$171,257.47
Septic Repair Program Account	\$74,751.59
Stabilization Fund	\$116,463.83
Cemetery Trust Funds	\$1,250.00
Mabelle Jordon Trust Fund	\$42.05
Bank of Western Mass.	
Fred Cross Trust Fund	\$59,724.99
M.M.D.T	
General Fund	\$95,979.49
Mary Priscilla Howes Trust Fund	\$13,114.28
Bank of America	
General Fund	\$59,356.58
Unibank	
General Fund	\$26,707.90
General Fund: Online Banking	\$19,273.37
Total	\$1,141,300.12

titles with Dewey numbers. The sixth graders have become proficient in the Dewey Decimal System.

Mohawk Trail Regional School 7-12: The 20 students in the Fantasy Book Club continued to read books in the Blue Bloods series by Melissa de la Cruz and Marked: A House of Night Novel by P.C. and Kristin Cast. During Reading Celebration Day on April 12th students created posters and teachers gave short talks about books they enjoyed. From April 12th through April 15th, there was a very successful Scholastic Book Fair. The \$537 profit from the book fair was donated to the Gertrude Streeter Fund. This fund was set up by the relatives of former Colrain teacher to provide funds for library books for middle school students. In September a \$10,000 grant was received from the Verizon Foundation. New laptop computers, library books and tech training for staff were obtained. Also, this grant made possible a visit from prominent local author Jane Yolen.

Rowe Elementary: This fall a project was done on a book called *The Colors of India*. Students worked in groups on projects related to India. In the spring students did a "Moons Calendar," which named each of the months based on what was happening seasonally and/or in the school calendar. This was based on the Native American book *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back*. The students made one large calendar and smaller versions for each child to take home. They wrote haikus and prose about each month. In the fall the Primary class did a transportation unit, reading books during library time and singing songs about transportation.

Sanderson Academy Elementary: The Scholastic Book Fair in November resulted in \$751 in new books for the library. Students have been learning the Dewey Decimal System through a series of training games taken from *Funbrarian*. The games involve matching book titles with Dewey numbers. The sixth graders have become so proficient in the Dewey Decimal System that they have taken over book shelving responsibilities.

School	Library Manager	Materials Circulated
Buckland Shelburne Elem.	Toni Wilcox	8,843
Colrain Central Elem.	Genie Shearer	5,339
Hawlemont Elementary	Mary Boehmer	9,298
Heath Elementary	Marilyn Klockars	3,111
Mohawk Trail Reg. 7-12	Gina Wells	3,565
Rowe Elementary	Sue Kranz	2,131
Sanderson Academy	Marilyn Klockars	4,484

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry McConnell, Director of Libraries

MTRSD: Library/Media Services

In 2010, 36,771 books and other materials were checked out from the libraries of the MTRSD—a 10% increase from 2005, which happened as enrollment dropped by more than 10%. In December 2010 a \$3,000 anonymous donation was made to Hawlemont, making it possible for Hawlemont to acquire the Destiny Online Catalog. Destiny is a very user-friendly and engaging library online catalog. Once Hawlemont’s Destiny is up and running, all seven school libraries in the Mohawk School System will be using this powerful technology. Four of our Library Managers have received special recognition from the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) for their excellent work. In 2010 Toni Wilcox, Library Manager at BSE, received the Paralibrarian Recognition Award from the MLA. In the last five years the Library Managers have received on average about 20 hours of training per year. That training has paid great dividends in the wonderful work our Library Managers do.

Buckland Shelburne Elementary: In the fall almost 200 books received from the Western Mass Regional Library System collection were cataloged and added to the BSE collection. These added books filled many holes in BSE’s curriculum/content areas. A very successful Scholastic Book Fair held in October resulted in \$1400 worth of new books from Scholastic Publishing. Pre-K through 3rd grade received a story time period once a week. Students in grades 3-6 received instruction in library skills and selected books once a week. In August the Children’s Literature Festival provided a great reading experience for all the students who attended.

Colrain Central Elementary: Students explored and made a list of 27 "Reasons to Read!" that included to learn about other places and people, to know where to go (such as road signs), to be entertained and to learn how to make something (directions or a recipe). Very successful book fairs were held in March and November. Read Across America was celebrated with guest readers and skits of some of our favorite Dr. Seuss stories. The library at Colrain Central continues to be a great meeting place for our staff, senior citizens, and other groups from town.

Hawlemont Elementary: Preschool to 6th grade took walking field trips in the fall and the spring to the Tyler Memorial Library. These trips help foster a community of readers and teach students how to use the town library. The Hawlemont Library received a Mary Lyon Mini Grant, which funded a Preschool Reading P.J. Party, with parents and 4th grade reading buddies also attending. Upper grade library classes participated in an online class through the Smithsonian called Prehistoric Climate Change. Students and the librarian were able to be part of a global classroom, asking questions to experts in the field of climate change.

Heath Elementary: Students learned the Dewey Decimal System through a series of training games taken from the book *Funbrarian* which involve matching book

Town Collector Report

Balances as of June 30, 2010:

	Real Estate	Personal Property	Motor Vehicle
2010	\$103,486	\$1,462	\$11,725
2009	\$22,201	478	\$1921
2008	\$8,005	\$0	\$1,213
2007	\$4,240	\$621	\$5,318
Prior Years	\$9,250	\$211	\$4,868
Totals	\$147,182	\$2,772	\$25,045
Grand Total	\$174,999		

All payments are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

- 1st quarter: August 1
- 2nd quarter: November 1
- 3rd quarter: February 1
- 4th quarter: May 1

To keep postage to a minimum only two mailings will be done, with bills for two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Blakesley,
 Town Collector

Board Of Assessors

The total value of property in Ashfield, as of December 2010 was \$222,278,461, with 92.58% of the property classed as residential, 3.8% commercial, .04% industrial, and 3.1 % personal property. All classes are taxed at the same rate. The town's budget is \$4,097,552.50. When revenues from other sources, such as state aid, are subtracted, the total to be raised by taxation is \$3,098,561.75. The tax rate for FY2011 is \$13.94 per \$1,000 of value.

More than 95 building permits were issued in 2010. Resulting new growth revenue was \$42,254.

The BOA is charged only with determining values of property based on fair market value. The actual amount to be raised by taxation each year is voted at Annual and Special Town Meetings. Attendees vote to adopt or modify numbers presented by the Select Board with recommendations from the Finance Committee. Once the town votes a budget, the BOA must then determine a tax rate that will raise that sum based on town-wide valuation, and also what share of that sum each citizen will pay based on the value of property s/he owns. If town wide value goes up from one year to the next, the tax rate will go down based on a similar budget. If the budget goes up and townwide value is stagnant or declining, the tax rate rises accordingly.

Values in Ashfield and throughout the Commonwealth are determined according to DOR-reviewed and -certified practices. The most important factors in standard valuation are size of property (acres for land and square feet for structures) adjusted for quality/condition/encumbrances and any other documented influences (examples could be a plus for broad views or a minus for seasonal road access). Additional individual adjustments to value and/or actual tax bills may include factors such as placing eligible land in Chapter encumbrance or various reductions and credits for documented income and disability. Annual, fully completed applications are required to be eligible for these individual adjustments, and failure to submit the required information by the prescribed date will result in removal of the adjustment.

The town's values must fall within a very tight range of actual comparable sales. Since there are few annual sales in Ashfield (usually around a dozen), the BOA consultant (Mayflower Valuation), working with DOR and the BOA, incorporates some consideration of additional evidence in surrounding towns. Every third year, DOR gives extra scrutiny to this process; the triennial revaluation for Ashfield is due this coming year.

During 2010 Sanderson Academy was enriched by a number of positive connections with the broader adult community. Mountain Day (a school-wide foliage hike) is a long-standing Sanderson Academy tradition. Following substantial trail work by the Ashfield Trails Committee, Sanderson Academy students used these trails for the Mountain Day hikes, a great time was had by all. Sanderson Academy opened its doors to voters from Ashfield during the first half of 2010 for both voting and the last Annual Town Meeting, these events provided great material for civics lessons. For the second year in a row, our PTO's Local Goods Catalog fundraiser was a huge success, benefiting from the strong connection between the school and our communities. Thank you citizens of Ashfield and Plainfield for all you do to your support your community school!

Respectfully submitted,
Budge A. Litchfield M.Ed., Principal

MTRSD: Principal's Report

Sanderson Academy

2010 was another successful and exciting year for Sanderson Academy. It was a year that saw strong academic performances from students and some new academic initiatives being engaged in by staff and students. We saw the retirement of a beloved classroom teacher and enjoyed some significant connections with the community at large.

Our enrollment on the last day of 2010 was 127 students in grades K-6, a slight reduction from the previous year. The number of students at each grade level are as follows: 16 children in kindergarten, 23 children in two first grade classrooms, 20 children in grade two, grade three has 13 students, fourth grade has 20 students, fifth grade has 21 students and 14 students are in our sixth grade class. There are 94 students from Ashfield and 25 enrolled from Plainfield. We have 8 students who were classified as “school of choice” students due to the fact that they were accepted from towns other than Ashfield or Plainfield. All classes are grouped heterogeneously.

The faculty for the 2010-2011 school year consists of 8 full-time classroom teachers, one special education teacher and one full-time reading teacher. This represents a decrease of one classroom teacher from the previous year due to a decline in enrollment in the fourth grade. Specialists providing services in our school include a psychologist three days per week, a full-time speech/language teacher, and occupational and physical therapists, each for one half-day per week. There are six paraprofessionals who provide additional support in the classrooms and resource room. We have a part-time library manager and part-time Title 1 Math Teacher. In June of 2010 we said goodbye to veteran first grade teacher Don Spearance, who retired after many years of inspiring and educating children at Sanderson Academy, the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School and Greenfield schools.

The Spring of 2010 saw Sanderson Academy students again performing exceptionally well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Achievement System tests. We also enjoyed participating in the 40th year of our international exchange program with Escuela Lomas Altas in Mexico City. The Fall of 2010 saw staff and students beginning to implement new core mathematics materials at all grade levels. We also began to use a new framework for instructional interventions based on research based assessment data, flexible intervention groupings and regular progress monitoring. Early reviews of this program have been very positive.

To avoid unreasonable short-term changes (except due to new construction or disasters), the BOA works on a 3-year average of comparable values. Market trends up or down are thus evened out (such as the FY2010 5% reduction to bring the average into line). Though sales have been slower in Franklin County during the recent downturn, values have held reasonably steady compared to other regions of the state.

For most residents, the actual value of their property changes relatively little year to year when markets are stable. Changes in your actual tax bill result primarily from changes to the town budget that must be raised from taxation.

If you have questions about your assessed value based on what you think may be errors such as square footage or type of structure or any recorded restrictions on use—or if you want a copy of your property card to review—the BOA encourages you to contact our office in Town Hall at 628.4441 x 6 or assessors@ashfield.org.

Summary of Monies Raised by Taxation and Receipts

	FY09	FY10	FY11
Total amount to be raised	\$4,156,249.81	\$4,138,174.60	\$4,067,003.75
Annual tax levy	\$2,934,708.67	\$2,993,733.60	\$3,098,561.75
Total property value	\$226,094,659	\$221,102,925	\$222,278,461
Tax rate per \$1,000	\$12.98	\$13.54	\$13.94

Respectfully submitted,
 Rick Chandler (Chair)
 Mark Graves
 Sandy Lilly

Town Clerk

2010 was a challenging year for the employees of Town Hall. With a change in staff and the reorganization of responsibilities, we all worked hard to keep the town running. During the summer, the Town Hall Building Committee presented a working blueprint of reconfiguration of town offices. We are hopeful that the creation of separate office spaces and a more efficient workflow will justify the cost of the proposed renovations.

The town-polling place was moved from Sanderson back to Town Hall. We were happy to conduct the State Primary back in the town's traditional voting place.

We are grateful to the Website Committee for their creation of an informative and very useful web page, which vastly increases office efficiency and is a wonderful communication tool.

Statistics

PEOPLE: In 2010, there were 9 births, 5 marriages and 15 deaths recorded in this office. The population as of January 2010 by census was 1,728.

DOGS: A total of 435 dog tags were issued in 2010.

ELECTIONS: During the September 14, 2010 State Primary, voters cast 416 votes; 32% of the town's 1297 registered voted. The November 2, 2010 State Election saw 880 votes cast; 67% out of a possible 1309 registered voters.

The new year will bring the institution of expanded hours at Town Hall and the Transfer Station. We look forward to 2011 with excitement as we continue to seek ways to streamline the office and better serve the people of Ashfield.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Dunne, Town Clerk
Nancy Intres, Assistant Town Clerk

There are increasing opportunities for students to be involved with creative expression. Music director DoraThea Kastanas organized an all-district musical in the fall, involving elementary and high school students in all aspects of the production, and we are preparing for the spring all-school musical. The Mohawk Music Association provides valuable support for music programming. The Mohawk Arts and Education Council (MAEC) recently staged a production of Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story" and will be performing Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" in the spring. The Mohawk Writers Society organizes workshops for students in the middle school and the high school, bringing local authors in to share their work and guide students in writing exercises.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn R. Dole, Principal

MTRSD: Principal's Report

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

This year saw some visible changes at Mohawk with the appointment of a new principal, Lynn R. Dole, and the installation of a dramatic work of art in the front foyer. Mohawk became the nation's first high school to feature an original design by artist Sol LeWitt, whose Wall Drawing #905 now graces a wall in the school's entrance. The project developed after Mohawk student Lindsay Smith was inspired to contact the LeWitt estate after seeing the artist's work during a school field trip to MassMoCA in North Adams. Teacher Scott Whitney coordinated the effort to bring the artist's work to Mohawk and the wall drawing was made possible through the generosity of many in the community, including gifts from the Class of 2010 and the Class of 2011.

At the midpoint of the 2010-2011 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 579 students. The seventh grade has 117 students and the eighth grade has 106. There are 95 students in the ninth grade, 94 in the tenth grade, 92 students in the junior class, and 75 students in the senior class.

Student athletes continue to distinguish themselves on the playing fields and in the classroom. This year marked significant milestones in the accomplishments of long-standing Mohawk coaches. Coach Lynn Hoepfner achieved her 100th career win with the field hockey team this fall. Coach Joe Chadwick celebrated his 100th career victory, coaching athletes in cross-country, winter track, and track and field. The dedicated commitment of the adults who support our student athletes, including parents, coaches, and the generous support of the Mohawk Athletic Association, has made it possible for Mohawk athletics to flourish.

Mohawk students are engaged in the community, making connections between what they learn in the classroom and their role as citizens locally and globally. To cite a few examples: middle school students volunteered with the Shelburne Falls Senior Center's Day of Service in the fall and students in the TV Studio course have been collaborating with the Falls Cable Corporation on a variety of projects, including hosting a televised debate among the candidates for the seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Second Berkshire District. Students in Roxanne Trombly's Peer Leadership course have organized workshops for middle school students focused on respect and preventing bullying behaviors and have done outreach in some of the elementary schools. This year marked the second time Mohawk students have participated in an exchange with a sister school in the Netherlands.

Ashfield Burial Ground Association

Supplement to Town Clerk's Report

Burials in Ashfield Cemeteries

January 1 to December 31, 2010

Name	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Cemetery
William D. Graves	4/3/2010	4/14/2010	Plain
Edward C. Dufresne, Sr.	4/15/2010	4/21/2010	Plain
Urbane N. Richardson	4/3/2010	6/5/2010	Plain
Anne Schwalier Viehmann	1/4/2010	6/12/2010	So. Ashfield
Louis J. Viehmann	1/4/2010	6/12/2010	So. Ashfield
Barbara Clark Graves	6/30/2010	7/10/2010	Plain
Leona Dufresne Dane	3/6/2010	8/21/2010	Plain
Avis Corse Whitehouse	1/7/2010	9/7/2010	Plain
Omer J. Cordelli	9/14/2010	9/18/2010	Plain
Lester A. King, Jr.	8/9/2010	10/09/2010	So. Ashfield
Evelyn Shields Graves	10/8/2010	10/16/2010	Plain
Gladys Eldridge Howes	10/25/2010	10/30/2010	Plain

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Graves
Burial Agent

Police Department

The Ashfield Police Department has undergone many transitions during the past year. From March 2010 to February 2011, many new beginnings have taken place. Annual Town Meeting saw the elimination of the position of police sergeant. The police budget was also cut. One part-time officer remained on the force. Two part-time officers were hired. Patrols were increased as more officers have come on board. However, the small amount of money for “labor” does not allow for many patrol hours each week. In response to this, the Massachusetts State Police have assisted by responding to calls when no Ashfield Officers are available.

Police Vehicles: The Ford Taurus cruiser is in poor condition. With over 118,000 miles on it, this vehicle has seen better days. Repairs are very expensive. In order to have a reliable police vehicle, it is time for a new, full size police cruiser, properly equipped for police use. New full size Ford Police Interceptor vehicles now come in an all-wheel drive version. Given winter conditions in Ashfield, this may be the preferred choice in selecting a new cruiser.

The Ford Explorer cruiser is in good condition. Some of you have probably heard it coming down the road with its exhaust manifold leak, but the noise goes away as the engine warms up. Prior to this the catalytic converter failed. With help from the Ford Factory rep, this device was replaced under the 8 year/80,000-mile warranty. The vehicle is three years old, with 70,000 miles on it; it handles well, has four-wheel drive, and it is equipped with four aggressive winter tires. My plan is to leave the winter tires on all year. The winter tires replaced four tires which had worn to the point they would not pass inspection. Both police vehicles were lettered with distinctive markings, thus they are easily recognized as Ashfield police cruisers. Both vehicles are registered, and inspected at this time.

Vehicle Maintenance: The Highway Department has been very helpful doing repairs, oil changes and routine service, including brake jobs when needed, and that department maintains the maintenance record for each vehicle.

Police ATV: The police ATV, including the enclosed trailer it is stored and transported in, was turned over the Ashfield Fire Department. Fire Chief Haskins and I agreed this vehicle would see better care, and be used more often by the Fire Department. Sometime during the winter of 2009/2010 a large branch fell on the trailer, causing the roof to cave in. There was no insurance for this type of damage, but Fire department personnel were able to repair the roof of this trailer.

a copy of the book *Teach Like a Champion* at the start of this school year. This book is being used as a professional development resource to spur and share best instructional practices. Looking ahead, the districts began to prepare a professional development plan and calendar for the 2011-2012 school year that would expand and deepen the quality of training for the instructional staffs of the three districts.

High Standards

In 2010, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts continued the implementation of the standards-based elementary report cards that began during the prior year. These standards are mapped to state learning standards, which are assessed annually by the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). As part of an ongoing effort to strengthen and expand the use of differentiated instruction, tiered instructional training was provided to all staff in the three districts at the beginning of this school year. Additionally, the Mohawk and Hawlemont districts researched and selected a new math program for grades K-5, which is mapped to state standards—Houghton Mifflin’s Math Expressions. The Mohawk and Hawlemont districts also researched and selected a new math program for grade 6, similarly mapped to state standards—MacDougal-Littel Math I. This new 6th grade math program will align with the current middle school math program and help facilitate more consistent student transition from elementary to middle school.

Community Building

In the preparation of the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans, the three districts gathered survey data from 645 students, 447 parents and 239 staff members. This community input was a key contributor to the adopted anti-bullying plans. The school districts developed a parent anti-bullying brochure intended to help parents support their children in the event of a bullying concern. The districts also developed an anonymous anti-bullying report tool to facilitate communications between the school districts and the wider community in the event of bullying concerns. Additionally, in order to help build community relations, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts established annual schedules for providing regular district improvement planning progress reports in public meetings.

The Year Ahead

While it appears that the Commonwealth’s funding of public education will likely decrease substantially in the 2011-2012 school year, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts are committed to providing the best education possible for the students. Whatever the funding level turns out to be, student learning will continue to be the guiding beacon of the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Buoniconti

MTRSD Superintendent's Report

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts and Rowe Elementary School

Introduction

Focused on student learning, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts concentrated on the implementation of their district improvement plans. Each of these improvement plans is guided by five educational goals, which were adopted by the school committees of each district. This annual report is structured according to these five overarching educational goals, which are fairly consistent across the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts.

Student Safety

In May 2010, Massachusetts enacted an anti-bullying law touted as the strictest in the United States. The new law required all public school districts to develop a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan by December 31, 2010. With student safety as their number one educational goal, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe districts met this requirement in spirited fashion. Each districts developed and implemented an anti-bullying plan that exceeded the Commonwealth's requirements. As part of this effort, the districts researched and purchased an anti-bullying program for grades 3-6. The Mohawk district also began researching social skills programs for middle school and high school students. Each of the districts' plans will be reviewed and revised annually with the goal of cultivating positive school cultures that promote academic achievement.

Diverse Learning Opportunities

Related arts and grade level teachers from across the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts established a joint committee to find ways to sustain, grow and integrate related arts programming at all grade levels. As a result of the initiative and dedication of this Arts Integration Model (AIM) group, a plan was developed for a colonial fair involving 5th grade students from Mohawk, Hawlemont and Rowe. Tied to common social studies learning standards, the event will take place at the Wilder Homestead in Buckland on June 1, 2011. Beyond the anticipated success of this colonial fair, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts will continue to explore opportunities to integrate the fine arts into the core academic curriculums.

Quality Instruction

Because student learning is highly impacted by quality teaching, the Mohawk-Hawlemont-Rowe school districts provided extensive professional development for the teachers and paraprofessionals of the three districts. In particular, the Mohawk and Hawlemont staffs received training for a new mathematics program shared by the two districts. Additionally, all three district instructional staffs were provided

Computers: The Police Department computer system went through some rough spells, with hard drives failing and lack of enough RAM memory to handle the demands of new software. Hard drives have been replaced and memory added. However, these machines are five to seven years old. There is no plan or policy in place to purchase new computers for the department on a regular basis. The ongoing failure of department computers caused a very frustrating time when the department was unable to issue any of the licenses which deal with firearms or carrying mace. The constant crashes and failures prevented anyone from logging into the MIRCS system. After a month of frustration the problems were resolved. I know those who wanted these licenses were as frustrated as Betty and I were when the department was unable to process the requests. Computers function now, however these machines will not last forever. Police radio equipment is in the same condition. Our radios work now, but there is no plan to update as these devices wear out. The community should come up with planned replacement for police equipment.

Housekeeping: There was a significant amount of housekeeping done inside the police department. Old posters were removed from the walls, out-of-date items were sent for recycling, and items of no value were discarded. Of note was a very large hole in the wall hidden by a large poster. This was eventually patched with new sheet rock, plaster and paint. Town Hall building steward Wayne Gardner did all the work for this repair. Lights above the office area no longer worked. Four fluorescent light fixtures were replaced with three high efficiency units. Office lighting is better to work by; an added bonus is the new lamps use less electricity.

I wish to thank Selectmen Ted Murray, Dave DeHerdt, Norman Russell and Doug Field for their hard work regarding this department. Many thanks are in order for all other elected officials, appointed officials, and volunteers of Ashfield. Your help has been invaluable. Thanks are also in order for the community of Ashfield. Community understanding while going through difficult transitions and kind words of support and thanks, have helped put the Ashfield Police Department back on its feet.

There is more work to do, the coming year will be another year of challenge and building.

Respectfully,
John W. Cotton
Interim Chief of Police

Fire Department

I would like to thank all my firefighters for taking the time to help with all the emergency calls we have had this year, and in addition, for completing all the training that keeps our federal, state, and town certification current.

I applied for two grants this year. One, which we received in December, was for school safety. We haven't heard yet about the other grant, which is for a small fire truck.

We have a new lieutenant, Michael Purcell, who takes care of the fire drills and teaches fire safety at both schools.

We had more calls this year than any other year. There were 165 calls— 41 more than last year. February had the most calls.

Total calls for the year

- 68 Fire calls
- 97 Medical calls
- 11 Mutual aid to other towns
- 4 Chimney fires
- 8 Misc. water problems, haz mat, cliff rescue, electrical smell, oil spill
- 3 Structure fires in ashfield
- 13 Power problems, trees and power lines down
- 10 Auto accidents
- 9 Smoke or carbon monoxide alarm going off
- 6 Brush fires
- 1 Car fire
- 3 Miscellaneous: fire, bird nest, sawdust, house full of smoke

Respectfully submitted,
Del Haskins, Fire Chief
Ashfield Fire Department

Foothills Health Agent

June 30, 2010 was my last day on the job in Ashfield, and here I show my work for the period January 1 to June 30. During this 6-month period I witnessed 7 perc tests and 5 Title V inspections; I performed 9 food inspections/reinspections, inspected 5 new septic systems, issued 2 well permits and 5 new septic system permits. Housing and nuisance complaints resulted in 2 inspections or investigations. No beaver removal permits were issued during this period. A total of \$3465 was collected in fees. This year I also received additional training in the role of the Board of Health following an environmental disaster. I issued 12 food permits, 7 septic-system installer permits, 5 septic system pumper permits, and 1 beach permit. The revision of existing well regulations that had been in place for many years and needed updating was completed. These included new provisions for geothermal well drilling, as well as defining agricultural wells separate from drinking water wells. The revision was a 2-year project that I was happy to see finalized prior to my departure. If you need information regarding my past activities I can be reached at 268-8404. I have enjoyed the past 5 ½ years as your health agent. Ashfield is a great little town and I will miss the scenic views and the many fine people.

Jackie Duda, Health Agent, Foothills Health District

From July 1 to December 31 I witnessed 16 Title V inspections and 12 soil evaluations/perc tests; reviewed 4 septic plan for new construction and 4 septic plans for repair of failed systems; made 4 final inspections during septic system installation; issued 5 wells permits; made 4 routine food code inspections; and assisted Fall Festival food booths with compliance with the new allergen awareness code. I handled 2 housing complaints and 2 code inspections; 4 reports of communicable diseases; made 3 building permit site visits; 2 beaver permits; 1 bed & breakfast inspection; 1 septic repair/installation complaint. That list only partially represents the 182 hours that I spent working for Ashfield, replying to requests for information and assistance, responding to complaints, and protecting public health. I collected \$2,495 in fees. In addition, I was able to secure a new laptop computer for the Board of Health with some of the Flu Pandemic planning money. I met with the Board and we passed a new Board of Health regulation that governs the employment of outside consultants for situations where their expertise may be needed to review the potential health impacts of very complex proposals. I have enjoyed getting to know the Town of Ashfield and I appreciate the warm welcome that has been given to me by all of the folks that I have met. Thank you for your continued support.

Glen A. Ayers, Regional Health Agent (glenayers@frcog.org; 774.3167 x108)

Ashfield History Project

At the beginning of 2010, AHP established a partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church for the purpose of compiling and producing an up-to-date Ashfield Telephone Directory. This was undertaken at the same time that we began gathering biographical profiles of townspeople during our period (1960–2010). Questionnaires for both projects were jointly mailed town wide. While the response has been significant, we are hopeful that we will receive enough more to bring us closer to a complete compilation of both records.

We are very appreciative of Pat Thayer, Dee Edwards, Sue Craft, and Sandy Gallerani, who are working cooperatively on these efforts. Linda Taylor has volunteered to lay out the Directory listings as well as the advertisements, which are still coming in and help to fund final publication. This year we have added more of our neighbors to the growing team of writers and researchers of key topics. We are actively seeking more such people, and welcome ideas and questions.

We continued our recording program called "Ashfield Listens" on Memorial Day and at other venues throughout the warmer months. We did several private interviews as well, both filmed and audio.

Our fundraising efforts, under the guidance of Martha Tirk, have allowed us so far to meet our operating expenses. As we approach our publication date, financial demands will increase. To meet these demands we are making efforts to secure additional funding from outside sources.

With regret we accepted the resignations of both Eleanor Ward, for health reasons, and Lynn Dole, due to her new role as Principal of MTRHS. Their individually unique presence in our group is sorely missed. We send them both our heartfelt thanks for the roles they have played and their ongoing offers of counsel.

We want to make a special thanks to the folks who work in the Town office. We have never experienced anything but eager cooperation and cheerful support.

Phyllis Kirkpatrick and Don Robinson (Co-Chairs)
Tom Carter, Liz Castro, David Fessenden, Stuart Harris, Harry Keramidas,
Martha Tirk

Highway Department

The winter of 2009/2010 was a fairly normal winter with some light to moderate snow storms and quite a bit of wind. Then toward the end of February we were greeted with two significant snow storms totaling approximately three feet.

Routine maintenance projects are constantly ongoing with roadwork and equipment maintenance.

The summer months were busy. We had more Chapter 90 work to do than usual because the previous summer was so rainy and wet. Resurfacing and related work was done on the following roads: Baptist Corner, Bear Swamp, Beldingville, Bellus, Buckland, Bug Hill, Cummington, Norton Hill, Spruce Corner, Pfersick, and Watson.

In the fall we did some work on the Belding Memorial Park Restoration Project. A parking lot and picnic area were constructed, leaving a few minor details to be finished next spring.

I would like to thank the Select Board, Fire and Police Departments, Town Hall staff, Finance Committee, all the various departments and committees, and the townspeople for your help and support.

To Jack Clark, Curt Pichette, Richard Turner, Alan Taylor and John LaBelle:
Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas G. Poissant
Highway Superintendent

Trustees of Belding Memorial Library

In 1972, our neighbor in Conway, Archibald MacLeish, wrote in *The Premise of Meaning*, “What is more important in a library than anything else—everything else—is the fact that it exists.” Hard times continue for our country, hard times continue for our town. But our library exists. This year we have endured budget cuts and floods. Looking on the positive side, we have installed a new fire alarm system. The water-damaged meeting room and kitchen area downstairs have been repainted and recarpeted. Once again the Trustees hosted a Trivia Night fund-raiser. We are very grateful to Harry Keramidas and the Ashfield Film Festival for the wonderful documentary produced about the library, and for dedicating half of the proceeds from the ticket sales to it. The arrival of The Poetry Hut set up by the Flores inspired many of us to write poems and clip them to the walls. The barcoding of our entire collection of 15,000 items is more than half finished due to the efforts of a tireless and dedicated group of volunteers. We expect to become a fully participating member of the C/WMARS system during this fiscal year. This will allow patrons to order from a collection of more than 1.6 million titles via any computer, anywhere, and have their choice promptly delivered to our library. As a result, our library will enter the 21st Century, helping Ashfielders to satisfy their information and entertainment needs.

While these are major accomplishments, the financial position of the library remains tenuous. Because of serious cuts to our budget, we did not meet the requirements for aid from the state this year. As noted earlier, the library does exist. More and more of our patrons, finding their entertainment budgets cut, rely even more heavily on our free library. That's why, more than ever, it needs the financial support of the town to keep its heart beating.

The trustees want to thank our able director Anne Judson, Sherry Scott, Julie Meserve, and our band of volunteers. As always, a special thanks to the Friends of Belding Memorial Library, who make progress possible. We remain grateful to our good neighbors Tom and Sandy Carter, who give so generously of their time, and Ashfield Hardware for always being quick to help. And a very warm thanks to Irene Branson, who retired from the board in the spring of 2010, replaced by Barb Sussbauer. Once again the trustees have come through another year with dedication and good humor: Renee Rastorfer, Virginia Wiswell, Bonnie Coleman, and Barb Sussbauer, I am grateful to you all.

Marcine Appel Eisenberg
Chair, Trustees of the Belding Memorial Library

Ashfield Historical Commission

The Ashfield Historical Commission is responsible for community-wide historic preservation planning. We have ongoing projects, such as the inventory of historical properties and the updating of our historic properties inventory forms. We also take on shorter term projects as they present themselves.

This year we were pleased to have been able to offer a timberframe tour of downtown Ashfield with timberframer and author Jack Sobon, which was a great success. The highlight of the tour was a viewing and discussion of the roof frame structure of the Town Hall. All proceeds from this event were donated to the Town Hall preservation fund.

Current projects include the planning of a short series of tours related to Ashfield historical sites, National Register of Historic Places recognition for the stone bridge off Smith Road, drainage and maintenance at the Spruce Corner schoolhouse, and working on a photo inventory of the barns in Ashfield, among other things.

Our meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month and we invite people with ideas or questions about the historical preservation of our community to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Gougeon (Chair)
Mollie Babize
Nancy Garvin
Gerard McGovern
Tristan Romer

Ashfield Cultural Council

In 2010, Sanderson Academy students traveled to visit events at UMass Fine Arts Center and The Academy of Music in Northampton with funds from the Ashfield Cultural Council. There was also a Dance Party to raise money for the Community Hall; a Mayfair Celebration for the Ashfield Preschool; an Ashfield Community Theatre Production; the Community Theatre Summer program; "Follow the Thread: America's Jewish Immigrants and the Birth of the Garment Industry" by Jackie Cooper with a final exhibit in the Ashfield Historical Museum; The Decamera Singers, The Native Ways presentation; Eventide Hospice Choir; Mosaic Murals which are now mounted in Shelburne Falls; Music in Deerfield; an Edible Wild Plants Walk; "Snip, Snap and Sew" with the Senior Citizen Center; Publishing Our Local Poets; The Hidden Natural Treasures of Ashfield; Generations on the Move dance program; a concert featuring the Valley Jazz Divas; and other projects partially or totally funded by the Ashfield Cultural Council.

For 2011, the Cultural Council received \$3,870 in funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. That, plus the \$2,049 remaining balance from 2010, minus \$144 administrative costs, gave us \$5,775 total to allocate to 2011 projects.

On December 1, we met as a committee to review the 48 applications received. We were able to approve 29 projects, all of them locally based. We always wish we had enough money to fully fund each eligible proposal. With the current economic situation we are lucky to still be funded. We hope the amounts we provide can help bring these great projects to fruition. Look for activities at the Arts Garden in Shelburne Falls; more Community Theater; a project called Mohawk Dances!; Edible Perennial Gardening; a project on World War II Vets Voices with local students; a multi-generational chorus; a presentation of Life at the Lowell Mills at the Senior Center; more Ashfield Chamber Music; a calendar of Ashfield artists; a puppet show about composting; and more concerts, nature workshops and museum opportunities, and more.

For further information on the Massachusetts Cultural Council programs and the Ashfield Cultural Council visit www.mass-culture.org. Current members are Tamsen Merrill (Chair), Dre Rawlings (Treasurer), Linda Taylor (Secretary) Harry Keramidas, Abbot Cutler, Dawn Fessenden, Andrew Kinsey, Helene Leue, and Wesley Fleming.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Taylor (Secretary)

FRCOG Wiring Inspection Program

Fiscal Year Report: 07/01/2009 to 06/30/2010

We are seeing more solar installations in our towns. All of these projects need an electrical permit and inspections. Electrical cords are only for temporary use, not for permanently plugging in solar hot water pumps and controls. Also, permits & inspections are required for new or replacement heating systems.

If you have any questions I can be reached during normal office hours on Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 772.2026, ext 126 or electric@frcog.org. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our website at www.frcog.org, under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Thomas McDonald
Wiring Inspector

Fiscal Year Report: 7/01/2009 to 6/30/2010

PERMIT FEE RECEIPTS FROM TOWNS

Town	Re-inspect Fees	Permits	Amount
Ashfield	0	45	\$4,385
Bernardston	0	47	\$4,615
Buckland	0	46	\$5,675
Charlemont	\$50	31	\$2,610
Conway	0	48	\$5,765
Erving	0	35	\$3,130
Gill	\$50	39	\$4,165
Hawley	0	15	\$1,300
Heath	0	24	\$1,950
Leverett	0	60	\$6,575
Rowe	0	15	\$1,925
Shelburne	0	51	\$5,778
Whately	\$212	52	\$7,560
TOTAL:	\$312	508	\$55,433
TOTAL COLLECTED			\$55,745

FRCOG Building Inspection Program

Thank you for your continued participation in the FCCIP. Fiscal Year 2010 showed a small increase in dwelling units constructed in 2010 (36 as compared with only 31 for 2009). Permit values were up, totaling \$38,719,773, and commercial work remains steady. Total permit fees collected amounted to \$244,692, with commercial work accounting for 25% of the fees. Total number of permits issued increased from 992 to 1073, with a significant number of wood and pellet stove permits, and residential renovation work. Our newsletter is sent to all member towns and builders. If you'd like a copy, please contact this office.

James D. Hawkins
Inspector of Buildings

Agricultural Commission

The Agricultural Commission continues to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month, and any Ashfield resident who is interested in agriculture in Ashfield is welcome to attend the meetings. Johanna Pratt has been writing a monthly column for the Ashfield News about farm activities and life in Ashfield. We still have some funding left from a state grant we received last year, which we are using to reprint our Ashfield Farms brochure. This brochure, available at Town Hall, Fall Festival, the Farmer's Market and at local farms in town, is a guide to 31 farms in Ashfield. Be sure to pick one up and support our local Ashfield farmers.

We again had a display at the annual Fall Festival to educate both residents and non-residents about agriculture in Ashfield. Our annual giant pumpkin and tallest sunflower contests at Fall Festival were won this year by Aaron Rutz for his heaviest pumpkin at 371.5 pounds and Mollie Babize for her tallest sunflower at 12' 6".

The Ag Commission made an effort in 2010 to link up landowners who had unused pasture land with farmers who were in need of additional grazing land for animals, making a win-win situation for all. Please let us know if you need grazing or tillable land or if you have usable agricultural lands that could be utilized by a local farmer.

At the present time, the Ag Commission has no budget and receives no funding from the town. Expenses incurred have been borne by the members themselves, or by minimal grant funds. We have established an Ashfield Agricultural Fund, where monies can be donated for the use of the Ag Commission to support local agriculture, or to conserve valuable agricultural lands. Ashfield has a Right to Farm Bylaw; copies are available at Town Hall or from the Ag Commission.

Respectfully submitted.
Tom McCrumm (Chair)
Any Klippenstein (Vice-Chair)
Betsy Blunt (Secretary)
Joel Arsenault
Robyn Crowningshield
Steve Gougeon
Johanna Pratt
Nancy Garvin (Alternate)

Animal Control Officer

This year was a bit unusual: A domestic rabbit, a wild blue heron, and a barn owl were all picked up and taken to my kennel. I had never dealt with these three species in almost 30 years on this job. Their recovery was an education for all involved and the best of care was given to them.

September 2010 was by far my busiest month, with the most calls, mileage, expenses and labor. All was taken care of, however, and the Animal Control Officer continues to be an important position in Ashfield.

As a reminder, all dogs six months and older must be licensed by March 31st of each year. The month of April is a licensing grace period. In order to obtain a dog license, an up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the town clerk. Cats six months or older are also required by State law to have a current rabies vaccination.

Dog owners are fully responsible for all damages resulting from damages done by an unrestrained dog.

I want to thank all the people and organizations that have supported and assisted me in performing my duties as the Ashfield Animal Control Officer. Anyone having questions or concerns can reach me at 628.3811. Lost and Found animal notices are posted at Neighbors Store and the Ashfield Post Office.

- 4 Dogs Confined
- 4 Dogs Placed
- 1 Cats Confined
- 1 Cats Placed
- 3 Other Animals Confined
- 1 Animal Bite
- 1,383 Phone Calls
- 311 Miles Traveled
- 592 Hours of Labor
- \$25 Fines Collected
- 217,57 ACO Expenses

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Kirkpatrick, Animal Control Officer

FRCOG Building Inspection Program Report

Town	Permits	Value	Dwell Units*	Permit Fees	Cert Of Occ.	Cert. of Approval	Cert. of Occ.	C.I. Fees	Other Fees	Total
Ashfield	106	\$2,548,189	1	\$15,010	4	20	9	\$200	\$100	\$15,310
Barnardston	90	\$2,605,529	5	\$16,407	8	15	15	\$436	\$250	\$17,093
Buckland	111	\$2,192,113	1	\$14,703	13	33	10	\$270	\$100	\$15,073
Charlemont	61	\$1,545,098	1	\$10,340	6	12	20	\$920	\$50	\$13,520
Conway	87	\$3,920,111	5	\$28,180	8	15	4	\$60	\$60	\$17,032
Ervyng	57	\$2,176,428	2	\$14,086	11	16	10	\$80	\$160	\$9,836
Gill	69	\$2,585,486	4	\$16,720	15	14	35	\$2,240	\$310	\$19,270
Hawley	24	\$544,888	1	\$3,564	2	4	1	\$50	\$0	\$3,614
Heath	43	\$506,094	0	\$2,861	7	11	1	\$0	\$0	\$2,861
Leverett	100	\$4,717,916	6	\$27,368	13	21	6	\$160	\$60	\$27,588
Leyden	34	\$927,424	3	\$5,896	4	11	7	\$230	\$0	\$6,126
Shelburne	129	\$10,102,342	5	\$61,859	16	27	33	\$955	\$670	\$63,484
Shutesbury	79	\$1,463,277	2	\$9,578	14	16	11	\$470	\$0	\$10,048
Whately	83	\$2,884,878	0	\$18,120	14	25	12	\$530	\$60	\$18,710
TOTALS	1073	\$38,719,773	36	\$244,692	135	240	174	\$6,801	\$1,820	\$253,313

*2-Family and Multi-dwellings are issued only one permit per building.
 **These figures reflect only those inspections which receive Certificates, but for various reasons no Certificates are issued.
 "Other Fees" reflect re-inspections and duplication of permits and C.O.s.

FRCOG Plumbing and Gas Inspection Program

I would like to take this opportunity to remind town residents that the Massachusetts State Plumbing & Gas Code and our inspection program are in place for the health and safety protection of all residents. It is also for the protection of town residents that all plumbing and gas installation/repairs be performed by licensed contractors. Permits shall only be issued to licensed plumbers. You can contact me during office hours on Monday thru Thursday mornings 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 772.2026, ext. 125 or plumbing@frcog.org . You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our website, www.frcog.org, under Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to all town officials for your cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Andrew French
Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Fiscal Year Report: 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

PERMIT FEE RECEIPTS TO TOWNS

Town	Re-inspect Fees	Permits	Total Fees
Ashfield	0	92	\$7,355
Bernardston	0	40	\$4,950
Buckland	0	42	\$4,465
Charlemont	0	25	\$2,095
Conway	0	57	\$5,330
Erving	0	28	\$2,812
Gill	\$45	47	\$4,385
Hawley	0	8	\$1,080
Heath	0	13	\$1,370
Leverett	0	64	\$6,760
Leyden	0	18	\$1,900
Rowe	0	5	\$620
Shelburne	0	41	\$5,415
Whately	0	60	\$6,415
TOTAL:	\$45	540	\$54,952
TOTAL COLLECTED			\$54,997

The staff and board also initiated a conversation with the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to explore possibilities for collaboration between the senior center staff, local COAs, and district schools.

Overall, the consortium and the senior center are turning a corner. After a prolonged period of uncertainty about the mission and organizational focus of the Consortium and the Friends, we are entering a new phase of closer collaboration between the citizens, select boards, COAs and regional staff. It is a very exciting time to be involved in this critical area of our social life.

Jamie Godfrey
Senior Center Director

The Shelburne Senior Center

and Ashfield-Buckland-Colrain-Shelburne Councils on Aging

This past year brought a significant new wave of interest and involvement in the local Councils on Aging. Led by Colrain and Ashfield, new members provided much needed stimulus to the consortium board following a long period of relative inactivity. Efforts are currently underway in Buckland and Shelburne to recruit much needed new members as well.

The year began with the formal presentation of the new strategic plan by senior center staff to the select boards of the four consortium towns. Tentatively entitled "To Grow in Wisdom," the plan was approved by the Ashfield, Buckland, and Shelburne select boards. Following a carefully considered recommendation by the Colrain COA, the Colrain select board decided not to approve the plan as written.

Subsequently, the regional board formed a committee with one representative from each town to review and make necessary changes to the plan. The hope is that we will have a plan that is fully supported by all four towns and will provide a solid foundation for strengthening the consortium and developing meaningful programs over the next decade and beyond.

Of particular note have been efforts on the part of the Ashfield and Colrain COAs to plan more local activities and programs that meet the particular needs of seniors in their respective towns. This reflects one of the strategic plan's basic ideas: that we need to increase local involvement and programming.

At the same time, the Friends of the Senior Center, the fundraising arm of the consortium, has also seen a resurgence of involvement and activity. The Friends are currently revising their mission and by-laws to form a more effective working relationship with the board and staff that will provide more effective support for programs in the coming years.

Meanwhile, the senior center staff continued to administer nearly 20 categories of programs that served nearly 800 seniors from the four towns a total of more than 8,000 times. The CDBG Neighbor-to-Neighbor program serves low- and moderate-income seniors in Buckland and Shelburne. It was re-funded for a second cycle and is becoming a model of citizen-based outreach that we plan to extend to other consortium towns.

Annual Report of Highland Ambulance EMS

Operations. Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. In 2010 Highland also provided primary back-up and provider of paramedic service in Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntington. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. During the midnight-to-6 a.m. time period, on-call Highland EMTs are assisted by paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a paramedic is required.

Staffing and Training. Highland's active roster consists of 40 members, including 15 paramedics, 3 intermediate EMTs and 22 basic EMTs. In 2010 two Highland EMTs completed their training and were certified as paramedics. We installed computer software to meet new State and Federal reporting requirements and the staff was trained in its use.

Emergency Responses. During 2010 Highland responded to 588 emergency calls. These are broken down by town as follows: Ashfield 110; Chesterfield 61; Cummington 71; Worthington 48; Goshen 56; Plainfield 38; Williamsburg 193; Other 11. Out of these responses, 328 required advanced life support services of a paramedic.

Community Involvement. During the year we participated in a school safety program at Sanderson Academy in Ashfield. We held a First Responder Course to recertify our area police and fire emergency responders. Our 2010 fund drive raised nearly \$15,000, which helped fund equipment upgrades. The depth of community support we receive is greatly appreciated.

Cash On Hand June 30, 2010:

Operating Funds	\$22,048.54
Memorial Fund	\$12,128.51
Equipment Fund	\$1,059.28
Dresser Fund	\$2,981.47
Reserve Funds	\$12,319.29
	(Cummington \$4,659.64; Williamsburg \$4,583.28; Highland \$3,076.37)
Total Cash On Hand	\$50,537.09

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors: Patricia Thayer, Stacey Magdycz, Spencer Timm, Christopher Smith, James Drawe, Francis Dresser, Donald Boisvert, Bernard Forgea, Douglas Mollison

Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative

The HRMC is a unique regional, municipally funded organization which was created in 1989 by concerned residents in the towns of Ashfield, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington.

Since 1989 the HRMC has assisted its member towns with:

- local and regional recycling and solid waste management programs
- waste reduction and greenhouse gas reduction programs
- promoting recycling, waste reduction and sustainability outreach programs
- development of potential wind and solar power projects in the HRMC region
- reducing member towns' municipal carbon footprints

Last year the HRMC helped all its member towns recycle 2,070 tons of materials, saving 6,514 tons of green house gas emissions, creating \$165,938 in indirect disposal costs savings and earning the towns over \$42,800 in recycling revenue.

Currently the HRMC directly assists Ashfield in the following ways:

- helping local officials with the cost-efficient management of the town's waste management, recycling and sustainability programs.
- operating the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection, paint and electronics recycling and mercury collection programs to help keep toxic materials out of our local environment.
- Obtaining grants to assist the HRMC and your town with recycling and sustainability.
- Working on "rural" sustainability issues such as wind and solar power, including the Massachusetts Green Communities Program, on behalf of member towns.

We look forward to continuing to help you and your town protect the environment, become more sustainable and save money. Please call us at 268.3845 or e-mail us any time at hrcm@crocker.com with your questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Weiss, Administrator, HRMC

Conservation Commission

Conservation Commissions in Massachusetts have regulatory responsibility stemming from legislative passage of three acts: Wetlands Protection Act, Riverfront Act, and Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Act. We review applications for activities within resource areas, conduct site visits, advertise and hold hearings, and issue or deny permits allowing activities. We also have the responsibility to review Forest Cutting Plans prepared under the Forest Cutting Practices Act. Our budget is driven by fixed costs relating to scribe services for our twice-a-month meetings and membership in the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners, which keeps us current with changes or proposed changes in our regulatory responsibilities. Our variable costs are determined by the number of permits we process, which entail legal ad fees for hearings and certified mailing costs for mailing determinations; these fees are paid by the applicant and are returned to the town's General Fund. This year we had two Requests for Determination of Applicability Hearings, one Notice of Intent hearing, processed a Certificate of Compliance for a previous Notice of Intent, processed one Emergency Certification and conducted 11 site visits.

In addition to the regulatory responsibility cited above, we assist applicants with Chapter 91 Licensing. Because Ashfield Lake is over 10 acres in size, it is by definition a "Great Pond," a designation that requires that all new docks and anchored floats be licensed. We review building permits and either sign off on them or require a permit if activity is proposed within a resource area. We review and sign off on applications for land conservation efforts of organizations such as The Franklin Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations. We support the preservation of habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered species. We have concerns about the impact of invasive species and how we as a commission can pursue programs to halt their advance.

Conservation Commission
Lester Garvin (Chair)
David Fessenden
Philip Lussier
Willis Thayer

Zoning Board Of Appeals

The Board of Appeals had no cases in 2010.

The Variance Process:

The Board of Appeals acts as the permit granting authority. A petition is filed with the Town Clerk, who forthwith transmits it to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). The ZBA posts, publishes and sends notice of a public hearing at least 14 days in advance of hearing. The public hearing must be within 65 days of the filing with the ZBA. A decision by the ZBA must be within 100 days of the filing date with Town Clerk or within any extended time. (Failure to act is deemed to grant the permit. If the ZBA fails to act in a timely manor, the petitioner notifies the parties in interest of failure to act, the petition is deemed to be approved and a 20-day appeal period begins. Within 14 days, the petitioner notifies the Town Clerk of failure to act and that notice was sent to parties of interest. If no one appeals or after a favorable appeal, the Town Clerk issues a certificate, stating the date approved for failure to act and, forwards it to the petitioner. The variance is effective when the petitioner files with the Registry of Deeds or Land Court. Variances elapse if not exercised in one year from date of decision or extension.) Within 14 days of the decision, the ZBA sends notice of decision to parties in interest and files a detailed record and decision with the Town Clerk. If an unfavorable decision is rendered, two years must pass before repetitoning unless consented. Within 20 days of notice of decision, any appeal may be taken to Superior Court. A favorable decision requires a 20-day wait before the Town Clerk can certify no appeals have been made. The variance is effective when petitioner files the decision with the Registry of Deeds or Land Court. A variance elapses if not exercised in one year from date of decision or extension.

Stuart Harris (Chair)
Mollie Babize
Kit Nysten
Alan Surprenant
Anne Yuryan, associate

Park Commission

This has been a very productive and exciting year for the Park Commission. In spite of a 10% budget cut we've been able to make some improvements with a lot of help from volunteers. Scott Decker's very generous donation of a truckload of beautiful beach sand was much needed to keep our annual crop of New England rocks covered up. Doug Cranson was again able to work his magic and repair our aged water bubbler one more time so that fresh drinking water was available for all. He also did the annual summerizing and winterizing of the bathhouses and the town barn in the upper park, as well as brush hogging the area below the dam. Thank you again, Doug.

We purchased two new cranks for the tennis nets to replace the broken ones, and the courts saw many hours of play over the summer and well into the fall.

A hardworking crew turned up for our spring cleanup and again we were able to finish by noon and enjoy a picnic cookout up on the hill to enjoy one of the most beautiful views in town. Ron Coler did a great job on the grill.

We were fortunate to keep our stalwart lifeguards, Judy Delaney, Skylar Abbatiello, and Geordie Soucie, as well as recruit another wonderful lifeguard in Andre Chaput. Angie Baranowsky ran a very successful and enjoyable swimming program that was enjoyed by children and parents alike. Thank you all for making the summer so much fun and keeping the beach safe.

Our battle with invasive water chestnuts continues. Their numbers are way down but we have to stay vigilant as some were found by our volunteers and pulled out.

Quite a lot of tree work was needed after our wind storms. Will Thayer took down a very large limb by the point, and several dangerous limbs and trees by the boat launch were taken down by Randy Sears. Will also replaced several boards on the dock that were in serious disrepair and tightened many of the screws that were working their way up.

The upper park has received a lot of attention this summer, especially the access ramp to the handicap-accessible picnic area. It did look like an above ground septic system for a while, but now that it's done it's wonderful, and the curving ramp is quite graceful. In the spring, Barry Nye will rebuild the fireplace, and we'll add a grill and some picnic tables as well. The parking area for cars and trucks with trailers will be laid out and the flag will fly again.

The town crew removed many dead and dying birch trees from that area. Tom and his crew are still bringing in fill for the lower area, which will help to save money as it is fill we won't have to buy.

We had a visit from a representative of the Attorney General's office to check on our progress, and she reported that she was pleased with what she saw.

Our plans for the coming year are to continue with the excavation and fill work, plant grass as that is completed, and plant a variety of trees along the edge of the park. The old parking garage will be torn down, the ground leveled and the large stones arranged as seating along the top rim of the hill.

We give heartfelt thanks to the many folks who have donated so generously of their time and talents to keep the Belding Park the town jewel and recreation center that it is. A special thank you to Ron Coler and Will Thayer, who can always be counted on to help out wherever they are needed,

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Coler (Chair)
Pat Thayer (Secretary)
Kurt Meyer

Planning Board

This year a new member was elected to the planning Board: Alan Rice of South Street has begun a five-year term. As a registered Landscape Architect he brings many relevant skills to this volunteer position.

As usual, the planning board provided a sounding board for citizens with concerns and questions about land use in our town. In most cases we were able to provide answers or direction for them.

A moderate amount of property boundary changes were brought to us for ANR signatures.

There is a new guide for special permit applicants that we hope will make the process easier for everyone involved.

As part of our long term planning efforts, we began the year with a new look at encouraging senior housing in the town center.

Later in the year we voted to focus on the new subject of wind turbines. After years of being told that we do not have a significant wind resource, the state published a new map predicting that parts of Ashfield do have enough wind to bother with. Our first official action on this issue was to hear and award an application for a temporary anemometer on private property. The town is now receiving information about actual wind speeds.

As 2011 begins and 2010 ends we are researching and writing a bylaw proposal intended to identify conditions under which wind turbines might be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Fitzgerald (Chair)
Alan Rice
Judy Haupt
Ken Miller
Sarah Holbrook