

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Town of West Stockbridge



For the Fiscal Year Ending

June 30, 2023

Annual Town Meeting Date: May 6, 2024

Annual Town Election Date: May 13, 2024

**Annual Report
of the Officers of the
Town of West Stockbridge,
Berkshire County
Massachusetts
for the year ending June 30, 2023**



General Information

Tax Rate (per \$1,000 valuation)	\$ 9.58
Total Valuation	\$604,075,023
Residential	\$566,331,361
Personal Property	\$17,029,456
Commercial	\$ 17,009,906
Industrial	\$3,704,300
Total Tax Levy	\$5,787,039
Town first settled	1724
Town Incorporated	1774
Land Area	18.48 sq. mi.
Road Mileage	22.5 (paved) 12.5 (unpaved)
Elevation at Town Hall	925 ft.
Population (<i>U.S. Census, 2020</i>)	1,343
Population Density (<i>U.S. Census, 2010</i>)	70.7 per sq. mi.
Town Website	www.weststockbridge-ma.gov
Annual Town Meeting	First Monday in May
Annual Town Election	Second Monday in May

CURRENT MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Governor Maura Healey

www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-the-governor

Boston, MA
Massachusetts State House
Office of Governor
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Office: 888-870-7770

Springfield, MA
Western Mass Office
State Office Building
436 Dwight Street
Ste. 300
Springfield, MA 01103
413-784-1200

Washington, DC
Office of Governor
444 N. Capitol Street
Ste. 208
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-36156

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

www.warren.senate.gov

309 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Office: 202-224-4543

Springfield Federal Bldg.
1550 Main Street Ste. 406
Springfield, MA 01103
413-788-2690

2400 JFK Fed Bldg.
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-3170

U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey

www.markey.senate.gov

255 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Office: 202-224-2742

Springfield Federal Bldg.
1550 Main Street 4th FL
Springfield, MA 01103
413-785-4610

975 JFK Fed Bldg.
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-8519

U. S. Representative Richard Neal

www.neal.house.gov

372 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Office: 202-225-5601

300 State Street Ste. 200
Springfield, MA 01105
413-785-0325

78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
13-442-0946

State Senator Paul Mark

PaulMark@masenate.gov

24 Beacon Street, Room 70
Boston, MA 02133
Office: 617-722-1625

773 Tyler Street
Pittsfield, MA 01105
Office: 413-464-5635

State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli

Rep.smitty@mahouse.gov

24 Beacon Street, Room 166
Boston, MA 02133
Office: 617-722-2692

Lenox Town Hall
PO Box 2228
Lenox MA 01240
413-637-063

Town Directory

All Town Office, Board, Committee, and Commission meetings are posted on the Town Hall Bulletin Board and are on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Town Board meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Town's website: weststockbridge-ma.gov

The Town Hall's phone number is: 413-232-0300. Town Hall Office extensions are listed below:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Telephone Number, or Extension</u>
Select Board	319
Town Administrator	319
Town Clerk	300
Town Collector	302
Treasurer	316
Building Inspector	313
Board of Assessors	303
Board of Health	314
Council on Aging	340
Library	308
Conservation Commission	300
Fire Dept. (non-emergency/business)	(413) 531-8837
Police Department	232-8500
Highway Department	232-0305
Transfer Station	232-0307
Waste Water Treatment Plant	232-0309
Animal Control Officer	(413) 464-2148

Fax Numbers

Select Board	232-7195
Town Offices	232-7195
Police Department	232-7938
Highway Department	232-0323
Fire Department	232-4127

EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE, EMT)

	911
Post Office	232-8544
Charter Communications (Cable TV provider)	800-827-8288
Charter (cable service problems)	508-853-1515
Congregational Church	232-4256
St. Patrick's Church	232-4427
Berkshire Hills Regional School District	
Administration	298-4017
Monument Mt. High School	528-3346
Monument Valley Middle School	644-2300
Muddy Brook Elementary School	644-2350

Elected Town Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term / Expires</u>
Select Board	Kathleen Keresey	3 yr. 2026
	Andrew Krouss	3 yr. 2024
	Andrew Potter	3 yr. 2025
Moderator	Eugene A. Dellea	1 yr. 2024
Town Clerk	Ronni Barrett	3 yr. 2025
Town Collector	Kelli Bradbury	3 yr. 2025
Board of Assessors	Michelle Jenny	3 yr. 2026
	Susan Lupo	3 yr. 2024
	Edward Sporn	3 yr. 2025
Finance Committee	Steve Sautman	3 yr. 2026
	Robert Salerno	3 yr. 2026
	Frank Lansberger	3 yr. 2024
	Dan Buehler	3 yr. 2024
	Edward Sporn	3 yr. 2025
Planning Board	Christopher Tonini	5 yr. 2028
	Andrew Fudge	5 yr. 2024
	Dana Bixby	5 yr. 2025
	Sue Coxon	5 yr. 2026
	Ryan Beattie	5 yr. 2027
Board of Health	David Finck	3 yr. 2026
	Kathy Korte	3 yr. 2024
	Earl Moffatt	3 yr. 2025
Library Trustees	Andrew Potter	3 yr. 2026
	Beth Sack	3 yr. 2024
	Gail Garrick	3 yr. 2025
Cemetery Commissioner	Mary Korte Kinmond	3 yr. 2026
	Earl Moffatt	3 yr. 2024
	Marion Loring	3 yr. 2025
Tree Warden	Andrew Fudge	3 yr. 2026
Constables	William Cooper	3 yr. 2026
	Paul Faggioni	3 yr. 2026
	Karl G. Cooper	3 yr. 2026
	Elizabeth Digrigoli	3 yr. 2026

Appointed Town Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term / Expires</u>
Town Administrator	Marie Ryan	3 yr. 2025
Town Accountant	Elaine Markham	3 yr. 2026
Town Council	Kopelman & Paige	1 yr. 2024
Town Treasurer	Ben Gelb	3 yr. 2026
Conservation Commission	Shayne O'Bryan	3 yr. 2026
	Kathy Korte	3 yr. 2026
	Lori Rose	3 yr. 2024
	Jennifer Kurjowski	3 yr. 2025
	David Evans	3 yr. 2025
	Michael Murray	3 yr. 2025
Conservation Commission Associate Member	Vacant	1 yr. 2024
Deputy Collector	Arthur Jones	1 yr. 2024
Official Weighers	Marc Portieri	1 yr. 2024
	Faith Libardi	1 yr. 2024
Memorial Day Committee	American Legion Post 254	1 yr. 2024
Veteran's Grave Officer	Wayne Cooper	1 yr. 2024
Veteran's Agent	Tom Beasley	1 yr. 2024
Parking Clerk	Ronni Barrett	1 yr. 2024
Animal Control Officer	John Drake	1 yr. 2024
Zoning Board of Appeals	Jack Houghton	5 yr. 2028
	James Pinkston IV	5 yr. 2024
	James Clary	5 yr. 2025
	C. Randolph Thunfors	5 yr. 2026
	Joseph Roy, Jr.	5 yr. 2027
	Gunnar Gudmundson	1 yr. 2024
ZBA Alternates	Robin Bankert	1 yr. 2024
Building Commissioner	Brian Duval	1 yr. 2024
Zoning Enforcement Officer	Brian Duval	1 yr. 2024
Board of Registrars	Marge Powell	3 yr. 2026
	Ronni Barrett	3 yr. 2024
	Jacqueline Moffatt	3 yr. 2025
Youth Services	Parks and Recreation Com	1 yr. 2024
Emergency Mgt. Director	Louis Oggiani	1 yr. 2024
Consultant to Veterans Agent	Wayne Cooper	1 yr. 2024
Right to Know Officer	Steve Traver	1 yr. 2024
Chief of Police	Marc Portieri	3 yr. 2025
Violation Appeals Officer	Marc Portieri	1 Yr. 2024

Appointed Town Officers (cont.)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term / Expires</u>
Fire Chief	Steve Traver	3 yr. 2024
ADA Coordinator	Brian Duval	1 yr. 2024
Field Driver	Select Board	1 yr. 2024
Fence Viewer	Select Board	1 yr. 2024
Parks and Recreation	Joe P. Roy	1 yr. 2024
	J P Boscarino	1 yr. 2024
	Helen Nolan	1 yr. 2024
	Caitlin Graham	1 yr. 2024
	Ashley Daigle	1 yr. 2024
Animal Inspector	John Drake	1 yr. 2024
Cable TV Commission	George Cox	1 yr. 2024
	Alexander Stein	1 yr. 2024
Cultural Council	Rebecca Sheir	3 yr. 2024
	Miki Reuchlin	3 yr. 2024
	Curtis Thierling	3 yr. 2024
	Vacant	3 yr. 2025
	Jacqueline Moffatt	3 yr. 2025
	Scott Sawyer	3 yr. 2025
	Margaret Skaggs	3 yr. 2025
	Marjorie Powell	3 yr. 2026
Oil Burner Inspector	Larry Morse	1 yr. 2023
Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 yr. 2024
Capital Planning Committee	Finance Committee	1 yr. 2024
Investment Committee	Finance Committee	1 yr. 2024
Town Historian	Robert Salerno	1 yr. 2024
Historical Commission	Robert Salerno	1 yr. 2024
	Vacant	1 yr. 2024
	Earl Moffatt	1 yr. 2024
	Scott Sawyer	1 yr. 2024
Chief Procurement Officer	Marie Ryan	1 yr. 2024
Plumbing Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 yr. 2024
Asst. Plumbing Inspector	Bob Krupski	1 yr. 2024
Sewer and Water Commission	Mark Webber	5 yr. 2024
	Vacancy	5 yr. 2024
	Earl Moffatt	5 yr. 2025
	Alexander Stein	5 yr. 2026
	Simon Davenport	5 yr. 2027

Appointed Town Officers (cont.)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term / Expires</u>
Council on Aging	Brian Steranka	5 yr. 2028
	Paula Farrell	5 yr. 2024
	Clay Hall	5 yr. 2024
	John Zick, Chair	5 yr. 2025
	Vacant	5 yr. 2026
	Les Losaw	5 yr. 2026
	Marge Kilmer	5 yr. 2027
	Berkshire Reg. Planning Comm.	Dana Bixby
Wiring Inspector	Karl G. Cooper	1 yr. 2024
Assistant Wiring Inspector	Theodore Piontek	1 yr. 2024
Assistant Wiring Inspector	Lawrence Ray	1 yr. 2024
Assessor's Clerk	Mary Stodden	1 yr. 2024
Smoke / Fire Alarm Inspector	Steve Traver	1 yr. 2024
Agriculture Commission	Victor Stannard, Sr.	3 yr. 2026
	John Springstube	3 yr. 2026
	Marc Fadding	3 yr. 2024
	Vacancy	3 yr. 2026
	Vacancy	3 yr. 2024
Agriculture Commission Alternates	Peter Negrini	1 yr. 2024
	Curt Wilton	1 yr. 2024

In
Memoriam



Norwin H. Rehm – August 2022
Sharon L. Atwood – August 2022
Scott Walker Persing – August 2022
Joseph Mario Giramma – September 2022
William George Jaeger – September 2022
Richard Gene Miller – September 2022
James Henry Coxon – October 2022
Susan C. Bryans – October 2022
Gretchen A. Hoeltzel – December 2022
Stuart Sarason Kuller – December 2022
Vincent John Stannard – March 2023
Theresa Brettschneider – April 2023
Stephan Green – May 2023
C. Lloyd White – June 2023
Doris Mary Cabral – June 2023

To the Residents of West Stockbridge,

Small-town government relies on the contributions of many: staff, committee and board members, and many volunteers. We'd like to thank all members of our community who participate in the day-to-day management of making West Stockbridge the safe and special town that it is. The Select Board encourages full and part-time townspeople to volunteer as the efforts of just a few can have a considerable impact. There is endless work to be done and volunteer efforts are necessary and appreciated.

As we prepare for the Annual Town Meeting, we thank the Finance Committee who have reviewed and approved the proposed FY2025 budget and warrant articles.

This year marks a significant milestone for West Stockbridge as we celebrate the Semiquincentennial of our beloved town. Originally incorporated in 1774, West Stockbridge has a rich history that we continue to honor and cherish. Preparations for an upcoming celebration are in full swing as the community actively collaborates on the planning process. This collective effort reflects the town's commitment to organizing a meaningful and spirited event.

West Stockbridge's business landscape has flourished, with new enterprises contributing to the town's economic growth and vitality. Established businesses have also experienced successful seasons, solidifying the town's position as a thriving business and arts community.

The Summer of 2023 witnessed the triumphant return of the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival, delighting residents and visitors alike. The festival's success highlighted the vibrant community spirit thriving in West Stockbridge.

The Town is advancing the planning for the development of a park on Moscow Road, thereby further enhancing the town's recreational offerings. This strategic move reflects the town's commitment to creating additional spaces for leisure and community engagement.

The West Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee achieved a significant milestone by completing its inaugural funding cycle in the areas of preservation, community development, and housing. Through careful planning and execution, the committee has played a pivotal role in advancing initiatives dedicated to preserving the

town's cultural and historical heritage, as well as addressing housing needs. This accomplishment underscores the committee's commitment to maintaining the unique character of West Stockbridge for present and future generations while actively contributing to the town's housing goals.

Simultaneously, signaling a proactive approach to addressing housing needs within the town, the West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees set up shop in August. This strategic move represents a dedicated effort to bolster the town's housing options and foster a more inclusive community. By establishing the Affordable Housing Trust, West Stockbridge is actively taking steps to ensure that residents have access to affordable and sustainable housing, contributing to the overall well-being and vibrancy of the community.

The Select Board has been actively engaged in various initiatives. Discussions are ongoing regarding support for Housatonic Water Works Customers, involving collaborative efforts with Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and the State Attorney General's office. Additionally, the Select Board has committed to supporting the Rest of the River Cleanup, advocating for the comprehensive removal and proper transport of PCBs from the Housatonic.

The Board continues to be engaged in the active exploration of opportunities for shared services with neighboring towns. This strategic initiative reflects the community's steadfast dedication to fostering collaboration to achieve mutual benefits. By pooling resources and coordinating joint efforts, the town aims to enhance various aspects of community development and services. This collaborative approach not only promotes efficiency but also strengthens inter-community relationships, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being and growth of the region.

The Complete Streets Committee has actively sought state funding through grants, in line with the town's commitment to achieving accessible and safe transportation. Grant funds have played a crucial role in supporting a range of initiatives focused on improving the overall street infrastructure and promoting the well-being of both residents and visitors. A Complete Street ensures safe and accessible options for all travel modes, including walking, biking, transit, and vehicles, catering to people of all ages and abilities.

In the same vein, the Town has been utilizing grant funding through the Green Communities program to invest in key projects. This commitment is evident in recent Town Hall HVAC system upgrades and lighting across all municipal buildings. Currently,

ongoing efforts involve the installation of mini-split heating and air conditioning units in the Highway and Fire station offices, along with the addition of new attic insulation in the fire station ceiling. These measures not only promote energy efficiency but also contribute to a significant reduction in reliance on fossil fuels, aligning with the town's environmentally conscious initiatives.

This year, West Stockbridge took proactive measures to enhance regional transportation accessibility for its residents. The town joined the Tri-Town Connector initiative, based in Great Barrington, which facilitates point-to-point transportation services across eight towns in the south county. This initiative aims to streamline and improve transportation options, making it more convenient for residents to navigate within the region.

Additionally, West Stockbridge became a member of the Berkshire Regional Transportation Authority, a move designed to enhance senior and para transportation services. This affiliation enables improved access to appointments and destinations located further north, contributing to a more comprehensive and efficient transportation network for the community. These initiatives collectively underscore West Stockbridge's commitment to advancing transportation options and ensuring residents have convenient and reliable means of travel.

After extensive study, the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board recommended a merger of the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire regional school districts. We thank the many educators and volunteers who committed endless hours in search of a positive solution to the educational needs of our communities.

While West Stockbridge voted in favor of the merger in a Special Town Meeting in October, the project, requiring unanimous support by all 8 Towns, was ultimately defeated.

As the town approaches the final stages of the Master Plan and new zoning bylaws for Short Term Rentals, West Stockbridge reflects on a busy and exciting year. The Select Board remains eager and prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead, anticipating continued growth and prosperity for our vibrant community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Keresey, Chair
Andrew Potter
Andrew Krouss

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT

For the period March 2023- 2024

Marriages: 3

Births: 9

Deaths: 12

The coming year is full of important elections including State and National primary and National election. Our Annual Town meeting is the first Monday in May, followed by Town Election the following Monday. Thank you to all the wonderful poll workers who spend their time here, helping make the process easier. Last National election saw a record turn out, so thank you all for participating.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronni Barrett

Town Clerk



Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police
21 State Line Road
P.O. Box 90
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
ma.gov

Tele: 413-232-8500

Fax: 413-232-7938

E-mail [mportieri@weststockbridge-](mailto:mportieri@weststockbridge-ma.gov)
[ma.gov](mailto:mportieri@weststockbridge-ma.gov)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The West Stockbridge Police Department would like to first take the opportunity to personally thank all of our residents and town officials for the continuous support that you all show towards the police department. In 2024 this will be my 8th year as the Chief of Police and we have had some hurdles in our path but we have continued to march forward, keeping a well-groomed department. The support is very much appreciated, the department receives numerous letters and cards stating, how professional and helpful our Officers have been by helping people that are in need.

In 2023 The West Stockbridge Police Department logged 4,338 calls for service, compared to 4,912 calls in 2022. Call volume is down some but Arrests, Motor Vehicle Stops, and Suspicious Activity have increased in 2023. We have been able to maintain our cruiser patrols throughout the town to provide security and safety. Our Arrests have tripled over the last year, which shows that our Officers are doing their job. We have continued to patrol our streets and neighborhoods, making us highly visible to the public. We have continued to upgrade the department with equipment to keep us up to date with POST, and MPTC Regulations in our changing world. Some of these items are Computers, Communications, Training, Cruiser Equipment, and Officer Safety Gear.

The Department continues to do the required POST, and MPTC Trainings which has increased due to issues that have arrived in the world today. We are very grateful to have some of our officers that are Certified Instructors so we can train within the department. The standard MPTC yearly training used to be 40Hrs now it's 96Hrs plus. The training classes consist of Legal Update, MV Law, Defensive Tactics, Dealing with Mental Health Issues, Health and Wellness, Firearms Training, CPR, First Responder, Taser Training, Marijuana Laws, Asher School Training, Dealing with Veterans in need, and Patrol Procedures. The town will be installing a "Code Red" phone system which will allow us to alert our residents as soon as a major emergency happens and reminders on important dates that are coming up.

With help from Curt Wilton and Marie Ryan we were able to get a couple stationary speed signs that were put to work on Great Barrington Road last year. These speed signs will allow the town to create stats that we can take and create studies to ensure safer roadways in the town. Our radar speed trailer has been placed throughout the town in areas of speeding problems. If you have a speeding issue where you live, please contact us so we can do a radar detail or put out one of our tools to work for you. The Officers have stopped over 490 Motor Vehicles this year compared to 264 in 2022, many of these motor vehicle stops have generated from residents calling about speeding problems.

This year was our 7th year supporting the "Helping Hands Program". The Helping Hands provides gifts and meals to 7 Families that are in need at Christmas time. It is amazing how many people and business's come together to help out. The help and donations are greatly appreciated (Thank You). The Police Department has continued to support the Town Events, The Halloween Parade, The Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. Special thanks to Cait Graham, her crew and everyone that came out and helped. Every year these events get bigger and bigger which makes it even better

Firearms Permits (LTC / FID) will still be processed by appointment only. Contact us at 232-8500 to make an appointment. Please bring a check or money order for \$100, made out to the Town of West Stockbridge "NO CASH", if you are 70 or older your license is free. If you have firearms or ammo that you don't want or need, please contact us and we can assist you. If you have any Prescription Drugs that are in need of disposal you can drop them off at the Police Station, The RX Drug Box that was in the hallway has been removed. Please call us or stop in to use the Food Bank, if you are unable to stop in we can bring your request to you.

Remember, please contact us if you see something that doesn't seem right, we will check it out. Let's keep an eye on the neighbor especially during the winter months. We can provide or assist with many services. If you are going on vacation, please let us know and we can put you on our house watch list, we make patrols of all the houses every shift.

I would personally like to thank everyone that supports the West Stockbridge Police Department. Special Thanks to The Select board, Town Administrator, Highway Dept., Fire Dept., All of my Officers, Tracy Dunn and everyone that stops in to say Hi.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

FULL TIME

Chief Marc J. Portieri

Sgt. Michael Renton

Officer Curt Wilton III (MAGISTRATE HEARINGS OFFICER)

Officer Dan Hamill (EVIDENCE ROOM , CJIS REP., MCOP UNION REP.)

Officer Nate Sermini

PART TIME

Officer Lukas Horn (MPTC INSTRUCTOR, FIRARMS INSTRUCTOR, CPR/FIRST RESPONDER INSTRUCTOR, ALICE SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR,

Tracy Dunn Administrative Assistant

Officer Matt Sutton

Respectfully,

Marc J. Portieri
Chief of Police



West Stockbridge Fire Department Annual Report

The Fire Department responded to a total of 304 calls this year, 58 more calls than last year. There were 142 Fire calls and 162 EMS calls in Town in 2023. These calls were broken out as 193 in West Stockbridge, 99 in Richmond and 12 calls which were mutual aid for other towns. I would like to thank the town residents for their donations to our annual fund drive. The Ambulance is staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This staffing also provides two full-time Fire Fighters on duty during these hours. I would like to thank the Police department and the Select Board for their continued support during the year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Stephen Traver



**OFFICE OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE,
PERMITS**

ANNUAL REPORT

Date :- 7/01/2022 To 6/30/2023 Annual Report of: Building

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL PERMITS	PERMITS FOR DWELLINGS	RESIDENTIAL PERMITS FOR GARAGES	ALL OTHER	COMMERCIAL	CONSTRUCTION VALUE	FEES RECEIVED
JULY	6	6	0	0	6	0	1122455	4566.25
AUGUST	16	15	0	0	15	1	680579	2537.99
SEPTEMBER	3	3	0	0	3	0	54800	291
OCTOBER	19	17	0	0	17	2	1394432	6153.76
NOVEMBER	7	7	0	0	7	0	179850	771
DECEMBER	11	10	0	0	10	1	992681	4191.62
JANUARY	9	7	0	0	7	2	1634351	5724.49
FEBRUARY	6	4	0	0	4	2	117968	327.09
MARCH	7	6	0	0	7	1	838410	2435
APRIL	9	8	0	0	8	1	1680834	10934.68
MAY	8	8	0	0	8	0	432720	1942.38
JUNE	7	5	0	0	9	2	811339	2835.08
TOTALS	108	96	0	0	101	12	9940419	42710.34

**OFFICE OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE,
PERMITS**

ANNUAL REPORT

Date :- 7/01/2022 To 6/30/2023 Annual Report of: Plumbing

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEES RECEIVED	CASH	CHECK
JULY	1	60	0	1
AUGUST	4	300	0	4
SEPTEMBER	3	300	0	3
OCTOBER	1	120	0	1
NOVEMBER	3	360	0	3
DECEMBER	3	420	0	3
JANUARY	1	60	0	1
FEBRUARY	4	420	0	4
MARCH	1	120	0	1
APRIL	2	300	0	2
MAY	2	360	0	2
JUNE	5	600	0	5
TOTALS	30	3420	0	30

**OFFICE OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE,
PERMITS**

ANNUAL REPORT

Date :- 7/01/2022 To 6/30/2023 Annual Report of: Electrical

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEES RECEIVED	CASH	CHECK
JULY	6	780	0	9
AUGUST	10	2100	0	12
SEPTEMBER	3	540	0	4
OCTOBER	7	960	0	7
NOVEMBER	7	900	0	9
DECEMBER	7	900	0	8
JANUARY	1	360	0	2
FEBRUARY	5	660	0	5
MARCH	5	540	0	5
APRIL	2	240	0	2
MAY	4	720	0	4
JUNE	9	1140	0	9
TOTALS	66	9840	0	76

**OFFICE OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR
TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE,
PERMITS**

ANNUAL REPORT

Date :- 7/01/2022 To 12/13/2023 Annual Report of: Gas

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEES RECEIVED	CASH	CHECK
JULY	12	1080	0	12
AUGUST	8	660	0	8
SEPTEMBER	5	360	0	5
OCTOBER	17	1500	0	17
NOVEMBER	10	780	0	10
DECEMBER	6	540	0	6
JANUARY	5	420	0	5
FEBRUARY	2	120	0	2
MARCH	4	360	0	4
APRIL	2	180	0	2
MAY	4	360	0	4
JUNE	4	360	0	4
TOTALS	79	6720	0	79

Department of Public Works

ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings to all the Residents and fellow Tax-Payers of West Stockbridge;

The Department of Public Works is overseen by a Director and consists of 5 divisions each being operated and maintained by their own Superintendent or group of Commissioners. This report reflects 3 of these divisions and will give general financial breakdowns and mention some key accomplishments from the Town Facilities/Grounds Division, Solid Waste Disposal/Compactor Operations Division and the Cemetery Department beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023. The Highway Department and Parks & Recreation will be submitting their own Annual Report.

Town Facilities and Grounds:

Town Facilities and Grounds fall under the responsibility and leadership of Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Frank Alfonso. Frank's role is to operate and maintain all the Town Buildings and Town owned properties by utilizing 5 separate budget lines totaling \$ 140,350. I wish to thank Frank for his efforts.

GENERAL FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FUEL

Lipton Energy \$ 29,143.92
(7,624 gallons heating oil)

SUPPLIES

Carr Hardware	\$ 58.98	Staples	\$ 474.96
Foresight Eng.	\$ 474.96	Ma. Fire Tec.	\$ 801.80
Home-Depot	\$ 340.80	Meadow Farm	\$ 850.00
CarQuest Auto	\$ 131.22	A.W.Baldwin	\$ 552.29
Dresser-Hull	\$ 1,892.77	J. Scott Jenny	\$ 300.00
S. Berk. Power	\$ 929.23	Cintas	\$ 2,407.00
Fastenal	\$ 74.71	D & M Lands.	\$ 270.00
Peckham Indus.	\$ 1,262.67	AmeriGas	\$ 182.21

REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE

C.T.C.	\$ 1,755.00
Lee Audio N Security	\$ 2,023.00
Terminix	\$ 548.00
Girdler Electric	\$ 9,649.00
Door Craft Corp.	\$ 3,762.00
Prime Mechanical LLC.	\$ 2,500.00

Last June towards the end of FY23 we were able replace the well-worn carpet in the entrance of our Town Hall. The complete removal and installation was performed by the professional folks at the Floor Store. I great upgrade that will provide us with years of durability at a cost of \$3,489.95.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL/COMPACTOR OPERATIONS

The Town Compactor Rules and Operational Regulations fall under the jurisdiction of our local Board of Health (Health and Sanitation). Our long serving Compactor Attendant is Wayne Cooper. Wayne along with the DPW Employee’s handle the tasks of maintenance and repairs. I wish to thank Wayne for his efforts.

GENERAL FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Yankee Restroom	\$ 1,140.00	Advanced Auto	\$ 333.60
Tractor Supply	\$ 1,223.84	A & A Memorials	\$ 600.52
EnviroPro Refrigerant	\$ 306.00	Interstate Refrig.	\$ 600.00
W.M. Recycle America	\$ 6,216.62	Casella Waste	\$ 72,171.05

Last March 2023 we purchased our own brand new 20-yard bottles and can collection container for \$ 8,465.00. We had been previously renting the unit for \$200/month from our Hauling Contractor. This practice continued for over 3 years and we decided it would be more cost effective to own our own if the budget allowed.

Total tonnage of trash for January thru December 2023 was 427.5tns. (40-hauls). Current price per ton is \$ 128.00 plus \$ 200 trucking fee for each load hauled.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

The 3-Town Cemeteries are overseen by your 3-elected Commissioners, Mary Korte Kinmond, Marion Loring and Earl Moffatt. A & A Memorials (Richie Atwood) leads the way in Lot mapping and burial locations plus stone and monument placement and maintenance. The mowing and trimming is done by Bob Filiault Lawn Services. I wish to thank these individuals for all their hard work and commitment they have given the Town throughout the year. We also budgeted a new program that allows us to repair/fix our stone and monuments. We hired 2 hardworking individuals for the summer months to perform the painstaking task of repairing/realigning and adjusting over 150 stones. I wish to thank Owen and Evan Alfonso for their responsible work ethic and passion they provided.

GENERAL FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Stone & Monument Repairs	\$ 6,888.00
John Field Tree Services	\$14,325.00
Filiault Lawn Care	\$26,450.00
Peckham Industries	\$ 117.78
A.W.Baldwin	\$ 444.57
Meadow Farm LLC.	\$ 1,760.00
D & M Landscaping	\$ 105.00

This concludes the Report of the Department of Public Works I wish to thank all the other employees who make up the remaining DPW. Highway Superintendent Jamie Boyer along with the crew of John Lyford, Tim Magner together as a team they keep the Highway Department running professionally and efficient all season long. I would also like to mention and thank the Parks & Recreation Committee Members of Cait Graham, Joe Roy, John Boscarino, Ashley Daigle and most recently retired from the Committee my Mom, Helen Nolan. Lastly, I wish to Thank the people of West Stockbridge for their continued support you have given the DPW. It is a pleasure working for you all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curt G. Wilton
DPW Director

Report of the Highway Department

Greetings to all the residents of West Stockbridge;

This report reflects a financial breakdown and describes some key undertakings and accomplishments performed by your highway department, beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023.

The highway departments primary responsibility is to maintain and perform repairs to the entire town owned roadways and bridges. Our highly trained and educated staff perform many of these tasks. Unfortunately, Mother Nature threw us a curveball this summer, with it being the third wettest meteorological summer (June, July, and August), and also the third wettest June in recorded history. That being said our crew persevered and were able to complete several tasks. I would personally like to thank the crew for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank the residents for their kind words and support.

General Highway Maintenance Expenses:

Gravel Road Traction Aggregate	\$8,222.94
Liquid deicing	\$8,082.48
Salt	\$38,932.32
Gravel Road Summer Aggregate	\$2,926.29
Signs	\$3,484.30

Road Maintenance Projects

Public Restroom Repave	\$10,657.18
Our crew along with trucks from Richmond and Stockbridge worked together to complete this task.	
Crack Seal Swamp Rd.	\$10,952.74
Austerlitz Rd. culvert upgrade	\$867.80
Hot Mix Asphalt Patching	\$10,899.7

We were also able to do a major drainage upgrade on Iron Mine Rd., getting rid of water that was ponding on the road after heavy rains. This will help with pavement preservation in the future.

Willson Road Mill and Fill

This is a process where they grind out two inches of blacktop, then lay down an inch of leveling course blacktop, then another inch of top course. This was done to the entire length of Willson Road.

Chapter 90 funding	\$160,000.00
Town Borrowing	\$63,428.00

Street Scan

Five years ago, we began a program with a company called Street Scan. They came to town, and did just that! They scanned all of our blacktop roads to let us know the condition and priority of roads to repair. They grade with a scale called the Pavement Condition Index, or P.C.I. When we began our P.C.I. was at 70%. We are extremely pleased that as of our last scan, we are at an 85%.

Street Rescan	\$900.00
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Highway Salaries

Jamie Boyer (Highway Superintendent)	\$33.62/hr.
John Lyford	\$28.00/hr.
Tim Magner	\$28.00/hr.



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Operating Budget
FY 25 Budget

	<u>SC Adopted</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
			<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Gross Operating Budget	<u>33,521,858</u>	<u>35,039,758</u>	<u>1,517,900</u>	<u>4.53%</u>
Less:				
School Choice Tuition Income	(1,300,000)	(1,300,000)		
Regular Tuition Income	<u>(725,000)</u>	<u>(725,000)</u>		
Net Operating Budget	<u>31,496,858</u>	<u>33,014,758</u>	<u>1,517,900</u>	<u>4.82%</u>
Less:				
Chapter 70 Aid	(3,045,078)	(3,398,268)		
Chapter 71 Transportation Aid	(850,000)	(850,000)		
Medicaid Reimbursement	(75,000)	(75,000)		
Transfer from E & D	(617,000)	(617,000)		
Interest Income	(15,000)	(15,000)		
Miscellaneous Income	<u>(32,000)</u>	<u>(32,000)</u>		
	<u>(4,634,078)</u>	<u>(4,987,268)</u>	<u>(353,190)</u>	<u>7.62%</u>
Net Assessments to Member Towns				
	<u>26,862,780</u>	<u>28,027,490</u>	<u>1,164,710</u>	<u>4.34%</u>

<u>Allocation of Assessments by Town</u>	<u>SC Adopted</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Great Barrington	19,939,489	20,644,805	705,316	3.54%
Stockbridge	3,598,672	3,797,541	198,869	5.53%
West Stockbridge	<u>3,350,179</u>	<u>3,585,144</u>	<u>234,965</u>	7.01%
Total	<u>26,888,340</u>	<u>28,027,490</u>	<u>1,139,150</u>	<u>4.24%</u>

Calculation of 2024-25 Assessments				
	<u>Allocation</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>MLC</u>	<u>Above MLC</u>	<u>Total</u>
Great Barrington	74.2045%	8,593,682	12,051,123	20,644,805
Stockbridge	12.9546%	1,693,659	2,103,882	3,797,541
West Stockbridge	12.8409%	<u>1,499,728</u>	<u>2,085,416</u>	<u>3,585,144</u>
Total	100.0000%	<u>11,787,069</u>	<u>16,240,421</u>	<u>28,027,490</u>

MLC numbers from DOE web page on 01/24/2024

**BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL BUDGET
FY 25 Budget**

	<u>SC Adopted</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>Amount</u>	
Gross Capital Budget	1,716,875	500,000	<u>(1,216,875)</u>	<u>-70.88%</u>
ST Borrowing (interest)	0	33,750		
Capital Repairs/Purchases	0	0		
Extraordinary Maint. - HS	0	0		
Stabilization Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		
	1,716,875	533,750	<u>(1,183,125)</u>	<u>-68.91%</u>
Less:				
Applicable Bond Premium				
MSBA Reimbursement	(1,120,934)	0		

Net Assessments to Member Towns	<u>595,941</u>	<u>533,750</u>	<u>(62,191)</u>	<u>-10.44%</u>
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<u>Allocation of Assessments by Town</u>	<u>SC Adopted</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>Preliminary</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Great Barrington	443,859	396,067	(47,793)	<u>-10.77%</u>
Stockbridge	78,450	69,145	(9,304)	<u>-11.86%</u>
West Stockbridge	<u>73,632</u>	<u>68,538</u>	<u>(5,094)</u>	<u>-6.92%</u>
Total	<u>595,941</u>	<u>533,750</u>	<u>(62,191)</u>	

Calculation of 2024-25 Assessments			
	<u>Allocation</u> <u>Percent</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Assessment</u>	<u>Total</u>
Great Barrington	74.2045%	396,067	396,067
Stockbridge	12.9546%	69,145	69,145
West Stockbridge	12.8409%	<u>68,538</u>	<u>68,538</u>
Total	100.0000%	<u>533,750</u>	<u>533,750</u>

West Stockbridge Public Library
Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report
Submitted December 2023

Almost 10,000 loans of books, dvds, and audiobooks went out to our patrons between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. West Stockbridge Library cardholders also borrowed 3,061 electronic books and audiobooks. If these items were purchased instead of borrowed, they would have cost \$198,279. This and other statistics are provided via the Central and Western Mass Automated Resource Sharing network (CWMARS), overseen by the Mass Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Every year, West Stockbridge Library has successfully applied to the MBLC for State Aid to Public Libraries. The State Aid Program provides our online catalog, making it possible to borrow print and electronic items from libraries throughout Massachusetts, and beyond.

Summer 2022 included a variety of programs for local kids. The summer storywalk near the playground was "Hiking Day," by Anne Rockwell. Young library visitors attended a weekly story time and craft led by Miss Vicky. They also enjoyed finding a fox who was tucked into a different hiding place each week.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council that helped to fund a two-part library program in the spring. First, we gave a new book to each 3rd and 4th grader at Muddy Brook Elementary School with the theme of the therapeutic value of animals. Later we hosted an outdoor event featuring mini horses from High and Mighty therapeutic riding center. Our Friends of the Library helped by bringing large coolers and ice, handing out ice cream treats, and providing juice boxes. Total attendance was just over 200 people.

We thank the Friends of the Library for once again obtaining a West Stockbridge Cultural Council grant for the popular museum and cultural pass program.

Our special thanks to high school volunteer Francesca Stanmeyer, who joined us in September 2022 and brings an artistic sensibility, a great work ethic, and a love of reading.

All of us on the library staff extend our sincere thanks to those who serve on the Board of Trustees, as well as other town boards, departments, and committees that help us provide library services to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Library Staff fy2023
Rachel Alter, Med, MLS, Director
Vicky Cooper, MLS
Brad Havill, MLS
Francesca Stanmeyer, Volunteer

Library Board of Trustees
Beth Sack
Andy Potter
Sarah Schaeffer
Molly Meador

FY 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL LIBRARY HOLDINGS (print books, dvds, audiobooks, magazines, museum passes)	10,391	10,557	10,246
CIRCULATION	8,610	10,753	9,987
LOANS RECEIVED FROM OTHER LIBRARIES	3,580	3,229	2,404
LOANS DELIVERED TO OTHER LIBRARIES	1,377	1,486	1,392
ESTIMATE VALUE OF MATERIALS (how much library users would spend if they had to copies of the items they borrowed)	157,560	177,250	198,279
TOTAL ELECTRONIC BOOK AND STREAMING AUDIOBOOK LOANS	2,539	2,732	3,061



West Stockbridge Historical Society Town Annual Report - 2023

As we all hoped, Covid and lockdowns became in the past, and we gradually restarted our programs and gatherings. It felt good to see people again, without having to rely on your internet connection and to interact with people without a mask and see smiles instead an emoji.

The Old Town Hall restoration is moving forward as we raise the funds, and trades and material becomes available. This past year, we installed the new handicap accessible bathroom, rebuilt three large windows in Vaber Hall, insulated the attic and installed new HVAC system on the second floor. We still have a lot of inside work to do, such as a second bathroom on the upper level, rebuilding the chimney, and improving inside safety lighting and fencing.



West Stockbridge Chamber Players



Trick or Treating



Greeting friends at the Open House



Brian Patneau Quartet

We're planning an active year for 2024. Everything from a Baseball in the Berkshires exhibit on African American players and teams in West Stockbridge, to our Jazz and Chamber Music Series, to Nature and Author talks and our Fall History Walk. We were sorry to mark the passing of Bill Loeb, one of founders and a driving force in saving the Old Town Hall. He will be missed. We are thankful for the generosity of our many members and supporters this past year. It's what makes West Stockbridge and the West Stockbridge Historical Society something special.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors, along with our assessing staff provided under contract by Regional Resource Group, continues to assure the fair taxation of all West Stockbridge properties.

During the past year, we continued to reorganize and update assessment records. Our GIS/Public Access System is online and offers access to town maps, property record cards and sales information. Other efforts included inspecting property after building permits are processed, auditing property files for accuracy and completeness and updating map changes.

Our Board strives to build and maintain good public relations. We provide our residents with:

- Abutters lists required for any property additions or alterations;
- Mailings to those eligible for special tax classifications and exemptions;
- Assistance in completing forms for residents who are eligible for exemptions;
- Current property ownership information by processing registered deeds, name and address changes and other related information.
- Motor Vehicle Excise Abatements;
- Information on a host of tax and property assessment issues.

As the town's principal revenue generator, the Assessors continue to review properties subject to taxation. We plan to enhance tax revenues by:

- Identifying second homeowners and businesses whose personal property are subject to taxes;
- Making sure that new construction is monitored and assessed, and that property given a certificate of occupancy is correctly assessed and taxed accordingly;

Other office activities included:

- Processing parcel divisions and other map changes;
- Processing and reviewing all abatement requests;
- Processing personal property forms, chapter land applications, exemption applications;
- Preparing various Department of Revenue Reports.

Our office hours are Tuesdays 1:00-5:00pm and Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm. The Board of Assessors meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:00-6:00pm. Residents can contact us by phone at 413 232- 0300, ext. 303 or by email assessor@weststockbridge-ma.gov. Property information can be accessed on the town website: www.weststockbridge-ma.gov.

Collector's Annual Report FY 2023

Thank you again for another year of prompt payments.

For 2023, only 15 of 1,310 accounts are outstanding, with only 4 going to tax title.

My hours remain the same as follows:

Tuesday 1-5pm

Wednesday 7am-12pm

Thursday 1-6pm

There are 2 drop boxes, one located on the outside of the building to the left of the doors, and one to the right of my window. Please don't hesitate to leave payments if I am not here.

Payments are processed according to when I receive them, not according to post date or date of check.

We also offer online payment option. You can go to the town website, click on departments, collector, and then online payment portal. You can use this for Property bills, excise bills, and water/sewer bills.

It is a pleasure to serve the community in this position and I enjoy getting to know you all and help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Kelli Bradbury, Town Collector

The following is the Town Accountant's report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Reports provided are: Balance Sheet (All Funds)
 Revenues
 Expenses
 Special Revenue Funds
 Trust Funds
 Outstanding Debt
 Capital Projects
 Agency Funds

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Markham
Town Accountant

West Stockbridge

**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
as of June 30, 2023**

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt		
ASSETS									
Cash and cash equivalents	1,340,748.12	850,179.32	49,701.30	249,310.71		809,376.30			3,299,315.75
Investments									0.00
Receivables:									
Personal property taxes	3,582.01								3,582.01
Real estate taxes	65,233.66								65,233.66
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(66,745.86)								(66,745.86)
Tax liens	34,675.02								34,675.02
Deferred taxes									0.00
Motor vehicle excise	53,161.19								53,161.19
Other excises									0.00
User fees				11,603.57					11,603.57
Utility liens added to taxes				1,838.42					1,838.42
Departmental									0.00
Special assessments									0.00
Due from other governments									0.00
Other receivables- Comm Pres									1,119.62
Foreclosures/Possessions									34,107.96
Prepays									0.00
Due to/from other funds									0.00
Working deposit									0.00
Inventory									0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation									0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds									0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave									0.00
Total Assets	1,464,762.10	851,298.94	49,701.30	262,752.70	0.00	809,376.30	1,800,330.00	1,800,330.00	5,238,221.34

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:	
Warrants payable	0.00
Accounts payable	0.00
Accrued payroll	0.00
Withholdings	0.00
Accrued claims payable	0.00
Due to/from other funds	0.00
Due to other governments	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00
Deferred revenue:	
Real and personal property taxes	2,069.81
Tax liens	34,675.02
Deferred taxes	0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	34,107.96
Motor vehicle excise	53,161.19

West Stockbridge

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
as of June 30, 2023

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Groups		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt			
Other excises										0.00
User fees				11,603.57						11,603.57
Utility liens added to taxes				1,838.42						1,838.42
Departmental										0.00
Special assessments										0.00
Due from other governments										0.00
Other receivables-CPA		1,119.62								1,119.62
Deposits receivable										0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees										0.00
Tailings										0.00
IBNR										0.00
Agency Funds										0.00
Notes payable							16,424.75			16,424.75
Bonds payable								1,800,330.00		1,800,330.00
Vacation and sick leave liability										0.00
Total Liabilities	124,013.98	1,119.62	0.00	13,441.99	0.00	16,424.75	1,800,330.00			1,955,330.34
Fund Equity:										
Reserved for encumbrances	306,994.72			9,100.00						316,094.72
Reserved for expenditures	437,306.00									437,306.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations				0.00						0.00
Reserved for petty cash										0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit										0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit										0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit										0.00
Reserved for debt service										0.00
Reserved for premiums										0.00
Reserved for working deposit										0.00
Undesignated fund balance	596,447.40	850,179.32	49,701.30	240,210.71		792,951.55				2,289,279.57
Unreserved retained earnings										0.00
Investment in capital assets										0.00
Total Fund Equity	1,340,748.12	850,179.32	49,701.30	249,310.71	0.00	792,951.55	0.00			3,282,891.00
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,464,762.10	851,298.94	49,701.30	262,752.70	0.00	809,376.30	1,800,330.00			5,238,221.34

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE

REVENUES

Year ending June 30, 2023

General Taxes

Personal Property	\$157,204
Real Estate	\$5,337,337
Tax Title	\$12,686
Tax Foreclosure	\$0
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$267,922
Interest/penalties on Taxes and Excise	\$27,650
Hotel/Motel Tax	\$58,164
Meals Tax	\$16,299
Other Taxes	\$5,040

Sub-total General Taxes	\$5,882,301
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Permits/Charges for Services

Selectmens Fees	\$2,035
Planning Board	\$1,885
Board of Appeals	\$2,000
Transfer Station Fees	\$3,994
Alcoholic Licenses	\$3,925
Alarm Permits	\$50
Building Permits	\$43,409
Trench Permits	\$0
Burial Permits	\$0
Fire Dept Permits	\$2,465
Firearm Permit-Town Share	\$450
Board of Health Permits	\$4,255

Sub-total Permits/Charges for Services	\$64,468
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Other Departmental Receipts

Assessors	\$60
Police Admin. Fees	\$14,787
Town Clerk	\$1,960
Inspectors Admin fees	\$1,475
Charter Communications Rent	\$33,457
Parking Charges	\$55
Other Misc. Department revenue	

Sub-total Other Dept. Receipts	\$51,794
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Revenues from State (Cherry Sheet)

State Owned Land	\$118,975
G/Fund Unrestricted Aid	\$112,633
Abate-Vets,Blind,Surv Spouse	\$3,012

Sub-total State Revenues	\$234,620
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REVENUES

Year ending June 30, 2023

Revenue from Other Governments

District Court Fines	\$1,215
Veterans' Reimbursement Benefits	\$7,246
Sub-total Other Government Revenue	\$8,461

Miscellaneous Revenue

Earnings on Investments	\$822
Other Miscellaneous	\$5,055
Cannabis-HCA	\$5,475
Sub-total Miscellaneous Revenue	\$11,352

Total General Fund Revenues	\$6,252,997
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Water Revenue Funds

Water User Charges	
Water Connections	
Water Interest/penalties	
Investment Earnings	
Misc. Water Revenue	
Total Water Fund Revenues	\$0

Sewer Revenue Funds

Sewer User Charges	
Sewer Connections	
Sewer Interest/penalties	
Investment Earnings	
Misc. Sewer Revenue	
Total Sewer Fund Revenues	\$0

Total Revenues	\$6,252,997
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TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE

Year ending June 30, 2023

General Government	
Town Counsel	34,353
Moderator	200
Administrative Assistant	
Salary	82,617
Expense	6,113
Select Board	
Salaries	6,200
Expense	14,097
Finance Committee	138
Town Accountant	
Salary	22,000
Expense	6,457
Audit Services	16,500
Assessors	
Salaries	4,500
Expense	49,131
Treasurer	
Salary	23,500
Expense	8,652
Tax Collector	
Salary	19,539
Expense	14,142
Town Clerk	
Salary	15,000
Expense	526
Election & Registrations	8,518
Preservation of Records	0
Street Lists	0
Conservation Commission	1,075
Planning Board	12,883
Board of Appeals	2,393
Town Insurance	92,674
Officers Bonds	1,075
Town Reports	2,750
Town Website maintenance	3,008
Computer/It services	11,618
Town Buildings	
Salaries	57,666
Expense	165,701
<u>Total General Government</u>	<u>683,027</u>
Public Safety	
Police	
Salaries	402,998
Expense	96,246
Fire	
Salaries	12,000
Expense	40,020
Richmond Ambulance	44,308
EMT Incentive	0
Fire Responder Incentive	5,610
Communications Services-dispatch	13,479
Building Inspector	
Salary	12,250
Expense	1,260
Emergency Management	500
Animal Control Officer	
Salary	5,000
Expense	432
Tree Warden	15,956
<u>Total Public Safety</u>	<u>650,058</u>

Year ending June 30, 2023

Education

Berkshire Hills Regional School District	
Assessment	3,184,170
Capital expense	84,315
<u>Total Education</u>	<u>3,268,485</u>

Public Works

Highway Department	
Salaries	291,999
Expenses	5,698
Bridges/Highways	160,532
Snow/Ice Removal	89,241
Street Lights	8,360
Hazardous Waste Disposal	1,446
Transfer Station	
Salary	23,365
Expenses	84,227
Cemetery Department	52,293
Mill Pond Weed Removal	0
Group Purchasing	800
<u>Total Public Works</u>	<u>717,960</u>

Human Services

Board of Health	
Salaries	15,525
Expenses	680
Community Health	4,000
Council on Aging	5,132
Veterans Benefits	10,959
Veteran's District Assessment	6,077
Memorial Day/American Legion	2,000
<u>Total Public Health</u>	<u>44,373</u>

Culture and Recreation

Library	
Salary	40,507
Expenses	10,112
Vision Committee	0
Parks & Recreation	
Salary	3,840
Expenses	17,426
Historical Commission	0
<u>Total Culture & Recreation</u>	<u>71,885</u>

Year ending June 30, 2023

Debt Service	
Sewer Expansion Loan-principal	23,362
Sewer Expansion Loan-interest	13,579
Dept Equip Loan-principal	170,604
Dept Equip Loan-interest	2,316
MuniPurpose Loan-principal	43,000
MuniPurpose Loan-interest	1,141
Other admin/interest	400
Total Debt Service	254,402

Miscellaneous Expenses	
Comm of Ma- Assessments	1,929
Retirement Assessment	168,723
Employee Insurance	
Health/dental Insurance	159,471
Med/Fica(Town Portion)	18,950
Unemployment Insurance	0
Trsfr to Conservation Trust	300
Tax Refunds	
Pers Property	1,232
Real Estate	26,650
Motor Vehicle	3,330
Other	10

Town Meeting Articles	
Trsfr to Stabilization	70,044
Mower	12,000
Boiler @ Hwy/Fire Dept building	0
Police Cruiser	57,852
Highway Truck	39,414
Roof @ Wastewater Treat. Plant	0
Cemetery Stone/Monument repair	0
Highway/Fire Building Repairs	5,656
Land for Restrooms,etc	0
Tsfr Station-paving repairs	0
RBC Update/Repairs	15,037
WWTP Roof paint/repairs	
Study:merging BHRSD & SBRSD	0
Merritt Way Easement	15,000
Computers	5,500
Traffic Study	8,000
Moscow Rd-Engineering/Design	0
Purchase Onl-line backup system	695

Total Miscellaneous **609,793**

TOTAL GENERAL FUND **6,299,982**

Water Department	
Salaries	39,517
Expenses	41,943
TOTAL WATER FUND	81,460

Year ending June 30, 2023

Sewer Department	
Salaries	52,440
Expenses	<u>61,229</u>
Sewer Special Articles:	
RBC Update/Repairs	51,449
Rooftop Air Unit Motor	0
Wastewater Plant -Roof repairs/paint	0
<u>TOTAL SEWER FUND</u>	<u>165,119</u>

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Year Ending June 30, 2023

State Grants	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending Balance
Hazard Mitigation Grant	1,697	15,000	(14,815)		1,882
Emergency Mgmt	0		(2,700)		(2,700)
Shared Streets Grant	\$7,729		\$0		\$7,729
Highway-Ch90	0	0	0		0
Elections	0	589	(230)		360
Winter Recovery Grant	0	119,869	(119,521)		348
Library State Aid Grant	12,271	3,872	(780)		15,363
Arts Lottery Grant	6,469	5,503	(5,623)		6,349
Green Community Grant	51,339		(1,354)		49,985
Elder Affairs Grant	14,998	6,888	(2,975)		18,911
Complete Streets Gr	0	30,401	(30,401)		0
Public Access	6,354	0	0		6,354
EOAF Grant-Zoning Consultant	7,886	0	0	(1,886)	6,000
EOAF Grant-Master Plan Consultant	(1,886)	0	0	1,886	0
ARPA Grant	188,621	190,972	(35,489)		344,105
Totals	295,479	373,095	(213,888)	0	454,685

Police & Fire Grants	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending Balance
Fire Safety Grant	0	0	0		0
Firearm Permits-State share	525	1,350	(1,725)		150
Police Equip Grant	0	0	0		0
Totals	525	1,350	(1,725)	0	150

Other Special Funds	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers/ Adj	Ending Balance
Sale of Cemetery Lots	5,775	2,950	(500)		8,225
Cable(PEG) operations	14,778	16,223		(14,778)	16,223
Wetland Protection	12,136	723			12,858
Parks & Recreation Gifts	0	1,751			1,751
Council on Aging Gifts	1,062	0			1,062
Council on Aging Travel	6,803	930			7,733
West Stock Library:General a/c	13,402	259	(473)		13,187
Wise Acre Farms Inc(HCA)	2,000			(2,000)	0
Zucchini Festival	12,023		(70)		11,953
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	67,979	22,835	(1,043)	(16,778)	72,993

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Year Ending June 30, 2023

OTHER REVOLVING FUNDS	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Trsfrs/Adj	Ending Balance
Title "V" Inspector	\$0	\$5,946	(\$5,946)		\$0
Electrical Inspector	\$825	\$9,185	(\$9,075)		\$935
Gas/Propane Inspector	\$775	\$4,070	(\$4,070)	(\$775)	\$0
Oil Burner Inspector	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Plumbing Inspector	\$540	\$2,970	(\$2,970)	(\$540)	\$0
Smoke & Emergency Alarm Inspector	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Collector :MLC/Demand fees	\$6,879	\$5,920	(\$10,209)		\$2,590
Deputy Collector	\$58	\$3,478	(\$3,258)		\$278
Total Other Revolving Funds	\$9,077	\$31,569	(\$35,528)	(\$1,315)	\$3,803

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Trsfrs	Ending Balance
Open Space Reserved	\$15,902			\$11,079	\$26,981
Historic Resources Reserved	\$15,905			\$11,079	\$26,984
Community Housing Reserved	\$15,902			\$11,079	\$26,981
CPA- Undesignated	\$142,522	\$118,477	(\$136)	(\$33,237)	\$227,626
					\$0
Total Community Preservation Funds	\$190,231	\$118,477	(\$136)	\$0	\$308,572

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE

AGENCY FUNDS Year ending June 30, 2023

Descriptions	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Payments	Ending Balance
Federal Withholding	\$0	\$119,958	(\$119,958)	\$0
Med/Fica Withholding	\$0	\$18,950	(\$18,950)	\$0
State Withholding	\$0	\$62,572	(\$62,572)	\$0
Retirement Withholding	\$1,315	\$89,990	(\$91,306)	(\$0)
Deferred Comp Withholding	\$1,047	\$46,482	(\$47,529)	\$0
Group Health/Dental Ins.	\$41,868	\$59,250	(\$91,118)	\$10,000
Life Insurance withholding	\$23	\$310	(\$337)	(\$4)
Union Dues	\$54	\$3,492	(\$3,546)	\$0
Aflac Withholding	\$1,296	\$8,171	(\$9,096)	\$370
Other Withholding(Provident)	\$94	\$709	(\$659)	\$143
Court Ordered deductions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Truck Stop Solar (decommissioning Bond)	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Outside Police Details	(\$19,212)	\$216,167	(\$217,504)	(\$20,549)
Bonds Refunded/issued	\$0	\$200,000	(\$200,000)	\$0
Totals	\$32,486	\$826,051	(\$862,576)	\$0

CAPITAL PROJECTS Year ending June 30, 2023

Descriptions	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
Road Improvements Prj	\$0	\$200,000	(\$150,299)		\$49,701
Totals	\$0	\$200,000	(\$150,299)	\$0	\$49,701

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
TRUST FUNDS
Year ending June 30, 2023

Descriptions	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Transfers in	Transfers out	Ending Balance
Tricentennial Trust	\$4,546	\$12			\$4,558
Stabilization - Tax Title Demo	\$15,000	\$112			\$15,112
Stabilization - Capital Fund	\$145,000	\$1,247	\$35,022		\$181,269
Stabilization Fund	\$446,152	\$8,720	\$35,022	(\$15,000)	\$474,894
Cemetery PC-interest	\$8,507	\$218			\$8,725
Cemetery PC - principal	\$61,448				\$61,448
Conservation Fund	\$15,573	\$42	\$300		\$15,916
War Memorial	\$3,873	\$12			\$3,884
Land Bank Trust	\$543	\$1			\$544
W.Stock Library Trust	\$47,126	\$24			\$47,150
Totals	\$747,767	\$10,388	\$70,344	(\$15,000)	\$813,500

OUTSTANDING DEBT
Year ending June 30, 2023

Descriptions	Beginning Balance	New debt	Payments	Combine Entries	Ending Balance
Sewer Ln	\$724,190		(\$23,362)		\$700,828
West Center Rd Improvements	\$337,500			(\$337,500)	\$0
Dept Equip Ln	\$345,606		(\$170,604)	(\$175,002)	\$0
Municipal Purpose Ln	\$430,000	\$200,000	(\$43,000)		\$587,000
** (a) Dept eq bal rolled into Multi Ln*				\$175,002	\$175,002
** (b) W.Center Rd rolled into Multi-Ln*				\$337,500	\$337,500
					\$1,099,502
Totals	\$1,837,296	\$200,000	(\$236,966)	\$0	\$1,800,330
					\$1,800,330

Treasurer's Report - FY2023

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Balance as of June 30 2023</u>
Berkshire Bank (General Fund)	\$ 568,712.75
Berkshire Bank (Payroll)	\$ (19,014.67)
MMDT (General Fund)	\$ 97.04
Unibank (Vendor - #1568)	\$ 22,899.71
TDBank (Vendor)	\$ 3,141.87
Unibank (General Fund - #1774)	\$ 860,178.23
Unibank (Building Commissioner)	\$ 113,569.15
	<hr/>
Total General Fund	\$1,549,584.08
 <u>Stabilization Accounts</u>	
Adams Community Bank (Stabilization)	\$ 264,775.48
Adams Community Bank (Stabilization CD)	\$ 406,499.48
	<hr/>
Total Stabilization	\$671,274.96
 <u>Other Funds</u>	
Berkshire Bank (Water Enterprise)	\$ 221,266.27
Berkshire Bank (Sewer Enterprise)	\$ 9,132.58
Unibank (5 - Trust Funds)	\$ 106,691.73
Berkshire Bank (Cultural Council)	\$ 6,471.89
Berkshire Bank (Zucchini Festival)	\$ 18,869.90
Unibank (Community Preservation)	\$ 274,482.58
Berk. Bank (Library - Now Account)	\$ 14,798.26
Berk. Bank (Library - MM Account)	\$ 47,150.07
Adams Community Bank (ARPA)	\$ 379,593.43
	<hr/>
Total Other Funds	\$ 1,078,456.71
 TOTAL - ALL ACCOUNTS	 \$ 3,299,315.75
	<hr/> <hr/>
Cash-Beginning Balance (07/01/2022)	\$ 2,937,107.29
Receipts	\$ 7,878,976.98
Disbursements	\$ (7,516,768.52)
Ending Balance (06/30/2023)	\$ 3,299,315.75
	<hr/> <hr/>

Respectfully Submitted,
Benjamin Gelb
Town Treasurer

West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Annual Report to the Town

The West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees is pleased to present its annual report, summarizing the organization's activities, achievements, and goals for the past year. As stewards of affordable housing initiatives within our community, the Board remains committed to addressing the critical need for accessible housing and promoting the well-being of our residents.

The West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund gained resounding approval from town residents during the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, signaling a significant step forward in addressing the community's pressing need for accessible housing. Following this decisive endorsement, the State's Attorney General granted official approval in July, solidifying the legal foundation for the Trust Fund's operations. In August, the Board of Trustees, entrusted with steering the organization towards its mission, was appointed. This sequence of events not only reflects the town's commitment to prioritizing affordable housing but also underscores the collaborative efforts and support from residents and regulatory authorities alike in laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and sustainable West Stockbridge.

The main accomplishment of the last six months was the initiation of efforts to prepare for a comprehensive housing needs assessment and the subsequent development of strategic action plans. The Board plans to hire an affordable housing consultant to undertake the key steps in understanding the issues as they relate to West Stockbridge and preparing an Affordable Housing Action Plan for the following year.

The Board will continue to forge collaborative partnerships with local government entities, non-profit organizations, and private sector partners. These partnerships will be instrumental in strengthening the town's collective capacity to address affordable housing challenges. By fostering collaboration, the Board aims to maximize resources and expertise for the benefit of the West Stockbridge community.

Looking ahead, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees is committed to:

- Completing the present and future housing needs assessment.
- Completing an initial affordable housing development capacity assessment for West Stockbridge.
- Preparing an Affordable Housing Action Plan and initiating its implementation.
- Exploring new funding sources and partnerships to expand affordable housing opportunities.
- Engaging with the community in an ongoing and meaningful manner.
- Enhancing collaboration with neighboring communities to address regional housing challenges.

While recognizing the challenges posed by rising construction costs, limited available land, and regulatory complexities, the Board views these obstacles as opportunities for creative and innovative solutions. The coming year will see a continued exploration of alternative approaches to address these challenges effectively.

West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees:

Mark Webber (chair)

Frank Landsberger

Andy Potter

Kathleen Keresey

Chris Powell

Steve Mack (*ex officio*)

Annual Report Conservation Commission

The conservation commission would like to thank John Masiero for years of service and knowledge of wetland regulations.

We are working on updating the website so that citizens know what we do and how to access information about wetlands and related resource areas. Our role is to protect water resources in West Stockbridge by complying with the state's Wetland Protection Act, West Stockbridge Wetlands protection bylaws and any associated policies. If you are considering any alteration to land or nearby resource areas, you may need a permit.

There have been several projects that we are overseeing this year with the help of the Department of Environmental Protection. We look forward to helping you with any proposed projects near a water resource.



West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Annual Report

Submitted by Caitlin Graham, Chairperson

Our year commenced with a significant collaboration with local veterans to host a dignified Memorial Day observance. This event was marked by patriotic readings by local children and musical performances by the MMRHS Band, reflecting our community's respect and gratitude towards our nation's heroes.

At Card Pond, our commitment to providing a safe and enjoyable recreational environment was evident. We welcomed back our excellent lifeguard for his second summer season and introduced the role of Groundskeeper. This position ensured daily maintenance of the beach, contributing to its pristine condition. Our community engagement was further bolstered by a well-received beach party and barbeque held on July 23rd. Additionally, our effective implementation of goose deterrents has successfully managed the goose population, maintaining the beach's appeal.

Significant improvements were made to our parks, particularly around the town hall. A key project was the repair and replacement of a section of the skate park ramp. Further enhancements included repairing cracks in the tennis court, ensuring these facilities remain safe and inviting for our residents.

The return of ZucchiniFest in August was a highlight, with our committee playing a good role. We were instrumental in sponsoring and managing the zuck races and the dunking booth, showcasing our dedication to fostering community spirit and engagement.

Our organization of the town Halloween party was a testament to our commitment to community celebrations. Held in the town hall gym, the event featured a costume contest, cider donuts, and spooky themed bingo, and was facilitated with the invaluable support of the West Stockbridge Police and Fire Departments.

The year concluded with our traditional West Stockbridge Sparkles event. Despite the parade's cancellation due to weather, the festive indoor gathering with warm drinks, cookies, and the presence of Santa, Mrs. Claus, and North Pole elves, was a warm and joyous occasion for our community.

Reflecting on the year 2023, it's clear that it was a period filled with growth, community engagement, and the continuous enhancement of our recreational spaces. Looking ahead to 2024, the Parks and Recreation Committee is excited to embark on new initiatives to further enrich our community's recreational experiences. One goal will be on enhancing accessibility and ADA compliance in our parks and playgrounds, ensuring that these spaces are inclusive and welcoming for all members of our community. Further, we plan to improve our open spaces with the addition of covered pavilions, providing more versatile and weather-resistant options for outdoor activities. Continuing with our tradition of fostering community spirit, we aim to engage more deeply with residents on beloved traditional events, ensuring that these occasions remain vibrant and reflective of our town's unique character. Through these initiatives, we look forward to building on the successes of the past year and continuing to make West Stockbridge a lively, inclusive, and enjoyable place to live and visit.

Planning Board Report **Annual Town Report**

The Planning Board continued to have a busy schedule in 2023.

We continue to work with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and the West Stockbridge Master Plan Steering Committee to complete drafts for an updated "Master Plan" (MP). The MP draft has to go through one, or more, cycles of further public comment. The Open Space and Recreation Plan is completed, subject to state review. There emerged from this process a strong consensus about the need for affordable senior housing and a consensus about the need for more affordably priced housing for young families.

Drafts for zoning changes to add regulations for short-term rentals and to update our accessory dwelling unit and flood plain overlay district regulations continued to be developed. BRPC is assisting us on these now. We look for public input, and we hope to get these to Special Town Meeting in the summer of 2024.

We worked on conforming and "cleaning up" our subdivision control regulations. These need to be finalized and re-adopted by the Planning Board.

We were very busy with a number of special permits for ground-mounted solar in residential districts, along with a variety of Form A applications.

We welcomed Chris Tonini as a newly elected planning board member. Sue Coxon has told us that she will retire from planning board work by early May. We thank her wholeheartedly for her service to the town.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Bixby, Chair, West Stockbridge Planning Board

Report of the West Stockbridge Zoning Board of Appeals FY2023

It's been a long time since the ZBA submitted to The Annual Town Report. In the past couple of years, Our ZBA has held about eight or nine hearings. At this writing, two of those hearings are still underway and have yet to be filed with The Town Clerk as "completed." In general, this many hearings is busier than usual because some hearings get continued for as many as four and five meetings before a decision can be reached. This process [for one hearing] can sometimes last months.

The ZBA takes applications for special permits, variances and appeals. *Special permits* are for uses and structures that are not allowed "by right" in the zoning district that it is found in. Some uses are only permitted by special permit. *Variances* cover special circumstances where literal enforcement of the provisions in our zoning bylaw would involve substantial hardship for the applicant. Variances typically involve circumstances related to the soil conditions, shape, or topography of the land or structures in question, but cannot negatively or substantially impact the zoning district where it is located. It's generally more complicated than a special permit. There are no "use variances" in West Stockbridge. *Appeals* to the board authorize The ZBA to decide outcomes for an applicant that is aggrieved for reasons of an inability to obtain a permit or enforcement action from any administrative officer or board in town.

The three authoritative actions handled by the ZBA are guided by Chapter 40A of Massachusetts General Law. Any changes to our zoning bylaw must be first voted at a town meeting and then authorized by the State Attorney General's office. All appeals to a ZBA decision go to Superior Court or Massachusetts Land Court. To our knowledge, The WS ZBA has yet to be appealed. But it could happen at any time.

Our ZBA has 5 members and two alternates [who fill in when a regular member cannot attend or is recused for a number of reasons.] Some of us have served for decades, and some of us are relatively new to the job. Our board almost never makes decisions that aren't unanimous.

Much of the time, applicants to our board are represented by attorneys, engineers, architects or other professional people who deal with this type of thing on a regular basis. Most of them are well versed in bylaws and statutes. Many of us are constantly reading up on zoning law and land use statutes. Some of us attend webinars, lectures, and other boards' meetings and hearings that enforce zoning law – like our hard-working Planning Board. Our Select Board also issues many licenses and permits as well. Each board handles various types of permits that need enforcement. Our Zoning Enforcement Officer [Brian Duvall] does that sort of thing regarding West Stockbridge zoning. He also issues building permits. It's a group effort, and it often gets complicated. We often take direction from each other.

There are often reasons to question the enforcement and understanding of town codes. Our ZBA has been lucky over the years to be made up of realtors, merchants, attorneys, architects, contractors, engineers, and planners that understand our zoning bylaws and the function of other boards that do some of the same.

Recently, we lost our "note taker" that takes notes and produces drafts of records and minutes of our scheduled meetings and hearings. We then take those drafts and use them to create the Record of Proceedings and Decisions for official filing. If you know anyone who might be interested in helping us find a replacement, we'd love to learn about it!

Each year has been getting busier and busier. Our little town is a very active and evolving place!!

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Roy, Jr - Clerk



Annual Report of the Board of Health for the year 2023

February 2024

Entering into the fourth year of the corona virus pandemic, most restrictions on daily activities have been lifted. However, the Board emphasizes that persons with weakened immune systems or health concerns be vigilant in taking precautions to protect themselves from the virus variants still emerging. At home test kits are still available for residents at Town Hall. The Board continues to monitor CDC and MABOH guidance.

Some COVID-19 & Flu Advice:

On May 11, 2023, all Federal and State COVID-19-related emergency orders were rescinded.

For 2023-2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

- Everyone aged 5 years and older should get **1 dose of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may get additional doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- Children aged 6 months–4 years need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be current, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine.

With the continuing surge of real estate sales, the Agent was kept busy witnessing Title 5 inspections and perc tests. During inspections, a high rate of failure continues to be seen on systems installed during the eighties and nineties. The average life expectancy of a *well-maintained* system is thirty years. Residents are reminded that it is good practice to have their septic tanks pumped every 2 years. It is also recommended that voluntary inspections be scheduled for systems over 10 years old to reveal their condition before expensive repairs are necessary. Contact the Agent for further information.

Water quality tests at the Town beaches were performed weekly during the open season with no results exceeding acceptable levels again this year.

Activity at the Transfer Station continues to increase with more residents being in Town. The recycling rate has remained at about 28% which is still in the upper level State wide. Fees collected from residents for bulky waste materials offset disposal costs by about 80%. We want to thank our attendant, Wayne Cooper, for a job well done overseeing the activity at the Station and Swap Shop.

What You Need to Know About Using the Transfer Station

You must be a Town resident and have a current annual transfer station decal affixed to the left side of your vehicle. You can obtain a decal from the Station Attendant, rules apply. The Swap Shop is available during normal Station hours. Ask the attendant about use of the Shop.

You must separate your trash and follow all the rules stated on the signs in front of the various containers. West Stockbridge's recycling program must be adhered to; the Town is fined for failure to recycle correctly. If you have questions, ask the transfer station attendant or phone the Station at 413-232-0307. Be kind to the attendant, he is only enforcing the rules. Please remember the following:

- Follow all state waste bans.
- Use the trash compactor for trash only, if in doubt ask the attendant.
- Use the paper bin only for clean paper products. No paper products with metals or plastics attached or used food containers.
- Use the bottle and cans bin for recycling glass, plastic, and metal containers. **No plastic bags.**
- There are bins available for redeemable bottles and cans.
- Certain (residential) organic waste may be disposed of in the composting area at no cost. No wood products. Check with the attendant before depositing.
- If you plan to browse the Swap Shop, please do not abandon your vehicle in front of the compactor and recycling bins. Doing so is disrespectful to others needing to deposit their trash.
- Fees are charged for disposal of certain items. Check with the attendant.
- Metal items may be disposed of for no fee in the metal dumpster. Rules apply; check with the attendant.

Please **DO NOT** include these items in your recycling mix:

- Plastic bags, trays, cups

- Anti-freeze and motor oil bottles
- Black plastic
- Plastics over 2.5 gallons
- Paper frozen food packaging

Effective November 1, 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) added textiles, mattresses, and box springs to its ban on disposing of these items in landfills, meaning they must be recycled. The ban's goal is to reduce the amount of waste deposited in the constantly shrinking landfills. According to the MassDEP, 95% of the textiles recovered can be recycled. The Board of Health is working to implement a service for mattress recycling. In the meantime, ask the attendant for direction. Textiles may be dropped off at many collection boxes in the area or, if in good condition, at Goodwill in Great Barrington

Remember to drive slowly and carefully when going up and down the access road to the Transfer Station.

The Board would like to remind residents to be considerate of where they exercise their pets and **clean up after them.**

The Agent and Board wish to thank Curt Wilton and the DPW for maintaining the Transfer Station, and, all the officials and residents of Town who help make West Stockbridge a healthy place to live.

Good health to all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl B. Moffatt, *Board of Health Agent*
health@weststockbridge-ma.gov
413-232-0300 x314

CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2023 had been a very busy year. We were happy to announce the return of the much beloved Zucchini Festival after a long hiatus.

The Cultural Council along with the Zucchini Festival Committee, Town Departments, businesses, neighbors, family and friends has brought back the Zucchini Festival with great success.

This event is truly a display of the commitment to being a part of our community for the benefit of all the residents. Every resident of our community is encouraged to take part in volunteering to help organize, donate, or to volunteer throughout the entire process of preparation and the day of to make it all a success. It also gives everyone a chance to meet your neighbors and have some fun in the process! It takes the energy and effort from all of us to make this happen. We are looking forward to another successful year in putting on the festival the second Saturday of August!

In addition, for the year 2024 the West Stockbridge Cultural Council has awarded \$7,800.00 from the State Cultural Council, which is a state agency that promotes excellence, inclusion, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and sciences, to foster a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents. As a local cultural council, we encourage all local artists, groups and organization to apply for grants that have a direct impact on the residents of West Stockbridge, our schools, libraries and organizations. The Cultural Council has funded events at the West Stockbridge Public Library, Farmers, Market, Historical Society at the Old Town Hall and programs for students in the Berkshire Hills regional school system, among many others. We encourage all local artists and organizations to apply.

View upcoming Cultural Council sponsored events and contact information on the town website: weststockbridge-ma.gov

Thank you, Margie Skaggs and Susan Leo for your dedicated service on the Cultural Council.

West Stockbridge Cultural Committee

Marjorie Powell, Chairman
Curtis Thierling, Treasurer
Scott Sawyer, Secretary
Miki Reuchlin
Jackie Moffatt

Rebecca Sheir

2024 CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS

West Stockbridge Farmers Market Company for Musical Entertainment	\$ 500.00
West Stockbridge Historical Society Inc. for West Stockbridge Chamber Players Spring Concert	\$ 750.00
West Stockbridge Historical Society Inc. for WSHS Jazz Series	\$ 750.00
West Stockbridge Local Yokel Inc. for The Local Yokel	\$ 600.00
West Stockbridge Public Library for Muddy Brook Elementary School Book Distribution	\$ 500.00
West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival for Entertainment	\$1,100.00
Berkshire Pulse Inc. for Young Choreographers Present their Work at the Foundry	\$1,000.00
Lara Tupper for Pick Up the Pen: Start Your Writing Project	\$ 350.00
Flying Cloud Institute Inc. for S*M*Art Lab: Where Science Meets Art!	\$ 500.00
Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library Inc. For Seven library passes to local cultural venues, newspaper at West Stockbridge Library	\$1,000.00
Triplex Cinema Inc. for Spring Teen Film Festival	\$ 375.00
Triplex Cinema Inc. for the film "Till"	\$ 375.00

We encourage all West Stockbridge residents to take advantage of these events! Passes are at the West Stockbridge Library along with limited free tickets for the West Stockbridge Historical Society's Spring Concert and Jazz Series (also available at the library)

Report of The West Stockbridge Vision Committee

The Vision Committee has had another active year. The following list contains some of the more prominent agenda items that we've discussed in 2023:

Sound Control in WS, Family Livability Goals, the effects of the pandemic on public education, affordable housing, The Planning Board's draft on "Accessory Dwelling Units" and short term rentals, EV charging stations possible in West Stockbridge, Zucchini Festival plans in August, a regular column in The Local Yokel, reaching out for more members, attending other town board meetings, reporting on the Complete Streets progress, understanding capital planning for certain town utilities and departments, discussing whether West Stockbridge should consider hiring a professional grant writer, discussing whether it's time to plan another "public input" meeting, finding grants for new playgrounds, reports on meetings with officials that can help with our search for funds for EV charging stations, planning for a committee social gathering during the winter, discussing the 8 Town School merger, updating ideas for new "town signage", planning a meeting to discuss Massachusetts Broadband Institute and inviting Robert Ireland of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to a VC meeting, and discussing the idea of asking various town boards and departments to any of our meetings.

We've been discussing "sound control" for well over two years now, and it remains a difficult thing to study as well as recommend various ways to propose bylaws that fairly regulate the different types of "noise" that we hear around town. Our Planning Board worked long and hard to begin the process, but the sound issues in town continue to present issues that remain difficult to resolve.

But our most expansive and demanding focus item this year has been EV charging stations. We discuss it at least once a month throughout the year. Our Select Board has graciously given us its blessing to find sources that can help us learn how to proceed. The State of Massachusetts is working out the details of providing funds and grants to businesses, individuals and municipalities. There are agencies that promote energy saving means to help lessen energy costs and mitigate such issues as climate change. Our Vision Committee has established contact with some professional sources that help us with ways to apply for grants that might help West Stockbridge provide convenient access to EV charging station funds. If and when we succeed, this will help attract visitors to our businesses and perhaps provide less expensive fuel for our town department vehicles in the near future. West Stockbridge has always been blessed with being an easy location surrounded by great destinations. EV charging stations will help our town become more of a destination than a path to others.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Roy, Jr, Chair

REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

To the Honorable Select Board:

Thank you for allowing me to service the member towns, their veterans, and widows. We have made great strides in reaching out to our veterans in our local area, letting them know the various services available to them from Elderly Services, Community Actions, and also the local senior centers. During FY 2023 we have seen a slight decrease in all areas of operation and currently have 31 active Chapter 115 claims.

Chapter 115 Submissions and Return from the State:

Town	FY 2023 Submitted 7/01/22-6/30/23	Pmt Due in FY 2024 - 75%
West Stockbridge	\$10,978.62	\$8,233.98

Over the last year we have completed the following for our member town's veterans:

Applications for VA Health Care	21
ALS/Disability/A&A/Appeals/Life Insurance	51
DD 214s	34
Request for Grave Markers	18
Tax Abatements/SS help/Other requests	35
Flags to funerals homes for veterans	42
Assisted with Dr. appointments	09
Home and Office Visits	240
Veterans Services Phone Calls	903

For FY 2023 District budget was reduced by the reserve resulting in a smaller assessment for the member towns. During these trying financial times all veterans and widows are encouraged to contact this office or the US Department of Veterans Affairs and review current entitlements as many changes have taken place. West Stockbridge's' apportionment towards the FY 2023 DVS budget was \$6,076.50 – this number was based on population percentage on the 2020 Census.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Beasley

Southern Berkshire District Director for Veteran Services

***Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Stockbridge
Warrant for Special Town Meeting
October 6, 2022
MINUTES***

BERKSHIRE: ss:

To any constable(s) of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at six o'clock in the evening (6:00 PM) on Thursday, October 6, 2022 in the Town Offices Gymnasium, located at 21 State Line Road, in the Village of West Stockbridge, to act on the following articles:

Motion made and seconded by Town Clerk Veronica Barrett to appoint Joseph Roy, Jr. as Moderator.

Motion voted unanimously.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,070.00 for the purchase of online backup services for the Town computer system, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Police Department operations budget approved under the Motion for Article 12 of the May 9, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, and vote to raise and appropriate a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for fiscal year 2023, as follows:

	FY23 Budget <u>Adjustment</u>
Part Time Patrol Officer Salary	(\$ 50,000)
Full Time Officers Salary	\$107,353
Full Time Officers Holiday Pay	\$ 4,492
Full Time Officer Personal & Sick Payout	\$ 14,235
Fitness Stipend	\$ 2,250
EMT Incentive	\$ 800
Education Incentive	\$ 2,500

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of West Stockbridge, as on file and available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, by making several ministerial changes, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
5	5-1 (F)	At least two one public hearings shall be held previous to the Annual Meeting, at which time all interested taxpayers may be heard as to the appropriations to be voted upon at Town Meeting.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
45	45-16 (N)	Delete entirely N. Inspector of Gas Piping and Gas Appliances.
125	125-4 (B)	Insert the word Assessor in the last paragraph A copy of the disclosure notification shall be provided by the Town Assessor to landowners each fiscal year by mail.

Motion made by Mitchell Greenwald and seconded to strike the change to Chapter 5 of this article.

Motion Failed.

Vote taken on the article as written.

Motion made, seconded and Approved.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of West Stockbridge, as on file and available for viewing in the Office of the Town Clerk, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

1. Amend the table in Section 4.11.1 so that all references to "SPS" read "SPP" (rows 7, 8, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 32 and 37).
2. Amend the table in Section 4.11.2 so that all references to "SPS" read "SPP" (rows 14, and 15)

3. Amend introductory paragraph of Section 6.7.2 to read as follows:

The following signs may be displayed ~~with a permit from the Select Board issued~~ in accordance with the provisions of the Town's Zoning Sign Bylaw, section 6.7.

4. Amend Paragraph c. of Section 6.7.3 to read as follows:

No sign shall be located off the premises to which it applies, except that directional, informational or identification signs may be allowed ~~by the Select Board~~ where such signs will serve the public convenience and not be detrimental to the neighborhood with respect to size, location, or design.

5. Amend Paragraph e. of Section 6.7.3 to read as follows:

No portable sign of any type will be allowed except for a period of not more than three days ~~with a special permit from the Select Board~~ at a maximum square footage of 5 sq. ft. per side. This will be allowed up to four (4) time per calendar year.

6. In section 6.7.2.d change the word "business" to "commercial"

Motion made by William Kie and seconded, to table this article until the Annual Town Meeting.
Motion Failed.

A Hand count vote taken on the article as written.

YES- 42 NO – 20

Motion Approved by 2/3rds Majority Vote

Article 6: To do and transact any other business to be done by the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion made, seconded and approved to Adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Veronica Barrett, Town Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Stockbridge
May 1, 2023
Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

BERKSHIRE: ss:

To any constable(s) of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, *who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at six o'clock in the evening on Monday, May 1, 2023 in the gymnasium at Town Hall of West Stockbridge, located at 21 State Line Road, then and there to act on the following articles:*

Meeting called to order 6:10pm. Quorum present

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers or any Committee of the Town.

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to act as agents of the Town in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 2 for the purpose of bringing suit or suits in the name of the Town and on its behalf, and to adjust, litigate, defend, compromise, settle, and execute any and all documents pursuant to any settlement on behalf of the Town for such amounts as the Select Board shall determine in their decision to be proper and in the best interest of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize any Board or Officer in charge of a department, with the approval of the Select Board, to sell any property of the Town which has become obsolete or is not required for further use by the respective department and which does not, in the opinion of the Selectmen, exceed \$500.00 in value, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Cemetery Perpetual Care funds received for the fiscal year 2023 *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Moderator to appoint any agents or committees of the Town and give them authority or instructions, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint all non-elected Town Officers necessary or required to be chosen by the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to sell at public auction all or any of its property acquired by virtue of sale of non-payment of taxes, which have been confirmed by the Land Court to the Tax Commissioner, and to give deeds

therefor, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

(Requires a 2/3rds Majority vote to pass)

Motion made, seconded, approved. Unanimous

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town, with the approval of the Select Board, to seek and accept any grants and to further authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section(s) 6, 6A, and 8C and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within two years, and to renew any note or notes as may be given in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors (the “Opioid Stabilization Fund”), for the purposes of supplementing and strengthening the resources available to West Stockbridge individuals and families for substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery, including without limitation: opioid use disorder treatment; supporting and promoting recovery and treatment programs such as through housing, job placement, childcare, and healthcare; at-risk connections and school-based services and training or safe station partnerships; harm reduction programs and treatment; diversion programs for criminal-justice involved persons; support for pregnant and parenting persons and babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome; opioid prevention and misuse education; and/or for the purpose of funding any such programs and projects set out in the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements and the National Opioid Settlement Agreement, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

(Requires a 2/3rds Majority vote to pass)

Motion made, seconded, approved. Unanimous

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to require the Tax Collector, Deputy Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to give bonds by some surety company and to raise and appropriate a sum or sums of money to pay for same, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of various elected Town Officers, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Select Board Member (Chair)	\$ 2,200	\$ 0	\$ 2,200
Select Board Member (current Member)	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Select Board Member (newest Member)	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Town Clerk	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Town Collector	\$ 19,000	\$ 0	\$ 19,000
Assessors (each, 3 members)	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	\$ 1,500

Motion made, seconded, approved

General Government

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the general government operations of the Town for fiscal year 2024, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Town Counsel	\$ 40,000	\$ 0	\$ 40,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Town Administrator Salary	\$ 79,568	\$ 2,387	\$ 81,955
Town Administrator Expenses	\$ 9,000	\$ 0	\$ 9,000
Sick/Personal Day Payout	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 6,000
Select Board's Salaries	\$ 6,200	\$ 1,000	\$ 7,200
Select Board's Expenses	\$ 14,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 15,500
Finance Committee	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Accountant's Salary	\$ 21,000	\$ 0	\$ 21,000
Accountant's State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Accountant's Expenses	\$ 2,400	\$ 0	\$ 2,400
Treasurer/Accountant Software	\$ 5,900	\$ 1,200	\$ 7,100
Town Audit	\$ 16,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 17,500
Assessor's Salary	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500
Assessor's Cont Services/Expense	\$ 54,548	\$ 3,152	\$ 57,700
Treasurer's Salary	\$ 22,500	\$ 0	\$ 22,500
Treasurer State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Treasurer's Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,260	\$ 7,260
OPEB Fees	\$ 2,950	\$ 0	\$ 2,950
Town Collector's Salary	\$ 19,000	\$ 0	\$ 19,000
Town Collector State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Town Collector's Expenses	\$ 14,750	\$ 250	\$ 15,000
Tax Title Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Town Clerk's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Assistant Town Clerk Salary	\$ 5,000	\$ 150	\$ 5,150
Town Clerk's Expenses	\$ 1,910	\$ 600	\$ 2,510
Elections and Registrations	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
Preservation of Records	\$ 3,000	(\$3,000)	\$ 0
Street List	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Planning Board	\$ 16,750	\$ 0	\$ 16,750
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500
Town Insurance	\$ 90,000	\$ 0	\$ 90,000
Officers' Bonds	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	\$ 1,500
Town Reports	\$ 3,800	\$ 0	\$ 3,800
Town Website Annual Maint.	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500
Computer/IT Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
Town Bldg. & Grounds Sup. Salary	\$ 53,560	\$ 4,680	\$ 58,240
Town Seasonal Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000
Town Buildings Electricity	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 55,000
Town Buildings Fuel	\$ 29,000	\$ 2,900	\$ 31,900

Town Buildings Telephone	\$ 13,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 14,000
Town Buildings Repairs/Maint.	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 26,250
Town Buildings Plants & Gardening	\$ 11,500	\$ 1,150	\$ 12,650
Town Signage	\$ 7,000	(\$7,000)	\$ 0
Town Buildings Supplies	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 13,200
Total General Government	\$705,386	\$20,029	\$725,415

Motion made, seconded, approved

Protection of Persons and Property

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the public safety departments of the Town for fiscal year 2024, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:* [Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Police Chief Salary	\$ 80,988	\$ 2,430	\$ 83,418
Part Time Patrol Officers Salary	\$ 12,932	(\$12,932)	\$ 0
Full Time Officers Salary	\$261,367	\$ 52,755	\$314,122
Administrative Asst. Salary	\$ 19,482	\$ 584	\$ 20,066
Full Time Officers Holiday Pay	\$ 20,458	\$ 15,487	\$ 35,945
Training Time Pay	\$ 8,755	\$ 1,245	\$ 10,000
Police Overtime Pay	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,198	\$ 10,698
Sick/Personal Payout	\$ 24,326	(\$ 4,326)	\$ 20,000
Police Traffic Calming	\$ 12,800	(\$ 2,800)	\$ 10,000
Fitness Stipend	\$ 4,950	(\$ 450)	\$ 4,500
Police Bridge Academy	\$ 28,000	(\$28,000)	\$ 0
Uniforms	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 8,400
Police Training	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
Police Fuel	\$ 12,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,000
Police Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 6,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,500
Police Vehicles Repairs & Maint.	\$ 11,000	\$ 0	\$ 11,000
Police Other Charges & Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Police Maint. Contracts	\$ 7,700	\$ 0	\$ 7,700
Police Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,000
Police Equipment	\$ 8,000	(\$ 3,000)	\$ 5,000
Police EMT Stipend	\$ 800	\$ 0	\$ 800
Police Education Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	\$ 2,500
Fire Chief Salary	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 15,000
Fire Department Training	\$ 2,400	\$ 0	\$ 2,400
Fire Department Fuel	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Fire Dept. Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Fire Dept. Repairs & Maint.	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Fire Dept. Supplies	\$ 6,250	\$ 0	\$ 6,250
Fire Dept. Office Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Fire Dept. Medical Supplies	\$ 5,800	\$ 0	\$ 5,800
Fire Dept. Turnout Gear	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
Richmond Ambulance	\$ 45,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 62,500
EMT Incentive	\$ 2,400	\$ 0	\$ 2,400
Fireperson's Incentive	\$ 12,500	\$ 0	\$ 12,500

Communication Services	\$ 12,710	\$ 1,174	\$ 13,884
Emergency Management	\$ 600	\$ 0	\$ 600
Building Inspector	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 15,000
Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 235	\$ 2,735
Animal Control Officer	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Animal Control Officer Exp.	\$ 400	\$ 0	\$ 400
Tree Warden	\$ 16,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 17,600
Total Protection Persons & Property	\$722,618	\$ 55,100	\$777,718

Motion made, seconded, approved

Education

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,318,213 for the purpose of paying the FY 2024 operating assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, or *take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$73,632 for the purpose of paying the FY 2024 capital assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, or *take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Motion made, seconded, approved

Public Works and Facilities

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the public works and facilities departments of the Town for fiscal year 2024, or *take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Director Salary	\$ 80,972	\$ 2,430	\$ 83,402
Highway Salaries	\$176,000	\$10,410	\$186,410
Sick/Personal Day Payout	\$ 17,720	\$ 1,206	\$ 18,926
Contracted Longevity Pay	\$ 5,000	(\$ 500)	\$ 4,500
Highway Overtime	\$ 14,600	\$ 2,950	\$ 17,550
Fitness Stipend	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500
Uniform Allowance	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000
Highway Professional Training	\$ 900	\$ 400	\$ 1,300
Dues & Licenses	\$ 800	\$ 200	\$ 1,000
Gas and Diesel Fuel	\$ 22,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 23,500
Highways and Bridges	\$ 14,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 15,000
Culverts and Guardrails	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000
Machinery Maintenance	\$ 28,000	\$ 2,800	\$ 30,800
Highway Construction	\$ 52,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 58,000
Highway Line Painting	\$ 17,000	\$ 0	\$ 17,000
Snow and Ice Removal	\$ 80,000	\$ 0	\$ 80,000
Street Lights	\$ 20,000	(\$ 5,000)	\$ 15,000
Hazardous Waste Disposal	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Transfer Station Attendant Salary	\$ 23,800	\$ 2,400	\$ 26,200

Transfer Station Expenses	\$ 11,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,000
Transfer Station Hauling	\$ 85,416	(\$ 5,416)	\$ 80,000
Cemetery Department	\$ 33,000	\$ 0	\$ 33,000
Cemetery Tree Removal	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Group Purchasing	\$ 900	\$ 0	\$ 900
Total Public Works & Facilities	\$716,608	\$ 25,380	\$741,988

Motion made, seconded, approved

Human Services

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the human services departments of the Town for fiscal year 2024, or take any other action in relation thereto:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Board of Health Salary	\$ 15,525	\$ 543	\$ 16,068
Board of Health	\$ 2,475	\$ 0	\$ 2,475
Community Health Alliance	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,000
Council on Aging	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Veteran's Benefits	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
American Legion/Memorial Day	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Total Human Services	\$ 54,000	\$ 543	\$ 54,543

Motion made, seconded, approved

Culture and Recreation

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for culture and recreation departments of the Town for fiscal year 2024, or take any other action in relation thereto:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Library Salaries	\$ 40,679	\$ 3,254	\$ 43,933
Library Reading Materials	\$ 6,500	\$ 200	\$ 6,700
Library Expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 100	\$ 2,600
Library Programming	\$ 1,700	\$ 100	\$ 1,800
Parks and Recreation	\$ 14,000	\$ 0	\$ 14,000
Historical Commission	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Vision Committee	\$ 1,435	\$ 0	\$ 1,435
Total Culture and Recreation	\$ 67,014	\$ 5,054	\$ 72,068

Motion made, seconded, approved

Debt and Interest

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for debt and interest obligations for fiscal year 2024, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Interest & Fees Short/Long Term	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Sewer Capital Costs	\$ 36,941	\$ (438)	\$ 36,503
Multi-Purpose Loan	\$172,921	\$ 66,996	\$239,917
<i>Total Debt & Interest</i>	<u>\$214,862</u>	<u>\$ 66,558</u>	<u>\$281,420</u>

Motion made, seconded, approved

Intergovernmental Expenses

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for intergovernmental expenses for fiscal year 2024, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Veterans District	\$ 6,100	\$ 1,750	\$ 7,850
<i>Total Intergovernmental Expenses</i>	<u>\$ 6,100</u>	<u>\$ 1,750</u>	<u>\$ 7,850</u>

Motion made, seconded, approved

Unclassified Expenses

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for certain unclassified expenses for fiscal year 2024, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Berkshire County Retirement	\$168,723	\$18,499	\$187,222
Health Insurance	\$207,674	(\$ 7,674)	\$200,000
Medicare & FICA Tax	\$ 19,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 22,000
Reserve Fund	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 30,000
Conservation Trust	\$ 300	\$ 0	\$ 300
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
<i>Total Unclassified Expenses</i>	<u>\$416,697</u>	<u>\$ 23,825</u>	<u>\$440,522</u>

Motion made, seconded, approved

Special Financial Article

[The following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee.]

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$8,460.00, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a Compact Water Pump for the Fire Department, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping two new updated Automated External Defibrillator units for the Police Department and Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a new dog licensing software program for the Town Clerk, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$3,250.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping two new election poll pads for the Town Clerk, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$44,500.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new van for the Council on Aging, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$8,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new floating dock for Card Pond for the Parks and Recreation Commission, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$14,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new utility shed at Town Hall for the Department of Public Works, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$46,000.00 for the purpose of resurfacing the parking lot at the Town Hall and Library, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$120,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new dump truck for the Department of Public Works, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of funding a weed removal program for Card Pond and Shaker Mill Pond, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$9,250.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping three new computers for the Police Vehicles for the Police Department, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$91,300.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping new Police radio system, including a base station, six portable radios and four vehicle radios to meet new State requirements for the Police Department, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$356,400.00 for the purpose of funding the resurfacing of Iron Ore Road, Iron Mine Road, Silver Mine Road, Bobolink Road, Cone Hill Road and Furnace Road, and for the payment of all other incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: The intent of this appropriation is to add available Town funds to our annual State highway funding to provide for the resurfacing of Iron Ore Road, Iron Mine Road, Silver Mine Road, Bobolink Road, Cone Hill Road and Furnace Road the paving project.

(Requires 2/3rds vote to pass)

Motion made, seconded, approved. Unanimous

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, or reserve for future appropriation, from the Community Preservation Fund, the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for FY24, with each item considered a separate appropriation; *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

Reserves:

Housing Reserve	\$11,824
Open Space Reserve	\$11,824

Appropriations:

Administrative Expenses	\$3,500
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Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund for FY24 the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;

Project - Historical Resources

Total Appropriation

Renovation of two existing bathrooms on first and second floors of Historical Society

\$22,500

Building at 9 Main Street to be ADA Compliant

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$35,023 to the Stabilization Fund, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Motion made, seconded, approved. Unanimous

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$35,023 to the Capital Stabilization Fund, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Motion made, seconded, approved. Unanimous

Special Articles:

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the Legislature to enact special legislation which provides that, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Steven Traver may be employed as Chief of the Fire Department of the Town of West Stockbridge, subject to approval by the Select Board, until June 30, 2025 or until the date of his retirement, or until the Select Board vote not to reappoint him to this position in accordance with all applicable laws; provided, however, that he is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of such position and provided that, if requested, Steven Traver shall be examined by an impartial physician designated by the Select Board to determine such capability, and provided that, deductions shall continue to be made from the regular compensation of Steven Traver under Chapter 32 of the

General Laws, while he is employed as Chief of the Fire Department in accordance with all applicable laws, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 41: AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Motion made, seconded, approved to dispense reading article.

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 55C, and establish a trust known as the West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund, whose purpose shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in the Town of West Stockbridge for the benefit of low and moderate income households, and, further, to amend the General Bylaws of the Town to insert a new Chapter 9 of the West Stockbridge General Bylaws entitled: Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as follows, or act in any manner relating thereto:

Chapter 9 - Affordable Housing Trust Fund

§ 9-1 Authority; Establishment.

§ 9-2 Purpose.

§ 9-3 Composition.

§ 9-4 Declaration of Trust.

§ 9-5 Powers.

§ 9-6 Acts of Trustees.

§ 9-7 Funds Paid to Trust.

§ 9-8 Meetings; Quorum.

§ 9-9 Custodian of Funds.

§ 9-10 Liability.

§ 9-11 Taxes.

§ 9-12 Governmental Body.

§ 9-13 Board of Town.

§ 9-14 Compensation of Trustees.

§ 9-15 Amendments.

§ 9-16 Duration of Trust.

§ 9-1 Authority; Establishment.

Pursuant to the authority of G.L. c. 44, §55C, there is hereby created a local municipal affordable housing Trust fund to be known as the “West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund” (hereinafter "the Trust").

§ 9-2 Purpose.

The purpose of the Trust shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable and community housing in the Town of West Stockbridge for the benefit of low and moderate income households and for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c. 44B (“Chapter 44B”).

§ 9-3 Composition.

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the “Board”), composed of one ex officio non-voting member and five (5) voting members. The Town Administrator or the Town Administrator's designee shall serve as the ex officio member. The voting members shall include: a member of the Select Board (chosen by the Select Board) and four (4) members appointed by the Select Board. Members must be residents of the Town of West Stockbridge.

The Select Board shall appoint the Trustees for terms not to exceed two (2) years (except if a person is appointed as a representative of a board or committee, in which case his or her term shall terminate upon the sooner vacating of the underlying office), provided, however, that the term of three (3) of the initial Trustee appointments shall be one year, so as to allow staggered terms. Trustees may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Select Board and there are no limits on the number of terms that a Trustee can serve. Vacancies shall be filled by the Select Board for the remainder of the unexpired term, notice of which shall be filed with the Town Clerk. The title to the Trust estate shall thereupon and without the necessity of any conveyance be vested in such succeeding Trustee jointly with the remaining Trustees. The Trustees shall annually elect a Trustee to serve as Chair.

Any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed by a vote of the Select Board for cause after the opportunity of a properly noticed public hearing. For purposes of this bylaw, the term “cause” shall include, but not be limited to, each of the following: violation of any local, state, or federal law; incapacity to perform the duties of a Trustee; and acts of a Trustee, that in the opinion of the Select Board, are negligent or detrimental to the Town or the Trust; or four (4) consecutive absences from Board of Trustees meetings. Any Trustee may resign by filing with the Town Clerk written notice thereof.

§ 9-4 Declaration of Trust.

The Trustees are hereby authorized to execute a Declaration of Trust and Certificates of Trust for the West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to be recorded with the Berkshire County Registry of Deeds and filed with the Berkshire County District of the Land Court.

§ 9-5 Powers.

The powers of the Board of Trustees, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in G.L. c. 44, §55C, and inclusive of any future amendments to that section, and shall include the following:

- A. To accept and receive real property, personal property or money, by gift, grant, contribution, devise or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including but not limited to money, grants of funds or other property tendered to the Trust in connection with any Bylaw or any general or special law or any other source, including money from Chapter 44B; provided, however, that any such money received from Chapter 44B shall be used exclusively for community housing and shall remain subject to all the rules, regulations and limitations of that chapter when expended by the Trust, and such funds shall be accounted for separately by the Trust; and provided further, that at the end of each fiscal year, the Trust shall ensure that all expenditures of funds received from said Chapter 44B are reported to the Community Preservation Committee for inclusion in the community preservation initiatives report, form CP-3, to the Department of Revenue;
- B. To purchase and retain real or personal property, including, without restriction, investments that yield a high rate of income or no income;
- C. To sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any personal, mixed, or real property at public auction or by private contract for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise, and to make such contracts and enter into such undertaking relative to Trust property as the Board deems advisable notwithstanding the length of any such lease or contract;
- D. To execute, acknowledge and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, pledges, leases, covenants, contracts, promissory notes, releases, grant agreements, and other instruments sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper or incident to any transaction in which the Board engages for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Trust;
- E. To employ advisors and agents, such as consultants, accountants, appraisers and lawyers, full-time or part-time staff, and to contract for administrative and support goods and services, as the Board deems necessary;
- F. To pay reasonable compensation and expenses to all advisors and agents and to apportion such compensation between income and principal as the Board deems advisable;
- G. To apportion receipts and charges between incomes and principal as the Board deems advisable, to amortize premiums and establish sinking funds for such purpose, and to create reserves for depreciation, depletion or otherwise;
- H. To participate in any reorganization, recapitalization, merger or similar transactions; and to give proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution to vote any securities or certificates of interest; and to consent to any contract, lease, mortgage, purchase or sale of property, by or between any corporation and any other corporation or person;
- I. To deposit any security with any protective reorganization committee, and to delegate to such committee such powers and authority with relation thereto as the Board may deem proper and to pay, out of Trust property, such portion of expenses and compensation of such committee as the Board may deem necessary and appropriate;
- J. To carry property for accounting purposes at other than acquisition date values;
- K. With Town Meeting approval, to borrow money on such terms and conditions and from such sources as the Board deems advisable, to mortgage and pledge Trust assets as collateral;

- L. To make distributions or divisions of principal in kind;
- M. To comprise, attribute, defend, enforce, release, settle or otherwise adjust claims in favor or against the Trust, including claims for taxes, and to accept any property, either in total or partial satisfaction of any indebtedness or other obligation, and subject to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §55C, to continue to hold the same for such period of time as the Board may deem appropriate;
- N. To manage or improve real property; and to abandon any property which the Board determined not to be worth retaining;
- O. To hold all or part of the Trust property uninvested for such purposes and for such time as the Board may deem appropriate;
- P. To extend the time for payment of any obligation to the Trust; and
- Q. To exercise such additional powers consistent with the provisions of this Bylaw and G.L. c. 44, §55C, as such section may be amended from time to time.

§ 9-6 Quorum; Acts of Trustees.

Three (3) voting Trustees shall constitute a quorum and shall also be required to approve any motion. An affirmative vote of three (3) voting Trustees is required to exercise any or all of the powers of the Trustees hereunder, unless otherwise provided, and three (3) voting Trustees may execute on behalf of the Trustees any and all instruments with the same effect as though executed by all the Trustees. No Trustee shall be required to give bond. No license of court shall be required to confirm the validity of any transaction entered into by the Trustees with respect to the Trust Estate. Any borrowing by the Trust shall require the prior approval of the West Stockbridge Town Meeting.

§ 9-7 Funds paid to Trust.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all monies paid to the Trust in accordance with any zoning Bylaw, exaction fee, or private contributions shall be paid directly into the Trust and need not be appropriated or accepted and approved into the Trust. General revenues appropriated into the Trust become Trust property and these funds need not be further appropriated to be expended. All moneys remaining in the Trust at the end of the fiscal year, whether or not expended by the Board within one year of the date they were appropriated into the Trust, remain Trust property.

§ 9-8 Meetings.

Meetings of the Board shall be held on a regular basis. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or two Trustees. A Trust is a governmental body for purposes of G.L. c. 30A, §§18 through 25, the Open Meeting Law; notice of any meeting of the Trust Fund shall be filed with the Town Clerk and posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §22. While a majority of the full Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, less than a quorum may, subject to the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, continue a meeting to a time, date and place certain.

§ 9-9 Custodian of Funds.

The Town of West Stockbridge's Treasurer/Collector shall be the custodian of the Trust's funds and shall maintain separate accounts and records for such funds. The Treasurer/Collector shall invest the Trust's funds in the manner authorized by law. Any income or proceeds received from the investment of funds shall be credited to and become part of the Trust Fund. In accordance with G.L. c. 44, §55C, the books and records of the Trust shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices or take any other action relative thereto. Upon receipt of the audit by the Board of Trustees, a copy shall be provided forthwith to the Select Board.

§ 9-10 Liability.

Neither the Trustees nor any agent or officer of the Trust shall have the authority to bind the Town. The Trust is a public employer and the members of the Board are public employees for the purposes of G.L. c. 268A. The Trust shall be deemed a municipal agency and the Trustees special municipal employees for purposes of G.L. c. 268A.

§ 9-11 Taxes.

The Trust is exempt from G.L. c.59 and G.L. c. 62, and from any other provisions concerning payment of taxes based upon or measured by property or income imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any political subdivision thereof.

§ 9-12 Governmental Body.

The Trust is a governmental body for purposes of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§18-25.

§ 9-13 Board of Town.

The Trust is a board of the Town of West Stockbridge for the purposes of G.L. c. 30B and G.L. c. 40, §15A, but agreements and conveyances between the Trust and agencies, boards, commissions, authorities, departments and public instrumentalities of the Town shall be exempt from said G.L. c. 30B.

§ 9-14 Compensation of Trustees.

Trustees shall not receive a salary, stipend, bonus or other means of compensation for their service as a Trustee, nor shall they be eligible for any benefits from the Town of West Stockbridge. Trustees may be compensated for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for travel and other Trust-related expenses. All such out-of-pocket expenses shall be fully documented with receipts for expenses prior to payment by the Trust.

§ 9-15 Amendments.

The provisions of this Trust can only be amended by a vote of the West Stockbridge Town Meeting.

§ 9-16 Duration of Trust.

This Trust shall be of indefinite duration until terminated by a vote of the West Stockbridge Town Meeting. Upon termination of the Trust, subject to the payment of or making provisions for the payment

of all obligations and liabilities of the Trust and the Trustees, the net assets of the Trust shall be transferred to the Town of West Stockbridge and held by the Select Board for affordable housing purposes. In making any such distribution, the Trustees may, subject to the approval of the Select Board, sell all or any portion of the Trust property and distribute the net proceeds thereof to the Town of West Stockbridge. The powers of the Trustees shall continue until the affairs of the Trust are concluded. Once the West Stockbridge Town Meeting has voted to terminate the Trust, the Select Board shall have the power to approve all financial transactions made on behalf of the Trust.

§ 9-16 Annual Report.

The Trustees shall prepare an annual report describing the activities of the Trust on a calendar year basis. The annual report shall be submitted to the West Stockbridge Select Board by February 12th of each year. The annual report shall list all financial transactions conducted by the Trust including all revenues and costs, provide a balance sheet of liabilities and assets of the Trust, list an inventory of all affordable housing units created, sold, and/or managed by the Trust, and any other pertinent information related to the business of the Trust.

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 42: To see if the town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, provided further, however, that if this change is approved at the Annual Election, the elected incumbent in such position shall hold office until the expiration of their elected term or sooner vacating of office, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, discussion Motion to table, 2/3 vote- unanimous- tabled

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1B to change the position of elected Town Collector to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, provided further, however, that if this change is approved at the Annual Election, the elected incumbent in such position shall hold office until the expiration of their elected term or sooner vacating of office, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, discussion Motion to table, 2/3 vote- unanimous- tabled

Sewer and Water [The following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee]

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$133,950 for the purpose of funding the FY 2024 Sewer Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, by user receipts, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$89,450 for the purpose of funding the FY 2024 Water Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, by user receipts, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made, seconded, approved

Revolving Funds

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to:

- (1) Amend the General Bylaws by establishing the following revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to the funds, the departmental programs or purposes for which the funds may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend the funds, such bylaw to

provide as follows:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund
Cemetery	Cemetery Commissioners	Fees and charges received from the sale of burial plots	Perpetual Care
Emergency Alarm	Emergency Alarm Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Gas	Gas Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Plumbing	Plumbing Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Wiring	Wire Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Oil Burning	Oil Burner Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Title V	Title V Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Department	User fees and charges received from Parks and Recreation Department programs.	Equipment and events

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

(2) And, also, pursuant to said MGL 44, Section 53E½ further, to vote to set the spending limits for fiscal year 2023, with such limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year unless Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1, in any fiscal year, to increase or decrease the same for the upcoming fiscal year:

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY 24</u>
Cemetery Commissioners	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Emergency Alarm Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Gas Inspector	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Wire Inspector	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Oil Burner Inspector	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Title V Inspector	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Parks and Recreation Fees	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Total Revolving Fund	\$ 8,200	\$0	\$ 8,200

or take any other action in relation thereto.

[Approved by the Finance Committee]
Motion made, seconded, approved

Article 47: To do and transact any other business necessary to be done by the Town.
Motion made to adjourn, seconded, approved.
Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Barrett

Town Clerk

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Stockbridge
May 13, 2024
Warrant for Annual Town Election

BERKSHIRE: ss:

To any constable(s) of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Gymnasium of the Town Hall, 21 State Line Road in the Village of West Stockbridge, on Monday, May 13, 2024 at ten o'clock in the morning for the purpose of bringing in their votes to the Election Officer(s) for the election of candidates for the following offices:

- One Moderator for a term of one year.
- One Member, Select Board for a term of three years.
- One Member, Board of Assessors for a term of three years.
- Two Members, Finance Committee for terms of three years.
- One Member, Planning Board for a term of two years.
- One Member, Planning Board for a term of five years.
- One Member, Board of Health for a term of three years.
- One Member, Board of Library Trustees for a term of three years.
- One Member, Cemetery Commission for a term of three years.

and the following ballot questions:

1. Shall the town accept clause forty-first C½ of section 59 of chapter 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws granting real estate property tax reductions in an amount equal to 5 per cent of the average assessed value of all class one parcels within the town of the principal residence of a taxpayer a person who has reached his seventieth birthday?

Yes _____ No _____

The polls will be opened at ten o'clock in the morning and will remain open continuously until seven o'clock in the evening of said day when they will then be closed.

All ballots shall be furnished by the Town Clerk and the election will be conducted in conformity with the Election Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Article Summary
May 6, 2024

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Description/Summary</u>
1-11	Standard Articles of Town Business
12 -21	FY25 Budget as recommended by Finance Committee
Special Financial Articles:	
22	Software Program for Police Dept. Policies & Procedures
23	New Vehicle for Police Department
24	New Mower for Department of Public Works
25	Resurfacing of Town Hall Parking Lot
26	Funds for 250 th West Stockbridge Anniversary Celebration
27	Resurfacing of Wastewater Treatment Facility Parking Lot
28	Repair & Replacement of Culvert on Willson Road
29	Improvements to Cone Hill Road Bridge
30	Purchase of Jaws of Life for Fire Department
31	New Truck for Department of Public Works
32	Resurfacing of Deer Hill Road and Lenox Road
33	Community Preservation Committee Reserve for Administration
34	Appropriation of Community Preservation Funds
35 & 36	Transfer from Free Cash to Stabilization Accounts
Special Articles:	
37	Senior Property Tax Exemptions- Accept MGL Chp 59 Sec 5(17E)
38	Increase Excise Tax from 4% to 6% for Room Occupancy at Hotels, Short Term Rentals and Motels
39 & 40	Community Impact Fees dedicated to Affordable Housing
Sewer & Water Articles:	
41 & 42	Operating Budget for Water & Sewer Treatment Plant
43	Cleaning & Sealing Water Storage Tank at Water Treatment Plant
44	Upgrading Chemical Feed Pumps at Water Treatment Plant
45	Engineering Firm for Replacement of Water Main on Swamp Road

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Stockbridge
May 6, 2024
Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

BERKSHIRE: ss:

To any constable(s) of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, *who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at six o'clock in the evening on Monday, May 6, 2024 in the gymnasium at Town Hall of West Stockbridge, located at 21 State Line Road, then and there to act on the following articles:*

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers or any Committee of the Town.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to act as agents of the Town in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 2 for the purpose of bringing suit or suits in the name of the Town and on its behalf, and to adjust, litigate, defend, compromise, settle, and execute any and all documents pursuant to any settlement on behalf of the Town for such amounts as the Select Board shall determine in their decision to be proper and in the best interest of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize any Board or Officer in charge of a department, with the approval of the Select Board, to sell any property of the Town which has become obsolete or is not required for further use by the respective department and which does not, in the opinion of the Selectmen, exceed \$500.00 in value, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Cemetery Perpetual Care funds received for the fiscal year 2024, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Moderator to appoint any agents or committees of the Town and give them authority or instructions, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint all non-elected Town Officers necessary or required to be chosen by the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to sell at public auction all or any of its property acquired by virtue of sale of non-payment of taxes, which have been confirmed by the Land Court to the Tax Commissioner, and to give deeds therefor, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town, with the approval of the Select Board, to seek and accept any grants and to further authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section(s) 6, 6A, and 8C and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within two years, and to renew any note or notes as may be given in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to require the Tax Collector, Deputy Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to give bonds by some surety company and to raise and appropriate a sum or sums of money to pay for same, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of various elected Town Officers, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Select Board Member (Chair)	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
Select Board Member (current Member)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Select Board Member (newest Member)	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 200
Town Clerk	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Town Collector	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000
Assessors (each, 3 members)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500

General Government

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the general government operations of the Town for fiscal year 2025, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Town Counsel	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 200
Town Administrator Salary	\$ 81,955	\$ 84,414
Town Administrator Expenses	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Town Administrator Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Town Administrator Longevity	\$ 0	\$ 500
Town Administrator Fitness	\$ 0	\$ 900

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Sick/Personal Day Payout	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Select Board's Salaries	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,200
Select Board's Expenses	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500
Finance Committee	\$ 200	\$ 200
Accountant's Salary	\$ 21,000	\$ 27,000
Accountant's State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Accountant's Expenses	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Treasurer/Accountant Software	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100
Town Audit	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500
Assessor's Salary	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Assessor's Cont Services/Expense	\$ 57,700	\$ 67,650
Treasurer's Salary	\$ 22,500	\$ 26,780
Treasurer State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Treasurer's Expenses	\$ 7,260	\$ 7,310
OPEB Fees	\$ 2,950	\$ 2,950
Town Collector's Salary	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000
Town Collector State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Town Collector's Expenses	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,200
Tax Title Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Town Clerk's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Assistant Town Clerk Salary	\$ 5,150	\$ 5,304
Town Clerk's Expenses	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,610
Elections and Registrations	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Preservation of Records	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Street List	\$ 500	\$ 250
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000
Planning Board	\$ 16,750	\$ 18,150
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Town Insurance	\$ 90,000	\$100,000
Officers' Bonds	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Town Reports	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,800
Town Website Annual Maint.	\$ 4,500	\$ 8,500
Computer/IT Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,000
Town Community Outreach	\$ 0	\$ 2,500
Tri-Town Connector	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Town Bldg. & Grounds Sup. Salary	\$ 58,240	\$ 62,400
Town Seasonal Salary	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,250
Town Buildings Electricity	\$ 55,000	\$ 66,000
Town Buildings Fuel	\$ 31,900	\$ 38,280
Town Buildings Telephone	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Town Buildings Repairs/Maint.	\$ 26,250	\$ 27,300
Town Buildings Plants & Gardening	\$ 12,650	\$ 14,170
Town Signage	\$ 7,000	\$ 0
Town Buildings Supplies	\$ 13,200	\$ 13,700

Protection of Persons and Property

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the public safety departments of the Town for fiscal year 2025, as follows, *or take any other action in relation thereto*: [Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Police Chief Salary	\$ 83,418	\$ 98,000
Full Time Officers Salary	\$314,122	\$323,585
Administrative Asst. Salary	\$ 20,066	\$ 20,067
Full Time Officers Holiday Pay	\$ 35,945	\$ 37,024
Training Time Pay	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Police Overtime Pay	\$ 10,698	\$ 17,171
Longevity	\$ 700	\$ 800
Sick/Personal Payout	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,084
Police Traffic Calming	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000
Fitness Stipend	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Uniforms	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
Police Training	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Police Fuel	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Police Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Police Vehicles Repairs & Maint.	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000
Police Other Charges & Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Police Maint. Contracts	\$ 7,700	\$ 8,700
Police Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Police Equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Police EMT Stipend	\$ 800	\$ 800
Police Education Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Fire Chief Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,450
Fire Department Training	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Fire Department Fuel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Fire Dept. Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Fire Dept. Repairs & Maint.	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000
Fire Dept. Supplies	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250
Fire Dept. Office Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Fire Dept. Medical Supplies	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Fire Dept. Turnout Gear	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Richmond Ambulance	\$ 62,500	\$ 90,500
EMT Incentive	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Fireperson's Incentive	\$ 12,500	\$ 15,500
Communication Services	\$ 13,884	\$ 14,500
Emergency Management	\$ 600	\$ 600
Building Inspector	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 2,735	\$ 5,375
Animal Control Officer	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Animal Control Officer Exp.	\$ 400	\$ 400
Tree Warden	\$ 17,600	\$ 17,600

Education

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,585,144 more or less, for the purpose of paying the FY 2025 operating assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, or *take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$68,538 for the purpose of paying the FY 2025 capital assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, or *take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Public Works and Facilities

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the public works and facilities departments of the Town for fiscal year 2025, or *take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Director Salary	\$ 83,402	\$ 85,904
Highway Salaries	\$186,410	\$192,002
Sick/Personal Day Payout	\$ 18,926	\$ 19,478
Contracted Longevity Pay	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Highway Overtime	\$ 17,550	\$ 20,550
Fitness Stipend	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Uniform Allowance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Highway Professional Training	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
Dues & Licenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Gas and Diesel Fuel	\$ 23,500	\$ 35,000
Highways and Bridges	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Culverts and Guardrails	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Machinery Maintenance	\$ 30,800	\$ 30,800
Highway Construction	\$ 58,000	\$ 60,000
Highway Line Painting	\$ 17,000	\$ 26,000
Snow and Ice Removal	\$ 80,000	\$ 85,000
Street Lights	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,500
Hazardous Waste Disposal	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000
Transfer Station Attendant Salary	\$ 26,200	\$ 27,500
Transfer Station Expenses	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,000
Transfer Station Hauling	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Cemetery Department	\$ 33,000	\$ 36,300
Cemetery Tree Removal	\$ 15,000	\$ 21,000
Group Purchasing	\$ 900	\$ 900

Human Services

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for the human services departments of the Town for fiscal year 2025, or *take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Board of Health Salary	\$ 16,068	\$ 16,871
Board of Health	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,000
Community Health Alliance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Council on Aging	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Veteran's Benefits	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
American Legion/Memorial Day	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000

Culture and Recreation

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for culture and recreation departments of the Town for fiscal year 2025, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Library Salaries	\$ 43,933	\$ 45,760
Library Reading Materials	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,900
Library Expenses	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,700
Library Programming	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000
Parks and Recreation	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,450
Historical Commission	\$ 200	\$ 200
Vision Committee	\$ 1,435	\$ 1,435

Debt and Interest

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for debt and interest obligations for fiscal year 2025, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Interest & Fees Short/Long Term	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Sewer Capital Costs	\$ 36,503	\$ 36,064
Multi-Purpose Loan	\$239,917	\$175,976

Intergovernmental Expenses

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for intergovernmental expenses for fiscal year 2025, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Veterans District	\$ 7,850	\$ 7,850

Unclassified Expenses

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money for certain unclassified expenses for fiscal year 2025, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Berkshire County Retirement	\$187,222	\$208,911
Health Insurance	\$200,000	\$200,000
Medicare & FICA Tax	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
Reserve Fund	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Conservation Trust	\$ 300	\$ 300
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000

Special Financial Articles

[The following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee.]

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$21,500 for the purpose of purchasing a software program for Police Department Policies and Procedures, which will keep the department up to date per state regulation, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$70,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new vehicle for the Police Department, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$19,100.00 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new mower for the Department of Public Works, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$23,000.00 for the purpose of resurfacing the parking lot at the Town Hall and Library, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$7,500.00 for the purpose of funding the Town's 250th Anniversary Celebration, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$39,400.00 for the purpose of resurfacing the parking lot at the Town Wastewater Treatment Facility, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of funding the repair and replacement of a culvert on Willson Road, including all other incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

NOTE: The intent of this appropriation is to add available Town funds to our Municipal Vulnerability grant funding for this repair.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the General Stabilization Account the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of repairing and making improvements to the Cone Hill Road Bridge, including all other incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$33,000 for the purpose of purchasing Jaws of Life equipment for the Fire Department and to be stored at the Fire Department/Highway Department building including all other incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$70,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new truck for the Department of Public Works, including all other incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$478,250.00 for the purpose resurfacing Deer Hill Road and Lenox Road, including all incidental and related costs, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: The intent of this appropriation is to add available Town funds to our annual State Chapter 90 Highway funding to provide for the resurfacing of Deer Hill Road and Lenox Road paving project.

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for approval.]

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, or reserve for future appropriation, from the Community Preservation Fund, the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for FY25 with each item considered a separate appropriation; *or take any other action in*

Appropriations:

Administrative Expenses **\$3,500**

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund for FY25 the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee:

Project - Historical Resources ***Total Appropriation***
Historical Society- Update the safety infrastructure of the Old Town Hall ***\$25,000***

Project - Housing Resources ***Total Appropriation***
Consultant for Affordable Housing Trust Fund ***\$35,000***

Project - Open Spaces Resources ***Total Appropriation***
Parks & Recreation Committee - purchase of two pavilions
(Town Hall and Card Pond) ***\$69,000***

Dog Park Advisory Committee - 10% funding required for
\$250,000 grant funding to build a dog park in Town ***\$25,000***

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$25,024 to the Stabilization Fund, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$25,024 to the Capital Stabilization Fund, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Special Articles:

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause Seventeenth E, by adding an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for such year to the qualifying limits for whole estate for applicants under Clause Seventeenth C of General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64G, Section 3A, to increase the local excise upon the transfer of occupancy of a room in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel to six percent of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, *or take any action relative thereto.*

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64G, Section 3D(a), to allow the Town to impose a Community Impact Fee of three percent (3%) of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of a professionally managed short-term unit, which shall be assessed upon the transfer of short-term rental units that are located in the town, operated by the same operator and are not located within a single-family, two-family or three-family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence, and which surcharge shall be in addition to other state and local excise taxes assessed upon the transfer of short-term rental units, with one-hundred percent of the Community Impact Fees collected to be dedicated to affordable housing projects; *or take any other action relating thereto.*

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64G, Section 3D(b) allowing the Town to impose a Community Impact Fee upon each transfer of occupancy of a short-term rental unit that is located within a two-family or three-family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence, and which impact fee shall be at the same rate as the rate charged for professionally managed short-term rental units, and shall be in addition to other state and local excise taxes upon the transfer of short-term rental units, with one-hundred percent of the Community Impact Fees collected to be dedicated to affordable housing projects; *or take any other action thereto.*

Sewer and Water

[The following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee]

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$146,250 for the purpose of funding the FY 2025 Sewer Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, by user receipts, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$102,500 for the purpose of funding the FY 2025 Water Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, by user receipts, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 from certified Water Enterprise Funds for the purpose of cleaning and sealing the water storage tanks at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$13,000 from certified Water Enterprise Funds for the purpose of upgrading the chemical feed pumps for the water system at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 from certified Water Enterprise Funds for the purpose of hiring an engineering firm to replace the water main on Swamp Road, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Revolving Funds

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to:

- (1) Amend the General Bylaws by establishing the following revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to the funds, the departmental programs or purposes for which the funds may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend the funds, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund
Cemetery	Cemetery Commissioners	Fees and charges received from the sale of burial plots	Perpetual Care
Emergency Alarm	Emergency Alarm Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Gas	Gas Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Plumbing	Plumbing Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Wiring	Wire Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Oil Burning	Oil Burner Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Title V	Title V Inspector	Fees and charges received from inspections	Inspector salary
Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Department	User fees and charges received from Parks and Recreation Department programs.	Equipment and events

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

(2) And, also, pursuant to said MGL 44, Section 53E½ further, to vote to set the spending limits for fiscal year 2025, with such limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year unless Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1, in any fiscal year, to increase or decrease the same for the upcoming fiscal year:


	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY 25</u>
Cemetery Commissioners	\$ 500	\$ 500
Emergency Alarm Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 500
Gas Inspector	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 500
Wire Inspector	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Oil Burner Inspector	\$ 200	\$ 200
Title V Inspector	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Parks and Recreation Fees	\$ 500	\$ 500

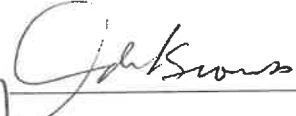
or take any other action in relation thereto.

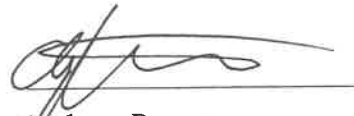
Article 47: To do and transact any other business necessary to be done by the Town.

Given under our hands this 25th day of March 2024.

West Stockbridge Select Board


 Kathleen Keresey, Chair


 Andrew Krouss


 Andrew Potter

I hereby certify that I have posted and attested copies of this warrant at the Post Office at West Stockbridge, and at the public notice boards at State Line, West Center, Williamsville, and High Street as directed by vote of the Town of West Stockbridge.

Attested: , Constable

Date: 3-26-24