

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007



## Town of Sunderland

# ***\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\****

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk at 665-1442 or  
Board of Selectmen's Office at 665-1441

## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

FRIDAY, April 25, 2008

7:00pm

Location: Sunderland Elementary School

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

7:30PM

Location: Sunderland Elementary School

## **TOWN ELECTION**

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10am – 5pm

Location: Sunderland ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

# DEDICATION

## Elizabeth & Will Sillin



We would like to dedicate this year's Annual Report to **Liz & Will Sillin**. There are times when an individual or group consistently is visible in many town events and committees – however, one can never recognize the vast efforts of an individual until we explore their involvement – clearly demonstrated by the Sillins.

Over the years Liz has served under a variety of capacities at the Town Libraries, Elementary School and other town entities. She has lent her talents and expertise in many facets from taking part in establishing the 1<sup>st</sup> organized elementary school library system, serving the Town Library as a trustee and committee member to even assisting many town organizations in obtaining non-profit status or incorporating another. She has served willingly on the Old Town Hall Re-Use Committee, the 275<sup>th</sup> Committee and even donating to the gardens in town center. More recently, Liz has continued to serve in the capacity of Sexual Harassment/Affirmative Action Coordinator which has proved extremely beneficial in recent years – an entity that she continues to serve diplomatically and with patience. She has been a quiet contributor to so many elements spanning the years that are too numerous to count.

Will has been equally active in the Town in a vast array of contributions from his recent involvement as a Committee Member on the Veterans Memorial and Park dedicated this summer, a Planning Board member, serving in the past on the Board of Health, Economic Development Committee and as an Election Officer. Will has also infused his creative nature by donating his artistic talents at an Elementary School play, designing Fall Festival T-shirts and providing photographs for the town website. In addition to his appointment or elected positions, he has participated in many Recreation Department programs volunteering as a coach and even providing exploration opportunities for youth with his telescope.

The Sillins' embody community spirit by embracing Sunderland with their talents and generosity. Their efforts will be enjoyed by those who visit Sunderland for years to come. Thank you for your dedication and convictions for wanting the Town of Sunderland to be the best it can be!

# IN MEMORIUM



**Walter Klemyk**

Walter served the town in many capacities including Conservation Commission member, Constable and Public Weigher. He was also a long standing member of the Civil Defense and Auxillary Police as well as serving on the Sunderland Fire Department for many years.



**Margaret "Peg"**

**Wolejko:** Peg was a member of the Sunderland PTO, Frontier Band Booster Club, Sunderland Elementary School Committee, and Frontier School Committee. She was a member of the Franklin County Collaborative, delegate to Mass. Assoc. of School Committee Convention for Sunderland & Frontier. She also co-chaired the Memorial Day parade for many years; was the 1<sup>st</sup> woman police member in the town for 10 years, was a crossing guard and member of the Sunderland Police Auxiliary. She volunteered for many years in the Sunderland Elementary School cafeteria which was recently named in her honor. Peg served on the Franklin County Planning Board, rep to the FRCOG, Franklin County Democratic League and past member & president of the Franklin County Selectmen Assoc. Served on the Town Democratic Committee, Union 38 Committee, Frontier Building Committee and the Permanent Building Committee. More recently, she was Chair of the Board of Health, Town Park trustee, served as Election Officer and was a member of the Vol. III Steering Committee.

*(Photo unavailable)*

**Stanley Matuszko:**

Stanley was a former Police Officer of the Sunderland Police Department and more recently served many years as Constable.



**Sally**

**Fydenkevez:**

Sally was School Cafeteria Director of the Sunderland Elementary School and served for many years as an Election Officer.



**Steve Claughton:**

Steve was a member of the School Committee and the Frontier Building Committee. He also served on the Permanent Building Committee and the Landfill Committee.



**Agnes "Aggie"**

**Williams** Aggie served on the Frontier School Committee and was a library trustee and volunteer for the Graves Memorial Library and the Sunderland Public Library. She was also Treasurer of the Sunderland Water Committee, Registrar of Voters and was an Election Officer for many years. More recently, Aggie served on the Sunderland Arts Council and the Vol. III Steering Committee.

# SPIRIT OF SUNDERLAND



In 2002, there was a vision to honor those Sunderland residents who served our country. With that vision grew a dream of a place that would allow residents, families, friends and visitors to reflect on the meaning of the very principles that our veterans fought for.

Many obstacles were realized along the way; many committee members and many designs aspects were considered. In 2006 in an effort to move the vision to fruition, the committee held a contest for a design that would be the Town's Veterans Memorial and Park. We were pleased to see many designs received and that so many individuals were interested in being part of the Town's history.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> – the vision and dream was realized for many. With a grand ceremony, the Sunderland Veterans Memorial and Park was unveiled. The pride of our veterans and their families and friends could not have been imagined as was reflected on that day. The grandeur which finalized that vision so many years ago had arrived. The Veterans Memorial and Park will truly be an area for reflection, pride and honor for many, many years to come.

So many facets of community came together to make this project a realization and appreciation for their efforts could not be done equitably or completely. The appreciation will be reflected every time the park is enjoyed by those who honor the principles of those that served.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375

### TOWN OF SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Town Incorporated:	November 12, 1718
Population Federal Census-2000	3,777
Elevation above Sea Level:	137.121 feet
Square Miles:	14.78

**REPORTS AND ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** Reports shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by all boards and officials for insertion in the Annual Town Report, and all Articles for the Annual Town Warrant shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen in writing no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Town Meeting, or upon approval of the Selectmen. The signatures of 10 certified voters and their addresses are needed to put an Article on the Warrant.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** The Annual Town Meeting is held the last Friday of April, pursuant to town by-laws.

**NOMINATION PAPERS:** Voters' signatures and addresses are necessary on nomination papers secured from the Town Clerk, in order to place a name on the ballot for election to a town office. The deadline for filing of nomination papers is set by the Town Clerk.

**REGISTRATION OF VOTERS:** Residents may register as voters by the Town Clerk at any time during office hours and at special voter registration sessions posted by the Town Clerk before primaries, elections and all Town Meetings.

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS:** The Annual Town Election is held the first Saturday of May, pursuant to town by-laws.

**AMENDMENTS TO ZONING BY-LAWS:**

Amendments to the zoning by-laws of the Town by vote at an annual or special town meeting as provided in MGL Chapter 40A, §6. (For more details, consult the Planning Board.)

**PERMITS:** Applicants must secure permits from the Building Inspector's Office, Plumbing, & Gas, Wiring and Board of Health. Permit applications are available at the Town Office Building.

### TOWN OF SUNDERLAND - A BRIEF HISTORY

Sunderland, still then known as Swampfield, was set off from neighboring Hadley in 1673, with the Connecticut River as the western boundary with Deerfield. Settlement was abandoned during King Philip's War (1675) and re-established as the town of Swampfield in 1714, extending north to Hunting Hills (Montague), and east to Long Plain (Leverett). Montague was set off from Sunderland in 1754 and Leverett in 1774.

Farming developed as the primary industry, particularly crop production in the excellent soils of the river valley. Agriculture prospered, helping to add villages in North Sunderland and Plumtrees (the eastern side of Sunderland) in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Introduction of commercial tobacco expanded settlement to the Meadows (southern side of Sunderland) in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although farming was the main occupation, there were supporting industries throughout Sunderland's history, such as tobacco shops and farm machinery supplies, as well as sawmills, stores, gravel operations, and blacksmiths. Today there is a large gravel operation, a rest home, garages and convenience stores, insurance and real estate operations, as well as vegetable farming.

With the Connecticut River as one of Sunderland's boundaries, ferries were used at the river for crossing until 1812, when the first bridge was constructed. Sunderland has had a total of 10 bridges. The main causes of our fallen bridges were high water, ice, and piers not high enough to clear rising water levels, especially in the spring. The tenth bridge is 47 feet above normal water level, and has stood since 1938.

Sunderland was also home to “The Amherst to Sunderland Street Railway.” Although the trolley car only lasted from 1890-1926, it marked progress for Sunderland. In that period, high school students from Sunderland could ride the trolley to school in Amherst.

Natural disasters are not unknown to Sunderland. Residents have endured floods (1927 and 1936) and a hurricane (1938). Damage had been great in some parts of town, but over time one would never know of the mishaps.

The small town of Sunderland has grown in population over the past 30 years, with a current population of about 3,400. More houses and apartment complexes have been built, and the town has gone from a farming community to a bedroom community, giving easy access to out-of-town jobs, especially at the nearby University of Massachusetts and other local colleges (Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mt. Holyoke College, and Smith College).

Compiled by Wendy Houle  
Sunderland Historical Commission/Town Clerk

Sources: History of Sunderland, 1899; History of Sunderland, Vol. II., 1954; Beers Atlas of Franklin County, 1873-4; Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey Report, 1982; Sunderland’s Main Street Walking Tour, 1993; My Sunderland – Quarter millennial souvenir of Sunderland, 1968; A Gazetteer of Massachusetts, p. 282; History of the Connecticut Valley, Vol. II; Centennial Gazette, 1792-1892, pp. 101-103.

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

**TOWN WEB SITE:** [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us)

- Town Administrator 665-1441  
Email: townadmin@townofsunderland.us
- Board of Selectmen 665-1441  
Email: selectmen@townofsunderland.us
- Selectmen’s Office FAX 665-1086
- Accountant 665-1443
- Assessors 665-1445
- Board of Health 665-1441  
Email: boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us
- Building Inspector 665-1433
- Electrical Inspector 665-0979
- Fax-Town Offices 665-1446
- Fire Department  
(non-emergency) 665-2465  
Email: fire@townofsunderland.us
- Fire & Ambulance (Emergency) 911

- Highway Department 665-1460  
Email: highwaysuper@comcast.net
- Library 665-2642
- Plumbing/Gas Inspector 665-7256
- Police (non-emergency) 665-7036  
Email: sunderlandpolice@comcast.net
- Police (Emergency) 911
- Recreation 665-1439
- Tax Collector/Treasurer 665-1444  
Email: sunderlandtreasurer@crocker.com
- Telecommunications 665-1082
- Town Clerk 665-1442  
Email: townclerk@townofsunderland.us
- Trash / Recycling 665-1441  
Email: selectmen@townofsunderland.us
- Wastewater Treatment Plant 665-1447
- Water District, Sunderland 665-7685

*The Town of Sunderland is a member of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce*



## **OUR LEGISLATORS**

### **UNITED STATES SENATORS**

Edward M. Kennedy  
John F. Kerry

### **REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

John Olver, 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

### **GOVERNOR**

Duval Patrick  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133  
[www.state.ma.us/gov](http://www.state.ma.us/gov)

### **LT. GOVERNOR**

Timothy Murray

### **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL**

Edward M. O'Brien-Easthampton, 8<sup>th</sup> Governor's District

### **STATE SENATOR**

Stanley Rosenberg-Amherst,  
Hampshire-Franklin District  
Northampton Office: (413) 584-1649

### **STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GENERAL COURT**

Stephen Kulik-Worthington, 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin District  
S. Deerfield Office: (413) 665-7200

**Sunderland Agricultural Commission**  
[www.townofsunderland.us/AgComm.htm](http://www.townofsunderland.us/AgComm.htm)

The Sunderland Agricultural Commission was formed in the fall of 2005. Our purpose is to represent the farming community, encourage the pursuit of agriculture and promote and help preserve agricultural businesses and land. We also serve in an advisory capacity to other town boards and provide guidance in farm/neighbor conflicts. We currently have members in common with the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission and the Economic Development Committee. Since this is our first entry in the town's annual reports we are covering the last three years.

2005

- We took inventory of our farms and farmland to educate ourselves and to produce a farm guide to educate others.
- We initiated and participated in the Fall Festival committee.

2006

- We published and distributed the first edition of the Sunderland Farm Guide. It lists the town farms and farmstands of those consenting to be included and is distributed at various local venues and businesses.
- We established a complaint resolution protocol, which serves as a formal procedure to resolve conflicts between farmers and residents.
- We worked with other town departments, committees and volunteers to revitalize the Sunderland Fall Festival.

2007

- We hosted a presentation by the American Farmland Trust, which included strategies for preserving farms and farm land.
- We updated and distributed the Sunderland Farm Guide.
- We sent letters to Rep. Kulik and Sen. Rosenberg in favor of legislation to stop the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources from receiving further USDA funding to implement the National Animal Identification System.
- We met with the Conservation Commission and the executive director of the Franklin Land Trust to identify candidate land for the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction program.
- We continued to work with many others in the town to organize and participate in the Sunderland Fall Festival.

We began to develop a Right-to-Farm bylaw to promote and ensure the continuation of farming as a core feature of the town's economy and culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Williams, Chair; Scott Werme, Clerk, Jennifer Unkles, Treasurer; Mike Wissemann, Secretary, Scott Reed



## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

### Tax Recapitulation for Fiscal 2008 Tax Levy

Total Amount to be Raised	\$7,881,676.19
Total Estimated Receipts	\$3,660,911.57
Tax Levy	\$4,220,764.62
Fiscal 2008 Tax Rate	\$12.06
Real Estate Property Valuation	\$343,593,012.00
Personal Property Valuation	\$6,387,470.00
Total Property Valuation	\$349,980,482.00

### Value of Real Estate By Class for Fiscal 2008

Residential	\$312,705,428.00
Commercial	\$25,776,684.00
Industrial	\$5,111,100.00
Personal	\$6,387,470.00
Total	

### Local Expenditures

Appropriations	\$7,410,860.57
Other Amounts to be Raised	\$218,135.00
Total Amount to be Raised	\$7,881,676.19

### Estimated Receipts and Available Funds

Estimated Receipts – State	\$1,849,276.00
Estimated Receipts – Local	\$880,452.00
Free Cash	\$304,675.25
Other Available Funds	\$626,508.32
Total Estimated Receipts	\$3,660,911.57

### Abatements & Exemptions Granted from FY 2007

Real Estate Abatements:	15	\$14,194.63
Personal Property Abatements:	4	\$503.56
Veteran's Exemption:	13	\$6,400.00
Blind Exemption:	3	\$875.00
Persons 70 & Over Exemption	3	\$1,500.00
Total	38	\$23,473.19

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Kowaleck; James Kowaleck, Chair; Michael Skibiski  
Board of Assessors



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Email: [selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us)**

To the residents of the Town of Sunderland, enclosed is a review of some key events that occurred within 2007, and items of concern to the Selectboard looking forward into 2008. Another year has passed and the past twelve months have proven to be a year of budget creativity partially due to the escalating costs of energy and fuel. With this, the Town's budget and management have absorbed a considerable amount of time and effort. The Board of Selectmen wishes to thank the Town's employees for continuing to provide the services our residents are accustomed to, but with a shrinking portion of the overall budget.

The Town after many years has completed construction and dedication of our Veteran's Memorial Park. The finished memorial far exceeds all of our expectations and truly represents the best of Sunderland. So many people were involved over the years that trying to list them all would be an impossible act, but it all started with an idea. That idea then took on a life of its own – growing, changing, moving forward, and at times moving laterally. But the idea was strong and the commitment by the Town was unyielding, and the project continued on. The turn out for the dedication far surpassed our initial projections as our friends and neighbors from around the valley joined our Town in celebration and reflection. To the men and women who are listed upon the wall, the Board and the residents wish once more to thank you for your service.

Continuing on with the theme of celebration, our Annual Fall Festival was held. The Fall Festival Committee has done an incredible job of evolving the festival into a day which brings our community together and has truly become a “can't miss” day for all of us.

The Town through the Emergency Preparedness Committee held its first flu clinic, for which the main purpose was to put into practice a plan to set up, staff, dispense medication and be operated under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines so that our residents, in the event the Town was called upon, could operate an emergency dispensing site (EDS). In addition to the EDS the Town also entered into an agreement with Connect CTY that allows the Town to provide needed and time sensitive information to our residents through telephone calls and/or emails. The board would like to thank Fire Chief Robert Ahearn for doing the leg work required to bring this needed project to a successful result. Thanks Chief.

Our Town Office Building was the scene of a robbery that resulted in significant property damage. But as is usually the case in our Town, an unfortunate action was turned into a positive experience. Our Town Office staff responded to this regrettable event like the professionals they are. They helped one another get their offices back together and everything back into working shape in short order which allowed the building to be back up and operating soon after the event. After the dust had settled, our Town Administrator Margaret Nartowicz worked with the Town's insurance carrier MIIA to secure a grant that allowed for a new security system to be installed and activated, bringing added security to the building and to those using the building.

The Police Department continued with the Town's effort of making Rt. 116 near the apartment complexes safer for pedestrians by compiling information and photographs into an information pedestrian educational brochure that was then distributed to the residents in the area. In addition,



the Selectboard petitioned Massachusetts Highway District 2 for the speed limit to be reduced through that area. After many letters and meetings, it was decided that the speed limit should be reduced from 45 MPH to 40 MPH. While this may appear to be a small reduction, we believe it is a step in the right direction. We still believe more can be done in this area but it is a state highway and we must work with and through Mass Highway which we will continue to do.

At the Annual Town Meeting in the spring, residents voted not to support the purchase of a new truck for the highway department. One of the main functions of this truck is the plowing of snow. The truck that had been scheduled for replacement was inspected and determined not to be safe to be put on the road this winter. Researching our options led us to the conclusion that our best option moving forward this year was for the contracting of a truck with a plow and a sander body on an as needed basis. We put out a RFQ and accepted the low bid for this winter season. We'll see how this works out and we're sure we'll be discussing this purchase one again this spring.

A few years ago, the Economic Development Committee was formed and in response to their recommendation, the Town of Sunderland joined the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce as a method of getting Sunderland a little more exposure in the local commercial environment. The diversification of our Town's tax base has been and will continue to be a priority in our Town and we will continue to work closely with committees, boards and interested business endeavors to accomplish this task.

The Zoning Board of Appeals voted not to support the proposed 40B project at Plumtree Road and Rt. 116 for many reasons, but that does not mean the Town doesn't understand the importance of affordable housing. The Planning Board presented, and the Selectboard agreed to submit to the State of Massachusetts a housing plan for the Town. The State accepted the plan and now we as a Town must move forward with this plan. It will take money, time and commitment on our part to make the plan work but we believe it is the right thing to do. We also joined the Municipal Coalition for Affordable Housing (MCAH; an organization which supports the responsible production of affordable housing.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank many of our local residents and businesses who continue to offer their help and ask for, sometimes demanding, no public acknowledgement. They continue to stand by the Town donating time, services and equipment that the Town is in need of. They ask for nothing in return; they only request, "let us know."

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for your support and to once again ask you to consider volunteering a little of your valuable time to make Sunderland the kind of Town that you want. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to bring them to our attention. Come to one of our meetings, email us or give the Selectmen's Office a call. We look forward to working with you this upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted to our friends and neighbors,

Tom Fydenkevez, Chair

Scott Bergeron, Vice Chair

Mike Wissemann, Clerk



**BUILDING COMMISSIONER**  
**building@TownOfSunderland.us**

The Building Department is entrusted with providing consistent building code and zoning enforcement for your community.

Building permit fees collected      **\$11,404.89**  
Estimated building costs      **\$2,148,426.18**

**BUILDING PERMITS 2007**

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>Number</u>
Commercial	4
Barn / Sheds	5
Single Family	5
Duplex	0
Additions	4
Renovations/Repair	12
Garage	3
Decks/Porches	11

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>Number</u>
Re-Roof	22
Replacement Windows / Siding	19
Chimney/Solid Fuel Appliances	4
Demolition	3
Pools	2
Signs	6
Misc.	7
<u>Change of Use</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

Annual Inspections      8

Submitted by,  
Erik C. Wight, C.B.O.  
Building Commissioner

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Conservation Commission is the local environmental agency in town, responsible for protecting wetlands, farmlands and other natural resources in the Town of Sunderland. We primarily review projects that are in or near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, surface





waters and within 100 feet of these watershed resources. This year was an above average year with numerous requests for wetlands review, mostly in the form of Site Reviews, Request for Determinations and Notice of Intents. We also completed the approval of a wetland replication on Rte 116 and an Emergency Certification for Fire Tower Road.

Most Town boards were involved in advising the ZBA in the Comprehensive Permit filed for the Sugarbush Meadows project. Since a waiver was being requested for our Town Wetland Bylaw, the Conservation Commission took it very seriously and provided the ZBA with valuable information and guidance in regards to the wetlands on this particular site.

In our efforts to protect agricultural lands and open spaces in town, the Commission met with and provided maps and resources to the following: Source Water Protection Committee, Agricultural Commission, Franklin Land Trust, Kestrel Trust, and representatives for a natural gas line. We are happy to report that the newest farm added to the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program brought the Town's total of APR land above 1,000 acres. We continue to work with town residents, town boards and local land trusts to identify and prioritize the open space lands in town that need to be conserved. More studies have been released showing how open space preservation benefits the environment and enhances the quality of place while also benefiting residents when it comes to tax time. It often costs a municipality less to buy selected open land than for residents to pay the higher taxes that result from development to build additional schools, to improve roads and to increase municipal services. Some studies have indicated that when a community buys and preserves land rather than allowing houses on every farm field, they break even on their investment within a few years.

More copies of the Mt Toby Trail Map were printed showing how popular this destination is for Valley residents. Copies of the trail map are available free of charge at the Town Hall and at the 3 kiosks located at key trailheads.

Our town is truly blessed to have so many outstanding natural resources. We enjoy the purest water from our aquifers on Mt Toby, the most productive farmland in New England, and some of the most beautiful views in the Pioneer Valley. The conservation of these natural wonders can only be achieved through the combined efforts of residents, farmers, town boards and other concerned citizens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Curt Griffin (Chair), Dan Murphy, Todd Nuerminger, David Pierce, Jennifer Unkles

### What are Wetlands?

“Wetland resource areas” include the commonly known *cattail marsh* and open water *pond*, also *rivers* that generally flow throughout the year, 200-foot *riverfront areas* which border rivers on both sides, *intermittent streams* that dry up during part of the year, low-lying *flood plains* and *vernal (springtime) pools*. These areas (except riverfront areas) are surrounded by “*buffer zones*” – 100 foot wide protective zones around wetlands that protect wetlands from human impacts and provide valuable wildlife habitat.



## Why are Wetlands Important?

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet “free” services including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention



All Sunderland residents benefit from these services because of our reliance on natural settings for property values, wells for drinking water, and homes safe from flooding. The Conservation Commission is responsible for protecting these areas, by enforcing state and local wetlands protection laws and regulations.

## BEFORE Starting a Project Contact the Commission

A large percentage of Sunderland homeowners have wetland resource areas on or near their

property. If you plan to do any work in a wetland resource area, within the 100 foot buffer zone of a wetland, or within 200 feet of a river, such as:

- Tree removal or other vegetation clearing
- Grading or excavation
- New landscaping
- Construction, additions, etc.

or any other activity that might alter wetlands or their buffer zones, you must contact the Commission. **Do not assume your contractor will automatically pull all necessary permits.** If you do need approval, the Commission is ready to answer your questions and help guide you through the application process.

The complexity of the approval process is commensurate with the type and scale of the activity proposed. Minor projects such as removing a few trees may be handled by a simple approval letter, while a large construction project may require a detailed application and evaluation during one or more public hearings.

*The Commission wants to see landowners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit*

**➔ EVERYONE ➔**

## Wetland “Do’s and Don’ts”

Many activities near wetland resource areas are allowed and do not require Commission approval, including:

- Mowing an existing lawn
- Working in an existing garden
- Pruning and maintaining existing landscaping
- Planting native vegetation
- Cleaning out culverts

**Other activities are prohibited** in wetland resource areas or buffer zones and are subject to fines (some are allowed, but only with a permit):

- Dumping yard waste such as leaves, grass, etc, or other waste products, including manure
- Constructing animal paddocks
- Dumping dirt or other fill
- Draining or pumping water from a wetland, pond or stream
- Building dams or removing beaver dams

Wetlands function best in a natural state. Do not clear them or “clean them up.” Wildlife often thrives in areas with brush piles, rotting logs, and other things some people might consider “untidy.”

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

### **Main Street, S. Deerfield, MA**

528 Seniors use our center  
4,253 congregate meals served to 73 people  
8,307 Home delivered meals served to 72 people  
360 total Served thru our combined 360 Flue and 10 Pneumonia clinic  
61 volunteers help keep our center running

#### *General Services & Information*

Our Center Director is on duty at least five hours a day. The Director's job is to maintain current programs, send weekly information the newspapers, keep supplies in stock, and handle any problems that arise promptly. The Director performs the necessary grant writing and reporting as per state and federal guidelines as well as scheduling for guest speakers, performances and clinics.

Lunch is served at noon every weekday. There are card games daily and folks enjoy bingo every Friday. Brown bag pick-up for folks that are on a very low-income is the third Wednesday for every month. One of our services to the elderly is income tax assistance. We scheduled five dates this year and 25 people took advantage of the opportunity.

Thanks to contributions from Deerfield of \$2,500 and both Sunderland and Whately in the amount of \$1,250 each. We are able to keep our much-needed social worker Lauren Corbett works with many seniors to resolve their insurance questions of problems, helps folks with shopping needs and food stamps, and acts as a liaison between oil companies and senior citizens to obtain fuel assistance. She regularly visits those clients that now need nursing home care. Lauren simply enriches the lives of our guests, and we very much appreciate her efforts.

Our Tri Town Triad problem has helped many seniors this year to obtain house numbers. The Annual Spaghetti Supper raises funds to provide deserving families in the area gift certificates from Big Y Supermarkets for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We donated \$450 in 2007 thanks to the attendees of the event.

#### *Health and Wellness*

One of our most popular activities is the low-impact exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tai Chi classes are held every Monday. On occasion, we also host various music or comedy artists at the Center to liven up the day! Blood pressure and blood sugar clinics are held on the last Friday of the month. We also provide Cholesterol screenings several times per year. On a monthly basis, Dr. Sandberg offers a foot clinic.

#### *Travel and Entertainment*

This year we took five (one-day) bus trips. Typically, we ride down to Foxwoods and then Mohegan Sun Casinos every other month, except during the coldest winter months.

December 5<sup>th</sup> we went to Bright Nights and then for supper at Collegian Court Restaurant in Chicopee. To help with expenses, we travel with attendees of the Hatfield Senior Center. It is a nice little day-trip for folks that don't often get away from their homes.

#### *On-going Assistance*

During the holiday season the Frontier Senior Center provides assistance to deserving families in the area. This year we helped on family on Christmas. As many of you know, we worked with Children International to aid Mary Anders who lives in the Philippines. We've worked with this organization for many years and May Andres continues to thrive.

Finally, to all the people that help out at Frontier Senior Center, thank you so much. We very much appreciate the generous donation of time and assistance. It's these efforts that enhance the Senior Center's abilities to provide services to everyone.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Pielock, Director



## CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded \$4,000 to the Sunderland Cultural Council to support programs in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences for fiscal year 2007. A total of 26 applications for funding were received. At a meeting on November 1, 2006 at Town Hall, the committee considered the applications and made 9 awards. The programs approved for funding were:

- “Edible Wild Plants of New England” – Program at the Sunderland Public Library \$200  
Applicant – John Root
- “Ghosts of Sunderland” – Fall Festival program at the cemetery \$500  
Applicant – Sunderland Historical Commission
- “Moovin’ N’ Groovin’” – Preschool music classes at the Elementary School  
Applicant – Franklin County Family Network
- “A to Z Literacy” – Performance by Robert Rivest at the Public Library  
Applicant – Sunderland Public Library
- “Responding to an Inconvenient Truth” – Environmental programs at the High School  
Applicant – Frontier Regional High School
- “Tenting Tonight” – Part of the Civil War programs at the Public Library  
Applicant – Sunderland Public Library
- “Bamidele Dancers and Drummers” – Performance of songs/dances of Africa  
Applicant – Sunderland PTO
- “Winter Stories and Songs” – Song and dance performance by Roger Tincknell  
Applicant – Sunderland Elementary School Library
- “Jerry Atric: the older I get” – Performance at the Deerfield Senior Center  
Applicant – Steve Henderson

On Tuesday, April 24, 2007 the Council held a public meeting at the Town Hall for anyone interested in learning more about the grants available.

Moira Cranshaw, Audrey Ritter, Lisa Tripp, Faith White, Chair, Mark Zinan

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This committee was assembled by the Board of Selectmen to research and make recommendations on conditions and components relating to economic growth in committees and boards, including the Water District, Agricultural Commission and Board of Selectmen.

The Economic Development Committee has spent the last year exploring options for increasing the amount of commercial property in town in order to help offset the tax burden on residential properties.

We have discussed and evaluated various ways that may promote commercial growth in town. These include marketing opportunities for the Town of Sunderland, Tax Incentive Financing (TIF), re-zoning certain areas of the Town, amending our local zoning by-laws and streamlining the permitting process.

As we move into 2008, a Town forum will be scheduled to inform the citizens of Sunderland about the history and trends of commercial activity in town, and its effect on the tax base. We will present various options and scenarios for discussion and would welcome suggestions from the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair- James Bernotas, Clerk- Dan Murphy, Members- Liz Foster, Tom Fydenkevez, Fred Laurenitis, Will Sillin, Barre Tozloski, Robert Warner Jr., Scott Werme



## ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

### 2007 ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### APPOINTMENT      TERM

##### ASSESSORS

KOWALECK, MARY ANN	3 YR/2008
KOWALECK, JAMES, CHAIR	3 YR/2010
SKIBISKI, MICHAEL	3 YR/2009

##### BOARD OF HEALTH

WOLEJKO, MARGARET, CHR (res 3/07)	3 YR/2008
CHMYZINSKI, EDWIN	3 YR/2010
KUSHI, KENNETH	3 YR/2009
PACIOREK, KRISTY (appt 4.9.07)	1 YR/2008

##### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

COOK, LYNN	3 YR/2009
HUBBARD, CINDY, CHAIR	3 YR/2008
ROSEWARNE, JUSTINE	3 YR/2008
SMITH-ZEOLI, AIMEE	3 YR/2009
ROWE, DONNA	3 YR/2010

##### FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

GUMAER, DIANE	1 YR/2008
COOK, LYNN, Elem School Rep	1 YR/2009

##### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

BAUDERMANN, GERARD	3 YR/2010
DORR, ANN, Chair	3 YR/2009
FRIEDRICHS, JOSEPH	3 YR/2010
GRAVES, SHIRLEY	3 YR/2009
LACEY, PETER ,	3 YR/2008
MCKEMMIE, DONNA, Vice Chair	3 YR/2008
MUNN, MARILYN	3 YR/2008
STARR, LORIN, Secretary	3 YR/2009
TRIPP, ELISE	3 YR/2010

##### PLANNING BOARD

CRANSHAW, RUSSELL, CLERK	5 YR/2011
ROSCOE, DANA, CHAIR	5 YR/2010
SCHNEIDER, STEPHEN	5 YR/2012
SILLIN, WILLIAM	5 YR/2009

##### RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

BERGERON, JANET	3 YR/2008
BERGERON, SCOTT	3 YR/2009
CONLEY, SPENCER	3 YR/2010

##### SELECTMEN

BERGERON, SCOTT A.	3 YR/2009
FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS D., CHAIR	3 YR/2008
WISSEMAN, MICHAEL A.	3 YR/2010

##### SEWER COMMISSIONERS

BERGERON, SCOTT A.	3 YR/2009
FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS D.	3 YR/2008
WISSEMAN, MICHAEL A.	3 YR/2010

##### TOWN CLERK

HOULE, WENDY	3 YR/2010
<b>Assistant Town Clerk-appointed by Town Clerk</b>	
NARTOWICZ, MARGARET	1 YR/2008

##### TOWN MODERATOR

DUBY, ROBERT	1 YR/2008
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##### TOWN PARK TRUSTEES

SPEARANCE, PENNY	WILL DICTATES
KUSHI, KENNETH	3 YR/2010
HUBBARD, CINDY	1 YR/2008

### SELECTMEN'S APPOINTMENTS

#### APPOINTMENT      TERM

##### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/

##### ADA COORDINATOR

NARTOWICZ, MARGARET	3 YR/2009
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##### ACCCOUNTANT:

COOPER, SARA (res. 9/2007)	6 MO/2007
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##### ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

BENNETT, CYNTHIA	1 YR/2008
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##### AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

WISSEMAN, MICHAEL	3 YR/2008
WILLIAMS, ROBERT	3 YR/2008
WERME, SCOTT	3 YR/2010
REED, SCOTT	3 YR/2009
UNKLES, JENNIFER (Con Com Rep)	1 YR/2008

##### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

POTYRALA, DANIEL	1 YR/2008
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##### ASSESSOR CLERK

KOWALECK, MARY ANN	1 YR/2008
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##### BUILDING COMMISSIONER

WIGHT, ERIK	1 YR/2008
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##### Assistant

NEYHART, TIMOTHY	1 YR/2008
FYDENKEVEZ, JOSEPH	1 YR/2008

##### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

WILLIAMS, GREG	1 YR/2008
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##### BURIAL OFFICER

CONLEY, SPENCER	1 YR/2008
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##### Assistant Burial Officer

GORDON, BRUCE	1 YR/2008
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##### CENTRAL FRANKLIN DISTRICT VETERANS COMMITTEE

KORPITA, PAUL	1 YR/2008
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##### COLLECTOR/TREASURER

SANDERSON, JR, HERBERT	3 YR/2008
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##### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

UNKLES, JENNIFER, Treasurer	3 YR/2009
GRIFFIN, CURT, Chair	3 YR/2008
PIERCE, DAVID, VC	3 YR/2008
ELLSWORTH, RAY, (res. 4/2007)	3 YR/2007
MURPHY, DAN, Filing Clerk	3 YR/2010
NUERMINGER, TODD	3 YR/2010

##### CONSTABLES

KORPITA, PAUL	1 YR/2008
LAURENITIS, FREDERICK	1 YR/2008



FLEMING, DAN	1 YR/2008
RICHARDS, ALLAN	1 YR/2008
WOZNAKEWICZ, MICHAEL	1 YR/2008

#### **COUNCIL ON AGING**

BYLNOWSKI, ALICE	3 YR/2009
TOZLOSKI, EMILY	3 YR/2009
HOWE, JOAN, CHAIR	3 YR/2008
MARKWELL, MARION, Chair	3 YR/2008
TOMLINSON, LYLE	3 YR/2010
BUCZYNSKI, SOPHIE	3 YR/2010
VACANT	3 YR/2010

#### **CULTURAL COUNCIL**

WHITE, FAITH, CHAIR	3 YR/2009
TRIPP, LISA	3 YR/2008
CRANSHAW, MOIRA	3 YR/2009
LOPEZ, AMANDA RIVERA (eff 1.8.07)	3 YR/2010
LACEY, PETER (eff 4.07)	3 YR/2010
SABOL, BARBARA	3 YR/2011

#### **ECONOMIC DEVOPMENT PLAN REPRESENTATIVE**

EWEN, JAMES	1 YR/2008
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#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

BERNOTAS, JIM (ZBA REP)	1 YR/2008
FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS (SELECT)	1 YR/2008
LAURENTIS, FRED	1 YR/2008
MURPHY, DAN	1 YR/2008
SILLIN, WILL (PLNG BRD REP)	1 YR/2008
TOZLOSKI, BARRE	1 YR/2008
WARNER, JR., ROBERT	1 YR/2008
WERME, SCOTT (AG COMM REP)	1 YR/2008

#### **ELECTION OFFICERS**

BENNETT, DEBRA	1 YR/2008
BENNETT, LINDSEY	1 YR/2008
CLARK, HELEN	1 YR/2008
CRANSHAW, JACKSON	1 YR/2008
CRANSHAW, MOIRA	1 YR/2008
CRANSHAW, RUSSELL	1 YR/2008
FLEMING, DANIEL	1 YR/2008
GATELY, EDWARD	1 YR/2008
GUNDERSEN, MARY ANN	1 YR/2008
KORENEWSKY, PAMELA	1 YR/2008
LANE, RUSSELL	1 YR/2008
POMEROY, HELEN	1 YR/2008
RICHARDS, ALLAN	1 YR/2008
SCHULZE, BARBARA	1 YR/2008
SILLIN, WILL	1 YR/2008
TRIPP, GORDON	1 YR/2008
TRIPP, LISA	1 YR/2008
WHITE, ROBERT	1 YR/2008

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TEAM**

AHEARN, MARY ELLEN	1 YR/2008
AHEARN, ROBERT	1 YR/2008
BALL, STEPHEN	1 YR/2008
BERGERON, SCOTT	1 YR/2008
CHMYZINSKI, ED	1 YR/2008
FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS	1 YR/2008
HOULE, WENDY	1 YR/2008

GILBERT, JEFFREY	1 YR/2008
KUSHI, KEN	1 YR/2008
NARTOWICZ, MARGARET	1 YR/2008
PACIOREK, KRISTY	1 YR/2008
SPEARANCE, PENNY	1 YR/2008
TREMBLAY, MARC	1 YR/2008
WISSEMAN, MICHAEL	1 YR/2008

#### **ENERGY COMMITTEE**

EMMONS, CHASE, Chair	1 YR/2008
TODD, CARL	1 YR/2008
CARR-MAL, NIRANJAN	1 YR/2008
FALBEL, AARON	1 YR/2008
MOSIMANN, JOHN (res. 3/2007)	1 YR/2008
SNYDER, WILL	1 YR/2008
WILLIAMS, LAURA	1 YR/2008

#### **FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

AHEARN, MARY ELLEN	1 YR/2008
DORR, ANN	1 YR/2008
EWEN, JAMES	1 YR/2008
HOWEY, BARBARA	1 YR/2008
JACQUE, JULIE	1 YR/2008
O'HAGEN, ROSEMARY	1 YR/2008
ROLNICK, SUSAN	1 YR/2008
WESTON, GAIL	1 YR/2008
WILLIAMS, LAURA	1 YR/2008
WISSEMAN, MICHAEL (Ag Com Rep)	1 YR/2008
WOODS-EDWIN, CHERI	1 YR/2008

#### **FENCE VIEWER**

THOMAS, FRANCIS	1 YR/2008
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#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

FOSTER, ELIZABETH (res. 5.7.07)	
GORDON, BRUCE	3 YR/2009
LOPATKA, RICHARD	3 YR/2008
MAGLIONE, NANCY	3 YR/2010
MOZEA, FRANCIS	3 YR/2008
RANDALL, SEAN	3 YR/2009
REDSTONE, PAUL	3 YR/2008
TRIPP, GORDON	3 YR/2009
VEAL, ELVERY	3 YR/2010
ZEOLI, MICHAEL, CHAIR	3 YR/2010

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

##### **Fire Chief**

AHEARN, ROBERT	3 YR/2010
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##### **Ambulance Director**

AHEARN, ROBERT	1 YR/2008
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##### **911 Liason**

HUBBARD, JEFFREY	1 YR/2008
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##### **Staff – Fire Chief Appointments**

KUDROW, JAMES, Deputy Chief
HUBBARD, JEFFREY, Deputy Chief/EMT
BERNIER, JAMES, Captain/EMT (res. 7/2007)
BENJAMIN, STEVEN, Lieutenant
MATTSON, CHRISTOPHER, Lieutenant
DICKINSON, RICHARD, Sergeant
KULESSA, ALEC, Sergeant

##### **Fire Fighters/EMT – Fire Chief Appointments**





AHEARN, MARY ELLEN  
 AHEARN, MEAGHAN  
 HASTINGS, MEGHAN  
 HANSEN, DAVID  
 HANSEN, DIANE  
 MASLOSKI, TIMOTHY  
 NUTTELMAN, TRACY  
 RUSSELL, NIKI  
 SAMSON, SARA  
 TREMBLAY, MARC  
 VALLE, THOMAS  
 WARGER, CAROLYN

**Fire Fighters – Fire Chief Appointments**

AHEARN, ERIN  
 BERGERON, SCOTT  
 ELSWORTH, RAYMOND  
 RADOWICZ, MICHAEL  
 RADOWICZ, SEAN  
 SCHAEFER, JAMES  
 TOWER, JAMES  
 WESTON, JARROD  
 ZEOLI, MICHAEL

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BIKEWAY COMMITTEE**

HERRICK, CAROLYN 1 YR/2008  
 HERRICK, THOMAS 1 YR/2008

**FRANKLIN COUNTY ETA**

VACANT 1 YR/2008

**FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE REPRESENTATIVE**

FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS D. 1 YR/2008

**Alternate**

MURPHY, DAN 1 YR/2008

**FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

VACANT (Moderator Appointment)

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 REP.**

FYDENKEVEZ, THOMAS 1 YR/2008

**FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

HERRICK, CAROLYN 1 YR/2008

**HARASSMENT COORDINATOR**

SILLIN, ELIZABETH 1 YR/2008

**HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR**

AHEARN, ROBERT 1 YR/2008

**HEALTH AGENT**

BALL, STEPHEN 1 YR/2008

**Temporary Agent**

ZARAZINSKI, DAVID 1 YR/2008

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**Superintendent**

THOMAS, FRANCIS 1 YR/2008

**Clerk**

THOMAS, JANET 1 YR/2008

**Laborers**

SKRIBISKI, ED 1 YR/2008

SKRIBISKI, ROBERT 1 YR/2008

**Temporary Highway Laborers (1,040 HRS)**

FABRY, MARK 1 YR/2008

LAURENITIS, FRED 1 YR/2008  
 PULCHALSKI, MARK 1 YR/2008  
 PULCHALSKI, BRIAN 1 YR/2008  
 RADOWICZ, MIKE 1 YR/2008  
 SAVISKI, JOSEPH G. JR 1 YR/2008  
 SKRIBISKI, JOHN 1 YR/2008

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

CLARK, HELEN, Clerk 3 YR/2009  
 LOPATKA, LINDA, Chair 3 YR/2010  
 HERRICK, THOMAS 3 YR/2008  
 HUBBARD, CINDY 3 YR/2010  
 SCHNEIDER, STEPHEN 3 YR/2008  
 SILLIN, ELIZABETH, Treasurer 3 YR/2008  
 WOODS-EDWIN, CHERI 3 YR/2009

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MGMT COORDINATOR**

AHEARN, ROBERT 1 YR/2008

**MOTH SUPERINTENDENT**

THOMAS, FRANCIS 1 YR/2008

**NETWORK & ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AGENTS**

BALL, STEPHEN (eff 2.12.07) 1 YR/2008  
 NARTOWICZ, MARGARET (eff 2.12.07) 1 YR/2008

**PARKING CLERK**

HOULE, WENDY 1 YR/2008

**PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE**

STARR, LORIN MODERATOR 1 YR/2008  
 CITIZEN APPOINTMENT

ROWE, DONNA 1 YR/2008

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

KOWALECK, MARY ANN 1 YR/2008

**ASSESSOR**

BERGERON, SCOTT 1 YR/2008

**SELECTMEN**

ZEOLI, MICHAEL 1 YR/2008

**FINANCE COMM**

ROSCOE, DANA 1 YR/2008

**PLANNING BOARD**

3 VACANCIES – MODERATOR APPOINTED

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

LÉGER, ANTHONY (res. 5/2007) 2 YR/2008

**CITIZEN**

MCKEMMIE, DONNA 2 YR/2008

**CITIZEN**

WISSEMAN, MICHAEL 2 YR/2008

**SELECTMEN**

NARTOWICZ, MARGARET 2 YR/2008

**TOWN ADM**

TRIPP, GORDON 2 YR/2008

**FINANCE**

SANDERSON, HERB (res. 3/2007) 2 YR/2008

**EMPLOYEE**

**PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR**

HUBBARD, JEFFREY 1 YR/2008

**ASSISTANT**

NUTTLEMAN, JEREMY 1 YR/2008



**POLICE DEPARTMENT****Police Chief**

GILBERT, JEFFREY 3 YR/2010

**Sergeant**

LYONS, BRENDAN 1 YR/2008

**Full Time Officers**

HARRIS, JOSH 1 YR/2008

SCOBLE, PETER 1 YR/2008

TOZLOSKI, BRENDA 1 YR/2008

**Part Time Officers**

GRAHAM, WILLIAM 1 YR/2008

HEBERT, MICHAEL 1 YR/2008

ISAKSON, DAVID 1 YR/2008

LANKOWSKI, LAURIE 1 YR/2008

MELNIK, DEVIN 1 YR/2008

PROUTY, ANNE (res. 11/2007) 1 YR/2008

PUCHALSKI, MARK 1 YR/2008

SANCHEZ, ALEX 1 YR/2008

SMITH, ZACHERY 1 YR/2008

VANDOLOSKI, RAY 1 YR/2008

WALL, JUSTIN 1 YR/2008

**Police Clerk**

GALLERANI, BOBBIE 1 YR/2008

**POLICE / FIRE CIVIL DEFENSE DIR**

AHEARN, ROBERT 1 YR/2008

GILBERT, JEFFREY 1 YR/2008

**Alcohol Control Agent**

GILBERT, JEFFREY, Police Chief 1 YR/2008

**Chaplain**

RIDDLE, PASTOR LARRY 1 YR/2008

**PROCUREMENT OFFICER**

NARTOWICZ, MARGARET 1 YR/2008

**PVTA REPRESETATIVE**

WISSEMAN, MICHAEL A. 1 YR/2008

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

BROWNING, HEATHER 1 YR/2008

NUERMINGER, TODD 1 YR/2008

SKRIBISKI, JOHN 1 YR/2008

**RECREATION COORDINATOR**

EWEN, JAMES 1 YR/2008

**REGISTRARS**

LANE, HAZEL BLAKE 3 YR/2010

RICHARDS, JUDITH 3 YR/2011

KELLEY, EDWARD, JR. 3 YR/2009

**STEERING COMM VOL III**

HOULE, WENDY, Chair 1 YR/2008

CLARK, HELEN 1 YR/2008

HUBBARD, CINDY 1 YR/2008

TROUSDELL, RICHARD 1 YR/2008

HOFER, ERNEST 1 YR/2008

FLEMMING, DAN 1 YR/2008

POMEROY, HELEN 1 YR/2008

KOWALECK, MARY ANN 1 YR/2008

WILLIAMS, SR., JAMES 1 YR/2008

SINOFSKY, HERBERT 1 YR/2008

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

LOCKE, LAWRENCE, Chair 1 YR/2008

SHAW, WAYNE, Clerk 1 YR/2008

WESTON, BRUCE 1 YR/2008

ZIMNOWSKI, THOMAS 1 YR/2008

**FCAT REPRESENTATIVE**

SHAW, WAYNE 1 YR/2008

**Technician, Part-Time**

ZIMNOWSKI, THOMAS 1 YR/2008

**TOWN COUNSEL**

KOPELMAN AND PAIGE 1 YR/2008

**TREE WARDEN**

THOMAS, FRANCIS 1 YR/2008

**VETERANS AGENT**

PARENT, LEO 1 YR/2008

**VETERANS GRAVE OFFICER**

GORDON, BRUCE 1 YR/2008

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

GORDON, BRUCE 1 YR/2008

GRAVES, SHIRLEY 1 YR/2008

TOWER, JAMES 1 YR/2008

FOSTER, ELIZABETH (res. 9/2007) 1 YR/2008

CONLEY, JANET (res. 8/2007) 1 YR/2008

VAN DALSEN, DAN 1 YR/2008

SILLIN, WILL, Chair 1 YR/2008

GOODHIND, JOHN 1 YR/2008

**WIRING INSPECTOR**

TOWER, JAMES 1 YR/2008

**Assistant**

MURPHY, PETER 1 YR/2008

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

KROL, STEVEN, Chair 3 YR/2010

HERRICK, THOMAS, Clerk 3 YR/2009

TOZLOSKI, BARRE 3 YR/2010

BERNOTAS, JAMES 3 YR/2008

WILLIAMS, JR JAMES 3 YR/2008

**Associate Member**

NUERMINGER, TODD 1 YR/2008

BECKLEY, STUART 1 YR/2008

SCHNEIDER, STEPHEN (Plng Brd Rep) 1 YR/2008

**PUBLIC WEIGHERS****ALL STATES ASPAHLT, INC.**

Michael Ahearn Joseph Allard Rickie Amaral

Denis Baker David Bonnett Duncan Cameron

Peter Chmyzinski Michele Espisito

Ronald Fountain Jeffrey Foscenski Corey Hamilton

Alan Holmberg Randall Howe Harold House

Thomas Kelley Winthrop Kie Frederick Korenewsky

Edward Korpita John Lashway Robert Lashway

Wayne Leonard Ronald Maillet John Massey

William Metcalf Michael Moriarty Michael Murphy

Peter Olanyk Richard Paine Homer Parker

Joel Pasko Keith Porter Ronald Puchalski

Mark Rogaski Randy Shearer Norman Stockwell

Daniel Sullivan Robert Taylor Daniel Thurlow

David White Rudy Zeman



WARNER BROS LLC & TREW STONE LLC

Todd Jarvis      David Lewandowski      Paul Olsen  
Martin Powers      Wilfred Clough      James Houle

DELTA SAND & GRAVEL INC.

Wilfred Clough      Todd Jarvis  
James Martin      Robert Slongwhite  
Craig Warner

William Juda  
Michael Radowicz

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

In the past year the town signed on with ConnectCTY for caller notification. The system has been tested and used successfully this past year. If you are not being notified and want to be, please contact the Selectmen's office at 665-1441 or use the Town's website [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us). At the website you will find a link to ConnectCTY. In addition to your home phone, you can also add your cellular phone and email address for additional notification, up to 3 total lines.

This past fall, the Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team (SEPT) conducted its own dispensing drill at the Town's Emergency Dispensing Site, the Sunderland Elementary School. The drill served close to 200 flu shots to town residents. This drill took a lot of planning and we would like to thank all who spent countless hours planning and volunteering to make this drill a great success.

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) continues to be updated. The CEMP is a guidance document that can be used in a large emergency.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert T. Ahearn, Emergency Management Director

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

[www.townofsunderland.us/EnergyComm.htm](http://www.townofsunderland.us/EnergyComm.htm)

Our year started off with a continued exploration of Energy Performance Contracting, whereby energy improvements made to Town facilities, including conversion to renewable energy sources, can be paid for by the energy savings themselves. We presented this idea to the Town Administrator and our liaison Mike Wissemann, and to the Select Board as a whole. We also prepared a flyer describing Energy Performance Contracting, which we handed out at Town Meeting. We feel this is a tremendous opportunity for Sunderland to realize significant energy and financial savings, without the usual (and often prohibitive) sizable capital outlay. (In recent months, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has taken up this matter on a regional basis, making it more attractive for Energy Service Companies to contract with groups of towns rather than with individual municipalities—stay tuned!)



At Town Meeting, we also distributed a flyer linking energy issues with local food—“Are You a Localvore?”—and added to our web page a resource list pertaining to local food. (See [www.townofsunderland.us/EnergyComm.htm](http://www.townofsunderland.us/EnergyComm.htm).)

Additionally, individual members of our Committee:

- provided cost estimates to the Town to switch to biodiesel fuel for its vehicles;
- worked with the principal at Sunderland Elementary to acquire recycling bins;
- acted as judges and organizers for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Massachusetts Envirothon (a program for environmentally conscious high school students throughout the state), which in 2007 focused on energy issues;
- continued exploring a suitable site in Town for a Park & Ride area;
- assisted the Town to apply for free technical energy audits, courtesy of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

We created an updated version of our Committee’s brochure, linking climate change and peak oil with the overuse of fossil fuels. (The brochure is available from our Committee or at the Town Office Building.)

We endorsed and applauded as an important first step the Town’s Energy Conservation Initiative, requesting a 5% reduction in electricity usage from all Town departments. We offered to consult with Town departments in reaching that goal (and beyond). We recommended that any savings above 5% should be earmarked for energy conservation projects.

In October, we again hosted a presentation on home improvements for energy savings, featuring Mark Skinder of the Greenfield Solar Store. We also distributed literature, sold recycling bins, and had some great conversations about energy with folks at the Sunderland Fall Festival.

In November, members of our Committee attended a presentation in Amherst by Daniel Lerch of the Post Carbon Institute. Mr. Lerch spoke about his new book, *Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty*. A copy of this book was donated to the Sunderland Library. We heartily recommend all Town department heads, planners, decision makers, and committee members to take a look at this important study and its recommendations.

Our film series continued this past year with four films: *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, *The Great Turning* (featuring David Korten), *Crude Impact*, and *The Great Energy Revolution* (featuring Guy Dauncey). Discussions were held after each film. Consult our web page for future film showings.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Todd (chair), Will Snyder (clerk), Niranjan Carr-Mal, Chase Emmons, Aaron Falbel, Laura Williams

## FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Fall Festival Committee successfully finished its second year. It was formed in early 2006 to help revive, organize, and expand the town’s Annual Fall Festival. The committee believes a strong emphasis of the event should be to promote our local agriculture, ancestral history, local artist talents, exercise and sportsmanship, town clubs and committees, and provide a place for community pride and spirit. Mother Nature provided another beautiful day for the 2007 Fall Festival for Sunderland residents and guests to gather together for food, entertainment, education, recreation and fun.

### Returning Highlights of the Festival:

**Taste of Sunderland-** The festival food court was full of delicious local fare from both restaurants and clubs. This event continues to grow both in size and interest in participation. Thanks BridgeSide Grille, Bub’s BBQ, and Chandler’s Restaurant for being the cornerstones of the food court. The Committee also thanks the volunteers for running the Fall



Festival grill; Moira Cranshaw, Ann Dorr, Mary Ellen Fydenkevez, Barbara Howey, the Frontier High School Football team, and Hampshire County Sheriff, Robert Garvey for loaning us the grill.

**Musicians**-Attendees and animals alike tapped their toes, hooves and paws to two spectacular bluegrass bands; Seven Mile Line and Acoustic Brew. The spirit of their sound set the tone for a joyful, celebratory fall day. Thank you to BridgeSide Grille and Mike's Maze/Warner Farm for sponsoring these two favorites.

**Jonas The Magician and Balloon Sculptor** - Thank you to the Recreation Department, Jim Ewen, for continually bring Jonas and all of the fun games to the festival. The wonderment of magic, the excitement and energy of the bouncy house and the quest of treats in the haystack are genuine fun.

**5K Buttonball Road Race-Sponsored by the Bank of Western Massachusetts and Odyssey Bookshop;**  
**Youth Pedal Tractor Pull sponsored by Devon Lane Farm Supply and Sirum Equipment;**  
**"Infamous Oreo Cows" also known as UMASS Belted Galloway Group.**

**New Events in 2007:**

**\*Ghosts of Sunderland Tour**- the highly publicized tour put on by the Sunderland Historical Commission with a grant from the Cultural Council featured actual townspeople dressed in period costumes as historical people having lived in Sunderland. Thank you to all involved with this project. It was a terrific addition to the festival.

**\*Cow Chip Bingo**-Sponsored by the Sunderland Agricultural Commission. Place your money on a "deeded" square and see if ol' bossy will drop her "chip" on your square! Loads of fun just hearing the comments of participants and passers-by! Thank you, Mike Wissemann, Bob Williams and Scott Reed.

**\*Local Quilt Show** graciously put together by Kim Drake. The show, held in the Community Room of the Sunderland Public Library, allowed visitors to admire the awesome talents Sunderland residents have in quilting and fiber arts. The show was proudly sponsored by Dale Frank Insurance Agency. Thank you to Kim and to Bruce Weston for the set up and arrangement.

**\*Pie Baking Contest** sponsored by Ahearn Landscaping and Weston Communications. The Sunderland Selectmen were recruited as the official judges in the worst job of the day- tasting and judging the pie entries. It was tough, but the three of them managed to name the winners: 1<sup>st</sup>-Mary Ann Kowalak, 2<sup>nd</sup> The Bennett Family, 3<sup>rd</sup> The Bennett Family.

**\*4-H Oxen Demonstration** was sponsored by the Sunderland Animal Hospital. Megan and Jeffrey Audette of Gilbertsville, MA brought oxen teams, Red & Sox and Chocolate & Chip. The 4-Hers have been training the animals as their 4-H projects. The Audette Family is an active part of a revival to increase awareness and enthusiasm for this area of agriculture. They both were excited to share their animals and knowledge with Sunderland.

**\*US Fish and Wildlife fish tank, "Dig your own Potato" and "Collect the Eggs" in addition to other children's games and activities.**

**Thank You to the Hardworking Members of the 2007 Fall Festival Committee:**

Julie Jacque- Chairperson, Mary Ellen Ahearn, Moira Cranshaw, Ann Dorr, Jim Ewen, Barbara Howey, Rose O'Hagan, Susan Rolnick, Gail Weston, Laura Williams, Mike Wissemann, Cheri Woods-Edwin.

A Special Thank You to Volunteers that helped in numerous ways:

Scott Bergeron, Janet Conley, Peter Lacey, Bruce Weston, and Tom Zimnowski

Sunderland Police and Fire Department

If any one has ideas, suggestions, desire to become a member of the committee, or volunteer to assist with the 2008 event please contact Julie Jacque at 665-9768 or any member of the Committee. The Fall Festival Committee looks forward to another great festival on October 18, 2008! Thank you, Sunderland, for your support.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Mission:** The prime responsibility of the Finance Committee is to make recommendations at town meeting on financial matters, including the annual budget. The Committee has oversight responsibilities for town financial matters. The moderator appoints members.

**Annual Budget:** At the Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2007 voters approved a budget for fiscal 2008 of \$7,016,210. The Operating costs grew by 4.6% or \$255,209. The total budget was a 1.3% decrease or \$89,714 below FY 2007. School costs grew by 4.4% while other government grew by 4.3% primarily due to energy costs. Debt payments decreased by 27.6% due to making the final payment of the original Elementary School building loan in 2007.

**Elementary School Repair:** The State Building Assistance (SBA) Program reform signed into law in 2004 will provided Sunderland with state reimbursement in FY08 of \$3,337,723. This money will be used to help pay the annual principal and interest of borrowed funds for this repair. The money is currently invested as there is a schedule to pay off the bonds where they cannot be fully paid down until 2013. The Finance Committee recommends that the money earned from the investment be used to pay down the school debt in a manner that will expedite the retiring of the debt.

**Revenues:** For FY08, State revenues were up minimally from FY07. The Assessor's Overlay account had accumulated a reserve due to continual on-time property tax collections. \$20,000 of this reserve was used to balance the FY08 Budget. Free Cash in the amount of \$288,237 was appropriated for use during Town Meeting. \$212,032 was appropriated to balance the FY07 budget. \$4,558 was appropriated to pay the balance to purchase a new police cruiser, \$50,000 was appropriated to purchase new accounting software for the town, and \$4,500 was appropriated to purchase 50 copies each of Volume I and II of the Town History. \$17,147 (the Town's share of a total \$65,000 appropriation) was appropriated for HVAC, and electrical work and making other necessary repairs to the Frontier Regional School District Central Office Building.

**Stabilization Account:** No funds were appropriated from the town's Stabilization Account during Town Meeting. \$20,000 was appropriated into the Stabilization Account at Town Meeting. As of June 30, 2007, The Stabilization account has a balance of \$432,149.

**Tax Impact:** The Tax Rate recapitulation for FY08 resulted in a new tax rate of \$12.06/1000, a 2.2% decrease in the rate. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the tax rate has decreased.

**Tax Levy Limit:** For FY07 Sunderland again came close (\$5,287) to its maximum levy limit allowed without a proposition 2 ½ override ballot vote.

**2009 Risks:** As we plan the FY2009 budget we continue to be concerned about rising costs of keeping our quality schools and town government operating well. The harsh winter and the increase in material costs for snow and ice removal has overspent that account by approximately \$100,000. Once again energy costs are particular areas of concern. In FY05, FY06, FY07 and FY08 we had essentially no tax levy carry over from previous years to use. This situation will likely continue into FY09. We will do our best to manage the resultant tax impact while maintaining quality services and schools. At this point in time the committee does not believe that this can be accomplished without an increase in taxes.





**Thanks:** In preparing the FY09 Budget there was active participation of the School Committees, Personnel Committee, the Town Administrator, the Selectboard and several town office employees. Our town is a better place because of these people.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chair Michael Zeoli, Clerk Sean Randall, Bruce Gordon, Richard Lopatka, Nancy Maglione, Francis Mozea, Paul Redstone Gordon Tripp and Elvery Veal,

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2007 the Sunderland Fire Department responded to 363 calls. There were 275 requests for medical assistance and 88 fire-related incidents. There were two major incidents where we provided mutual aid to other towns that lasted 8-hours and 12-hours respectively. Overall we are on average from the previous year.

I want to thank all the members of the Fire Department for your continuous dedication and time. Being on a call fire department means most people have regular jobs in addition to being on the fire department. We have 30 members on the department, with 19 of these also being Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

In August, our Fulltime Firefighter/EMT, Captain James Bernier resigned. He was replaced by Firefighter/EMT James S. Tower in October. Thanks to the "Jims" for all you do for this department.

Last year the citizens of Sunderland approved replacing our ambulance. Since then this has been completed. The new ambulance was paid for by funds we collected through ambulance billing fees. These ambulance billing fees also pay for a substantial portion of our operating budget, some 75% approximately. We are going to keep that revenue incoming as much as we can to save taxpayers some money.

### Important reminders to citizens:

1. I urge everyone to display their house number prominently to facilitate a quick response from emergency personnel. We continue to sponsor the house numbering program, numbers can be ordered from the Fire Department free of charge to senior citizens and for a nominal fee for all others.
2. There is ***no parking in fire lanes and in front of all fire hydrants 24/7. This includes the Elementary School.*** Cars may be ticketed and/or towed for violators.
3. ***Burning permits are required for all brush fires.*** Contact the station at 665-2465, Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM and Shelburne Control 625-8200 on Saturdays to obtain permits. ***Burning season is from January 15<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Fires must start after 10AM and be extinguished by 4PM. There is no burning on Sundays.*** Fines will be issued for not following the rules outlined on the issued burn permit or for illegal burning.

The Sunderland Volunteer Firemen's Association continues to be active in the sponsoring of community events, including the Memorial Day Parade Reception, Children's Fishing Derby, American Red Cross Blood Drives as well as participating in other community events such as the Mt. Toby Trail Run and Union #38 Community Partnership for Children's Festival. The Town Park pavilion is available for functions. Please contact the Fire Department for scheduling and fees.

We appreciate the continued support from the community in our fundraisers. The funds are used to buy equipment for the fire department and ambulance service, and to keep community events sponsored by the Firemen's Association free of charge. We are also grateful to the many memorial donations received on behalf of community members who have passed away.

In closing, I thank the following for their assistance this past year: Police Department, Highway Department, Town Office Administrative Team, Selectboard, Finance Committee, Water District, School Committee, Principal and Superintendent. Please visit our department website [www.sunderlandfire.com](http://www.sunderlandfire.com) for up-to-date information on your local Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert T. Ahearn, Fire Chief



## **FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to the twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

We are finalizing plans for a permanent collection program for unwanted medications. This program will be the first in the Commonwealth. We are also working on disaster debris planning, with a focus on managing deceased farm animals. Franklin County has a large number of farm animals and a disaster or disease-outbreak could wreak significant devastation. Our planning efforts are intended to identify a clear response system should an emergency arise.

We have worked with several schools to improve their recycling program as well as to implement a program to collect food waste for composting. The District also provides hands-on assistance to businesses and institutions that want to recycle or compost their waste.

Using a small grant from the MRF Advisory Board, we researched, designed, and uploaded a new page to our website called, “What Do I Do With...” This page lists hundreds of items that are found in household trash and identifies the options for recycling or disposing of them.

In 2007, District towns recycled approximately 2,400 tons of paper and 1,100 tons of mixed containers. By diverting a total of 3,500 tons of recyclables from landfills and incineration, District towns collectively saved over \$230,000 in disposal costs.

The District held its annual household hazardous waste collection in September. Almost 400 residents participated at the three regional sites. Through a state grant, we were able to collect old pesticides from ten area farms. The next household hazardous waste collection will be held on September 13, 2008. The annual “Clean Sweep” collection was held in October. There were 300 participants at three regional sites. Residents delivered close to 40 tons of appliances, scrap metal, bulky items, electronics, tires, and propane tanks!

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 772-2438; visit our website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org); or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*  
Becky Jurek, Bernardston - *Chair*

Nathaniel L'Etoile, Northfield - *Vice-Chair*  
Andrea Donlon, Buckland - *Treasurer*



## FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

425 Main Street, Suite 40, Greenfield, MA 01301-3313  
Telephone 413-774-3167 • Fax 413-774-3169 • [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org)  
Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2007. As the regional planning agency and governmental membership organization serving the twenty-six towns of Franklin County, we provide a broad array of planning, advocacy, and community services, as well as assessment-based programs serving municipal needs. The FRCOG and the region accomplished an enormous amount in 2007.

After years of advocacy on the part of the FRCOG and our partners, Pioneer Valley Connect and Berkshire Connect, Governor Patrick announced in August a **\$25 Million Broadband Investment Fund** to bring broadband to the **31 unserved** and the additional under-served communities in Western Massachusetts.

FRCOG Planning staff worked with **twelve towns** on zoning revisions and other planning technical assistance and completed Commonwealth Capital Applications, a required smart growth assessment for MA grant eligibility, for **four towns**.

The Community Coalition for Teens, as co-sponsor of the Communities That Care Coalition, was **named national “Coalition of the Year”** by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America for its work with schools and youth to reduce teen alcohol and tobacco use and abuse. A 4-year comparison of use as reported by 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the annual Teen Health Survey shows: **a 25% reduction in alcohol use, a 19% reduction in cigarette smoking, and a 35% reduction in marijuana use.**

The FRCOG’s Public Health Preparedness Planners helped local Boards of Health continue to refine their Emergency Dispensing Site procedures, which prepare for the possibility of a mass vaccination or mass prophylaxis during a large-scale health crisis. **Eleven towns conducted flu clinic drills in the past year, with over 1,000 people vaccinated.**

After years of FRCOG advocacy, planning and cobbling of resources, the Erving Papermill realignment project on Route 2 and portions of the Franklin County Bikeway were completed and opened for the traveling public.

In 2007 the FRCOG and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority continued work on the creation of a **Regional Transit Center** in Greenfield. With the help of funding from Congressman Olver, the Environmental Assessment was completed and work on site acquisition began.

For the past three years, the FRCOG has managed and overseen the expenditure of more than **\$12 million of Homeland Security federal funding** on behalf of all of western Massachusetts, including \$63,000 approved for **reimbursement for training overtime/backfill** for Franklin County first responders.

With the help of the FRCOG, the Western Regional Homeland Security Council invested over **\$800,000** in the **Franklin County Emergency Communications System** for interoperable communications improvements which enhanced emergency communication ability for all Franklin County communities.

The FRCOG completed the **Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan** in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, to help our region decrease energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gasses, and increase the supply of renewable energy resources. View the plan on our website.

The FRCOG Brownfields Program conducted environmental site assessment work on **8 properties in 6 Franklin County towns**, providing over **\$40,114 of professional engineering services.**

The Municipal Accounting Program now serves **6 Franklin County towns and 1 Hampshire County town.** The program offers all participating communities secure backup and **24-7** remote access to their accounts. **26 Franklin County towns and 9 other entities**



participated in group bids through the Cooperative Purchasing Program, including **fuel oil, highway materials, and dog tags and licenses.**

The Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program provided building, plumbing, and electrical inspection services to **17 towns.** The FCCIP issued a total of **1022 building permits, 565 wiring permits and 588 plumbing permits totaling \$355,679 in permit fees** for participating towns. The FCCIP also hosted a training for **more than a hundred** local contractors about the new Building Code in effect for 1-2 family homes.

At the request of our member municipalities, a **regional Information Technology Consultant** was procured for **14** Franklin County towns. **Regional engineering services** were also procured at a discount rate for member towns. Stantec Consulting is the winning provider.

The Regional Health Inspection Program provided **professional assistance in food and housing inspection and septic system reviews** to 8 Franklin County towns.

The FRCOG sponsored **dozens of training events for local officials**, including sessions on: incident command systems, select board essentials, infectious disease surveillance, alternative septic systems, energy savings, and how to hold public hearings.

In fiscal year 2008 the FRCOG total budget is estimated at **\$10,705,170**, of which **\$7,173,171** was spent on capital projects (primarily in Homeland Security funding), leaving a net operating budget of **\$3,531,999** that is being used to provide services to the region and all Franklin County towns.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is committed to providing the best possible service to its member towns and to the region. Working together, the towns and the FRCOG are a small region with a big voice! For additional details about FRCOG programs, projects, and services please contact us for our full 2007 Annual Report at 413-744-3167 ext. 100 or visit us at **[www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org)**.

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

### **FY09 BUDGET (PRELIMINARY)**

The FY08 Budget presented in this Annual Report is a **preliminary** budget as of March 8, 2008. Printing of the Annual Report necessitates this timing.

Overall affordability, tax levy limit constraints and uncertainties regarding state aid result in this budget version being under funded.

This “in process” budget will be reconciled with revenues when presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Changes need to occur in order to assure a balanced budget.

A summary of changes and full revised budget will be made available at the Annual Town Meeting on April 25, 2008.



	FY07	FY08	FY09 Request	FY09 Preliminary	Change from FY08	
					\$	%
<b>1. SELECTBOARD</b>						
Moderator	200	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Selectboard Salary	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0.0%
Selectboard Secretary	21,104	21,843	22,476	22,476	633	2.9%
Advertising	1,500	1,250	1,250	1,500	250	20.0%
Selectboard Expense	4,000	3,900	3,900	4,000	100	2.6%
Grant Writing/Consultant Fees	8,000	7,800	7,800	8,000	200	2.6%
Professional Development	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Town Administrator	51,239	53,032	54,570	54,570	1,538	2.9%
Town Administrator Expense	2,000	1,950	1,950	2,000	50	2.6%
Town Audit	12,000	12,500	13,000	13,000	500	4.0%
Lawn Mowing	12,000	10,300	10,300	10,300	0	0.0%
Veterans Memorial Grounds Maint		0	1,600	1,600	1,600	100.0%
AA Stipend & Expense	2	2	0	0	-2	-100.0%
Technology	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Town Counsel	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Town Reports	5,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%
Medicaid Recovery	300	300	500	600	300	100.0%
<b>TOTAL SELECTBOARD</b>	<b>146,345</b>	<b>144,177</b>	<b>148,646</b>	<b>149,346</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>2. ACCOUNTANT</b>						
Account Wages	22,618	32,191	0	0	-32,191	-100.0%
Contracted Accounting Expense	0	0	26,629	26,690	26,690	100.0%
Account Expense	5,500	5,362	6,100	10,863	5,501	102.6%
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTANT</b>	<b>28,118</b>	<b>37,553</b>	<b>32,729</b>	<b>37,553</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>3. ASSESSORS</b>						
Assessor's Salary	9,208	9,530	9,816	9,807	276	2.9%
Assessor's Clerical	18,474	19,120	19,766	19,675	554	2.9%
Assessor's Expense	3,200	3,120	3,200	3,200	80	2.6%
Computer Support	4,200	4,450	4,675	4,675	225	5.1%
Updating Tax Maps	1,620	1,575	1,575	1,575	0	0.0%
Data Process/Revaluation	11,775	11,775	13,500	13,500	1,725	14.6%
<b>TOTAL ASSESSORS</b>	<b>48,477</b>	<b>49,571</b>	<b>52,532</b>	<b>52,431</b>	<b>2,861</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>4. TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER</b>						
TC/Treasurer Salary	42,842	44,341	45,893	45,627	1,286	2.9%
Sec 108P	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
TC/Treasurer Expense	8,275	8,068	8,500	8,500	432	5.4%
Town Postage	11,000	11,000	11,200	11,200	200	1.8%



<b>TOTAL TC/TREASURER</b>	<b>63,117</b>	<b>64,409</b>	<b>66,593</b>	<b>66,327</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>5. TOWN CLERK</b>						
Town Clerk Salary	37,492	38,804	39,930	39,930	1,125	2.9%
Sec 19K	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Asst. Town Clerk	200	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Town Clerk Expense	2,100	2,047	2,047	2,100	53	2.6%
Town Clerk Archival	1,555	1,555	1,555	1,555	0	0.0%
Town Code Update	3,000	2,500	2,500	3,000	500	20.0%
<b>TOTAL TOWN CLERK</b>	<b>45,347</b>	<b>46,106</b>	<b>47,232</b>	<b>47,785</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>6. ELECTIONS &amp; REGISTRAR</b>						
E/R Wages	3,800	2,800	4,000	4,000	1,200	42.9%
E/R Expense	7,090	6,000	7,800	7,800	1,800	30.0%
<b>TOTAL ELECT.&amp;REGISTRATION</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>34.1%</b>
<b>7. COMMITTEES &amp; BOARDS</b>						
Conservation Commission	4,500	4,387	4,300	4,300	-87	-2.0%
Historical Commission	400	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Zoning Board	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Planning Board Salary	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Planning Board Expense	2,500	2,437	2,437	2,500	63	2.6%
Finance Committee Expense	200	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Telcomm Salary	5,096	5,274	5,427	5,427	153	2.9%
Telcomm Comm Expense	1,300	1,300	2,068	3,568	2,268	174.5%
Fall Festival Committee (new)		1,750	1,750	1,750	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEES &amp; BOARDS</b>	<b>17,496</b>	<b>19,248</b>	<b>20,082</b>	<b>21,645</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>8. TOWN BUILDINGS</b>						
Building Maint.Labor / Wages	32,286	33,416	34,586	0	-33,416	-100.0%
Building Maint.Labor /Overtime	2,000	2,000	1,000	0	-2,000	-100.0%
Town Office Operation	18,700	18,700	3,700	5,130	2,730	14.6%
Town Office Supplies	1,540	2,477	2,477	2,500	23	0.9%
<b>Town Office Energy</b>				16,500	2,630	14.1%
Town Telephone Expense	8,100	6,600	6,000	6,000	-600	-9.1%
Old Library Building	4,400	4,400	4,840	4,840	440	10.0%
Old Fire Station	1	1	1	1	0	0.0%
Highway Garage	8,435	10,000	10,000	2,000	2,750	27.5%
<b>Highway Garage Energy</b>				11,500	3,400	34.5%
Sunderland Public Library	31,090	19,090	19,814	19,814	724	3.8%
<b>Sunderland Public Library Energy</b>		14,000	20,000	20,000	6,000	42.9%
Public Safety Complex	35,000	38,000	40,000	5,300	3,300	8.3%
<b>Public Safety Complex Energy</b>				38,000	5,000	13.2%





Building Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000	27,500	22,500	450.0%
Energy Contingency	8,400	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL TOWN BUILDINGS</b>	<b>154,952</b>	<b>163,684</b>	<b>157,418</b>	<b>169,085</b>	<b>13,481</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>514,741</b>	<b>533,548</b>	<b>537,032</b>	<b>555,972</b>	<b>30,505</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>9. POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>						
Police Chief Wages	56,238	58,206	59,894	59,894	1,688	2.9%
Police Chief/Quinn Bonus	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Full time Officer Wages	149,302	153,781	158,394	156,857	3,076	2.0%
Full time Officer/Quinn Bonus	9,500	9,785	10,275	10,274	489	5.0%
Police Dept. Overtime	13,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	0.0%
Part time Officer Wages	40,000	47,700	49,131	48,654	954	2.0%
Police Clerk Wages	19,812	20,505	21,100	21,100	595	2.9%
Police Dept. Expense	49,165	33,907	41,365	33,907	0	0.0%
Police Dept Fuel Expense		18,000	20,000	20,000	2,000	11.1%
<b>TOTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>337,017</b>	<b>359,884</b>	<b>378,159</b>	<b>368,686</b>	<b>8,802</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>10. FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>						
Fire Chief	10,400	10,764	11,076	11,076	312	2.9%
Full time Firemen Wages	33,374	34,542	35,544	35,544	1,002	2.9%
Deputies	4,858	5,028	5,174	5,174	146	2.9%
EMT Directors	2,080	2,153	2,215	2,215	62	2.9%
Ambulance Wages	18,321	23,000	27,000	27,000	4,000	17.4%
Ambulance Expense	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0.0%
Fire Dept. Wages	10,400	10,764	12,916	11,076	312	2.9%
Fire Dept. Expense	9,000	8,775	9,000	3,000	-5,775	-65.8%
Fire Dept. Replacement Equip	7,575	7,575	7,575	7,575	0	0.0%
Fire Dept Fuel Expense				6,000	6,000	100.0%
<b>TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>110,008</b>	<b>116,601</b>	<b>124,500</b>	<b>122,660</b>	<b>6,059</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>11. TOWN INSPECTORS</b>						
Building Inspector Salary	26,077	26,990	27,772	27,772	783	2.9%
Building inspector Alternate	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	0	0.0%
Building Inspector Expense	1,800	1,755	1,775	1,800	45	2.6%
Animal Inspector	100	100	100	100	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL TOWN INSPECTORS</b>	<b>29,227</b>	<b>30,095</b>	<b>30,897</b>	<b>30,922</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>12. OTHER PROTECTION</b>						
Civil Defense	5,000	4,500	5,000	5,000	500	11.1%
Radio System Service Fee Police/Fire	3,654	3,654	5,095	5,095	1,441	39.4%
Animal Control	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Crossing Guard	1	1	1	1	0	0.0%



Street Lights	12,628	12,628	12,628	12,628	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL OTHER PROTECTION</b>	<b>28,783</b>	<b>28,283</b>	<b>30,224</b>	<b>30,224</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL PROTECTION</b>	<b>505,035</b>	<b>534,863</b>	<b>563,780</b>	<b>552,492</b>	<b>17,629</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>13. HIGHWAY</b>						
Highway Super. Wages	48,106	49,790	51,533	51,234	1,444	2.9%
Laborer Wages	65,089	67,368	69,762	69,321	1,954	2.9%
Seasonal Wages	11,500	11,902	12,319	12,247	345	2.9%
Highway Maint. Overtime	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Snow/Ice Wages	8,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	1,000	12.5%
Highway Maint. Expense (see also line 77)	46,000	47,800	47,800	47,800	0	0.0%
Snow/Ice Expense	15,500	15,500	17,500	33,000	17,500	112.9%
Secretarial Help	2,632	2,724	2,819	2,803	79	2.9%
Road Machinery	18,500	19,000	19,000	19,000	0	0.0%
County Fee for Services (FROG)	2,000	2,110	2,170	2,200	90	4.3%
Fuel	13,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0.0%
Drainage Ditches	500	1	1	1	0	0.0%
Sidewalks	1,000	1	1	2,500	2,499	249900.0%
Tree Warden Expense	8,500	10,000	10,000	12,500	2,500	25.0%
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY</b>	<b>243,328</b>	<b>251,196</b>	<b>258,905</b>	<b>278,607</b>	<b>27,411</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
<b>14. HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>						
Fr. County Solid Waste Distr.	7,137	7,852	8,281	4,141	-3,711	-47.3%
Recycling	49,066	50,538	52,054	52,054	1,516	3.0%
Trash Pickup	116,885	118,656	121,029	121,029	2,373	2.0%
Bulky Item Days	12,000	6,000	6,000	7,500	1,500	25.0%
Hazardous Waste Days	2,500	2,500	1	1	-2,499	-100.0%
Riverside Cemetery	6,825	6,500	6,484	6,825	325	5.0%
Care of Veterans Graves	200	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Board of Health Clerk/Agent	5,356	5,543	5,704	5,704	161	2.9%
Board of Health Expense	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>	<b>203,969</b>	<b>201,789</b>	<b>203,753</b>	<b>201,454</b>	<b>-335</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>15. LIBRARY</b>						
Library Director Wages	40,248	41,657	43,115	42,865	1,208	2.9%
Library Support Wages	34,388	38,812	42,761	42,513	3,701	9.5%
Library Expense	26,038	27,411	29,250	29,250	1,839	6.7%
<b>TOTAL LIBRARY</b>	<b>100,674</b>	<b>107,880</b>	<b>115,126</b>	<b>114,628</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>16. SCHOOLS</b>						
a. Elementary School	2,121,379	2,139,371	2,209,951	2,169,938	30,567	1.4%
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%



Transportation	129,092	110,635	128,030	128,030	17,395	15.7%
Total Elementary	2,250,471	2,250,006	2,337,981	2,297,968	47,962	2.1%
b. <b>Smith Vocational</b> (assessment)	0	0		0		
c. <b>Franklin County Tech</b> (assessment)	93,085	113,830	129,916	129,916	16,086	14.1%
FCT Capital Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
d. Out of District Tech School	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
e. <b>Frontier Regional</b> (assessment)	1,134,066	1,272,831	1,411,042	1,401,555	128,724	10.1%
f. Transportation	15,993	9,045	8,637	8,637	-408	-4.5%
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>3,493,615</b>	<b>3,645,712</b>	<b>3,887,576</b>	<b>3,838,076</b>	<b>192,364</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>17. BENEFITS &amp; INSURANCE</b>						
County Retirement Assessment	186,330	199,790	188,900	188,900	-10,890	-5.5%
Worker's compensation	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300	0	0.0%
Chap. 720 Unemployment	8,000	8,000	6,000	8,000	0	0.0%
Town Employees Medical	130,000	157,000	185,000	185,000	28,000	17.8%
Flex Spending	2,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Medicare	34,500	36,225	38,000	38,000	1,775	4.9%
Town Insurance	77,779	77,779	77,779	77,779	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS &amp; INSURANCE</b>	<b>459,309</b>	<b>500,094</b>	<b>516,979</b>	<b>518,979</b>	<b>18,885</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>18. MISCELLANEOUS &amp; RESERVE</b>						
Recreation Expense	900	900	500	500	-400	-44.4%
Recreation Coordinator	13,390	13,859	14,295	14,261	402	2.9%
Town Park	1,500	500	1,500	1,500	1,000	200.0%
FRCOG Assessment	22,465	23,623	23,623	25,856	2,233	9.5%
Memorial Day	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%
Council on Aging	100	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Frontier Senior Center	3,750	3,750	4,500	4,500	750	20.0%
District Vet. Assessment	5,409	5,580	5,985	5,985	405	7.3%
Soldiers & Vets Benefits	2,000	2,000	2,000	5,000	3,000	150.0%
Reserve Fund	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	5,000	33.3%
<b>TOTAL MISC. &amp; RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>65,714</b>	<b>66,512</b>	<b>68,703</b>	<b>78,902</b>	<b>12,390</b>	<b>18.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>5,586,384</b>	<b>5,841,593</b>	<b>6,151,854</b>	<b>6,139,110</b>	<b>305,597</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
<b>19. WASTE WATER TREAT.PLANT</b>						
WWTP Expense (Sewer Users)	49,000	49,000	49,000	49,000	0	0.0%
WWTP Purchased Serv.	149,525	149,525	149,525	149,525	0	0.0%
WWTP Equip. Evaluation	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
WWTP Sludge Removal	43,622	43,622	43,622	43,622	0	0.0%
Sewer Maintenance	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL WWTP BUDGET</b>	<b>272,147</b>	<b>272,147</b>	<b>272,147</b>	<b>272,147</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>



20. DEBT & INTEREST						
Frontier Renovation Loan	161,925	161,901	161,659	133,641	-28,260	-17.5%
Elemen. School Principal (original)	322,350	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Elemen. School Interest (original)	10,592	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Library Principal	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	0	0.0%
Library Interest	39,340	37,330	35,153	35,153	-2,177	-5.8%
PSC Principal	98,000	98,000	98,000	98,000	0	0.0%
PSC Interest	57,415	54,475	51,290	51,290	-3,185	-5.8%
Elemen.School Renovation Principal	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	0	0.0%
Elemen.School Renovation Interest	143,470	138,670	133,270	133,270	-5,400	-3.9%
Elemen.School Reno-Supplemental Prin	74,300	74,300	74,300	45,903	-28,397	-38.2%
Elemen.School Reno-Supplemental Int	27,341	25,674	20,984	20,984	-4,690	-18.3%
Title V Loan Repayment	5,120	5,120	5,120	5,120	0	0.0%
TOTAL DEBT & INTEREST	1,246,853	902,470	886,776	830,361	-72,109	-8.0%
GRAND TOTAL	7,105,384	7,016,210	7,310,777	7,241,618	233,488	3.2%



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In addition to routine maintenance of our town ways, here are some of our special projects for 2007:

- After completion of the road sweeping in spring, work resumed on the Veteran's Memorial with an anticipated completion date of July 2, 2007. The concrete sidewalks were poured, and we assisted the mason with the placement of the Sugarloaf stone used for the bench areas. We trucked in approximately 250 cubic yards of topsoil that we saved from last year's construction of the new elementary school parking lot. The topsoil was then graded and prepared for landscape planting. We excavated, formed and poured the foundation for the Memorial wall. A portion of the existing paved parking area in front of the Memorial was excavated, formed and poured, and the sidewalks were extended (easterly) to tie into the existing sidewalks adjacent to the Graves Library. Sod was installed on the northern and eastern sides. The Memorial was completed in time for the July 4<sup>th</sup> dedication. Special thanks are extended to the volunteers who participated in the planning, construction and dedication of this project. By using Highway Department personnel and equipment for this project, the estimated savings for the Memorial is approximately \$60,000.
- Five catch basins were rebuilt - two on Country Lane and three on Garage Road.
- Ninety percent of the roads in town were crack sealed. Falls Road, Brown and Grybko Roads were stone sealed this year.
- Old Amherst Road was resurfaced and approximately 2,000 l.f. of bituminous sidewalks were built. The existing sidewalks from South Main Street to the Goten Restaurant were overlaid, and new berm was installed on the entire length of Old Amherst Road. The Rt. 116 sidewalks now link to the newly constructed Old Amherst Road sidewalks, therefore providing safe travel for elementary school children and other pedestrians. A total of \$400,000 of Chapter 90 funds (approximately 3 years worth) were expended on town ways this year.
- The reed beds at the Wastewater plant were capped, graded, loamed and seeded. Approximately \$17,000 was saved by using Highway personnel and equipment for this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis "Chip" Thomas  
Highway Superintendent



**HISTORICAL COMMISSION at the GRAVES MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
(Website: <http://townofsunderland.us/Historical.htm>)

Sunderland Historical Commission activities are focused on preserving, protecting, and developing the historic and archeological assets of Sunderland as well as providing educational material on these assets to our residents. We work closely with the Swampfield Historical Society, which is our town's private, non-profit local historical society.

**Highlights of Sunderland Historical Commission activities during 2007:**

- Supported Sunderland Public Library's On-The-Same Page project regarding the book "Fallen Angels". The Historical Commission in cooperation with Swampfield Historical Society researched Sunderland and the Civil War. We hosted a free presentation at GML on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This presentation provided insights into what life was like here in Sunderland during the Civil War, an overview of the 85 men from town who enlisted and went off to war and followed the travels of Sunderland men serving in the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry from 1862 through 1865. The men of the 37<sup>th</sup> fought in the Battle of Gettysburg along side the men depicted in the book – "Fallen Angels".
- Actively participated in the town Fall Festival program by producing an event called "The Ghosts of Sunderland" on October 13, 2007. This event which was free and open to the public was held at Riverside Cemetery. The event provided a history on several of the town's past residents who came alive via volunteers who were dressed in appropriate period costumes standing next to their respective gravestones. Over 300 people attended the event. We wish to express thanks to the Sunderland Cultural Council for providing partial funding for this event and the Riverside Cemetery Trustees for allowing the use of Riverside Cemetery. The event was filmed by Sunderland Telecommunications and aired on local cable channel 12 & 15. Special thanks to Joe Bergeron, Scott Bergeron, Beth Gorman, Kim Gregory, Diane Gumaer, Tom Herrick, Mary Ann Kowaleck, Richard Lopatka and Robert White for their portrayals as the Ghosts of Sunderland!
- Provided research assistance and information on historical inquiries about Sunderland to Massachusetts Highways Historical Roads Survey, several Sunderland residents on the histories of their houses, and Blue Heron Restaurant regarding history of Old Town Hall..
- Obtained reprints of the History of Sunderland Volume I and II. The printing company was able to improve the overall quality of the reprints by creating new digital masters of the original volumes. The town now has fifty copies of each volume. These copies are available for purchase at town office.

**Highlights of Swampfield Historical Society (as reported by Mike Walunas, President):**

- The restoration of the bookcases into artifact display cases is nearing completion. All of the cases have been stripped and refinished and are now fitted with glass doors. There remains some minor work to be done in 2008 such as replacement of missing moldings and the installation of display case locks.
- The society is now looking forward to working on improved lighting in the display area and we will soon be ready to sand and refinish the floor. Completion of this work will enable us to focus on the installation of artifacts into our now ready cases.
- Two open houses were held in 2007; one in May and another in October. We look forward to seeing you at our next open house in the spring of 2008. This usually occurs along with the library plant sale.



- Hosted an historic information booth at the Fall Festival providing historical brochures and information about Sunderland to those attending.
- This year's annual meeting, held in December, was well attended. Our guest speaker, Sarah Madison (Assistant Director, Advising from the Commonwealth College at UMASS), gave a talk on gravestone carving. This informational talk, which was free and open to the public, focused on the history and style of gravestones in New England. After the presentation, participants were given an opportunity to try stone carving for themselves. The event was filmed by Tom Zimnowski (Sunderland Telecommunications) and aired on local channels 12 & 15. Special thanks to Tom and Sarah.
- This year's Henry J. Wilder award was given to Rosie Walunas. The \$200 award is given to a graduating senior from Sunderland with the highest grade in history. Rosie is now attending UMASS and is studying Journalism.
- Objects relating to Sunderland's past are always welcome. Donations of artifacts can be permanent or on temporary loan to the society. All gifts to the society are tax deductible as allowed by law.
- We invite all (residents and non-residents) to become a member in helping Swampfield Historical Society continue its mission -- membership dues are \$10 annually.
- The museum at GML is open by chance or for an appointment call 665-2191 or 548-9361.

Respectfully submitted: Linda Lopatka – Chair, Helen Clark – Secretary, Liz Sillin – Treasurer, Tom Herrick, Cindy Hubbard, Steve Schneider, and Cheri Woods-Edwin.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen reestablished the Personnel Committee in 2005 with the appointment of 5 new members. The committee's membership consists of one member from the Board of Selectmen, one representative from the Finance Committee, an active permanent town employee, and two Sunderland residents. Currently two openings are available; one for a town resident and one for a permanent town employee. The committee would like to thank Tony Léger and Herb Sanderson for their hard work and contributions to the committee. The Town Administrator also sits on this committee as a non-voting member.

Objectives for this current year included the completion of job description reviews and employee performance evaluation review for all town employees. The committee continues to review and make updates to the Town Personnel By-Laws, policies, job descriptions, and the proposed classification and compensation plan submitted by MMA Consultants. The committee has begun work on a health insurance coverage policy for town employees.

The Personnel Committee's goal for 2008 will include reviewing the Town Personnel By-Laws and policies, the introduction of an equitable classification system for non-union town employees, and the establishment of COLA criteria in determining fiscal year payroll costs.

The Committee is pleased with the progress made since its reestablishment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Wissemann, Chair; Donna McKemmie, Secretary; Gordon Tripp, Member; Margaret Nartowicz, Town Administrator (non-voting member)



## PLANNING BOARD

Affordable housing continued to be a regular theme in the workings of the Planning Board in 2007. The Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen finalized a plan this year which is intended to satisfy the state's affordable housing requirements known as chapter 40B. The goal of the plan is to have the town housing stock ultimately feature at least 10% affordable housing. This plan consists of three sections. First is a comprehensive needs assessment, the second is proposed strategies to encourage affordable housing and the third is long term use restrictions which will be placed upon the housing to guarantee it's affordability. This plan was approved by the state in 2007 and requires the town to make steady progress towards this difficult goal.

Meanwhile, the Zoning Board of Appeals finished it's hearing on a housing project known as Sugarbush Meadows which was filed within the guidelines of chapter 40B. The Planning Board, along with all other major departments in town, gave input to the ZBA during this process. In the end, the ZBA denied the project due to multiple concerns including fire and safety issues which they felt were not adequately addressed by the developer. The fate of this project will be determined later as the decision has now been appealed by the applicant.

During 2007 members of the Planning Board continued work on other committees in town. Will Sillin on the Economic Development Committee and Steve Schneider as an associate member of the ZBA spent quite a bit of time helping those groups and serving as liaison to the Planning Board.

Zoning can be complex at times and on multiple occasions during the year the board met with citizens who had questions or concerns about zoning issues. During these meetings we would try to help the individuals understand the zoning bylaw and steer them in the right direction, sometimes recommending they visit the building inspector, the ZBA or maybe a surveyor depending on their issue. No subdivision plans were submitted to the Planning Board in 2007 and the low level of A.N.R.'s submitted reflects the quiet housing market in our area.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Roscoe-Chair; Russ Cranshaw-Clerk; Steve Schneider; Will Sillin





## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

I would like to begin by thanking the residents of Sunderland for their continued support of the Police Department. I would like to remind all the residents to please feel free to contact me at the department either by phone and leaving a message, or to stop by during business hours if you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss. The continued and open communication which is shared by the residents of Sunderland is something I value and respect. All members of the Police Department consider ourselves fortunate to have such a supportive Town.

This year the Sunderland PD has once again been awarded \$28,500 from the Community Policing Grant. This money allows the police department to provide increased patrols in the community, as well as radar patrols and child safety identification. The State of Massachusetts has also awarded the department with \$4, 500 for Highway Safety Enforcement (better known as the Click It or Ticket Campaign) Grant.

As the Chief of Police for the town of Sunderland, my goals remain the same. Keep the residents of Sunderland safe, and for everyone to know the Police Department is out there working to keep Sunderland as safe a community as possible. I would once again like to thank all the Officers on the Police Department for all the hard work they do, and their jobs they do out in the community. I would also like to thank our Police Clerk Bobbie Gallerani, for another outstanding year, for all the hard work, and everything she deals with on a daily basis. She remains an invaluable asset to the department. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Town Departments, Boards and Committees for their continued support of the Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jeffrey Gilbert, Chief of Police

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Sunderland residents were able to take part in more than 40 different programs and events sponsored by the Recreation Department during this past year. In all, more than 250 youth and 130 adults took part in the various programs. Listed below are just some of these programs:

Craft classes; Country Western Dance classes; Yoga classes; Sunderland Night/Day at UMass Hockey; and at UMass Football; Tennis Lessons for both youth and adults; Adult Softball; Adult Basketball; Adult Volleyball, Youth Volleyball; Youth Field Hockey; Intro programs for pre-school and Pre-K thru Kindergarten in soccer in the fall and wiffle ball in the spring; for grades 1 & 2 in basketball and K-grade 1 in tee-ball, Youth Soccer for Grades 1-6; 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt; Youth Basketball for Grades 3-8; Youth Basketball for Grade 9-12; Basketball Shoot-Out Contest; End-of-Year Basketball Tournament for Grades 5-8 (with Sunderland Baseball League);



Berkshire East Ski Program for Youth and Adults; Sunderland Ski Days at Mt. Snow and Mt. Sunapee; Family Community Ski Program at Mt. Snow; Cross-country ski day and Moonlight Snow Shoe hike at Northfield Mtn.; Fall and Spring Mt. Toby hikes; Ice Skating Days at the Greenfield rink during winter vacation; Tiny Blades (ages 2-6) Ice Skating Lessons at the Greenfield Rink; Summer Baseball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country Running, Frisbee, and Basketball Programs; Soccer Coaches Clinic, Basketball Coaches Clinic, Softball Coaches Clinic, Baseball Coaches Clinic and Umpire Clinic, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Millstone Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament, and more. In addition, several Sunderland residents took advantage of Jazz Dance and Palates classes in conjunction with Deerfield Recreation. We also work with organizations such as the Frontier Youth Baseball League, the Frontier Suburban Football program, the Franklin County Babe Ruth Baseball League, the Greenfield Girls Softball League, and both the Franklin County and Amherst Youth Hockey Associations – coordinating registration of Sunderland youth with their programs.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival was held in mid-October. This year the event was bigger and better with the second year of planning and leadership by the Fall Festival Committee in partnership with the Sunderland Agricultural Commission. Sunderland Rec sponsored the popular Bounce House & Kids Games, Kids Relay Races, and a Magic Show: Magic By Jonas, and, in addition, a full schedule of youth soccer games that day!

The Recreation Department planned another successful Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Jocelyn Zewski, the top female, and Matthew Scott, the top male, Sunderland seniors at Frontier, were invited to participate in the ceremonies along with local and state officials. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual bicycle decorating contest had more than 50 youth riding their bicycles in the parade. Two brand new bicycles were “raffled” when the parade returned to the Town Offices building. The Fireman’s Association again sponsored the hot dog “cook out” at the conclusion of the parade.

This coming year the Recreation Committee hopes to get more input into the kinds of activities that residents would like. We will also be looking for two new members to join the Committee. Thanks to retiring members Lora Gross and Elaine Goodhind for their years of participation. We would also like to thank Jim Ewen, Rec Coordinator, for his efforts during the past year. We look forward to working cooperatively with other recreation programs in the Frontier district and with organizations in town to co-sponsor and to plan and coordinate activities of interest to residents of all ages.

We would be remiss if we did not also say a huge “thank you” to the more than 70 volunteer coaches, scorekeepers, referees, and others who have helped with recreation programs this past year. If you are interested in assisting or have an idea for a new program, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Browning, John Skribiski, Todd Nuerminger



## RECYCLING INFORMATION

### Franklin County Solid Waste Management District News

Call 772-2438 or visit their website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)  
For up to date recycling and disposal information.

#### **DID YOU KNOW – you can now recycle the following items at the Town Office Building:**

- **NON-Alkaline Batteries (Alkaline batteries can be disposed in the regular trash collection)**
  - **Cell Phones and their batteries**
- **Rechargeable batteries (see definitions below)**
  - **Compact Fluorescent light bulbs**
  - **Inkjet/ Bubblejet and Laser Cartridges**

#### **How to Dispose of Batteries**

There are many different types of household batteries and some contain mercury and other heavy metals. Batteries can release mercury, cadmium or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Please read below for disposal instructions for specific battery types.

**Rechargeable batteries** are found in those electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cellular and cordless phones, cordless power tools, laptop computers, camcorders, remote-control toys, two-way radios, electric toothbrushes and razors, and emergency medical equipment. These types of batteries contain heavy metals and should *never* be thrown away; they should always be recycled. Sunderland town hall has been supplied with a special “Call 2 Recycle” box for rechargeable battery collection. There is no charge for recycling these batteries. The specific battery chemistries accepted in these boxes are: Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion batteries (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead (Pb), plus cell phones and their batteries.

**Button batteries** are the small round silver batteries found in watches, clocks, calculators, hearing aids and some toys and household items. Button batteries contain mercury and must be disposed of properly. Sunderland town hall has been supplied with a special collection canister for button battery collection. There is no charge for recycling these batteries.

**Alkaline (flashlight) batteries** are the most common household batteries available in many sizes and shapes such as AAA, AA, C and D. Alkaline batteries manufactured since 1994 do not contain added mercury. They can go into a landfill, but should not be incinerated.

**Sunderland residents can put alkaline batteries into their trash, since Sunderland’s trash goes to the landfill, and not the incinerator.**



## **RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

In Spring of 2007, our Burial officer and multi term trustee, Jim Houle, chose not to seek re-election at the end of his Term. Spence Conley was elected to be a Trustee in May. Spence was voted by the Trustees to assume the role of Burial officer.

The Trustees want to extend their thanks to Jim for his years of service to the Town, and especially for helping establish our SOP's during the Spring transition. Also, Jim was instrumental in the Cemetery road resurfacing.

A new flag was purchased in summer 2007 to be ready for the next Parade in May. In Oct. 2007, the Cemetery hosted the "Ghosts of Sunderland" that was organized by the Historical Society as part of Fall Festival. It was a valuable history lesson, and was well attended. Our thanks to all of the Town's people who came to the cemetery on a beautiful day!

Our on-going projects include--maintaining trees and cemetery roads. Shumway's annual pruning was completed in early winter. The mowing contract now includes the Southern section. This will keep the grounds now looking uniform.

The updated Bylaws are ready to be implemented. The new pamphlet will be printed in 2008. There is an on-going organization of maps and plot names. One of the projects to be completed is also the pinning or marking of plots to the Southern section.

Thank you,  
Scott Bergeron, Chair; Spence Conley, Burial Officer; Janet Bergeron, Clerk  
Riverside Trustees

## **SCHOOLS**

**Sunderland Elementary School  
Swampfield Drive**

*Mission: To insure a positive, safe, and respectful environment that inspires our children to realize, develop, and attain their full potential in school that values diversity and individual differences.*

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

The past year at Sunderland Elementary School was one of continued progress on some themes – the impact of brain research on teaching and learning and safety – and a new emphasis on others – bullying and wellness.

Staff and students once again met the challenge of continually increasing demands of state assessments while maintaining Adequate Yearly Progress under the *No Child Left Behind* Act. Professional development programs included applying brain research to meeting the needs of all learners, curriculum mapping, and creating an environment that promotes community and deals effectively with bullying. Fifteen staff members participated in the



weeklong Responsive Classroom training learning how to build a solid foundation for a collaborative community and optimum learning.

District administrators and local safety officials met regularly to discuss improving safety at Frontier Regional and in all of the Union #38 schools. This discussion carried over to the staff of Sunderland Elementary School as we worked to fine-tune and become comfortable with our emergency response procedures. We have also begun to look at enhancing the safety of our playgrounds.

Wellness has become a topic of universal interest and one that we, at Sunderland Elementary School, take very seriously. Our nurse, physical education teacher, and cafeteria manager collaborated with a consultant from UMass to take an integrated approach to wellness through nutrition and physical activity. This has included increasing community awareness as well as providing enjoyable opportunities to practice healthy activities through all-school fun run/walks, a walking club, and exercise classes for staff after school.

The arts continue to be a vital part of a Sunderland Elementary School educational experience. Students demonstrated their special talents through musical performances, Arts' Night, and the sixth grade production of "The Wizard of Oz." In addition, students and staff were treated to performances by the band from Eaglebrook School and a play by students from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School, along with other educational programs sponsored by the PTO.

Students and staff once again showed their empathy and generosity by participating in local food drives, the St. Jude's Mathathon, and a benefit for the American Heart Association.

The cafeteria was central in several changes. In January, the Sunderland Elementary School cafeteria was dedicated to long-time Sunderland public servant and volunteer Margaret "Peg" Wolejko. Peg was able to take part in a well-attended dedication ceremony. The retirements of Kathy Hepburn, cafeteria manager of many years, in February and Carol Kushi, cafeteria assistant, in June marked the close of an era for the Sunderland Elementary School cafeteria. We wish them well.

All in all, the year of 2007 was a productive one marked once again by the continued support of the entire Sunderland community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penelope A. Spearance, Principal



## Sunderland Elementary Faculty/Staff Roster – 2007-08

### Administration

Penelope A. Spearance, Principal  
Paula H. Pulaski Administrative Secretary

### Faculty

Lucille Antes	Kindergarten Teacher
Susan Breines	Kindergarten Teacher
Sandra Bielunis	Grade 2 Teacher
Peggy Bolte	Grade 6 Teacher
Susan Colgan	Special Education
Sandra Eaton	Grade 6 Teacher
Lee Easton	Reading Specialist
Sharon Hennessy	Preschool
Matthew Howell	ESL Coord/Reading Specialist
Phyllis Jordan	Special Education (Primary)
Helen Kittredge	Grade 5 Teacher
Elizabeth Orloski	Grade 3 Teacher
Ellen Von Flatern	Grade 5 Teacher
Sharon Weinberger	Math Specialist
Suzanne Wells	Grade 1 Teacher
Patricia Williams	Grade 4 Teacher
Lee Worthley	Grade 1 Teacher
Lisa Zadworny	Grade 4 Teacher

### **SUPPORT STAFF**

#### Instructional Assistants

Christy Bielunis	Grade 2 – 1:1
Carol Burke	Grade 5K, 6E
Michelle Cialek	Grade 1SW, 1LW
G. Jade Cuevas	Grade 4Z – 1:1
Michele Dostal	Sped RR – SC
Jennifer Gagne'	Kindergarten
Courtney Schumacher	Preschool – 1:1
Suzanne Herzig	Grade 5V, 6B
Donna Harris	Grade 2B
Kate Lorenz	Grade 2W – 1:2

Christina Leno	Kindergarten 1:1
Katy Morey	Grade Kindergarten
Cynthia Nowak	Sped RR -PJ
Maureen Segala	Grade 4W, 4Z
Audrey Weston	Grade 4Z – 1:1
Leslie Wickline	Grade 3O

### Itinerants

Karen Copeland	Speech-Lang. Pathologist
Moir Cranshaw	Librarian
Denise Gendron	Music – strings (Fri.)
Edward Hines	Vocal Music
Anne Kring	Physical Therapy
Victoria Palmer	School Psychologist
Sarah Adolph	Technology Teacher
Meagan Montmeny	Instrumental Music .2
Nancy Stahelek	Art Teacher
Heidi Gebo	Physical Ed Teacher
Karol Welburn	Occupational Therapist

### Cafeteria

Debbie Zimnowski	Manager
Barbara Sabol	Assistant
Liz Olanyk	Assistant
Laura Amedeo	Assistant

### Custodian

Mark Campion	Custodian
William Paul	Custodian

### Nursing Staff

Kathy Kuck, R.N.	School Nurse
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### Before/After School Program

Emily Biolsi	Director
Cat Walker	Site Coordinator



## Frontier Regional High School

### From the Office of the Superintendent of Schools Frontier Regional School for 2006 - 2007

January 2008

#### **FRONTIER SCHOOL REPORT**

Mr. Robert Halla, Chair  
Frontier Regional School District Committee  
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Mr. Halla:

I respectfully submit the 2007 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

#### **FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
* Robert Halla, Chair, Whately	2008
Diane Gumaer, Vice Chair, Sunderland	2008
William Smith, Secretary, Whately	2009
Andrea Llamas, Member, Conway	2010
Brian Pinette, , Member, Deerfield	2008
Alexis Toy, Member, Deerfield	2009
*Cyndie Ouimette, Member, Conway	2008
*Lynn Cook, Member, Sunderland	2008
* Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield	2008

\*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for one-year term.

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Regina H. Nash, Ed.D. - Superintendent of Schools  
Donald M. Scott - Business Manager  
Michael Ponti - Director of Special Education  
Patricia Stachelek - Frontier Reg Bookkeeper/Treasurer  
Stephan Shepherd - Grants Bookkeeper  
Donna Hathaway - Administrative Secretary  
Janet Stellman - Administrative Secretary  
Diana Capuano - Special Education Secretary

#### **FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL**

Martha Barrett	Principal
Darius Modesto	Assistant Principal
Kelly Blanchette	Special Education Secretary
Deborah Coons	Administrative Secretary
Debbie Mason	Attendance Officer
Roberta Reiter	Administrative Secretary
Karen Siwicki	Guidance Secretary



**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2007**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Conway</i>	<i>Deerfield</i>	<i>Sunderland</i>	<i>Whately</i>	<i>School Choice</i>	<i>Tuitioned In</i>	<i>Total</i>
7	12	40	22	22	16		112
8	11	51	34	19	20		135
9	11	34	26	15	16		102
10	10	52	31	15	9	1	118
11	16	46	25	14	15		116
12	20	54	37	9	15	1	136
Total	80	277	175	94	91	2	719

**FRONTIER REGIONAL - SALARY SCHEDULE    July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007**

STEP	Bachelors	Masters	M+30
1	33,380	34,987	36,959
2	35,099	36,509	38,357
3	36,556	38,067	39,804
4	37,455	39,682	41,302
5	38,768	40,952	42,819
6	39,782	42,295	44,426
7	41,495	43,643	45,893
8	42,589	45,029	47,371
9	43,717	46,164	49,510
10	45,892	48,787	51,711
11	48,299	51,614	53,980
12	49,100	53,517	56,472
13	51,008	55,494	58,496
*20L	51,508	55,994	58,996
**25L	52,008	56,494	59,496

\*Placement on Step 20L occurs when an individual has completed 19 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

\*\*Placement on Step 25L occurs when an individual has completed 24 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

In Massachusetts, as throughout the United States, academic expectations continue to rise. During this current school year, students in grades seven, eight, and ten will continue to undergo MCAS testing. In the face of these continually rising expectations, I am proud to say that the energy, commitment, and professionalism of faculty, staff, and administration and the ongoing community support for the budgets, have enabled quality programs to flourish at Frontier Regional School, even in difficult times. Students and teachers work hard to meet the goals of *No Child Left Behind* and the *Education Reform Act of 1993*.

I am proud to report that I continue to see a commitment to high standards on the part of students, parents, faculty, and community members. Evidence of this has been apparent in our students' success on local and state assessments, and in the work that students and teachers accomplish in our school every day.





## **ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL CHOICE**

The October 1, 2007 enrollment for Frontier Regional School District totaled 719 students. This is an increase of 4 from the October 1, 2006 enrollment figures. The School Choice enrollment totaled 91 students, which is an increase of 13 students from the School Choice enrollment of October 2006. The Frontier Regional School graduated 107 students in the Class of 2007.

## **STAFF**

Newly hired faculty members at Frontier Regional School this year are Gary Boisseau (High School Social Studies), Gail Conner (Middle/High School Art/Drama), Rochelle Garfinkle (Media Center), Darius Modestow (Assistant Principal), Stephanie Recore (Middle School Life Skills), Kathy Scott (High School Special Education), Laura Sienkiewicz (High School Life Skills) and Whitney Tandon (Middle School Strings). The majority of faculty replaced faculty who have moved to other districts or who have retired. Two special education programs were brought to the school to reduce the cost incurred by sending students to out-of-district placements.

Dr. Janice Dore (Librarian) and Donald Gordon (Math Teacher) retired this year. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

## **ASSESSMENT**

In the class of 2008, one hundred percent of students passed both the English and Mathematics MCAS, achieving the competency determination for graduation. Ninety-five percent of grade seven students passed English Language Arts MCAS and Eighty-one percent of students passed the Mathematics MCAS. Ninety-eight percent of grade eight students passed English Language Arts and eighty-six percent passed the Mathematics MCAS.

Thirty-seven students in the class of 2008 (twenty-five percent of the senior class) qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Students who qualify for this scholarship achieved one advanced score on the MCAS exam and no less than proficient on the second MCAS. The top twenty-five percent of students at Frontier were given a scholarship that entitles them to four years of free tuition at any state college or university.

Using local funds and several grant sources the Frontier Regional School continued to provide an after school math support program. Twenty-six students in grades seven, eight, and nine enrolled in the program. The program was designed to meet the needs of students who need additional support in mathematics and help students achieve a passing score on the MCAS Mathematics exam.

In addition to the after school math support program, Frontier continues to offer a summer support program in math and English Language Arts. This program is funded by a small grant from the Department of Education as well as local funding. Data has confirmed the success of this program.

## **CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Under the guidance of Principal Martha Barrett, faculty at Frontier continues to examine student writing. Once again, the entire faculty was involved in evaluating student essays that were based on student's summer reading assignments. This is the fifth year that faculty were involved in the process of scoring, reading and discussing student writing.

The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks continue to be a central theme in all curriculum discussions. This year teachers in all academic areas were involved in a continuation of a curriculum mapping project. The faculty will continue to refine their individual as well as grade level maps by content area throughout the next calendar year. This process will also be valuable in the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) reaccreditations process. Our visit for this accreditation is scheduled for 2010.

The Title I program in math continues to serve students in the middle school. Approximately 40 students in grades seven and eight are working with the Title I teacher in small groups to improve their math skills.



Frontier teachers are continually engaged in professional development activities. Curriculum development, state standards and data driven analysis are central themes in most of these activities. In addition, this year faculty are focusing on the theme of creating a culture that discourages bullying among students.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

I am pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair, Robert Halla, Diane Gumaer, William Smith, Mary Ramon, Andrea Llamas, Lynn Cook, Brian Pinette, Cyndie Ouimette, and Alexis Toy. I look forward with pleasure to continuing our work together.

This year, I would like to offer special recognition to all of the teachers and staff members who work tirelessly to make our schools such effective learning communities. I appreciate their professionalism, their willingness to meet the needs of individual students, and the care and concern they bring to their classrooms every school day.

I am proud of the efforts of our administration, teaching and support staff, students and central office support and administrative staff as they demonstrate daily the high levels of accountability that are so important to the success of today's schools. I am also extremely grateful for the ongoing support of parents; the communities of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately; and our school councils and town officials and employees. Without this team effort, we could not obtain the educational excellence for which our schools are known and admired.

Respectfully submitted,  
Regina H. Nash, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**Franklin County Technical School District**  
**82 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376**

We submit this annual report for 2007 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2007 was 525 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	Erving	7	Montague	69	Sunderland	13
Buckland	16	Gill	10	New Salem	6	Warwick	8
Colrain	25	Greenfield	138	Northfield	29	Wendell	8
Conway	11	Heath	6	Orange	66	Whately	8
Deerfield	15	Leyden	5	Shelburne	13	Non-District	42

Franklin County Technical School awarded 117 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2007. This marked the sixth year that Massachusetts students were required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma. Once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The graduates also earned their vocational certificate along with their diploma. 45% of our graduates planned to go on to either a two or four year college, 38% joined the area work force, 2% planned to join the military, 9% went on to a post secondary trade/technical school. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2007.

All schools in the Commonwealth are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to meet or exceed specific student performance standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The Franklin County Technical School did not achieve adequate yearly progress determinations for the 2006 – 2007 school year and, with one exception, this is the first time this has occurred since 2001. This determination is based solely on how students perform during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS exams. Our students commence their education with us in their ninth grade year, and although this determination was not achieved within their first two years with us, we are nonetheless proud of the fact that our students have a 99% success rate of passing MCAS by the time they graduate.



During the 2007 school year, the students from various vocational programs continue to give back to the municipalities and non-profit entities in our district through the completion of a variety of projects. Our unique house building partnership with Habitat for Humanity continues this year and is being considered as a case study by Habitat International in Atlanta, GA. They are interested in replicating this mutually beneficial relationship in other areas. The police station in Bernardston will receive a turf installation in the spring, the Central MA Steam, Gas and Machinery Association located at the Orange airport will benefit from a new heating system installation, Veterans Memorial Field in Greenfield will experience phase two of the plumbing/lighting renovation and the Union 38 school district has had computer projectors installed by our electrical students to name a few projects. There are at least a dozen more either in progress or planned in the future.

We have a very well maintained building that has aging mechanical systems and, consequently, we are confronted with increasing repair and maintenance costs for these systems. The administration began to explore a possible solution to these issues last winter through performance contracting. Performance contracting allows municipalities and regional school districts the opportunity to install new energy efficient systems and use the resulting savings in energy costs to finance the improvements. The law states that the net impact on the overall budget must be zero. We are currently pursuing a performance contract and, with school committee approval, could have new systems in place in 2008.

We continue to work with Greenfield Community College to offer evening courses at Franklin County Technical School, as well as a program that is co-taught by a F.C.T.S and a G.C.C. instructor and is offered after our normal school hours. This program enables our seniors to experience the college environment first hand while obtaining college credits.

We also continue to work with Franklin County businesses, the Regional Employment Board and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to make sure that our graduates are part of the Economic Development for Franklin County.

We thank each and every citizen of Franklin County for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz, School Committee Chairman  
Superintendent



Mr. Richard K. Lane,



## **SUNDERLAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TEAM**

The Sunderland's Emergency Preparedness Team (SEPT) has had a busy year. Our first goal was to see if we needed to set up a dispensing site in Sunderland. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we provided the flu vaccine and tested the plan that we had. The community came out for their vaccines and we were able to test the plan and make improvements. Although we hope that we never have to use this plan it is comforting to know that it will see us through an emergency. Sunderland is also part of the Frontier District with Conway, Deerfield and Whatley. On December 1<sup>st</sup> a drill was held at Frontier and was equally as successful. We thank all the volunteers needed to make this possible, your time was greatly appreciated.

SEPT is also in the process of finalizing a guide with basic information on all hazards. Once the guide is finalized we hope to disseminate throughout the community and have residents use this useful information in case of an emergency or disaster. Throughout our information gathering we have found that residents have to be prepared in their own homes because aid might not be immediate.

We continue to work towards keeping residents safe and informed during an emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Ahearn, Robert Ahearn, Steven Ball, Scott Bergeron, Edwin Chmyzinski, Thomas Fydenkevez, Jeffery Gilbert, Wendy Houle, Kenneth Kushi, Margaret Nartowicz, Kristy Paciorek, Penny Spearance, Marc Tremblay, Michael Wissemann

## **SUNDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

[www.SunderlandPublicLibrary.org](http://www.SunderlandPublicLibrary.org)

### **STAFFING**

After having volunteered at the Sunderland Public Library (SPL) for over one year, Vanessa Ryder, a resident of Sunderland, officially joined our team as a Circulation Assistant in May. She comes to us with a Bachelor's Degree in Honors English from the University of Washington. Her love of literature and her creative nature, as well as her excellent customer service skills shine on a daily basis. We are very lucky to have her working with us.

### **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

In March, the SPL was honored to host Senator Stanley Rosenberg's Twelfth Annual Library Legislative Breakfast. This Breakfast provided an opportunity for library supporters to meet their elected State Senator and State Representatives to thank them for past library support and to inform them of the types of challenges libraries face today. With over 100 people in attendance, this turned out to be an incredibly successful event. Thanks go out to the library Staff, Trustees and "Friends" for working so energetically on this occasion.

### **ON THE SAME PAGE**

Thanks to a \$7,500 grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the months of April and May were dedicated to the first annual *On the Same Page* (OTSP) community read-a-thon. The idea behind OTSP is to create a kind of town-wide book club. In order to honor the unveiling of Sunderland's new Veterans' Memorial, the featured inaugural book was *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. Book



discussions and Civil-War related events were held throughout the spring. Many thanks to Will Sillin for creating our OTSP logo; to the Sunderland Cultural Council and the “Friends” for providing additional program funding; and to all the library Staff and Town Department Heads who participated in our READ poster display.

### GOODBYE

This will be my last SPL Annual Report. It certainly has been an amazing nine years!

During this time period, thanks to this beautiful new library building, I have seen circulation increase by 50% and attendance increase by 173%; our public programming for all ages is stronger than ever; our Community Room, with its 60” plasma screen TV and Bose surround sound stereo system, sees constant use; patrons utilize our wireless capabilities almost on a daily basis; this is a wonderful place for new artists to exhibit their work; and our Internet terminals are always being put to good use. This library is truly a community center, and I am honored to have been a part of it.

I want to thank everyone who has been involved with this library during my tenure: Staff; Trustees; “Friends;” volunteers; our “Webmaster;” the Young Adult Library Advisory Board; “Big Move” volunteers; the “Coffee Friday” group; all other Town Departments, Boards, and Committees; and the patrons of the SPL. Thank you for opening your hearts and lives to me. You mean more to me than words can say.

Sharon A. Sharry, Library Director; Ann Dorr, Chair, Board of Trustees; Donna McKemmie, Vice-Chair; Lorin Starr, Secretary; Jay Baudermann, Joseph Friedrichs, Shirley Graves, Peter Lacey, Marilyn Munn, Lisa Tripp

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The past year represented the second budgetary cycle in which Channel 15 and the Sunderland Telecommunications Committee (STC) operated entirely without support from taxpayer revenues. Under the terms of a ten-year contract with Comcast, the town’s income was sufficient to cover both annual operating expenses for 2007 and a program of significant improvements in our television capabilities.

This also has been the first full year for use of the newly completed Video Production System in the Community Meeting room on the second floor of the Town Office Building. Use of the document reader and robotically controlled cameras allowed viewers of Channel 15 to observe the conduct of town business with a lively clarity that was, in many instances, superior to actual attendance at the meetings. In addition to live coverage of the Select Board on Monday evenings, the School Committee and both Special and Annual Town meetings were broadcast. Throughout 2007, Channel 15 programs documenting the extensive work of the Zoning Board of Appeals when considering an application for a proposed housing development offered a detailed civics lesson in the all-volunteer operation of small town democracy.

The Fall Festival was included in the Channel 15 schedule along with special coverage of the Historical Commission’s “Ghosts of Sunderland” celebration. Also, both live broadcast and an archival recording were provided for the dedication of the Veteran’s War Memorial and Park, as well as the annual Memorial Day parade. In collaboration with the Sunderland Public Library, the STC’s expanded audio capabilities supported a newly instituted outdoor summer film series that proved to be particularly popular with the town’s citizens. For both the regular programming on Chanel 15 as well as for many of our special programs, we are indebted to the work contributed by our volunteer interns from Frontier High School: Elaina Rivaïs and Richard Wheeler.



With advice and plans provided through consultation with Michael Kesten Video Engineering, Inc., the STC solicited bids for the replacement of our now antique playback and video system controller (the hardware that has supported Channel 15 for more than a decade). The equipment selected was the Nexus Video System installed by Great Northern Video. Nexus allows greatly enhanced flexibility as well as superior quality and stability in the Channel 15 signal. Because the new system can manage the output for two television channels, thanks to the industry of STC Senior Technician, Tom Zimnowski, Nexus already is driving both the education channel (12) that serves Sunderland, Deerfield, and Whately, as well as our own government channel.

With leadership from Sunderland's representatives, Wayne Shaw (now Co-Chair as well as Clerk) and Bob White (now Chair of the Personnel Committee), Frontier Community Access Television (FCAT) has now recruited and appointed an Interim Director, Martin McGuane, to administer a one year pilot development project for both the educational channel (12) and a not-yet-launched public access channel (17). Future announcements concerning FCAT's pilot project will appear on Channel 15. Citizens of Sunderland are urged to consider joining the STC as members, or volunteering to serve as Camera operators – or both. There is fascinating work to do and we will provide all training.

Respectfully,

Larry Locke, Chairperson; Wayne Shaw, Cameraman and Committee Clerk; Thomas Zimnowski, Senior Technician; and Bruce Weston, Cameraman

### **TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND  
REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
As of June 30, 2007**

**OUTSTANDING TOWN DEBT**

WPAT Title V Septic	<b>\$ 66,450.00</b>
Sunderland Library	<b>\$ 917,000.00</b>
Public Safety Complex	<b>\$1,338,000.00</b>
Rehabilitation of School	<b>\$3,780,000.00</b>
Additional Reconstruction of School	<b>\$ 668,700.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>	<b><u>\$6,770,150.00</u></b>

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007**



The following is a list of all expenditures as per warrants, for the General Fund,  
for the period beginning July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND

	Budgeted	Expended
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Moderator	200.00	200.00
Selectmen Salary	9,500.00	9,500.00
Selectmen's Secretary	19,854.00	18,648.98
Advertising	1,500.00	572.98
STM 4/07 Prior Yr Unpaid Bills	7,676.32	7,676.32
Selectmen's Expense	4,000.00	3,893.02
Professional Development	3,000.00	2,432.09
STM 10/02 Selectmen's Ditch Exp	35.49	35.49
Town Administrator Salary	49,820.00	49,819.90
Lawn Mowing	10,606.77	9,114.00
Town Administrator Expense	3,419.00	2,000.00
Medicaid Recovery	300.00	641.94
Technology	1,500.00	1,484.76
Finance Committee Expense	200.00	145.00
Accountant Wages	22,618.00	22,618.00
Town Annual Audit	12,000.00	12,000.00
Accountant Expense	5,500.00	4,752.60
Encumbered Accountant Expense	25.00	25.00
Assessors' Salary	9,208.00	9,207.00
Assessor's Clerical	18,474.00	18,474.00
Data Processing/Revaluation	14,155.75	14,130.00
Assessors' Expense	2,950.00	1,843.06
Updating Tax Maps	1,620.00	1,575.00
Computer Support	4,200.00	4,200.00
Tax Coll/Treasurer Salary	42,842.00	42,842.00
Section 108P	1,000.00	1,000.00
Tax Title Purposes	4,000.00	2,062.04
Town Postage	11,083.84	10,999.57
Tax Coll/Treasurer Expense	8,275.00	8,214.10
Town Counsel	17,080.00	16,602.93
Encumbered Town Counsel	3,387.42	3,387.42
Affirmative Action Stipend	1.00	-
Affirmative Action Expense	1.00	-
Grant Writing/Consultant Fees	8,000.00	6,867.25
Encumbered Grant Writing/Cons Fee	2,965.00	2,965.00
Town Clerk Salary	37,492.00	37,492.00
Section 19K	1,000.00	1,000.00
Assistant Town Clerk	200.00	200.00
Town Clerk Expense	2,100.00	1,877.02
Town Clerk Archival	1,555.00	1,336.00
Town Code Update	3,000.00	2,999.61
Encumbered Town Code Update	1,009.40	1,009.40
Elect & Registration Wages	3,800.00	3,786.04
Elect & Registration Expense	6,090.00	5,811.78
ATM 04/06 Voting Machine	6,500.00	6,500.00
Telecommunications Salary	5,096.00	5,096.00



Telecommunication Comm Exp.	2,000.00	1,387.67
Conservation Commission	4,500.00	2,722.79
Planning Board Salary	3,000.00	3,000.00
Planning Board Expense	1,750.00	1,621.35
Encumbered Planning Board Exp	1,353.96	1,353.96
Zoning Board	750.00	407.99
Blding Maint/Labor Wages	32,286.00	32,286.00
Blding Main Overtime	840.75	663.56
Energy Contingency	26,767.32	26,767.32
Town Telephone Expenses	8,100.00	5,390.08
Town Office Bldg Expense	18,950.00	18,950.00
Building Maintenance	5,000.00	4,806.19
Public Safety Bldg Operations	36,952.48	36,941.09
Library Operations	31,090.00	31,047.87
Graves Memorial Operations	4,400.00	4,210.90
Old Fire Station Operations	1.00	-
Highway Operations	8,435.00	8,431.78
Town Hall Office Supplies	1,540.00	1,540.00
Town Reports	4,916.16	4,916.16

<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>561,472.66</b>	<b>543,482.01</b>
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**PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY**

Police Chief Wages	56,238.00	56,238.00
Full-Time Officer Wages	149,302.00	148,254.09
Full-Time Offices - Quinn Bonus	9,500.00	9,500.00
Police Dept Overtime	13,000.00	13,000.00
Part-Time Officer Wages	40,000.00	38,764.69
Police Clerk	19,812.00	19,647.94
Police Dept Expense	49,165.00	48,263.09
STM 10/02 Pub Safety Complex Const	12,819.61	5,032.03
ATM 4/06 Police Video System	15,000.00	10,676.00
Full Time Fireman Wages	33,374.00	33,197.68
Fire Dept Wages	15,259.93	12,978.49
Fire Chief Salary	10,400.00	10,400.00
Fire Dept Deputies Stipend	4,858.00	4,858.00
Fire Dept Expense	9,000.00	8,960.90
Fire Department Replacement Equipment	7,575.00	7,101.07
ATM 4/06 PSC Improvements	1,950.00	1,196.86
Ambulance Wages	28,321.00	27,916.61
EMT Directors	2,080.00	2,080.00
Ambulance Expense	14,000.00	13,914.29
Building Inspector Salary	26,077.00	26,077.00
Building Inspector Alternate	-	-
Building Inspector Expense	1,800.00	1,014.70
Animal Inspector	100.00	100.00
Radio System Service Fee	3,654.00	3,654.00
Civil Defense	4,940.07	2,133.83
Animal Control Officer	6,000.00	4,721.58
Crossing Guard Wages	1.00	-
Tree Warden/Gypsy Moth/Dutch Elm	8,500.00	8,317.31

<b>TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</b>	<b>542,726.61</b>	<b>517,998.16</b>
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**SCHOOLS**

Sunderland Elementary School	2,121,379.00	1,933,948.17
Sunderland Elementary School	188,522.49	184,105.76
School Transportation	129,092.00	108,647.90
STM 10/05 Add School Settlement	6,391.50	-
STM 4/06 HVAC & Electrical Work	16,386.00	16,386.00
STM 7/06 School Parking Lot	50,000.00	45,794.32
Sunderland School Fixed Assets	8,148.15	8,148.15
Franklin County Tech School	93,085.00	93,085.00
Frontier Regional	1,134,066.00	1,134,066.00
Frontier Transportation	15,993.00	15,993.00

**TOTAL SCHOOLS****3,763,063.14****3,540,174.30****PUBLIC WORKS & OTHER**

Highway Superintendent Wages	48,106.00	48,105.99
Highway Laborer Wages	62,956.71	57,419.37
Highway Maintenance Overtime	3,000.00	1,574.46
Sectretarial Help - Highway	2,632.00	2,632.00
Seasonal Wages	11,500.00	10,142.43
Highway Maintenance Expense	46,000.00	43,816.08
Drainage Ditches	500.00	360.00
10/05 Storm Damage Expenses	36,916.21	17,869.45
Snow/Ice Overtime	8,000.00	7,490.59
Snow/Ice Materials	26,870.25	26,870.25
Street Lighting	12,628.00	12,607.69
Sidewalks	1,500.00	89.10
Road Machinery	18,500.00	18,259.48
Fuel	13,000.00	13,000.00
Franklin County Solid Waste Di.	7,137.00	7,137.00
Recycling	49,066.00	49,066.00
Trash Pickup	116,885.00	116,885.00
STM 1/98 Landfill Capping	10,424.29	4,187.50
Bulky Item Days Expenses	12,000.00	12,000.00
Hazardous Waste Days Exp	2,500.00	602.00
WWTP Purchased Services	149,525.00	137,613.00
WWTP Equipment Evaluation	10,000.00	4,425.82
WWTP Sludge Removal Exp	43,622.00	36,535.07
WWTP Expense	50,695.00	50,076.29
Sewer Maintenance	20,000.00	7,948.15
ATM 04/05 WWTP Repairs	14,097.00	14,097.00
ATM 04/06 WWTP Repairs	24,510.00	-
Riverside Cemetery	6,825.00	4,190.00
Highway - County Fee for Services	2,000.00	2,000.00

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & OTHER****811,395.46****706,999.72****HEALTH**

Board of Health Clerk/Agent	2,326.00	1,320.55
Board of Health Expense	1,000.00	378.46

**TOTAL HEALTH****3,326.00****1,699.01****CHARITIES & VETERANS**

Council on Aging	100.00	100.00
District Vet Assessment	5,409.00	5,409.00
Care of Veteran's Graves	200.00	110.00
Soldiers & Vets Benefits	2,000.00	-
Frontier Senior Center	3,750.00	3,750.00
<b>TOTAL CHARITIES &amp; VETERANS</b>	<b>11,459.00</b>	<b>9,369.00</b>
<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>		
Library Director Wages	40,248.00	40,248.00
Library Support Sal & Wages	34,388.00	34,388.00
Library Expense	26,038.00	26,028.04
Recreation Coordinator Salaries & Wages	13,390.00	13,390.00
Recreation Expense	900.00	244.88
Town Park Expenses	1,200.00	1,196.53
Historical Commission	400.00	400.00
Encumbered Historical Commission	330.00	330.00
Memorial Day	1,200.00	902.12
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>118,094.00</b>	<b>117,127.57</b>
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>		
Landfill Cap Principal	142,500.00	142,500.00
Landfill Cap Interest	4,645.00	4,646.80
Title V Loan Principal	5,120.00	5,120.00
Library Roof Principal	50,000.00	50,000.00
Library Principal	67,000.00	67,000.00
School Repair Note	240,000.00	240,000.00
Frontier School Loan - Principal & Interest	161,925.00	161,925.00
School Repair Supp. Note	74,300.00	74,300.00
Elementary School Principal	322,350.00	322,350.00
Public Safety Complex Note	98,000.00	98,000.00
Library Roof Interest	1,420.00	1,426.03
Library Interest	39,340.00	39,340.00
School Repair Interest	143,470.00	143,470.00
School Repair Supp Interest	27,341.00	27,340.54
Elementary School Interest	10,592.00	10,591.07
Public Safety Complex Interest	57,415.00	57,415.00
Registry of Motor Vehicles Assessment	-	2,240.00
Air Pollution Assessment	-	798.00
PVTA Assessment	-	97,726.00
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	22,465.00	22,464.71
County Retirement Assessment	186,330.00	186,330.00
Workers Compensation	20,300.00	20,113.00
Chapter 720 Unemployment	9,000.00	8,603.00
Medical/Life Insurance Town Share	130,000.00	126,090.98
Medicare - Town Share	34,500.00	34,916.80
Flex Spending	2,400.00	480.00
Town Insurances	77,779.00	76,621.00
Reserve Fund	2,182.68	-
<b>TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>1,930,374.68</b>	<b>2,021,807.93</b>
<b>CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>7,741,911.55</b>	<b>7,458,657.70</b>



**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND**  
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds  
Audited  
As of June 30, 2006

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash - All Funds		1,874,404
Investments		1,680,671
Receivables:		
Property Taxes		100,010
Excise and Other Taxes		30,815
Tax Liens		77,014
User Charges		31,377
Assessments		19,562
Due from Other Governments		638,753
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>4,452,606</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Warrants Payable		234,716
Accrued Payroll		193,730
Employee Withholdings		(728)
Tax Refund Payable		22,665
Deferred Revenue:		
Property Taxes		75,124
Other		697,317
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,222,824</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		
Reserved For:		
Encumbrances and continuing appropriations		122,544
Perpetual Permanent Funds		78,269
Unreserved:		
Designated for Subsequent Years'		
Expenditures		608,885
Undesignated, reported in		
General Fund		775,696
Special Revenue		1,536,488
Capital Projects		30,459
Permanent Funds		77,441
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>3,229,782</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>		<b>4,452,606</b>

ENCUMBRANCES AND CARRY FORWARDS TO FISCAL YEAR 2007

STM 10/02 Selectmen's Ditch	001-122-5315-008	35.49
Accountant Expense	001-135-5310-000	25.00
Data Processing/Revaluation	001-141-5210-000	2,380.75



Town Counsel	001-151-5201-000	3,387.42
Grant Writing/Consultant Expense	001-159-5201-000	2,965.00
Town Code Update	001-161-5711-000	1,009.40
Telecommunications Comm Exp	001-169-5310-000	700.00
Planning Board Expense	001-175-5310-000	1,353.96
STM 10/02 Public Safety Complex Const	001-210-5820-005	9,572.03
Sunderland Elementary School	001-300-5115-000	188,522.49
STM 10/05 Add School Settlement	001-300-5220-001	6,391.50
Sunderland School Fixed Assets	001-300-5800-000	8,148.15
10/05 Storm Damage Expenses	001-422-5312-000	36,916.21
Sidewalks	001-429-5115-000	500.00
STM 1/98 Landfill Capping	001-433-5314-001	10,424.29
WWTP Expense	001-443-5310-000	1,695.00
ATM 04/05 WWTP Repairs	001-443-5840-014	14,097.00
Historical Commission	001-691-5310-000	330.00
		<hr/>
Total Encumbrances & Carry Forwards		288,453.69

**Town of Sunderland Balance Sheet**  
**June 30, 2007**

	<b>Governmental Fund Types</b>			<b>Fiduciary Fund Type</b>	<b>Account Group</b>	<b>Totals</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Trust and Agency</b>	<b>Long Term Debt</b>	<b>(Memorandum Only)</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash	\$ 4,638,384	\$ 1,322,597	\$ 18,529	\$ 762,123	\$ -	\$ 6,741,633
Receivables:						
Property Taxes	101,409	-	-	-	-	101,409
Excise and Other Taxes	75,742	-	-	-	-	75,742
Tax Liens	26,779	-	-	-	-	26,779
User Charges	-	32,962	-	-	-	32,962
Assessments	-	2,638	-	-	-	2,638
Departmental	-	14,672	-	6,273	-	20,945
Due from Other Governments	-	364,451	-	-	-	364,451
Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts	(88,017)	-	-	-	-	(88,017)
Amount to be Provided for the Payment of Debt/Notes	-	-	-	-	6,770,150	6,770,150
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,754,297</b>	<b>\$ 1,737,320</b>	<b>\$ 18,529</b>	<b>\$ 768,396</b>	<b>\$ 6,770,150</b>	<b>\$ 14,048,692</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>						
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Warrants Payable	\$ 158,562	\$ 85,366	\$ -	\$ 1,617	\$ -	\$ 245,545
Accrued Payroll	182,282	994	-	-	-	183,276
Employee Withholdings						(3,937)



	(3,937)	-	-	-	-	
Due to Others	-	-	-	14,399		14,399
Deferred Revenue:						
Property Taxes	13,392	-	-	-	-	13,392
Other	102,521	414,723		6,273	-	523,517
Notes Payable	-	-	-	-	668,700	668,700
Bond Indebtedness		-	-	-	6,101,450	6,101,450
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>452,820</b>	<b>501,083</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,289</b>	<b>6,770,150</b>	<b>7,746,342</b>
<b>Fund Equity:</b>						
Fund Balances:						
Reserved for Encumbrances	47,129	24,510	-	-	-	71,639
Reserved for Debt	3,125,723					3,125,723
Unreserved:						
Designated for Subsequent Years' Expenditures	554,241	297,501	11,539	-	-	863,281
Undesignated	574,384	914,226	6,990	746,107	-	2,241,707
<b>Total Fund Equity</b>	<b>4,301,477</b>	<b>1,236,237</b>	<b>18,529</b>	<b>746,107</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,302,350</b>
	\$		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>	<b>4,754,297</b>	<b>\$1,737,320</b>	<b>18,529</b>	<b>768,396</b>	<b>6,770,150</b>	<b>\$ 14,048,692</b>

**TOWN CLERK**  
[www.townclerk@townofsunderland.us](mailto:www.townclerk@townofsunderland.us)

### 2007 VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births

Females 11  
Males 18  
TOTAL 29

#### Marriages

Total: 19

#### Deaths

Date	Name	Age	March	
<b>2007</b>			6	Stanley Edwin Matuszko 82
January			10	James D. King 57
5	Walter J. Klemyk	84	11	Esther M. Cooke 83
9	Gerald F. Lynch	46	12	Bertha H. Paulovics 76
20	Laurette P. Fydenkevez	71	14	Beatrice E. Miskinis 88
30	Mary A. Plaza	96	20	Helena J. Thompson 95
February			21	Margaret H. Wolejko 79
8	Richard Chase Castine, Sr.	81		
19	Anna A. Bernotas	89	April	
24	Helen Olanyk	84	4	Margaret E. Lipsio 94



19	Albina Malinowski	86	20	Margaret Joan Tomlinson	79
22	Anna F. McLaughlin	86	28	Stanley L. Taylor	59
23	Doris Marie Nadeau	78	September		
May	Mary Agnes Lankarge	92	13	Josephine Glenowicz	83
23	Anna E. Potyrala	83	27	Ruth E. Dubois	88
29	Olivia P. Boske	29	October		
30	Sally Ethel Fydenkevez	71	9	Lottie Maxine Morganson	87
June			16	Agnes F. Williams	83
7	Anthony J. Banach	79	17	Stephen G. Claughton	69
11	Mary Huntington	79	24	KJuan P. Lloyd	29
July			November		
9	Anna R. Darraugh	95	29	Filomena Katherine Valeski	97
13	Logan Matthew Aucoin	1	December		
24	Berneice Edwards Huff	82	9	Elizabeth Orloski	89
August			15	Alice S. Bradbury	83
			26	David L. Russell	82

### 2006 Fish and Game Report

• F1	Res. Citizen Fishing	17	\$	467.50
• F2	Res. Fishing Minor	3	\$	34.50
• F3	Res. Fishing (65-69 yrs.)	1	\$	16.25
• F4	Res. Fishing (over 70 yrs.)	7	\$	0.00
• F6	Non-Resident Fishing	1	\$	37.50
• H1	Resident Hunting	4	\$	110.00
• H8	Res. Minor Hunting	1	\$	11.50
• S1	Resident Sporting	26	\$	1,170.00
• S2	Resident Sporting (65-69 yrs)	1	\$	25.00
• S3	Res. Sporting (age >70 yrs.)	9	\$	0.00
• M1	Archery Stamp	9	\$	35.70
• M2	Waterfowl Stamp	1	\$	5.00
• M3	Primitive Arms Stamp	9	\$	45.90
• W1	Wildlands Stamp	65	\$	325.00
•				
		<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>\$2,283.85</b>

Vitals \$2,215.00  
Dogs \$3,535.00  
Fish and Game \$84.95

Gov't. Regs./Misc. \$2,692.39  
Total Paid to Treasurer **\$8,527.34**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Houle, CMC/CMMC  
Town Clerk



**TOWN MEETING MOTIONS -2007  
2007 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

FRANKLIN, SS:

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To either of the Constables of the **Town of Sunderland** in the County of Franklin,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in the elections and in town affairs, to meet at **SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said **SUNDERLAND ON FRIDAY THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY** of **APRIL, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVEN** at **7:00 P.M.** and act on the following articles:

Meeting called to order by Moderator, Robert T. Duby at 7:10pm.

Town Clerk, Wendy Houle, read Constables Return.

Town Clerk, Wendy Houle swore in Tellers, Russell Cranshaw, Christine Drake, Peter Lacey and Donna McKemmie.

Motions were read seconded by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 1: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Reserve Fund the sum of \$4,333.03 due to Franklin County Solid Waste Management District; transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,211.00 due to MIIA Property and Casualty Group, Inc. and transfer from FY07 Highway Laborer Wages 001-422-5120-000 the sum of \$2,132.29 due to Edwin Skribiski; for the **sum total of \$7,676.32** for prior fiscal years unpaid bills.

**\*REQUIRES 9/10th VOTE    MGL c.44, §64**

SUBMITTED BY:                      Selectmen

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:    3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 2: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Foundation Reserve Award the sum of \$29,234.00 to COPS Fast Grant Account.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 40, § 5 (Unless transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, § 5B)**

SUBMITTED BY:                      Town Accountant

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:    3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**



ARTICLE 3: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Foundation Reserve Award the sum of \$5,766.00 and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,857.00 for the sum total of \$9,623.00 to Police Detail Account (elementary school reconstruction).

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 40, § 5 (Unless transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, § 5B)**

SUBMITTED BY: Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 4: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Ambulance Reserve Fund the sum of \$10,000.00 to line 001-232-5130-000 Ambulance Wages.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 40, § 5 (Unless transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, § 5B)**

SUBMITTED BY: Ambulance Director  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 5: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$11,370.25 to line 001-423-5310-000 Snow/Ice Materials.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 40, § 5 (Unless transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, § 5B)**

SUBMITTED BY: Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 6: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Stabilization Fund the sum total of \$32,000 to purchase and equip a current year single axle dump truck with plow and sander to replace a 1987 dump truck with plow and sander.

**2/3 vote required - G.L. 40, § 5B**

SUBMITTED BY: Petition  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0-3

**Seconded FAILED Yes: 49 No: 32**





**Motion to dissolve was seconded and passed unanimously at 7:50pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Houle, CMC/CMMC  
Sunderland Town Clerk

**2007 ANNUAL TOWN WARRANT MOTIONS  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

FRANKLIN, SS:

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\*\*

To either of the Constables of the **Town of Sunderland** in the County of Franklin,  
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in the elections and in town affairs, to meet at **SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said **SUNDERLAND** on Friday this **TWENTY-SEVENTH** day of April, **TWO THOUSAND AND SEVEN** at 7:30 p.m. and act on the following articles:

All articles on this warrant require a simple majority unless otherwise indicated or required by the motion.

Robert T. Duby, Moderator called the meeting to order at 8:00pm

Wendy Houle, Town Clerk read the Constable's Return.

Robert T. Duby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wendy Houle swore in tells Russell Cranshaw, Christine Drake, Peter Lacey and Donna McKemmie.

Robert T. Duby acknowledged Al and Christine Drake for the dedication in the 2006 Annual Report and years of service to the Town. The Fall Festival Committee and Telecommunications were recognized for their efforts.

A moment of silence was given for Doris Bennett and Peg Wolejko.

ARTICLE 1: Move that the Town vote to hear the reports of the Selectmen, the Sunderland School Committee and all other Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions.

**Majority Vote (no statutory reference)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 2: Move that the Town vote, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108, to set the salaries and compensation of all its elected officials connected therewith for Fiscal Year 2008.



Assessors: Chairman \$3,176.66 annually Clerk \$3,176.66 annually Member \$3,176.66 annually  
Moderator: \$200 annually  
Planning Board: Chairman \$750 annually Clerk \$750 annually Members each \$500 annually  
Town Clerk: \$38,804.00 annually  
Selectmen: Chairman \$3,500 annually Clerk \$3,000 annually Member \$3,000 annually

**Majority Vote-G.L. c.41, §108**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 3: Move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$6,479,677, appropriate from Ambulance Reserve the sum of \$82,000, appropriate from Comcast Revenue Account the sum of \$6,575, appropriate from Franklin County Solid Waste District MRF Fund the sum of \$3,926, appropriate from School Building Assistance Funds the sum of \$212,000, appropriate from Assessors Overlay Surplus the sum of \$20,000, appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$212,032, for the **sum total of \$7,016,210** for town and general municipal purposes connected therewith for Fiscal Year 2008, as set forth in the handout entitled, Town of Sunderland FY 2008 Budget.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

**Seconded**

**Amendment:**

Move to reduce the FY08 recommended budget to \$6,971,628 by reducing Frontier Regional School assessment by \$44,582.00 for an FY08 assessment of \$1,228,249.

**Seconded**

**Failed**

**Yes: 27**

**No: 62**

**Main Motion**

**PASSED**

**Majority**

ARTICLE 4: - Move that the Town vote to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for the purpose of payment of debt associated with the reconstruction of the elementary school, to be known as the Elementary School Reconstruction Debt Stabilization Fund, and to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money for such purposes.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen



SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

**Seconded**

**Motion to Withdraw**

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

- Article 5 through 9, inclusive are so called Consent Articles.
- Selectmen Recommendation to Consent Articles: 3-0
- Finance Committee Recommendation to Consent Articles: 7-0

ARTICLE 5: Move that the Town vote to re-authorize the establishment of the following revolving funds pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E ½, in order to allow fees and or fines to be spent without further appropriation for services rendered by:

Wiring Inspector

Fees for services rendered. Expenditures from this fund will not exceed \$5,500.

Plumbing Inspector

Fees for services rendered. Expenditures from this fund will not exceed \$3,000.

Board of Health

Fees and fines for services rendered. Expenditures from this fund shall not exceed \$20,265.

Sunderland Public Library Community Room (Library Trustees)

Receipts from the rental of the Sunderland Public Library Community Room to be used for maintenance of the Library Community Room and related expenses. Expenditures from this fund shall not exceed \$5,000.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 44, 53E ½**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 6: Move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any grants or donations from State or Federal governments or private agencies, individuals or institutions.

**Majority Vote (no statutory reference; see G.L. c. 44, §53A)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 7: Move that the Town vote to accept and expend any sum or sums of money which may be available from the State for Chapter 90 work for road improvement and equipment expense.

**Majority Vote (no statutory reference; see G.L. c. 44, §53)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen and Highway Superintendent

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**



ARTICLE 8: Move that the Town vote under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4A to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into inter-municipal agreements.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c. 40, §4A**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 9: Move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for goods and services with duration in excess of three years under the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 30B, section 12, paragraph (b).

**Majority Vote (no statutory reference; see G.L. c. 30B, §12)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 10: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Assessors Overlay the sum of \$2,100 for work to be performed for the fiscal year 2008 certification program for the Assessor's office.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Assessors

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 11: Move that the Town vote to transfer from the Assessors Overlay the sum of \$7,697.50, transfer from Article 12 of the April 25, 2003 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$824.00, from Article 8 of the April 30, 2004 Special Town Meeting the sum of \$6,391.00, from Article 14 of the April 28, 2006 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$4,324.00, from Article 1 of the July 31, 2006 Special Town Meeting the sum of \$4,205.50, and from the Free Cash the sum of \$4,558.00 for the sum total of \$28,000 for a new police cruiser and related equipment.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5**

SUBMITTED BY: Police Department

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 6-1-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Majority**

ARTICLE 12: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000 for Accounting Software and related equipment.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**



SUBMITTED BY: Town Accountant  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 6-1-0

**Seconded**                      **Passed**                      **Unanimous**

ARTICLE 13: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Ambulance Reserve Fund the sum of \$155,000 for a new ambulance and any related equipment.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Fire Department  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**                      **Passed**                      **Majority**

ARTICLE 14: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,500 to purchase fifty (50) copies of Volume I and fifty copies of Volume II of the History of Sunderland.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Historical Commission  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**                      **Passed**                      **Unanimous**

ARTICLE 15: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Reserve Fund the sum of \$13,000 to repair, rebuild or replace the gearbox for Aerator #1 at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded**                      **Passed**                      **Unanimous**

ARTICLE 16: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Reserve Fund the sum of \$37,000 to repair or replace the sewage pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Facility's Pump Stations.



**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 17: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$17,147, Sunderland's share of a \$65,000 appropriation, for the fourth year of a five year plan to renovate the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Superintendent of Schools  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 18: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Assessors Overlay Surplus the sum of \$20,000.00 to the Stabilization Fund.

**2/3 vote required – G.L. c. 40, §5B**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 7-0

**Seconded Passed Unanimous**

ARTICLE 19: Move that the Town vote to withdraw from membership in the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to provide notice of said vote to the Executive Committee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into any agreements or take such other action as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this vote.

**Majority Vote – Franklin Regional Council of Governments Charter Article 7, §7.1.7**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 1-2  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0-3

**Seconded**

**Motion to Table**



**Seconded  
Moderator**

**Passed**

**Declared a 2/3 vote by the**

ARTICLE 20: Move that the Town vote to transfer from \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \$6,000 for restoring that portion of the public way believed to have been accepted as a Town way by vote of the Sunderland Town Meeting on February 24, 1902 and known as Whitmore Cross Road, extending southerly and easterly from Falls Road to the southwesterly corner of Lot 13 as shown on Assessors' Map #1, a distance of approximately 650 feet from the intersection of said Town way with Falls Road.

**Majority Vote -G.L. c. 40, §5 (Note: unless borrowing is contemplated as a funding source, in which case a 2/3 vote will be required and reference should be made to G.L. c. 44, §7 and or transfer from stabilization is contemplated, then 2/3 vote-G.L. 40, §5b)**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

**Seconded  
Motion to Withdraw**

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 21: Move that the Town vote to accept, for all boards, committees, or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of G.L. c. 39, section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions are met including that the member review all evidence of the session and sign a certificate to that effect; and provided further that such acceptance shall be applicable to all adjudicatory hearings opened on or after the effective date of the vote taken hereunder.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c.39, § 23D**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

Voted at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2007

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Sunderland, by deleting in Chapter 31 of the Personnel Bylaws:

~~§ 31-5. Definitions.~~

~~The following words and phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be defined as indicated below, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:~~

~~APPOINTING AUTHORITY—The Board of Selectmen is the appointing authority for all positions.~~

~~BOARD—The Board of Selectmen.~~

~~DEPARTMENT—An operating unit of Town government funded through one (1) or more budget categories and under the supervision of a Town Board.~~



~~DEPARTMENT HEAD—The employee responsible for the administration and operation of a Town department, who reports directly to the Board of Selectmen.~~

~~EMPLOYEE, REGULAR FULL TIME—An employee who has been hired into an established position that normally requires a forty-hour workweek.~~

~~EMPLOYEE, REGULAR PART TIME—An employee who has been hired into an established position that normally requires less than a forty-hour workweek.~~

~~EMPLOYEE, TEMPORARY—An employee who has been hired into a position of limited duration in the service of the Town or an employee who has been hired into an established position for a period not exceeding six (6) months.~~

~~HIRING—The placement of a person into a position in the service of the Town. Hiring shall be of the following types: regular full-time, regular part-time, and temporary.~~

~~IMMEDIATE FAMILY—Included are the employee's spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, stepparents, brothers and sisters and others who are actual members of the employee's household.~~

~~LAYOFF—The removal of an employee because of lack of work insufficient funding, or other causes which do not negatively reflect on an employee's work performance. Layoff shall not be considered as a dismissal or as disciplinary in nature. Any laid-off employee returning to work needs to be reappointed by the Selectmen.~~

~~REGULAR POSITION—A position in the service of the Town of which there is an expectation of need for an uninterrupted indefinite period.~~

~~PERSONAL LEAVE—An authorized period of absence from work, without pay if longer than three (3) days, for regular employees, and approved by the Board of Selectmen, to take care of personal business. The department head may approve the leave if not more than three (3) days are required.~~

~~TEMPORARY POSITION—A position in the service of the Town which is required for a period of time not exceeding six (6) months.~~

~~TOWN—The Town of Sunderland.~~

~~TRANSFER—The movement of an employee from one (1) position to another equal position in the Town organization.~~

~~WORKWEEK—The normal workweek for full-time Town employee is as specified in § 31-6 of the Personnel Bylaw.~~

and inserting in its place:

### ***§ 31-5. Definitions.***

*The following words and phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be defined as indicated below, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:*

*APPOINTING AUTHORITY - The Appointing Authorities for Town, Fire, School and Library personnel, as defined in MGL c. 41, c. 48, §42, c.71 and c.78.*

*BOARD - The Board of Selectmen.*

*DEPARTMENT - An operating unit of Town government funded through one (1) or more budget categories and under the supervision of a Town Board.*

*DEPARTMENT HEAD - The employee responsible for the administration and operation of a Town department, who reports directly to the Board of Selectmen, or appointing authority.*

*HIRING - The appointment of a person into a position in the service of the Town. Hiring shall be of the following types: regular full-time, regular part-time, temporary and non-benefited.*





*IMMEDIATE FAMILY - Included are the employee's spouse, children, parents, stepchildren, stepparents, brothers, sisters, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparents, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.*

*LAYOFF - The removal of an employee because of lack of work insufficient funding, or other causes which do not negatively reflect on an employee's work performance. Layoff shall not be considered as disciplinary in nature. Any laid-off employee returning to work needs to be reappointed by the Selectmen, or appointing authority.*

*PERSONAL LEAVE - An authorized period of absence from work, without pay if longer than three (3) days, for regular employees, and approved by the Board of Selectmen, to take care of personal business. The department head may approve the leave if not more than three (3) days are required.*

*TOWN - The Town of Sunderland.*

*TRANSFER - The movement of an employee from one (1) position to another equal or similar position in the Town organization.*

**Position Type:**

*ESTABLISHED POSITION – A position for which there is a corresponding position description approved by the Board of Selectmen or appointing authority.*

*REGULAR POSITION – An established benefited position in the service of the Town for which there is an expectation of need for an uninterrupted indefinite period, and for which an employee shall receive holiday pay, vacation, sick and other leave, based on workweek schedule and be eligible to participate in the fringe benefits programs offered by the Town.*

*TEMPORARY POSITION – An established position in the service of the Town which requires the service of an individual for a period less than one thousand forty (1,040) hours in a single fiscal year. The term “temporary position”, whenever used in this chapter, shall mean “temporary or seasonal position”.*

**Employee Type:**

*EMPLOYEE, NON-BENEFITED – An employee who has been hired into a temporary position or who has been hired into an established position that normally requires less than one thousand forty (1,040) hours in a single fiscal year.*

*EMPLOYEE, REGULAR – An employee who has been hired into an established benefited position that normally requires a minimum of twenty (20) scheduled hours per week unless otherwise determined by the Board of Selectmen or appointing authority.*

*EMPLOYEE, TEMPORARY – An employee who has been hired into a temporary or seasonal position in the service of the Town as defined, or an employee who has been hired into an established position for a period less than one thousand forty (1,040) hours in a single fiscal year. The term “temporary employee”, whenever used in this chapter, shall mean temporary or seasonal employee.*

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

Voted at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2007



ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Sunderland Personnel bylaws, Chapter 31, **§31-6 Workweek, Paragraph B., §31-11 Protecting Town Information, §31-12 Town Equipment, and §31-20 Other Leave.** Delete text in ~~strikethrough~~. Add text in *italics*, as follows:

**§ 31-6. Workweek.**

- B. For regular, full-time employees, the normal workweek shall be forty (40) hours *unless otherwise determined by the Board of Selectmen or appointing authority.* The normal workweek for regular part-time, ~~temporary~~ and non-benefited employees and public safety personnel (fire and police) shall be arranged by the Board of Selectmen or appointing authority. The workweek ends on Friday.

**§ 31-11. Protecting Town information.**

Protecting the Town's information and the privacy rights of its citizens is the responsibility of every employee, and all employees share a common interest in making sure information is not improperly or accidentally disclosed. *Pursuant to MGL c. 268A, §23, no employee shall improperly disclose confidential information acquired by him/her in the course of his/her official duties, nor use such information to further his/her personal interest.* ~~Do not discuss the Town's confidential business with anyone who does not work for the Town.~~ Any question as to whether Town information is subject to disclosure under MGL c. 66, §10 should be discussed with the Town Administrator. *Violations of this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.*

**§ 31-12. Town propertyequipment.**

Employees are expected to use proper care *and discretion* when using the Town's buildings, property and equipment. *Town buildings shall be used in accordance with job-related service to the Town.* ~~No property may be removed from the Town premises without the proper authorization of the department head or Town Administrator.~~ If Town property is lost, broken or damaged, ~~report it must be reported~~ to the department head and the Town Administrator at once. *No property may be removed from the Town premises without the proper authorization of the department head or Town Administrator.*

**§ 31-20. Other leave.**

- C. Personal leave. Regular full-time employees are eligible for a maximum of three (3) paid personal days during the fiscal year. *Regular part-time employees shall receive personal leave based upon the number of hours regularly worked per week.* A regular full-time or regular part-time employee wishing to take a personal leave day shall make a request, in writing, to his/her department head at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, except in emergencies. Personal Leave shall not be granted in advance of being earned, is noncumulative and must be used in the *fiscal* year earned.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c.40, §21; G.L. 41, §108C**

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

Voted at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2007



ARTICLE 24: Move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Sunderland. **Peace and Good Order, Chapter 89 §1, Noise.** Delete text in ~~striketrough~~. Add text in *italics*, as follows:

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons occupying, having the charge of or being present in or about any building, structure, premises, shelter, vehicle, boat or conveyance or any part thereof in the town (other than that section of any establishment licensed under Chapter 138 of the General Laws) at any time to cause, suffer, allow or countenance any unnecessary loud, excessive or unusual noise, including any such noises in the operation of any radio, phonograph or other mechanical sound-making device or instrument or reproducing devices or instrument, or in the playing of any band, orchestra, musician or group of musicians or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid or the making of loud and boisterous singing by any person or group of persons or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid noise, where such noise is plainly audible ~~at a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet from the building, structure, premises, shelter, vehicle, boat or conveyance in which or from which it is produced.~~ *to abutting residential units, also including abutting properties.* The fact that the noise is plainly audible ~~at~~ *to said abutting residential units or abutting properties* ~~distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet~~ shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter. Any person shall be deemed in violation of the chapter who shall make or aid and abet or cause or suffer or assist in the making of any such noise.

**Majority Vote-G.L. c.40, §21**

SUBMITTED BY: Police Chief  
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Unanimous**

ARTICLE 25: Move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Sunderland, by deleting in **Chapter 156 FEES:**

~~§156-1 Schedule of Fees.~~

~~The Board of Health Schedule of Fees effective June 1, 1992, shall be as follows:~~

<del>Activity or Permit</del>	<del>Fee</del>
<del>Sewage disposal systems:</del>	
<del>— Installer's permit (per calendar year)</del>	<del>\$50.00</del>
<del>— Septic system permit</del>	<del>25.00</del>
<del>— Septic system inspection</del>	<del>50.00</del>
<del>Failed septic inspection, peres and system approval</del>	<del>50.00</del>
<del>Percolation tests</del>	<del>75.00</del>
<del>Water well permit</del>	<del>50.00</del>
<del>Haulers' permit for sewage pumped from tanks (1 year)</del>	<del>50.00</del>
<del>Restaurant inspection (food service establishment)</del>	<del>25.00</del>
<del>Food store inspection</del>	<del>25.00</del>
<del>Frozen desserts establishment inspection</del>	<del>25.00</del>
<del>Burial permit</del>	<del>10.00</del>
<del>Swimming pool inspection</del>	<del>35.00</del>

and inserting in its place:

***§156-1. Schedule of fees.***



*The Board of Health Schedule of Fees shall be posted in the office of the Board of Selectmen, the office of the Board of Health, and the office of the Town Clerk.*

**Majority Vote-G.L. c.40, §21**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Health  
 SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 BOARD OF HEALTH RECOMMENDATION: 2-0

**Seconded                      Passed                      Unanimous**

Election warrant read by Wendy Houle, Town Clerk.

Motion to dissolve was seconded and passed unanimously at 10:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Wendy Houle, CMC/CMMC  
 Sunderland Town Clerk

**TREASURER / COLLECTOR**

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE &  
 REVOLVING ACCOUNTS (Cont.)**

School Lunch	\$43,678.94
After School Program	\$52,677.79
Early Childhood Tuition	\$27,981.40
Board of Health	\$15,615.25
Deputy Collector fees	\$ 6,242.01
School Storage Building Donations	\$ 4,796.00
Police - Stanley Matuszko Gift	\$ 1,015.00
Fall Festival Committee	\$ 2,193.00
Conservation Wetland Fees	\$ 1,805.00
Sugarbush - Comprehensive Fee	\$23,500.00
- Zoning	\$20,000.00
Subtotal:	\$226,449.64
<b>BALANCE JULY 1, 2006</b>	\$2,808,009.78
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FY 2007</b>	\$12,059,624.64
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; ADJUSTMENTS FY 07</b>	\$8,966,209.54
<b>BALANCE: JUNE 30, 2007</b>	\$5,901,424.88

**RIVERSIDE CEMETERY FUND**

Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 112,677.55
Receipts	\$ 2,000.00
Interest	\$ 6,094.98
Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (1,000.00)
Balance, June 30, 2007	\$ 119,772.53

Non-Expendable	\$ 64,050.00
Expendable	\$ 55,722.53
	\$ 119,772.53

**MAIN STREET TREE FUND**

Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 11,118.60
Receipts	
Interest	\$ 465.90
Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (2,575.00)
Balance, June 30, 2007	\$ 9,009.50

Nonexpendable	\$ 5,000.00
Expendable	\$ 4,009.50

**TRUST & ESCROW FUNDS**

**CONSERVATION FUND**

Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 6,096.46
Interest	\$ 3,864.90
Transfers In	\$ 50,000.00

**STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND**

Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 11,857.17
Receipts	\$ 26,111.49
Interest	\$ 230.29



Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (1,037.00)	Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (23,352.54)
Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 58,924.36</u>	Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 14,846.41</u>
<b>STABILIZATION</b>		<b>LIBRARY BUILDING TRUST</b>	
Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 428,885.61	Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 37,790.65
Interest	\$ 22,085.09	Receipts	\$ -
Transfers In	\$ -	Interest	\$ 1,809.52
Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ -	Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (2,261.77)
Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 450,970.70</u>	Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 37,338.40</u>
<b>SUNDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>		<b>GRAVES LIBRARY ENDOWMENT</b>	
Balance July 1, 2006	\$ 37,432.42	Balance, July 1, 2006	\$ 32,912.63
Interest	\$ 2,009.41	Receipts	\$ -
Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ (446.24)	Interest	\$ 1,641.69
Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 38,995.59</u>	Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	\$ -
		Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 34,554.32</u>
Non-Expendable	\$ 9,218.86	<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	
Expendable	<u>\$ 29,776.73</u>	<b>GENERAL &amp; SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 5,901,424.88
	<u>\$ 38,995.59</u>	<b>TRUST AND ESCROW FUNDS</b>	\$ 837,448.44
<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL TRUST</b>		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 6,738,873.32</u>
Balance July 1, 2006	\$90,462.18		
Interest	\$4,710.15	<b>ALLOCATION OF CASH BY BANK</b>	
Receipts	\$3,825.00	<b>JUNE 30, 2007</b>	
Transfers In	\$0.00	BANK OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 679,191.85
Expenses, Transfers, & Adjustments	<u>(\$25,960.70)</u>	TD BANKNORTH	\$ 563,295.13
Balance, June 30, 2007	<u>\$73,036.63</u>	UNIBANK	\$ 55,289.46
		MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL	
Non-Expendable	\$ 5,000.00	DEPOSITORY TRUST	\$ 2,103,373.88
Expendable	<u>\$ 68,036.63</u>	UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$ 3,337,723.00
	<u>\$ 73,036.63</u>		<u>\$ 6,738,873.32</u>

^

Respectfully Submitted,  
Herbert L. Sanderson, Jr.  
Treasurer/Collector

## TREE WARDEN

Over the past year, approximately 18 of our larger dead and dying Maple trees along North and South Main Streets were removed, and then replaced with 18 disease resistant Sugar Maples. There is currently a blight impacting the Sugar Maples throughout the Valley. Additional maple trees are scheduled to be removed when the next fiscal year's funds are available:

- The maple on the west side of the Veteran's Memorial
- The maple on the Northwest corner of the Library
- Three maples on South Main Street
- Four maples on North Main Street



Special thanks to Bill Hubbard for his continued financial support for the replacement trees on North and South Main Streets. Thanks also to Dave's Nursery in Sunderland who special ordered the replacement disease resistant maples at a reduced cost to the Town.

The three Elm trees located at the Town Offices, on South Main Street and on North Main Street were treated again this year to protect them from Dutch elm disease. These elm trees are treated on a 3-yr. cycle. The treatment consists of a fungicide and fertilization. They continue to flourish and show no signs of disease.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis "Chip" Thomas  
Tree Warden

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

Dear Veterans' Town of Sunderland:

### **Heating Assistance for Veterans.**

With the high cost of heating fuel, the House and Senate has passed legislation that would provide an increase in fuel assistance to those receiving Chapter 115 Benefits. This bill requires an additional \$3.9 million annually, ensuring for the first time that fuel benefits for veterans and their dependents have a statutory minimum level instead of a discretionary annual review.

### **Increased Burial Benefits for Indigent Veterans.**

The House & Senate bill honors our veterans by increasing the existing Burial Benefits for Indigent veterans from \$ 2,000 to \$5,000, and from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for the cost of funeral and burial for indigent veterans.

### **Welcome Home Bonus information.**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Chapter 130 Acts of 2005: Six months domicile in Massachusetts immediately prior to latest enlistment/commission into the Armed forces.
- For active service on or after September 11, 2001

Discharged/Active Service must be under Honorable conditions

#### **Payment Information:**

- 1. Active service in **Afghanistan or Iraq:** **\$1,000.00**
- 2. Six months or more active service, state side or outside the continental limits of the United States. **\$ 500.00**

Active service shall not include active duty for training in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, those in the Naval Academy or active. Duty for training as a reservist in the armed forces of the United States

Sincerely,  
Leo J. Parent, Jr., Director



## VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

With Chip Thomas leading the way, a crew from the Sunderland Public Works Department broke ground for the Veterans' Memorial Park in November 2006, and our Committee began focusing on finishing touches. The memorial would be finished in 2007, and we had to finalize all the construction and dedication details for the memorial.

By January 2007, construction had come to a standstill due to winter weather, and a target "start date" to resume work with a concrete pour for the circle and niches was set for April 2007. The Committee had received and was reviewing quotes for the installation of benches, and we set the date for dedication as Memorial Day 2007.

In February the Committee decided to move the dedication date to July 4, 2007. This was needed for two reasons: (1) We were concerned that winter construction delays would mean that the memorial would not be construction complete by Memorial Day, and (2) There was some concern that dedicating the memorial in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Parade festivities would be too difficult to do. With the dedication date now finalized, the Committee began trying to map out the ceremony, secure guest speakers, an honor guard, and a military aircraft flyover from Westover or Barnes Air Bases.

In March the Committee finalized the format for names on the wall. The names of those killed in action would appear in gold lettering, and the words "Killed in Action" would appear in gold lettering at the bottom of the first panel. At the same time, the names of people who served, and the conflicts they served in were being reviewed for accuracy.

In April, Chip Thomas and his crew began working on the drain and footings for the memorial wall and sentinel stone. Cement colors were discussed with Dean Cardasis and Elizabeth Thompson of Cave Hill Architects (the designers), as well as placement of the 24 foot high flagpole. The Committee also began looking at samples of plaques representing the different military service departments, and discussing types of material, where the plaques should be located, how they should be secured, etc. Mr. Bruce Mason began working on the wall for the benches, and Chip Thomas and the designers agreed on the paint color for the concrete walkway.

By the time May arrived, the Committee had secured an Honor Guard and flyover for the July 4<sup>th</sup> ceremony from Barnes Air National Guard Base, but was still trying to obtain a guest speaker.

We purchased a flag, and Congressman John Oliver's office in Washington D.C. agreed to fly it over the US Capitol as a special tribute to our veterans, and the Committee began sending out invitation letters or e-mails to special guests. By the end of May, the benches and memorial wall had been delivered to our public works department, Bruce Mason had completed four niches, and Chip Thomas was working on the foundation for the memorial wall as well as setting of the flagpole.

Many exciting things happened in June: After some initial difficulty, the memorial wall was finally set in its foundation by a Cold Springs installation crew, the Sentinel Stone was cut, delivered, and installed, Jim Williams installed the bronze medallions representing the different military service departments, plantings around the memorial were virtually complete, cement pours were also completed, and Colonel Michael Mounts, Westover Air Force Base Commander, agreed to be our guest speaker for the dedication ceremony. The Committee finalized the program for the dedication ceremony and picnic, and began finalizing staging for the event.



The dedication ceremony on July 4, 2007 was attended by more than 500 residents of Sunderland and its surrounding communities. The event enjoyed spectacular weather, and was covered by Channel 22 and Channel 40 television news, and “The Recorder” and “Republican” newspapers. Tom Zimnowski documented the event for the Town of Sunderland in video, and Chris Zimnowski in photographs. VIPs attending the dedication included State Senator Stan Rosenberg; Colonel Michael Mounts, USAF; Tom Fydenkevez, Chair of the Sunderland Select Committee, and several different veterans of World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, and the Gulf War. Mr. Charlie Sadoski, wearing his United States Navy World War II uniform, opened the ceremony with a very memorable and moving solo rendition of “God Bless America.” Following the dedication ceremony a community picnic, courtesy in large part of Bub’s Bar-BQ of Sunderland took place in the field directly behind the Town Office Building.

In the months following July, 2007, our Committee has focused on the few final tasks remaining that are related to the memorial and memorial park. These include recommendations for perpetual care and maintenance of the wall and park, recommendations regarding corrections to existing names and adding names in the future, and preparing two volumes outlining the history of the project, and listing the names of all those who donated to the memorial. Our intent is for one volume to be housed in the Town Office Building, and the other at the Sunderland Public Library.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank all of the private and public organizations, individuals, and businesses who helped the Town of Sunderland realize what is now a wonderful new park and veterans’ memorial. We will not attempt to list everyone here because there were so many of you. You know who you are. Our community is a better place because of people like you, and those who served our country when duty called. We could not have done this without you, and we salute you for “a job well done!”

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan Van Dalsen, Chair; Will Sillin, Vice Chair; John Goodhind, Bruce Gordon, Shirley Graves, Jim Tower, Janet Conley, Elizabeth Foster

### **VOL. III STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Volume III Steering is plugging away at the chapters for our next history. We’re at the stage where we need to put polish on our pieces. The genealogy section is being formatted. We are still looking for pictures from 1955-present, if you would like to let us borrow your photo we would love it.

With great sadness Aggie Williams passed away this year. Aggie as a committee member and chair of the genealogy section gave numerous hours, expertise and a commitment to making this history one that could be enjoyed by all. We miss Aggie tremendously and have our thoughts with her family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Clark, Dan Fleming, Ernest Hofer, Wendy Houle, Cindy Hubbard, Mary Ann Kowaleck, Helen Pomeroy, Herb Sinofsky, Richard Trousdell, Jim Williams, Sr.





## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

As the New Year dawned, the Zoning Board of Appeals knew what awaited them in the coming year. Dominating the ZBA's 2007 calendar was the continuation of the open hearing process for the Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit known as the Sugarbush Meadow project. Initial hearings for the controversial 150-unit residential development were held in late 2006, but the lion's share of the hearing process occurred this year. Over the course of 10 separate hearings and a site visit, the hearing process methodically ground forward with volumes of submitted documents and levels of detailed testimony by expert consultants that had never been experienced before by this Board. At times the hearings exhibited tense exchanges and passionate input from the applicants, town officials, members of the audience and Board members. The hearing process did finally wind down and on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the ZBA closed the hearing to any further evidentiary input. As the year drew to the end, the Board held several deliberation sessions that would lead to a formal decision that would be filed in early 2008. To find out what that final decision will be and what will transpire afterwards, you'll need to stay tuned and read the Zoning Board of Appeal's 2008 annual report – nothing like a cliff-hanger to keep your attention and have you coming back for more!

I want to thank the townspeople who attended the lengthy hearings and supported the ZBA throughout the Comprehensive Permit. I would also like to thank the numerous town officials who wrote letters and reports to the Board and offered their own expert testimony. Special thanks goes to Cindy Bennett, Wendy Houle, Margaret Nartowicz and our special town counsel, Jason Talerman – together they make an awesome team and they make my job as the Chairman of the Sunderland Zoning Board of Appeals much easier. The residents of Sunderland are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of professionals working hard to protect the town's interest in this matter.

Oh, by the way, the Zoning Board of Appeals had a full docket of "normal" ZBA business to tend to in 2007. The ZBA heard and decided six cases in the year, the highest number of such applications since 2002. A seventh application for a Special Permit was filed late in the year, but that case was carried forward to 2008. In all, two petitions for Variances were denied, three Special Permits were granted and a request to modify the stipulations of a previously issued Special Permit was also granted. Noteworthy among the three granted Special Permits was one that will allow an addition to the Goten Restaurant on Old Amherst Road. The other two Special Permits were granted for the stabling of farm animals. The last remaining case resulted in an approval to modify an existing Special Permit to allow a minor change to a shielding berm that borders a gravel excavation operation on Bull Hill Road.

The combination of a heavy "normal" case load and the ever present Comprehensive Permit proceedings made 2007 truly an extraordinary year for the Sunderland Zoning Board of Appeals. I want to close this report with a sincere thank you to my fellow ZBA members who were there with me for every single step of the way. I salute them for their dedication to the Board and the personal commitment that they made on the town's behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Krol, Chair; Thomas Herrick, Clerk; Barre Tozloski, Jim Williams, Jr., James Bernotas, Associate Members; Stuart Beckley, Todd Nuermingner; Stephen Schneider, Planning Board Rep.



## **GLOSSARY OF FINANCIAL TERMS**

### **ACCOUNTANT**

The town accountant maintains custody of all town contracts and keeps a detailed record of the town debt, including the reasons for borrowing, the rate of interest when due, and payment provisions (41:57). She/he is bound as well to keep a complete set of municipal book~ including each specific appropriation, the amounts and purposes of each expenditure, and the~ receipts from each source of income. The accountant must inform town officers of unexpended balances in their appropriations (41:58). Immediately upon the close of the calendar year, she/he must prepare statements detailing the preceding fiscal year's appropriations and expenditures, appropriations for the current fiscal year, and expenditures incurred during its first six months, as well as estimated expenditures for the second six months and estimates for the ensuing fiscal year. By August 1, the accountant or treasurer must furnish the assessors with a written report of the money received other than from taxes, loans, and trust funds for the preceding fiscal years (41: 54A). A critical function of the town accountant (**41.56**) relates to the payment of the bills and payrolls, which must be examined for the requisite oaths and approvals. Should any claims be deemed fraudulent, unlawful, or excessive, payment authorization may be withheld. In such instances, a statement must be filed with the town treasurer, outlining the reasons for the refusal. Alternatively, if all is in order, the accountant will draw a warrant upon the treasury for payment.

### **APPROPRIATION**

An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount as to the time when it may be expended. Only a town meeting or the school committee can authorize money appropriated for one purpose to be used for another. Any part of a "general" appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30 automatically reverts to surplus. A "specific" or "particular" appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by town meeting vote to another account.

### **ASSESSED VALUATION**

The value placed on a particular property by the local board of assessors for the purpose of apportioning the town's tax levy among individual property owners equitably and in accordance with the legal requirement that property be assessed at "full and fair cash value," as certified periodically by the state commissioner of revenue.

### **ASSESSOR**

The board of assessors is responsible for the valuation of real and personal property for the purposes of levying the property tax: Generally, the required training, the responsibility for maintaining assessment at full and fair cash value and the required revaluation of property every three years have placed an added burden on assessing offices. As part of their function, the assessors must maintain an extensive database on each parcel of property in town. The assessors are also responsible for establishing a tax rate within the levy limit established by Proposition 2 1/2. They must perform the formal calculation of the tax rate(s) for the town on the "tax rate recapitulation sheet." The role of the assessors is important because they maintain and administer the tax base, a major source of revenue for the town.

### **CHERRY SHEET**

Traditionally printed on cherry-colored paper, this financial statement from the State still retains its nickname in spite of being pink and green. This form lists all the estimated State and County assessments reduced by any money the State expects to return to the Town. The Assessors must receive this "Cherry Sheet" before the new tax rate can be set.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD**

Department heads (either appointed, i.e., Highway Superintendent or elected, i.e., Town Clerk) usually prepare their own budgets. Each departmental budget is prepared within the framework and guidelines set by the financial team. Another major role is in the capital planning process. In order to monitor spending activity, department heads must have access to and use interim financial reports. The department head identifies capital needs and usually has the best information regarding level of utilization and specifications for the acquisition. Department Heads should meet periodically with the financial team to inform these teammates in the financial management process of major issues facing the department.

### **EXCLUSIONS**

There are two types of exclusions: debt and capital outlay expenditure. These are temporary increases in the levy limit. For debt exclusion, the additional amount for the payment of debt service is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only. The additional amount for the payment of the capital project cost is added to the levy limit only for the year in which the project is being undertaken.

### **FY-FISCAL YEAR**

July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Example: FY 02 starts July 1, 2001 and ends June 30, 2002.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**



The finance committee is the official fiscal watchdog for the town. Finance committees were established so that a representative group of taxpayers could conduct a thorough review of any or all municipal questions on behalf of all the citizens. The finance committee is primarily responsible for submitting its recommendations on the annual budget to the town meeting. The committee is commonly involved in the preparation process involving the development of the budget forms and, in many communities, the establishment of guidelines for department heads. Their statutory authority is limited to making transfers from the town's reserve fund to other line items in the budget as requested.

#### **FREE CASH**

Free cash is a term that generally represents the amount of community funds that are unrestricted and available for appropriation. Free cash is generated when actual revenue collections are more than budgeted and when expenditures are less than appropriations, or both. Once certified, that amount can only be used through 6/30 of the fiscal year. Free Cash must be certified each year.

#### **LEVY**

The property tax levy is the revenue a community actually raises through real and personal property taxes. The property tax levy is the largest source of revenue for most towns.

#### **LEVY CEILING**

The levy ceiling is 2.5% of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property in the community. (This is equal to a \$25.00 tax rate.)

#### **LEVY LIMIT**

The levy limit is the amount the town can raise. This limit is increased from year to year as long as it remains below the levy ceiling. Permanent increases in the levy limit result from the following. Automatic 2.5% increase yearly; new growth resulting from new construction and overrides.

#### **LOAN INTEREST**

If the Town has to borrow money, we have to pay back the loan plus interest. The amount voted for Treasurer Loan Interest would be a part of these payments.

#### **MEDICARE**

Wages of local government employees hired after March 31, 1986, are generally subject to the hospital insurance (Medicare) portion of the social security tax under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which became effective on April 1, 1986. The tax is equal to 1.45% of the employee's pay. The employer is required to contribute an amount equal to that deducted from the employee's pay (An additional 1.45%).

#### **NEW GROWTH**

New growth is generated by a substantial improvement to a property (generally, any new dwelling unit or an addition adding at least 50% to the value of residential property and not less than \$100,000 or 50% for commercial, industrial and personal property) in a particular year. New growth is calculated by multiplying the allowable new valuation times the prior year's tax rate. It directly increases the levy limit of a community. This is especially important for towns experiencing significant new construction, since growth frequently brings with it a need for increased services.

#### **OMNIBUS ARTICLE**

A Town Meeting Warrant Article that consolidates budget items for various departments. At the Annual Meeting the Moderator reads the total budget allowing a "question" to be called if more discussion is wanted on a certain item. A vote will be taken first on the total of items not questioned then each questioned item will be voted separately.

#### **OVERLAY**

Overlay is a reserve account that is established by the assessors annually prior to setting the tax rate. The amount established for overlay should reflect the expected amount that will eventually have to be provided to taxpayers as a result of abatements or exemptions for property taxes. The overlay should be reasonable and be based on historical trends.

#### **OVERLAY SURPLUS**

Overlay surplus is the balance in the overlay for a particular year that is an excess of the amount remaining to be collected or abated. The assessors release this excess amount from overlay to overlay surplus. As a result of new legislation, these funds may be appropriated by town meeting for any purpose for which a town may expend funds. At the close of the fiscal year, any balance in the overlay surplus account becomes part of surplus revenue.

#### **OVERRIDE**

A community can permanently increase its levy limit by successfully voting an override. The amount of the override becomes a permanent part of the levy limit base. On a ballot, override questions must be presented in dollar terms and must specify the purpose of the override. Overrides may only be presented at an election and require a majority vote for approval.

#### **RESERVE FUND**

The reserve fund is a contingency fund usually created as part of the annual budget appropriations that is used to fund extraordinary and unforeseen expenses. It is disbursed through transfers approved by the finance committee.



In general, extraordinary and unforeseen items such as an increased insurance premium or a new police cruiser are acceptable. Salary increases are generally not an acceptable use of this reserve.

#### **RESOLUTION AID**

Resolution aid refers to the amounts allocated to each city, town and regional school district as stated in the Legislative Resolution in March. It includes direct, flexible aid under the Cherry Sheet program headings Chapter 70, Additional Assistance, and any others so designed by the Legislature. Although Resolution Aid represents the bulk of Cherry Sheet Aid, the terms are not synonymous. Cherry Sheet aid represents the total of all programs appearing on the Cherry Sheet, Resolution Aid represents a portion of this aid.

#### **REVENUE SHARING**

Federal tax dollars paid to a town to be used for any purpose which is permissible use of its own revenue. Public Hearings are required before the sums may be appropriated to individual accounts at the Annual Town Meeting.

#### **SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

School departments have a special status concerning a municipality's budget. Under state law (71:34), the legislative body of a town (town meeting) shall establish the total appropriation for the support of the public schools, but may not limit the authority of the school committee to determine expenditures within the total appropriation.

#### **SELECTMEN**

The Selectmen are the closest thing a town has to a chief executive. They have overall responsibility for the general operations of town government. As chief executive body of the town, the selectmen develop guidelines consistent with policy, at the same time taking into consideration the available financial resources of the town. As the budget is the single most important policy document that a town develops each year, participation by the selectmen is essential to their maintaining a leadership role in the town. They should review all the budget requests and develop a good understanding of the finance committee's position on the budget. The selectmen should establish policy priorities and provide leadership in the constant debate between the needs of the departments for sufficient resources to deliver public services and what the taxpayer can afford.

#### **SOFTWARE SUPPORT FEES (TAX COLLECTOR)**

Money for the purpose of tape conversions (a process which converts the excise tax information at the Registry of Motor Vehicles to the Tax Collector's computer software data structures) and software updates required for the Tax Collector in order to comply with applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **STABILIZATION**

The stabilization fund may be created pursuant to 40: SB. Any interest earned shall be added to and become a part of the fund. This fund may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. The fund may be appropriated in a town at the annual town meeting or a special town meeting by a 2/3 vote.

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

The collector is charged with the responsibility for collecting all taxes owed to the municipality. This requires maintaining a good record keeping system and organization to deposit revenue into town accounts as soon as possible. All receipts must be turned over to the treasurer at least once a week (or more often during heavy collection periods). Another major responsibility of the collector is the processing of motor vehicle excise bills. These bills are generated by the Registry of Motor Vehicles and sent to the town for distribution and collection. Timely action pursuing delinquent accounts dramatically increases the likelihood of eventual collection of the tax or payment due.

#### **TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE**

Foreclosures in the Land Court are, generally speaking, the main avenue by which the treasurer will either be able to force the delinquent taxpayer to redeem the tax title or, if payment is not made, to acquire title to the property for the municipality through foreclosure proceedings.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

The town clerk certifies town meeting vote, to the treasurer, assessors and accounting officer, with each appropriation in detail including how each appropriation is to be funded. The town clerk certifies all town meeting actions, debt, and overrides to the Department of Revenue.

#### **TREASURER**

The treasurer is the custodian of all town funds. The position is responsible for the deposit, investment and disbursement of town funds. The treasurer is empowered by town meeting to issue debt on behalf of the town with the approval of the selectmen. During the year, the treasurer must determine the cash needs of the town (i.e., when money will be available to invest and when money will have to be borrowed to meet expenses.)

Treasurers should maintain a cash flow budget that is updated and adjusted on a monthly basis. They should review the banking services that are available and competitively seek those that are most cost effective. Investments should be made in accordance with a written investment policy that is reviewed with the selectmen and the finance committee. A strong record keeping system is also important to document performance

#### **WARRANT**

There are three types:

1. Treasurer's Warrant, which is signed by the board of selectmen that authorizes the treasurer to pay a list of bills (41:56).



2. Assessors Warrant to Collect, which authorizes the collector to collect the amount of tax that has been committed to the collector (59:55)
3. Town Meeting Warrant. All town meetings must be called by a warrant that states the time and place of the meeting and lists all items of business to be acted upon. The warrant must be posted 7 days before the annual town meeting and 14 days prior to a special town meeting (39:10).

