

ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF PAXTON

Year Ending June 30, 2008



Printed June 2009

IN MEMORIAM

Denis Crowley

Ruth Greenslit

Eleanor Kidwell

Raymond Kimball

Mary Savage

Myra Snyder

WITH GREATFUL THANKS FOR PAST SERVICE

Matthew Atanian
Historical Commission

Sheila Ducharme
Recreation Commission

Melinda Johnson
Cemetery Commission

Cynthia Ahearn
Wachusett Regional School District
Committee

Scott Farrar
Capital Improvement Committee

Evelyn Lawler
Finance Committee

Joe Bagshaw
Recreation Commission

John Glowik
Recreation Commission

Linda McKay
Recreation Commission

Barbara Berka
Conservation Commission

June Herron
Registrar

Andrew Serrato
Recreation Commission

James Bradbury
Board of Appeals

Eric Howe
Conservation Commission

Stephanie Stratton
Recreation Commission



TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN OFFICERS

MAY 2007 TO MAY 2008

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Selectmen	
Frederick G. Goodrich, Vice Chair	2008
John F. Malone, Chair,	2009
Michael T. Quinlivan, Clerk	2010
Town Clerk	
Deirdre Malone	2009
Treasurer	
Deirdre L. Malone	2008
Collector	
Deirdre L. Malone	2008
Moderator	
Francis A. Ford	2008
Constables	
William Trotta	2008
B. Peter Warren Jr.	2008
Tree Warden	
Adam Smith	2008
Wachusett Regional School District Committee	
Melinda Coyle	2009
Cynthia Ahearn	2008
Municipal Light Board	
Michael J. Benoit, Chair	2008
Emerson Wheeler III	2010
Paul F. Crowley	2009
Assessors	
Doris E. Huard	2008
Joanne Savignac	2009
Donna Graf-Parsons	2010
Water Board	
John F. Malone, Chair	2008
David J. Trulson	2009
Local Water Resources Mgt Official	
Charles Bolster	2010
Board of Health	
Thomas B. Carroll	2009
Judy A. Hatstat	2008
David Parent, Chair	2010
Planning Board	
Neil Bagdis, Chair	2012
David Bennett	2011
Pamela Vasil-Sagarian	2010
Henry Stidsen	2009
Julie Jacobson	2008

Library Trustees

Michelle Nelsen	2010
Charles L. Innis Jr., Chair	2010
Scott A. Martin	2009
Patricia Dawson	2008
Roger Brunelle	2008
Louise Erskine	2009

Recreation Commission

Sheila Ducharme, Resigned	2009
John Glowik, Resigned	2010
Linda McKay, Chair	2008
Joe Bagshaw	2009
Andrew Serrato	2008

Stephanie Stratton, Resigned	2009
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James Brodin	2008
Susan Chianese	2009
Robert Pelzcarski	2008
Katie Siemen	2010
Paul Riches, Chairman	2009

Cemetery Commission

Melinda Johnson	2009
Lois Melican	2008
Christopher Stone	2010

Bay Path Regional Voc. Representatives

Robert Wilby	2008
Sandy Benoit	2010

APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD

Town Administrator	
Charles Blanchard	2011
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen	
Carol Riches	2008
Town Services Coordinator	
Nancy Wilby	2008
Town Accountant	
Marilyn Mathieu, Resigned	2008
Donna Couture	
Superintendent DPW	
Michael Putnam	2008
Veteran's Agent	
Timothy Hackett	2008
Veteran's Grave Officer	
Timothy Hackett	2008

TOWN OFFICERS

MAY 2007 TO MAY 2008

Inspector of Wires		William P. Reilly, Sergeant	2009
Dennis Benoit	2008	Mark S. Savasta, Patrolman	2009
John Slabich, Asst	2008	Jason Silvestri, Detective	2009
Building Commissioner		Conservation Commission	
Richard Trifero	2008	Marisa Ayvasian	2008
Harry Johnson, Local Insp.	2008	Michael Voorhis	2010
Richard Travers	2008	Christopher Keenan, Chair	2010
		James Robert	2010
Local Superintendent of Insect Pest Control		Holly Robert, Associate	2009
Adam Smith		Daniel Gehnrich	2009
		Justin Thackeray, Vice Chair	2009
		Eric Howe	2008
Board of Appeals		Insurance Advisory Committee	
James Bradbury, Chair	2008	Deirdre Malone	
Robert Callahan	2010	Joseph Thompson	
Kirk Huelhs	2012	Gary Richards	
Paul Robinson	2011	Carol Riches	
Jeffery Wentzell,	2009	Eva Ryan	
Richard Grensavitch, Alternate	2008	Harold Smith, Chair	
Ilana Ludvigsen, Alternate	2009		
Susan Serrato, Alternate	2010		
Board of Registrars		Cable & Communication Committee	
Annette Aubertin	2009	Raymond Charette	
Phyllis Callahan	2010	Deborah Magnuson	
June Herron	2008	Nicholas Powlovitch	
		Scott Wilson	
Town Counsel		Agents for License Commission	
Peter J. Dawson, Esquire	2008	Vacant	
Sexual Harassment Officers		Central Mass Regional Planning	
Charles Blanchard	2009	Christian S. Baehrecke	
		Neil Bagdis, Alternate	
Measurer of Wood, Bark, Field Drivers & Fence Viewers		Personnel Advisory Board	
Larry Hammerberg	2008	Heather Courtney	2009
Care of Clock		James Lang	2009
Bruce Cheney		Paul Sullivan	2009
		Jeffrey Wentzell	2008
Hazardous Waste Coordinator		Council On Aging	
Jay Conte, Fire Chief	2008	Barbara Braley	2008
Emergency Management Director		Robert Callahan	2008
Jeffery Wentzell	2008	Howard Coleman	2010
Fire Chief & Forest Fire Warden		Alice Crowley	2008
Jay Conte		Curtis Hammer	2009
Police Department Chief		George Howatt	2009
Robert Desrosiers	2009	Doris E. Huard	2009
		Gerald Ryan, Chair	2010
Full Time Officers		Jean Wilde	2010
Kenneth Johnson, Patrolman	2009	Historical Commission	
David Keller, Patrolman	2009	Matthew Atanian	2008
William F. Lang, Sergeant	2009	Susan Corcoran	2008
Mark Newsham, Patrolman	2009	Lois Breault-Melican	2009

TOWN OFFICERS MAY 2007 TO MAY 2008

Daniel Gehnrich	2010	Ann Cunningham, UN	
Anita Fenton	2010		
Pamela Hair	2009	Affordable Housing Trustee	
Donna MacLean	2008	Martha Akstin	2008
Denis Melican, Chair	2008	Frederick Goodrich	2008
		John Hurley	2008
Historic District Study Committee	2008	Michael Quinlivan	2008
Matthew Atanian	2008	John Malone	2008
Lois Breault-Melican	2008	Richard Sansoucy	2008
Anita Fenton, Chairman	2008	James Stone	2008
Jay Gallant	2008		
Daniel Gehnrich	2008	Reservoir Conservation Restriction Committee	
Paul Robinson	2008	Robert Bertin	
		Peter Dawson	
Cultural Council		Scott Runstrom	
Sarah Newman	2012		
Mary Jane Gainty	2011		
Anita Fenton	2010	APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR	
Michele Nelson, Chair	2011	Finance Board	
Barbara Socha	2011	Jamie Contonio	2010
		Christian de Marcken	2010
Paxton Housing Partnership Committee		Gayle Ireland	2009
Martha Akstin	2010	James Lang	2009
Sue-Anne Bock	2009	Richard Fenton, Chair	2008
Anita Fenton	2010	Evelyn Lawler	2008
Nancy McBride	2008	June Herron	2008
Kevin Quinn	2010	Scott Runstrom	2010
Joanne Savignac	2009	Peter Schur	2009
Kathleen Sears	2009		
James Stone	2008	Town Government Study Committee	
Paul Robinson	2008	Alina Chand	2008
		Robert Hall, Chair	2008
Anna Maria Scholarship Committee		Robert Jacobson	2008
Debra M. Henderson, Chair	2008	Alice Livdahl	2008
Barbara Lorge	2008	Frederick Goodrich	2008
John Malone	2008	John Malone	2008
		Michael Quinlivan	2008
Capital Improvement Committee			
Charlie Blanchard	2008	Public Safety Complex Committee	
Michael Quinlivan	2008	Richard Bedard, Chair	
Kirk Huehls	2008	Paul Crowley	
Forrest Smith	2008	Richard Sansoucy	
Gerald Ryan	2008	Harold Smith	
Christian de Marcken	2008	Veda Ulcickas	
James Stone	2008	Jay Conte	
Donna Graf-Parsons	2008	Robert Desrosiers	
		Frederick Goodrich	
Election Officers			
Charlotte Thalin, Warden REP			
Cecilia Carroll, Inspector UN			
Helen Faucher, Inspector DEM			
Estelle Gemme, Inspector DEM, Resigned		APPOINTED BY BOARD OF HEALTH	
June T. Herron, Clerk UN		Plumbing Inspector	
Susan Stone, DEM		Dennis Harney	
Robert R. Herron, REP, Alt.		John P. Dolen, Assistant	

TOWN OFFICERS MAY 2007 TO MAY 2008

Sanitary Inspector
Wayne Curran
Richard M. Cox, Environmental Engineer

Burial Agent
Ronald Johnson

Animal Inspector
Jean Parent

Animal Control Officer
B. Peter Warren Jr.

Rubbish/Recycling Collection
Central Mass Disposal
13 Hardscrabble Road
Auburn, MA 01501

APPOINTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Master Planning Committee
Christian Baerecke
Charlie Blanchard
Jay Conte
Robert Desrosiers
Louise Erskine
Anita Fenton
Frederick Goodrich
Robert Hall
Kirk Huelhs
Nancy McBride
Denis Melican
Jason Newman
Michael Putnam
Paul Robinson
Hank Stidsen

APPOINTED BY FIRE CHIEF

Firefighters

Rudi Acuna
Kellan Boudreau
Steve Brotherton
Peter Conte
Sean Doherty
Mike Flek
Richard Gaffney – Deputy Chief
James Hansson
Richard Jenkins – Deputy Chief
Kevin Marchand
Adam Martin
Phil McPherson
Kevin Quinn – Lieutenant
Gary Richards – Lieutenant
Michael Rowe
Raymond Savignac
Orville Sheldon – Lieutenant
Daniel Spencer
Alex Ward

Peter Warren

First Responders

Cory Anderson EMT
Chris Badgis EMT
Michael Benoit – Captain – EMT
Jeff Crosby EMT
Tom DeCroteau EMT
Andrew Eisch EMT
Kenneth Grensavitch – EMT
Chris Hamilton EMT
Dan Gagne EMT
Joseph Germain EMT
Kenneth Grensavitch – EMT
Chris Hamilton EMT
Richard Latour EMT
Chris McCluskie EMT
Ben Morris EMT
Jeffrey Olson EMT
Stephen Page EMT
Shane Perry EMT
Ryan Patrician EMT
Michael Pingitore – EMT
Thomas Savage – Lieutenant EMT

Fire Inspector

Matthew Stone



TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

TOWN OF PAXTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WORCESTER SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Paxton:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, who are qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Paxton Center School Auditorium, West Street, Paxton on May 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:18PM. MODERATOR DECLARED A QUORUM PRESENT, 165 REGISTERED VOTERS SIGNED IN BY BOARD OF REGISTRARS. NO COUNTERS FOR THE EVENING.

Article 1. To see what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from other available funds, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and especially for any and all of the items shown on the following Budget: or act in any way thereon.

Article Sponsored by the Finance Committee.
Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION MADE AND PASSED TO REMOVE \$15,800 FOR EARTHDAY FROM THE BOARD OF HEALTH'S BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET. REVISED BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET \$85,690, AND TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$1,160,185. REVISED TOTAL BOARD OF HEALTH'S BUDGET \$247,162, AND TOTAL SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENT \$270,157. MOTION MADE AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY \$1,337,974, TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICE \$586,143, TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES \$67,812, TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION \$239,983. TOTAL CENTRAL PURCHASING \$128,129. TOTAL DEBT SERVICE \$854,240. MOTION PASSED FOR A TOTAL BUDGET EXCLUDING SCHOOLS OF \$4,644,623.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET OF \$163,684, WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET \$4,907,291, AND TOTAL SCHOOLS OF \$5,070,975.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE WATER EXPENSES OF \$635,905, WATER DEBTS \$30,000, WATER INTEREST \$12,750.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to take a sum of money from available funds (Free Cash and/or Overlay Surplus) and appropriate said sum to offset the Budget for the next fiscal year; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSOR TO TAKE THE SUM OF \$414,432 FROM FREE CASH TO OFFSET THE BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, or borrow and appropriate the sum of \$250,000, or any other sum, to purchase a new Mack Sander and Plow to replace the existing 1989 Mack, for the Department of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by Capital Improvement Committee.

Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Capital Improvement Committee recommend approval by borrowing.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION TO BORROW THE SUM OF \$250,000 TO PURCHASE A HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK WITH ATTACHMENTS.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, or borrow and appropriate the sum of \$33,000, or any other sum, to purchase a Police Vehicle for the Police Department; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by Capital Improvement Committee.

Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Capital Improvement Committee recommend approval to take the sum from the Capital Depreciation Fund.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE THE SUM OF \$33,000 FROM THE CAPITAL DEPRECIATION FUND TO PURCHASE A POLICE VEHICLE

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of funds to be allotted by the State under authorization of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, (as pertaining to Highway Funds) for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads, said funds to be borrowed in anticipation of State Revenue; and expended under the direction of the D.P.W. Superintendent; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Article sponsored by Board of Selectmen and D.P.W. Superintendent.

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED.

UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO BE ALLOTTED BY THE STATE AND TO BORROW IN ANTICIPATION OF STATE REVENUE.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Paxton Richards Memorial Library Trustees to create a special revolving fund from revenues received from overdue books and video fines and to authorize the use for purchasing books, videos, and library materials, not to exceed the sum of \$20,000, or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Article sponsored by the Library Trustees.

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVED TO ALLOW THE PAXTON RICHARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES TO CREATE A SPECIAL REVOLVING FUND FROM FUNDS RECEIVED FOR FINES.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, or borrow and appropriate the sum of \$10,500.00, or any other sum, to purchase twenty voting booths and a new voting machine for elections: or act in any way thereon.

Articles sponsored by the Town Clerk

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE THE SUM OF \$10,500 FROM THE CAPITAL DEPRECIATION FUND TO PURCHASE TWENTY VOTING BOOTHS AND A NEW VOTING MACHINE

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize for fiscal year 2009 all revolving accounts previously established under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½. Expenditures for fiscal year 2009 will not exceed one percent (1%) of the amount raised by taxation in fiscal year 2007; or act in any way thereon. [By state law these have to be reauthorized annually.]

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Funds to be Deposited From</u>	<u>Maximum Expenditure</u>
Council on Aging	Van Replacement	Donations and fees from riders	\$20,000.00
Recreation Revolving	Support of all Recreation Programs	Program fees, donations, gifts, private sponsorship, facilities fees	\$20,000.00

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Recreation Fee Support	Support of all Recreation Programs	Program fees, facilities fees	\$20,000.00
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Article sponsored by the Town Accountant.

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE REAUTHORIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 OF THE REVOLVING FUNDS LISTED.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to take any sum of money from available funds to reduce the tax levy for the next fiscal year; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend taking no action.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ARTICLE.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to take any sum of money from available funds to put in the Stabilization Fund; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend taking no action.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ARTICLE.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to take \$200,000 or any other sum of money from Stabilization as an offset to the total budget for the fiscal year 2009; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend taking no action.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ARTICLE.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the general court for Special Legislation to authorize the Town, notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of Chapter 44 of the general laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, to incur debt for the purpose of paying for costs incurred in the acquisition of property, designing, developing, constructing and equipping a new Public Safety Complex, so called, to house the Town's Police and Fire Departments, for a term not exceeding forty (40) years. Any debt incurred hereunder shall otherwise be subject to the provisions of said Chapter 44, or take any other action thereon.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO PETITION THE GENERAL COURT FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7 OF CHAPTER 44 OF THE GENERAL LAWS OR ANY OTHER GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW TO THE CONTRARY TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN TO INCUR DEBT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AS OUTLINED IN THIS ARTICLE.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to authorize the town, to establish an open meeting-board of Selectmen-town administrator form of government as set forth below; provided however, unless the Board of Selectmen approves the amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to adopt an act known as the Paxton Governmental Act, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's office and is available for inspection during regular business hours, or take any other action thereon.

Article sponsored by the Town Government Study Committee
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend disapproval.

MOTION ACCEPTED TO DISAPPROVE THIS ARTICLE

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to authorize the town, to establish an open meeting-board of Selectmen-town administrator form of government as set forth below; provided however, unless the Board of Selectmen approves the amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to adopt an act known as the Paxton Governmental Act, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's office and is available for inspection during regular business hours, or take any other action thereon.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend taking no action.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ARTICLE.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to authorize and allow the Paxton Housing Partnership to use approximately fifteen (15) additional acres of Town owned land for a Senior Residential Development, adjacent to the ten (10) acres already allowed for this purpose by vote of the Town on Article 4 of the June 3, 2002 Annual Town Meeting which fifteen (15) acres (i) is approximately as

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk's office, and (ii) is a portion of the land formerly of Klingele (Map 18, Lot 105), and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to permanently protect the remaining portion of Map 18, Lot 105 by means of a conservation restriction or other deed restriction; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by the Paxton Housing Partnership
Board of Selectmen recommend approval.
Finance Committee recommend disapproval.

MOTION FAILED TO APPROVE THE USE OF FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL ACRES OF TOWN OWNED LAND FOR A SENIOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

YES 39 NO 39

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with Wachusett Earthday, Inc., pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40, Section 4, and with the towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Rutland, Sterling, West Boylston and any other municipality who joins said contract, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40, Section 4A, for planning, development and operation of a household hazardous waste and recycling collection site subject to the approval of funding to satisfy the Town's financial obligation under the contract for the Fiscal Year 2009 being approved in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget; and, further, that the contract is to include but not be limited to the following terms: the planning and development phases are expected to be completed by June 30, 2009; operation will commence upon completion of planning and development and will continue for the duration of the contract; the term of the contract shall be for an initial period of five years, renewable every five years for a maximum term of twenty-five years, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommends approval.

MOTION APPROVED TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WACHUSETT EARTHDAY INC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE FOR THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING SITE.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to insure the character of Mooreland Cemetery in accord with the plan set forth by our forefathers as shown by Moorland Cemetery Master Plan of 1914. This is to include the extension (south side of Central Avenue) as the need to provide more burial lots continues to grow. Taking into consideration any future changes in burial trends the recommendation of the Supt. of the Paxton DPW, with the approval of the Cemetery Commission, will maintain the Master Plan to the best of their ability including laying out of new roads as deemed necessary by the Supt. of the Paxton DPW to provide the best accessibility, to the families of Paxton, for the final resting place of their loved ones.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend disapproval.

MOTION FAILED TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE MOORELAND CEMETERY.

YES 37 NO 38

Article 18. To see if the Town of Paxton will approve the borrowing of \$2,000,000 by the Wachusett Regional School District as authorized by the vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 25, 2008 for the purpose of paying the costs for environmental remediation and cleanup of the oil contamination of the Jefferson School Building, including ongoing operating assessment and remediation efforts as required by the Department of Environmental Protection or otherwise, and incurring debt by the issuance of bonds or notes under Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2007 and Section 15 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and to that end the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Regional District School Committee, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor; and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into and execute all contracts necessary or otherwise material to such work and to act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

2/3 VOTE YES 56 NO 4 (VOTE TAKEN BY WRITTEN BALLOT)

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF \$2,000,000 BY WRSD FOR THE COST OF ENVIROMENTALL REMEDIATION AND CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATION OF THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL BUILDING.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment of Section 7. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008. The proposed amendment deletes the words "Regional School", deletes the word "state" and substitutes therefor the word "Massachusetts", deletes the words "Regional District School", deletes the words "the State Emergency Finance Board" and substitutes at the end of the Section the words "in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws", a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk in a report entitled "Wachusett Regional School District Committee Recommendations for Changes to Regional Agreement Annual Town Meetings 2008", or act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

MOTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORDING OF SECTION 7.
OF THE WRSD AGREEMENT.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to approve the various amendments to the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008, consisting of non-substantive changes of the wording in the following Sections:

Opening Paragraph

Section 1. Members of the Regional District School Committee.

Section 2. Location.

Section 3. Type of Regional School District.

Section 4. Method of Apportioning Costs of the Regional School District.

Section 5. Payments to the Regional District School Treasurer.

Section 6. Transportation.

Section 8. Withdrawal of Member Towns - Pre-Kindergarten- Grade 12.

Section 9. Annual Report.

Section 10. Budget.

Section 12. Powers and Duties of the Regional District School Committee.

Section 13. Organization of the Regional District School Committee.

Section 14. Amendments.

Section 17. Lease of Schools.

Section 18. Professional Staff/Personnel.

Section 19. Effective Date and Jurisdiction.

Signature Page

The changes in wording consist of describing Towns as "Member Towns" rather than participating Towns, refers to the Wachusett Regional School District as the

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

"District" and to the Wachusett Regional District School Committee as the "Committee", deletes references to State laws and inserts Massachusetts General Laws and deletes the word "selectmen" and inserts therefor the word "Selectboard", a copy of the proposed amendments to the above Sections are on file at the office of the Town Clerk in a report entitled "Wachusett Regional School District Committee Recommendations for Changes to Regional Agreement Annual Town Meetings 2008", or act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORDING OF THE SECTIONS OF THE WRSD AGREEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment of Section 11. ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008. The proposed amendment to Section 11.2 deletes the words "Regional School" before the word "Committee", deletes the words "students in grades six through eight", substitutes therefor the words "middle school students" and deletes the word "only" after the word "residence" and deletes the word "towns" and substitutes therefor the words "Member Towns".

The amendment to Section 11.3 deletes the words "Regional School" before "Committee", deletes the word "elementary" and inserts therefor the words "pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8)" before the word "pupils".

The amendment to Section 11.4 deletes the words "which is" before the word "subject" and deletes the word "town" and substitutes therefor the words "Member Towns".

A copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk in a report entitled "Wachusett Regional School District Committee Recommendations for Changes to Regional Agreement Annual Town Meetings 2008", or act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORDING OF SECTION 11. OF THE WRSD AGREEMENT.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment of Section 15. INCURRING OF INDEBTEDNESS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008. The proposed amendment to Section 15 capitalizes the letter "M" in the word "member" and the letter "T" in "town" or "towns" throughout the Section, amends Section 15.2 by deleting the words "participating towns" and inserting the words "Member Towns" and by inserting the fraction (2/3) after the

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

words "two thirds", amends Section 15.3 and Section 15.6 by deleting the words "Regional District School" where they precede the word "Committee", amends Section 15.5 by deleting the figure "\$50,000" and inserting therefor the figure "\$100,000", a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk in a report entitled "Wachusett Regional School District Committee Recommendations for Changes to Regional Agreement Annual Town Meetings 2008" or act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORDING OF SECTION 15.
OF THE WRSD AGREEMENT.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment of Section 16. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM SURPLUS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008. The proposed amendment deletes the words ""Regional District School" where they precede the word "Committee", deletes the clause after "Section 16" which reads: "not to exceed \$250,000 in any fiscal year or for any single project, and", and by inserting the fraction (2/3) after the words "two thirds", a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk in a report entitled "Wachusett Regional School District Committee Recommendations for Changes to Regional Agreement Annual Town Meetings 2008", or act or do anything relative thereto.

Article sponsored by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORDING OF SECTION 16.
OF THE WRSD AGREEMENT.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to accept a new town bylaw to read as follows: Any person or family member of this person who derives an income from the funeral industry shall not hold a seat on the cemetery commission.

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition
Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend taking no action.

MOTION APPROVED TO TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ARTICLE.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, or borrow and appropriate the sum of \$50,000, or any other sum, to purchase Architectural and Engineering Services and a detailed cost estimate for the renovation of the Paxton Town Hall; or act in any way thereon.

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Board of Selectmen will make recommends disapproval.

Finance Committee will make recommends approval.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

UNANIMIOUS VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION TO BORROW THE SUM OF \$50,000 FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to name the Grove Street recreation fields Klingele Fields as voted and approved upon by the Paxton Recreation board in 2006.

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE GROVE STREET FIELDS TO THE KLINGELE FIELDS.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to name the field house at the Grove Street recreation facilities the McDonough Family Field House.

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE GROVE STREET FIELD HOUSE AS THE MCDONOUGH FAMILY FIELD HOUSE.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to name the field used by the Babe Ruth League teams The home of the John P. Glowik Jr. Baseball Field. As voted and approved by the Paxton Recreation board in 2006.

Article sponsored by a Citizens Petition

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE FIELD USED BY THE BABE RUTH LEAGUE TEAMS TO THE JOHN P. GLOWIK JR. BASEBALL FIELD.

AND YOU ARE DIRECTED TO SERVE THIS WARRANT by posting attested copies thereof, one of which shall be at the Post Office, as required by By-laws, seven days at least before the day set for holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT and make due return of the Warrant with your doing thereon at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this twenty-second day of April 2008.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Malone, Chairman
Frederick G. Goodrich, Vice-Chairman
Michael T. Quinlivan, Clerk

Meeting adjourned at 11:15pm

Francis A. Ford, Moderator
Deirdre L. Malone, Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 14, 2007 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Paxton:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in Town Elections to vote at

PAXTON CENTER SCHOOL WEST STREET

On Monday, the twelfth day of May, 2008 from 10:00AM to 8:00PM for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Town Election for the candidates for the following Town Offices:

Selectboard	Three Years	Frederick G. Goodrich
Assessor	Three Years	Doris E. Huard
Water Board	Three Years	John F. Malone
Board of Health	Three Years	Judy A. Hatstat
Planning Board	Five Years	Julie A. Jacobson
Moderator	Three Years	Francis A. Ford
Library Trustee	Two Years	Roger J. Brunelle
Library Trustee	Three Years	Patricia Dawson
Municipal Light Department	Three Years	Michael J. Benoit
Recreation Commission	One Year	Susan P. Chianese
Recreation Commission	One Year	No Candidate

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Recreation Commission	Two Years	Kathleen Siemen
Recreation Commission	Three Years	James F. Brodin Jr.
Recreation Commission	Three Years	Robert Pelczarski
Constable	Three Years	William A. Trotta
Constable	Three Years	B. Peter Warren Jr.
Cemetery Commission	Three Years	Lois Breault-Melican
Town Treasurer	Three Years	Deirdre L. Malone
Town Collector	Three Years	Deirdre L. Malone
Southern Worcester County Voc. School	Three Years	Robert A. Wilby
Wachusett Regional School Committee	Three Years	Robert Pelczarski
Tree Warden	Three Years	Adam P. Smith

HEREIN FAIL NOT and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

GIVEN under our hands this twenty-fifth day of April 2008.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

John F. Malone, Chairman
Frederick G. Goodrich, Vice-Chairman
Michael T. Quinlivan, Clerk

Francis A. Ford, Moderator
Deirdre L. Malone, Town Clerk



*REPORTS OF ELECTED AND
APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS
AND BOARDS*

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

In the eyes of the Selectboard I am sure they feel many things were accomplished and many were not but I can also say it was a turbulent year, a year in which we had many ups and downs so I wish to visit some of these.

The Master Plan moved forward under the watchful eye of the Town Administrator, heading towards an acceptance vote next year.

The Public Safety Building came to pass and a new era or growth has begun, this future building will be a tribute to Paxton, the people who serve and the people who live here. We had another difficult year with budget and finance. The budget process is always a thought provoking one in which many people spend a tremendous amount of time deliberating and making decisions which impact all of us. We as the Selectboard need to recognize the Finance Committee; it's members and Chairman and thank them for the continuous effort to balance the budget every year.

Keeping on the budget subject, we continue to find a difference of opinion between the Wachusett Regional School Committee and the Town, which in the upcoming years will be more controversial and divisive.

The Town employees, in all departments continue to strive to make Paxton a Town to be proud of, from Safety to Light, Highway to Library, Town Hall to Council on Aging we all should say thank you for what we have, not what we would like.

But on the down side of things we had many areas throughout the year in which we can improve and hopefully have.

We regrettable lost five fine people who gave of their time, expertise and money to bring our community a fine Recreation program. This was regrettable but personal decisions were made for individual reasons and we need to say thank you for their service.

On the bright side we have continued with our Recreation program, rocky at first, but as we need to learn, patience will bring us where we need to be and we now have five fresh new faces and new staff to carry on. Great job to all past and present.

There was also what I consider a dark side of this year when some members on the Selectboard felt it necessary, to call for an investigation of certain personnel and the reprimand of the Town Administrator, along with the temporary resignation of a Selectman. As a small Town with many personalities we need to discuss not accuse, agree to disagree not just argue our point until people stop asking, to discuss what an approach should be, not shoot from the hip and expect results.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

The Board continues to struggle to decide what exactly the Town Administrators role should be or what the Selectboard role should be with support from the Town Administrator. This is an open question perhaps never to be answered.

Good Points:

- Secured a \$2,000,000 loan from Rural Development for the building of the Public Safety Complex.
- Signed the Earthday Agreement.
- Replaced the Storm Windows at the Council on Aging Building
- Signed the Town Administrators contract.

I would like to thank everyone who serves on a committee/board for all his or her time and effort, without which we would not be able to accomplish the things we do as a small town.

In conclusion we are small in number but strong in heart and involvement, we have people committed to making this community great, including all people that serve and have served Paxton. God Bless You all God Bless Paxton and God Bless the USA.

Respectfully Submitted,

John F. Malone
Chairman of the Board of Selectmen

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated department heads, town staff, elected officials, and the numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Paxton the fine community that it is.

Fiscal year 2008 was another year of accomplishment, and the Town moved forward in many areas:

- Work on the Master Plan continued with additional public hearings along with regular monthly meetings of the Steering Committee.
- The Public Safety Complex Building Committee hired an Owners' Project Manager, NETCO, for the project in September. The house needed for the project was acquired on September 18, 2007. The design was completed on schedule in December and the project was advertised in January. Fourteen qualified General Contractors bid on the project, which came in more than a million dollars under the Architect's estimate. B. W. Construction Co. of Spencer was awarded the contract in March and ground was broken in early April. Work continued throughout the year with the project remaining on schedule and within the budget.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

As a result of the competitive bid environment, the total project cost which was approved at \$8.9 million is expected to be no more than \$7.8 million.

- A Town Government Study Committee was formed to consider the recommendations of the Financial Management Review conducted last year by the Department of Revenue. The Committee recommended a bylaw formalizing the responsibilities of the Town Administrator and providing for the appointment of the Collector and Treasurer based on professional qualifications. This was rejected at Town Meeting, which means that the role of the Town Administrator continues to be subject to change by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen and as elected positions; Collector and Treasurer candidates do not require any financial experience.
- The Fire Department was relocated to the DPW and the steel building at the Fire Station site was moved and joined to the DPW Building. After the new Public Safety Complex is completed the DPW will continue to use the steel building.
- The mansard roofs on the Town Hall were replaced in August 2007.
- An Investment Policy for the Town was drafted by the financial team and adopted by the Board of Selectmen with a goal of maximizing the return on funds while maintaining safety and liquidity.
- The Rural Development Department of the USDA committed \$2,000,000 as a low interest long-term loan to the Public Safety Complex.
- The Town submitted its second annual Commonwealth Capital application and due to our adoption of Smart Growth Principles (Low Impact Development Stormwater and Open Space Residential Development Bylaws) our score increased from 50 to 63. This is an important requirement for obtaining State grants.
- A No-cost Technical Assistance Grant was received from the State to improve the Town's permitting process. The Central Mass Regional Planning Commission will review our building permitting process, recommend improvements and produce a Permitting Guidebook for Residents and Developers.
- The first year of our cooperative agreement to provide paramedic level ambulance service to the Town was very successful and has proven to be a great benefit to the community.
- I regularly attended the planning meetings of the Wachusett Earthday Hazardous Waste and Recycling Site Committee, and the Board of Selectmen signed a memorandum of understanding we developed, allowing Paxton to become a member of this facility, which is planned to be opened by the fall of 2009.
- A Committee Handbook was drafted and after review by the Board of Selectmen it was adopted in order to provide guidance and direction on legal and procedural issues such as the Open Meeting Law for the various boards and committees in Town as they conduct their assigned tasks,
- In an effort to assist in the accuracy of the 2010 Census the Town, through the work of Assessor Donna Graf-Parsons, provided the highest allowable level of review of the data being used by the Federal Census Program. Several errors in the Federal census information were uncovered and corrected.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

- In order to comply with the latest Criminal Offender Record Information regulations we drafted and adopted a policy to provide for the fair and consistent treatment of all CORI checks. These checks are required to be conducted for employment, volunteer work and licenses.
- In order to comply with new accounting rules for determining Other Post-employment Benefit costs by FY10 as required by GASB 45, we worked as a test community with the developer of an alternative method of determining this liability that has now become available for other smaller communities to use. This saved the town the cost of an actuarial study and allowed us to determine our liability a year before it was required.
- In order to remain in compliance with the American Disabilities Act we developed a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan that was accepted by the USDA. We are now in compliance until March 2011.

I would also like to again express my appreciation to the Board of Selectmen for their continued support, and to Carol Riches for the knowledgeable assistance she provides on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles T. Blanchard
Town Administrator

BOARD OF HEALTH

The following is a breakdown of Board of Health's activities for fiscal year 2008:

Inspections by Sanitary Inspector:

Perc tests	44
Septic plans reviewed for approval	28
Septic Bottom inspections	34
Final inspections	29
Misc. Septic Inspections	4

Food Inspections	17
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Pool & Spa Inspection	7
Temp. Food	4
Summer Camp Inspection	3

Well water permits issued by BOH 2

Medical Cases followed by BOH:

10 Lyme Disease
3 Chronic Hepatitis C
1 Giardiasis

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

- 1 Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease
- 1 Cryptosporidiosis
- 2 Campylobacteriosis
- 1 Group A Strep
- 1 Influenza A

Four dog bites forwarded to Jean Parent, Inspector of Animals, to quarantine. One person and one dog given rabies shots for animal bites of unknown origin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Carroll
Board of Health

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Planning for the municipal portion of the budget by itself saw few surprises this year, but ultimately was negatively impacted by Education. The budget for General Government (debt service included) as approved by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May was \$4,644,623. This amount was \$161,164 greater than that approved for FY2008 and represented an increase of 3.6%. Once again, we were forced to utilize our entire Free Cash of \$414,432 to balance the budget and no sums were added to the Capital Asset Stabilization or the General Stabilization Funds. Municipal salaries experienced a Cost-of-Living Adjustment of 3%. Although Central Purchasing was increased 76% above that of the prior year, most of this increase resulted from the first time inclusion of projected expenditures for diesel fuel. Library utilities were returned to the library budget to simplify their auditing for certification. One bright spot in the budget preparation was the re-negotiation of the Spencer Rescue Contract that is included in the Emergency Medical Services account. A \$24,058 savings from the FY08 budgeted value was realized.

On the revenue side, the State approved a State Aid budget that included for Paxton a revenue increase of \$9,704. This amounted to only a 1.4% increase from FY08. New growth was down substantially in reflection of the progressively declining economy.

Five Warrant Articles authorizing appropriations were approved at the Annual Town Meeting. These Articles included funds to purchase a dump truck for the DPW (\$250,000), a cruiser for the Police Department (\$33,000), voting booths and new voting machine for elections (\$10,500) and Architectural and Engineering Services associated with the historical/functional renovation of the Town Hall (\$50,000). Authorization was given to enter into a regional contract with Wachusett Earthday, Inc. in anticipation of the construction of a permanent recycling center to be located in West Boylston. Paxton's share of construction expenses, \$15,800, was included in the Board of Selectmen account.

With release of the initial WRSD budget, it was immediately clear that the

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

municipal budget would require a downward adjustment to accommodate the request. The state-mandated Foundation Budget of \$4,033,083 and the WRSD-mandated additional assessment of \$647,278 reflected 5.5% and 24.2% increases, respectively, from the prior year. When faced with the WRSD request, the Finance Committee immediately reduced twenty-two Paxton municipal budgets by \$134,392 (as itemized in the Warrant cover letter) in an attempt to balance the budget. These decreases were real and did not merely reflect shifts in funding between accounts. Further cuts were made as the budget process continued. At the Town Meeting the voters approved an increase in the WRSD budget (compared to FY08) of \$226,051 as requested by the Superintendent and School Committee rather than the increase of \$199,097 that was requested by the Finance Committee. In direct response to this vote, the Highway Budget was further reduced by \$30,000 to achieve a balanced town budget. Not including debt service, in the end the Paxton operating budget had increased 1.7% from the previous year, while Paxton's share of the WRSD budget had increased 4.5%. In that the WRSD budget is close to 50% of Paxton's total yearly expenditures, this inequity of revenue distribution represents a problem that is not sustainable in the long run. Unless in the future an override is proposed, actively supported by the WRSD administration and successfully passed, or the WRSD controls its budget growth, serious negative ramifications to the town services provided to all members of the Paxton community will ensue.

Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee
Richard A. Fenton, Chair

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The firefighters moral remains high as the department officers continue to prioritize personnel safety, physical fitness, mental well being, and training in the skills needed to perform the job as firefighters.

The time commitment and the risk of injury increases each year, therefore it is difficult to recruit new members to our profession. We advertise in newspapers, recruit at schools and solicit through word of mouth. New recruits must be willing and able to pass a physical examination, strength requirements, attend Mass Fire Academy Firefighter 1 and 2 sponsored by our regional fire district. The classroom and practical schedule is 160 hours completed in 5 months, and then all recruits must pass a written and practical exam before they are allowed on the department.

Through fund raising events, we purchase and maintain equipment for our fitness facility. Paxton Fire Department has funded all fitness equipment through fundraisers.

Paxton Fire Department began ambulance ALS transport service in July 2008 with our used vehicle. Paxton Fire and Spencer Rescue Squad Inc. entered into an agreement to provide ambulance service to the citizens of Paxton and provide Paxton Fire" EMT'S

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

with training and skill reviews. The regional approach between our two services has been a success and many town residents have benefited from this service.

With many fires, auto accidents, and request for mutual aid emergencies this year, only one injury occurred to a Paxton Firefighter. This is a direct result of the department's formal structured management system, with safety and accountability designees responsible for all firefighters at all emergencies and training events. Paxton belongs and has spearheaded a Regional Safety Committee, which promotes and trains in safety, accountability and rescue on the fire ground.

The Public Safety Complex began construction April 2008 with a completion date of May 2009. Many thanks to the Building Committee for their continued work on this project to see it through to completion.

In closing I would like to thank the Fire Department officers for their professionalism, dedication, courage and support they have given to the department and myself as chief. I would also like to thank the entire membership and their families, spouses and children give up a lot so their fathers or mothers can respond to emergencies. The most important part of my job is to strive for the safest emergency operations, modern training techniques, and modern equipment to assure all of us come home to our families after an emergency incident, healthy both physically and mentally.

These members are:

Rudi Acuna

Cory Anderson EMT

Chris Badgis EMT

Michael Benoit – Captain – EMT

Kellan Boudreau

Steve Brotherton

Peter Conte

Jeff Crosby EMT

Tom DeCroteau EMT

Sean Doherty

Andrew Eisch EMT

Mike Flek

Richard Gaffney – Deputy Chief

Dan Gagne EMT

Joseph Germain EMT

Kenneth Grensavitch – EMT

Chris Hamilton EMT

James Hansson

Richard Jenkins – Deputy Chief

Richard Latour EMT

Kevin Marchand

Adam Martin

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Chris McCluskie EMT
Phil McPherson
Ben Morris EMT
Jeffrey Olson EMT
Stephen Page EMT
Shane Perry EMT
Ryan Patrician EMT
Michael Pingitore – EMT
Kevin Quinn – Lieutenant
Gary Richards – Lieutenant
Michael Rowe
Thomas Savage – Lieutenant EMT
Raymond Savignac
Orville Sheldon – Lieutenant
Daniel Spencer
Alex Ward
Peter Warren

Respectfully submitted,

Jay J. Conte
Fire Chief - EMT

PAXTON COUNCIL ON AGING

“It shall be the mission of the Council on Aging to evaluate, promote, and encourage new and existing services and activities which enhance the quality of life for our seniors”. The Council has strived to meet its mission during this past year. Each year brings new and exciting programs to our list of events. And this past year was no exception. The seniors now have the opportunity to get out of the house and come to our “Lunch & Movie” program. Each month the Council puts on a luncheon for the seniors followed by a new release or vintage classic movie. This program has been met with great success. It is just another example of the Council’s effort to increase the quality of life for our seniors.

Once again, the Annual Summer Picnic took center stage at Moore State Park with over 120 in attendance. The weather that day was perfect and the seniors were entertained with live music, an historic interpretation and, as usual, wonderful food prepared by the Chefs and Chefettes of the Council.

This past year saw an increase in our Friendly Visitor Program and our home visits to keep in touch with our more fragile seniors. It is our ongoing intent to contact as many shut-ins as possible. This is part of the core of our mission and the Council rates this as one of our top priorities.

The Council continued to offer a wide variety of programs and events during this past year. We saw an increase in participation of our Men’s Club, the Book Club, the

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

International Learning Program Breakfasts, Health & Wellness Seminars, and Intergenerational Programs.

The Council is looking forward to increasing programs that will attract the "Boomer" population, now beginning to reach the magic 60. It is offering more programs later in the evening to accommodate those seniors who are still part of the workforce. It is important that we concentrate on programs that will attract these seniors in this high technology age. This has become apparent having seen a drastic drop of seniors who take the beginners course in computers. They are now computer savvy. And we no longer have to offer that course.

The Challenges facing the Council on Aging during this coming year will be formidable. Budgets are extremely tight during this recession. However, the Council expects to maintain its high quality of performance and will take steps to insure it meets its mission statement.

Respectfully submitted,
George Heeley, Director

RICHARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Library continues to be a very active place. Last year we loaned out over 63,000 materials to our patrons. This included books, DVD's, books on CD and tape, museum passes and more.

Once again, we were a "net lender" with 1835 loans to other libraries versus 1480 that we borrowed on behalf of our patrons.

The Library continues to be an active center for the community. Aislinn Lewis, our children's librarian, has several story hours for the 2-5 year olds as well as a reading group for the middle school students. This past summer saw the building of fairy houses, A henna tattoo artist, and a stuffed animal birthday party. Wonderful summer highlights included a live wolf program and Jungle Encounters with a wide array of unusual animals. Our summer reading program adopted several endangered animal species through the Defenders of Wildlife.

Our wonderful "Friends" group, with Anita Fenton as chairman, continues to support the library. Our annual book and bake sale was a success and this year we had an "Artist Show" that was very well received. The Friends group (with Sarah Root-Simone and Sarah Howe as children's coordinators) supported the annual visit with Santa and this year they brought back the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt. The Halloween party was extraordinary with games, goodies, a fortune-teller and Spiderwick. For the adults, the Friends brought back the ever-popular "Antique Appraisal" night.

The Cultural Council and the Friends group have purchased numerous passes for the library that patrons may check out and receive free or reduced admission to. These include the Museum of Fine Arts, the Worcester Art Museum, Higgins Armory, the Ecotarium, Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, the Eric Carle Museum and more.

Several Girl Scout troops meet at the library and can always be depended on to assist the library with our programs.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

We are pleased with our support from the town and feel that the library continues to meet many of the needs of the community. Barbara Braley and Suzanne Wheeler deliver excellent service on the circulation desk and Jenn Robideau holds up the back end on tech support.

Respectfully submitted

Deborah J. Bailey, Director

Library Hours

Winter

Sunday	Closed	Wednesday	9-12, 1-5
Monday	Closed	Thursday	1-8
Tuesday	1-8	Friday	9-12, 1-5
	Saturday	10-4	

Summer

Sunday	Closed	Wednesday	1-5
Monday	Closed	Thursday	1-5, 7-9
Tuesday	1-5, 7-9	Friday	1-5
	Saturday	Closed	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The DPW facility on Holden Road has undergone significant improvements in FY08. First, the addition of a steel building, formerly Paxton Fire Station 2, will provide much needed extra storage for vehicles and equipment. Secondly, we inherited the old fire station generator, which along with a major electrical system upgrade, can now provide emergency power to the entire facility. This project was topped off with a new base coat of asphalt on the driveways and parking lot. The trade off for all of this will be storing the large fire apparatus in our building until the completion of the new safety complex.

In working around all this, the department continued to do routine road maintenance and improvement projects. Street sweeping and roadside mowing were completed around the entire town. Catch basins were cleaned and repaired as necessary. Paving projects included two sections of Marshall Street, (cold plane, berm, type I asphalt) and a small portion of Camp Street, (reclamation, berm, Type I). These were funded by State Chapter 90 funds and the town blacktop account. Road grindings from the Marshall Street areas were used to cap the gravel section of Brigham Road, which will reduce erosion problems.

The Town submitted its annual Phase II MS4 Storm water Permit in May. One of the largest requirements for this permit was to locate, and map all of the town's drainage and outfall pipes. The DPW did one portion and Mr. Zach Ryan finished the second half as an Eagle Scout project.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Zach and his helpful volunteers did a tremendous job too and deserve a big thank you as well as our Town Administrator, Charles Blanchard, for his time and effort to see this permit process through.

The DPW began installing new street signs as the initial phase of the federally mandated sign program. All main roads had its annual line painting done including the center of town crosswalks and stop lines.

The Winter Season kept the DPW crew busy with numerous small snow/ice events. A total of 89" of snow was recorded and there were many callouts for melting and refreezing.

The DPW continues to maintain the grounds at both Mooreland and Center Cemetery.

- 13 Burials
- 4 Cremations

The DPW continues to assist East National Water Company in all aspects of the Water Distribution operation. The Water Department repaired two emergency water main breaks. They also repaired two service line leaks, which were discovered during a leak detection grant program that was funded by MA DEP.

The DPW/Water Department completed a major infrastructure improvement by replacing three faulty valves at the 122/31 Pleasant Street/West Street intersection.

I would like to thank the staff at Paxton Electric Light for their diligent effort in providing billing and customer support for the Paxton Water Department.

The DPW employees should be recognized for their hard work and dedication in providing such an important public service to the Town of Paxton and its residents.

Respectively submitted,
Mike Putnam
Superintendent

THE PAXTON TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

The Paxton Town Government Study Committee was created last spring to address issues raised in a Financial Review of the Town conducted by the Local Services Division of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). The committee consisted of the three select board members and four citizens. Mr. Blanchard also attended the meetings. The DOR report pointed out that our existing government structure did not recognize the existence of a town administrator, a position approved by the voters in 2002, first funded in 2004, and which Charles Blanchard has held for almost three years under the authority of a job description. The DOR stated in its report, "We recommend that Paxton pursue a charter, via the home-rule procedure or special act, to adopt a centralized, strong town administrator

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

form of government.” The DOR also recommended that Paxton “appoint a combined position of Treasurer and Collector.”

Our committee quickly concluded that the special act procedure would be the most expedient. We had little trouble defining the duties of the town administrator, because Mr. Blanchard had been performing these duties. We had the job description developed by the prior town committee that conducted the search for a town administrator and recommended Mr. Blanchard. In addition we had recent legislation from other Massachusetts communities in similar situations to use as models.

Our committee voted unanimously on nearly every decision. Considerable time was spent examining and restructuring the organizational chart showing the order of command for town employees. We voted that department heads in town must report to the town administrator and that he should appoint them, subject to the approval of a majority of the select board. We felt that this structure would give the town administrator the necessary authority to run the day-to-day operation of the town.

Much of our debate centered on the positions of the treasurer/collector and town accountant. Most of us felt that the town administrator should also appoint these two positions, subject to the approval of a majority of the select board. We agreed with DOR that well-qualified professionals should hold these key positions given the increasing complexity of these jobs. We wanted to avoid the situation in which an unqualified candidate was elected then forced to resign, leaving the town in a precarious position, as has happened on at least one occasion. We also felt that the town administrator would work closely with the people in these positions and should have an important role in hiring them. Finally, we felt the town administrator was in a better position to conduct searches and interviews to obtain the most qualified candidates. We believed that the select board’s power to establish the guidelines for searches, participate in interviews, and to reject candidates, provided sufficient checks and balances.

DOR and town counsel have reviewed the proposed legislation and we have incorporated their proposed revisions. We believe that Paxton has benefited from the professional management of a town administrator, and that passage of this act will give Mr. Blanchard, and future town administrators, the direction, authority and job security to do the job in the best possible manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hall, Chair
Alina Chand, Vice Chair
Alice Livdahl, Clerk
Frederick Goodrich
John Malone
Michael Quinlivan
Robert Jacobson

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Within this section of the Paxton Municipal Light Department's annual financial report, management provides narrative discussion and analysis of the financial activities of the Paxton Municipal Light Department for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. The Department's performance is discussed and analyzed within the context of the accompanying financial statements and disclosures following this section.

Overview of the Financial Statements:

The basic financial statements include (1) the statements of net assets (2) the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets (3) the cash flow statements and (4) notes to the financial statements.

The Statements of Net Assets are designed to indicate our financial position as of a specific point in time. Our net assets increased \$239,282 or 6.6%.

The Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets summarize our operating results and reveals how much, if any, of a profit was earned for the year. Our net profit for the year ended December 31, 2007 was \$213,108 which was an decrease of \$118,360 or 35.7% as compared to the profit for the prior year. The department maintained a modest operating income with the balance of net profit coming from investment income.

The Statements of Cash Flows provides information about the cash receipts and cash payments during the accounting period. It also provides information about the operating activities, investing activities and financing activities for the same period. The statement shows a net increase in cash of \$166,515 provided by operating activities. Our ending cash and cash equivalents balance increased by \$141,008.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane K. Dillman, Manager

Michael J. Benoit, Chairman
Emerson W. Wheeler, III, Clerk-Secretary
Paul F. Crowley
Paxton Light Commission

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Management's Discussion and Analysis Of 2007 Operating Results Of The Paxton Light Department

Overview of the Financial Statements:

Summary of Net Assets

	2007	2006
Current Assets	\$2,271,746	\$2,100,418
Noncurrent Assets	3,680,370	3,516,068
Total Assets	5952,116	5,616,486
Current Liabilities	331,853	314,216
Noncurrent Liabilities	1,760,347	1,681,636
Total Liabilities	2,092,200	1,995,852
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	1,207,188	1,089,393
Unrestricted	2,652,728	2,531,241
Total Net Assets	3,859,916	3,620,634
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$5,952,116	\$5,616,486

Summary of Changes in Net Assets

	2007	2006
Operating Revenues	3,106,855	3,212,312
Operating Expenses	3,079,880	3,043,666
Operating Income (Loss)	26,975	168,646
Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	186,133	162,822
Income Before Contributions and Transfers	213,108	331,468
Transfers In—Restricted for Capital Projects	26,174	52,253
Beginning Net Assets	3,620,364	3,236,913
Ending Net Assets	\$3,859,916	\$3,620,634

Financial Highlights:

Operating revenues declined while expenses increased over the previous year. The decrease in revenues was attributable to the power cost adjustment, which was reduced in January 2007 when energy price projections had moderated after the post Katrina price

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE **TOWN OF PAXTON**

projections for 2006. Total operating expenses increased \$36,214 or 1.2% over 2006. Purchased power cost was 79.0% of operating expense in 2007 and 80.3% in 2006.

Non-operating revenues and expense consists of investment income and interest expense. Our investment income increased for 2007 in comparison to 2006 by \$23,311 or 14%.

The department had operating income of \$26,975 for 2007 as compared to \$168,646 for 2006. The revenues billed for power supply cost in 2007 were \$180,475 less than the total power supply cost for the year. Revenues billed for distribution expenses were used to offset the shortfall, and no future liability was carried forward.

Our electric rates exclusive of the power cost adjustment have remained unchanged since 2004. Projections of power costs for 2007 were lower than actual costs, and the adjustment was increased during the year. The distribution charges were again appropriate to provide income, the bulk power costs are not being recovered in full through the Energy Charge and Purchased Power Adjustment. The variance of power supply costs to billed revenues is tracked monthly and management will continue to recommend the application of available distribution billings against power supply costs if appropriate.

Power Supply

The Paxton Municipal Light Department provides power for its customers through both fixed contracts and the open market power supply in an effort to stabilize power costs. Purchased Power costs are the costs associated with buying energy and having it delivered to the Town of Paxton. There are circumstances that will make prices fluctuate, such as extended periods of time with above or below normal temperatures, unexpected power plant shutdowns for unforeseen repair, and fuel prices being affected by global issues. The Light Department has tried to position its customers so that these situations will not have an overbearing burden on them.

Paxton continues to purchase more of its power from the market as our load profile changes. Peak demand continues to reflect summer air-conditioning and other cooling load requirements. As Paxton's peak becomes coincident with the regional peak, power supply cost will be more dependent on market price. Additionally, orders issued by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and market-design development through ISO-New England continue to add to the power supply cost for Paxton. Kilowatt hour sales were 22,545,814 and 21,908,518 in 2007 and 2006 respectively, or a 2.9% increase. Reliability-Must-Run (RMR) payments and other market-design features that seek to bring competition to energy pricing in the New England market continue to have an impact on the cost of purchased power.

The Paxton Municipal Light Department, along with other MMWEC members and other public power entities in New England, has challenged RMR payments at ISO-New England, at FERC, and in court. We have prevailed on some of these challenges resulting in reductions or refunds. Legislation is being sought that will compel FERC to

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

ensure the ISO's and RTO's operate to provide the consumer with the reliable energy at lowest reasonable cost.

Utility Plant and Debt Administration:

Utility Plant

The Department had Gross Utility Plant acquisitions of \$315,714 in 2007. Distribution upgrades and replacements to overhead wire, poles and transformers accounted for 30% of these costs. We installed 8 electric services to new customers and completed the conversion of Anna Maria College to 13.8 KV. With this completed the last of the 4800 system was retired.

A new Digger Derrick was line truck was purchased in 2007 at a cost of \$189,000. The cost of the new digger derrick was paid from the balance of Other Special Funds which was \$62,064 at year end.

Radio communications were upgraded in conjunction with the move of the Town's Emergency Dispatch Center. The cost of communications upgrades was \$11,400 and the Department will contribute additionally to upgrade system for the town's benefit in 2008. The radio upgrades in 2007 were paid from depreciation. The cost in 2008 will be paid for from operations.

Debt Administration

The Paxton Municipal Light Department remains a vertically integrated utility, as do all Municipal Light Departments in Massachusetts. This means that we are allowed under the Massachusetts Utility Restructuring Laws to retain our ownership and control over our electrical generation assets. Investor owned utilities, such as Massachusetts Electric Company, were required to sell their generation assets as a result of the same restructuring laws.

The generation assets, which we have a vested ownership in along with the other municipal electrical systems in New England, are financed through municipal bonds. The collective debt service owed under these bonds stands today at approximately \$763 million of which Paxton Municipal Light Department's share is \$5.4 million. The amount owed on these bonds represents the total debt of Paxton Municipal Light Department today. The bond payments and interest have been and will continue to be paid with revenues received from the sales of electricity.

Significant Balances and Transactions:

Purchased Power Working Capital

The continually developing market rules continue to place a fair amount of emphasis on financial assurance and financial guarantees. Paxton continues to work through its agent, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) to ensure we can

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

continue to participate and take advantage of opportunities to supply reliable, competitively priced electricity to our customers.

The purchased power working capital is an amount held by MMWEC. MMWEC requires that they hold a set amount of capital (minimum of two months) from which it may pay our power obligations when they are due. They replenish the fund as needed from our monthly invoice payments. Developments in the power market continue to create pressure on working capital requirements that secure Paxton's financial guarantee to operate in the market. Paxton currently has some surplus in working capital and the required level of additional working capital is not expected to impact rates in 2008.

Rate Stabilization Fund

The rate stabilization fund was created as an aftermath of deregulation. These funds are for unexpected escalation in costs, such as the *decommissioning of nuclear power plants before the end of their operating license, unusual price spikes in fuel prices and transmission cost increases. This fund was established to help us maintain our competitive position when the investor-owned utilities are no longer collecting their "stranded costs**". Our rate stabilization balance at December 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$1,725,097 and \$1,647,441 respectively. There was no appropriation to Rate Stabilization from current earnings in 2007 or 2006 other than the interest earned on the Fund.

In 2008, interest earned on the rate stabilization fund will be used to reduce purchased power cost to Paxton ratepayers. The fund balance is expected to be maintained at the current level throughout the year.

Decommissioning of a nuclear power plant means the complete removal of any trace of that power plant. Paxton has decommissioning obligations associated with power sales agreements through MMWEC to purchase power from Millstone III and Seabrook. Decommissioning costs are being collected as the plants operate so that at the scheduled end of term of operation there will be monies to decommission the plant. If for some reason the plant is shut down early funds have to be made available to decommission at that time.

Stranded costs refer to long-term debt or contractual obligations previously incurred that are higher than the new market costs. The investor-owned utilities were required to sell their generation assets as a condition to recover their stranded costs. The proceeds from the sales were used to pay off some of their costs. In place of owning generation, we have long-term power contracts with long-term payment obligations.

Depreciation Fund

Paxton Municipal Light Department maintains a depreciation fund, which is managed by the Town of Paxton Treasurer. This fund is used to pay for large capital investments such as new vehicles, distribution system upgrades and new construction. This fund is required by state statute. We annually set aside 3% to 5% of our gross cost-of-plant to be used for capital improvements and additions. In 2007, we added \$197,919 or 5% of our gross

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

cost-of-plant, for future acquisitions and used \$126,723 for asset purchases. All interest on this fund is added to the fund balance and remains in the account.

Significant Developments

Stonybrook Unit 3

The Paxton Municipal Light Department is participating in development of a new gas-fired generation plant proposed by MMWEC through Special Project 2006A and formally named Stonybrook Unit 3 in 2007, with an expected winter output rating of 280 MW. The Department has signed up for a 1 MW share of the project.

The first phase of the project produced a preliminary engineering design, cost estimates, alternative site analysis, and identified potential project participants. The second phase, budgeted at \$5 million and scheduled to last 24 months, will encompass all the work preliminary to final engineering design and construction. It will include the regulatory, environmental, permitting, siting, detailed design, contract development and financing development work required to move the project forward. The third phase will include financing, unit construction, and startup activities. Commercial operation is currently scheduled for mid-2010. The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$220 million.

Berkshire Wind

Through MMWEC's Project 2002A, Paxton has participated with several other municipal systems investigating the potential for purchase of wind generation. In 2004, the Department contracted for a share of the output of the Berkshire Wind Power Project. Since then, development of the project has been delayed for various reasons. In 2008, Paxton, along with 14 other municipal systems agreed to purchase the assets of the project which includes land and permitting. The closing on the sale is expected by mid-May and completion of the project is expected to take 18 to 24 months.

Wentworth Substation

The Paxton Municipal Light Department takes delivery of energy from the NGRD 127A transmission line through the Wentworth Substation. The substation, constructed in the mid 1970's, is aging and reaching obsolescence. In addition, the federal government through FERC is requiring adherence to new mandatory reliability standards. In 2007, the Light Department began looking at upgrading the facility to provide reliable and efficient power delivery to the town. The approximate estimated cost for substation upgrades and system improvements is \$1.5 million. The cost of the substation upgrade will come from available cash and financing repaid from future revenues.

Wind Generation in Paxton

Our investigation into wind turbine generation in Paxton was stalled by a legal battle over the site on Asnebumskit Hill, and the FAA determination that height restrictions would be imposed on any facilities proposed. The legal battle over the property purchase was resolved in early 2007 and the new landowners have *indicated they plan to develop wind power* on the property. The full cost of the project, including engineering and costs

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

associated with interconnection to the PMLD distribution system and the grid, will be paid by the developer.

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

This department continues to operate our Dispatch Center out of the West Street facility during the construction of the new building on Pleasant Street. Most of you passing by have seen the progress for yourselves. So far the project is running smoothly and the early summer of 2009 is still our projected move in date.

This year as most proved to be a financial challenge to complete the fiscal year. Not unlike the private sector, we also suffer from rising costs. This year for example, it cost several thousand dollars more to patrol the same amount of miles due to soaring fuel costs. The year ahead shows no sign of financial improvement. I would encourage interested persons to get involved with town government.

We remain actively in pursuit of specialty grants and hope to continue our programs such as RAD and RAD kids, bicycle safety, the youth activity center, Officer Phil, and Halloween Fright Night. Aside from grants, we always accept private donations. Donations given, as "Police Gifts" are 100% returned back to the community through our programs.

Recently implemented this year is the Massachusetts Instant Recording and Checking System (MIRCS) for firearms licensing. We offer convenient access to acquire your firearms license and we are issuing the new drivers license style firearms identification cards.

Statistically Paxton is a safe place to live, however we must always remain vigilant. One common reaction from Paxton residents about criminal activity that occurs here is "in Paxton?" Yes in Paxton. We are not exempt from crime or criminal behavior. Our Officers encounter less than upstanding persons on a daily basis. Thousands of vehicles pass through our borders every day.

Please report suspicious activity immediately, our highly trained 9-1-1 operators will gladly assist you.

0	Abandoned Auto
100	Accidents
145	Alarm Burglar/Holdup
54	Animal Other Than Dog
2	Assaults
51	Arrests
48	Assist Citizen
12	Breaking/Entering Auto/ Residential/business
738	Citations-Criminal, Civil, Warnings

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE
TOWN OF PAXTON

4	Destruction of Property/Motor Vehicle
140	Disabled Auto
60	Disturbances
15	Domestic Abuse Incidents
116	Fire call/Emergency/Alarm
341	General Police
0	Homicide (Motor vehicle)
20	House Checks
15	Larceny
54	Lockouts/Auto/Home
1	Loitering
503	Medical Emergencies
3	Mental Health (Section 12)
4	Missing Person
0	Motor Vehicle Theft
36	Mutual Aid (Area Police Depts.)
4	Parking Violation
7	Phone/Annoying/Harassing
1,935	Plate/License Status
6	Property (Lost/Found)
0	Recovered Motor Vehicle
1	Robbery
4	Rubbish/Dumping
0	Runaway
2	Sex Offense
0	Soliciting
1	Suicide Attempt
31	Summons Service
141	Suspicious Autos
57	Suspicious Persons
6	Threats/Harassment
92	Traffic Safety
2	Trespassing Incidents
2	Unattended Death
13	Vandalism
4	Warrant Arrest
8	Warrants/General
43	Welfare Checks
47	911 Silent/Hang up/Abandoned Calls

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

REPORT OF THE PAXTON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

On May 7, 2007, the citizens of Paxton approved the construction of a new Public Safety Building in the amount of \$ 8,798,100. The following week, on May 14th, the citizens approved an override petition to fund the building.

In June of 2007, the Selectmen appointed a building committee to represent the Town in the bidding and construction process. This committee selected NETCO Construction Managers of Lexington, MA to act as the Owner's Project Manager / Clerk of the Works and BW Construction to be the General Contractor.

The Project was advertised for bid in December 2007, with Filed Sub-bids due on February 4, 2008 and General Bids due on February 12, 2008. Due to very competitive market conditions, thirteen qualified General Contractors submitted bids, resulting in a bid price nearly \$1.5 million below the Architect's estimate. The total project cost is now estimated to be \$7,381,400.

The notice to proceed was given to BW Construction of Spencer, MA on April 1, 2008 and the Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on April 12th.

This initial phase of the project included the removal of asbestos and the demolition of the existing fire station and the house to the left of the fire station. The metal building, housing the ladder truck, was dismantled for relocation to the Highway Garage on Holden Road. The fire apparatus will be housed in the Highway Garage and the Paxton Garage during the construction.

During the months of April through the end of June 2008, the site was cleared, the concrete and bricks in the fire station were pulverized to be reused as fill material, the new road to the Light Department was installed and paved with the first coat of asphalt, the water line was installed to the site by trenching across Pleasant Street, a new water line and electrical conduits were run to the new building and the Light Department, the concrete footings, rebar and walls were formed and poured for the main building.

The construction is scheduled to be completed in early June 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Bedard, Chairman
Harold L. Smith, Vice Chairman
Charles T. Blanchard
Paul F. Crowley
Frederick G. Goodrich
Richard L. Sansoucy
Veda-Anne Ulcickas

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

REPORT OF THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

The Paxton Master Plan Committee began its work in the summer of 2006 and finished this Master Plan document in the summer of 2008. Completing the Town's first Community Master Plan update in forty years in a mere two years is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Master Plan Committee, both its existing and former members. Since 2006, the Town has annually appropriated funds for the Plan's completion. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) was hired to provide technical assistance throughout the process.

The Committee held monthly meetings all along the way and sponsored several public forums to solicit public input into the process. Public forums were held on the following dates:

- November 2, 2006 (Topic: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Exercise);
- February 7, 2007 (Topic: Results of the Town wide Citizen Survey).
- June 18, 2008 (Topic: Land Use and Zoning Chapter Recommendations).
- September 25, 2008 (Topic: Presentation of the Master Plan's Findings & Recommendations)

In addition to the public forums noted above, the Master Plan Committee also employed a town wide citizen survey, asking each Paxton household a series of questions covering such topics as: housing, economic development, town government, open space, recreation, natural resources, zoning, land use and transportation. The Master Plan Committee also reached out to other local boards, committees, commissions and departments along the way, with each entity providing valuable input. In the end, the Master Plan Committee is proud to set forth the following goals and objectives aimed at plotting a smart and prudent direction for Paxton's future development.

The next step will be the appointment of a Master Plan Implementation Committee and we encourage your active participation in this continuing planning process.

Respectfully submitted,

The Paxton Master Plan Steering Committee

Chris Baehrecke
Charlie Blanchard
Anita Fenton
Richard Fenton
Fred Goodrich

Robert Hall
Paul Robinson
Joanne Savignac
Hank Stidsen

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

REPORT OF THE WATER COMMISSION

The second year of the Water Enterprise Fund produced favorable results toward our goal of developing a surplus that would be able to support the cost of much needed upgrades to our water system that the Town was not able to fund in the past.

<u>Water Enterprise</u>	
<u>Fund</u>	<u>FY08</u>
Water Revenue	752,620
Expenses	594,840
Principal	30,000
Interest	14,070
Total Expenses	637,235
Surplus/(Deficit)	113,710

Unfortunately, although we did reach our surplus goal an unanticipated increase in the cost of our water reduced this surplus significantly. All of our water is purchased from the City of Worcester and a rate increase imposed during the year resulted in a \$35,474 bill that we could not pay until we received Town Meeting approval to pay it from the above surplus.

This reduced the surplus by over 30%, down to \$78,236.

In reviewing the past billing history with Worcester, we learned that a clause in our agreement that sets the minimum amount we will pay as the Basic City Rate plus 11% has caused the Town of Paxton to pay \$587,487.52 or 23.7% more over the last eight years than we would have paid if we had been billed at the Out of City Limits rate less our earned discounts.

The discounts from the Out of City Limits rate are 20% for allowing Worcester to draw up to 370,000 gallons of raw water each day from Asnebumskit Reservoir, and an additional 10% for expanding our Watershed Protection Zoning Bylaw to protect all of the City reservoir land located in Paxton. By paying the Basic City Rate plus 11% we receive no benefit from providing this water or the watershed protection to Worcester.

We have begun to investigate the feasibility of reducing our reliance on water purchased from Worcester by developing our own water supply, and also have initiated discussions with the City of Worcester in an effort to reduce the cost of the water we purchase from the city. This work will continue to be a priority for us in 2009.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

We would also like to express our thanks to the staff at the Paxton Light Department for handling the monthly billing for the Water Department, to the Paxton DPW for the work they do on behalf of the Water Department and to the people of Paxton for your continued support of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
John F. Malone, Chairman

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

All dogs and cats six months of age or older must be vaccinated against rabies. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by March 31st of each year with the Town Clerk.

The Animal Control Officer can be reached by calling the Dispatch Center at 508-791-6600. All calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
B. Peter Warren, Jr.

BOARD OF APPEALS

In Fiscal Year 2008 the Paxton Board of Appeals (BOA) received eight petitions for relief from the Paxton Zoning Bylaws.

Thirteen meetings were held to provide the petitioners a public meeting to present their reasons for appealing a ruling by the Paxton Building Commissioner or to satisfy Zoning Bylaw requirements.

Six meetings were held for a petition from Verizon Wireless to construct a new transmission tower within the Asnebumskit Tower Overlay District before a petition to withdraw was requested by Verizon Wireless and accepted by the Paxton Board of Appeals. A special meeting was held by the BOA to review sections of the proposed Paxton Master Plan.

- (3) Special Permit Applications – 2 Approved – 1 Denied
- (4) Variances – 3 Approved – 1 Withdrawn
- (1) Finding – 1 Approved

The Paxton Board of Appeals was very sorry to lose its Chairman, James Bradbury, due to James moving to another town. We wish to thank James for his valuable service to the Paxton Board of Appeals.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul S. Robinson, Chairman

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The committee met seven times during fiscal 2008 in order to prepare for the fiscal 2009 budget. In October Department heads were sent project requests that were to be completed and returned to the Capital Improvement Committee for review.

Appointments were schedule with each department head that presented the committee with a request. This process gave the committee an opportunity to better understand what each department is in need of for Capital Projects. We also project out for the next five years what the anticipated Capital projects will be for each department. This allows the Committee to prioritize the needs of each department, and then make recommendations to the Select Board and present these at the Annual Town Meeting.

For FY09 the Capital Improvement Committee supported the purchase of a new Mack Sander and Plow for the DPW department in the amount of \$250,000. The committee also supported the purchase of a new Police Cruiser in the amount \$33,000 to be taken from the Capital Depreciation Fund. There was also \$10,500 taken from the Capital Depreciation fund in order to purchase twenty new voting booths and machines for the town election process.

Committee Members:

Christian de Marcken – Chairman
James R. Stone, Jr., - Vice Chairman
Donna Graf-Parsons – Clerk
Charles Blanchard
Gerald Ryan
Forrest Smith
Michael Quinlivan

CEMETERY COMMISSION

In the last fiscal year there were 22 lots sold in the Mooreland Cemetery and 16 burials. Twelve of the burials were in pre-purchased lots.

Hazardous and diseased trees were removed from both cemeteries, and the Cemetery Commission continues to assess the conditions, usage, and needs of both the historic Center Cemetery and the active Mooreland Cemetery. A new kiosk will be installed at the Mooreland Cemetery to provide visitor information and an expanded Cemetery Rule Book will be available in the spring of 2009.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) hired a preservation planner to complete the surveys necessary for us to begin the process of National Register nominations. This opens the door for grant funding which will facilitate not only the National Register nominations, but also improve our record keeping for genealogical and historic information both of which be invaluable for any future plans.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

There is increasing interest in natural burials because of their simplicity, dignity, lower cost, and absence of formaldehyde. Paxton residents seeking information about changing funeral trends may contact the Funeral Consumer's Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts (FCAEM.ORG)

The Paxton Cemetery Commission, usually a three-member board, at present consists of only two members after Melinda Johnson's resignation from the Commission following the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

Christopher Stone, Chairman
Lois Breault-Melican, Clerk

Effective July 1, 2003 the cost for Mooreland Cemetery lots and grave openings are as follows:

CEMETERY LOTS:

2 Grave Lot	400.00
3 Grave Lot	600.00
4 Grave Lot	800.00
6 Grave Lot	1,200.00
1 Grave lot available by special permission.	

OPENING GRAVES:

Weekdays	500.00
Weekends	650.00
Holidays	650.00

CREMATION BURIALS:

Weekdays	300.00
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NO CREMATION BURIALS ON WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS!

INFANT BURIALS:

Weekdays	200.00
Weekends	250.00
Holidays	250.00

Lots are available to all current Town residents and former residents. Cemetery lots may be purchased at the Town Hall through the Administrative Assistant 508-754-7638 ext 10. An updated map of Mooreland Cemetery is on display at the Town Hall.

Respectfully,

Cemetery Commission

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chairman: Denis Melican
Secretary: Anita Fenton
Treasurer: Donna MacLean

Members – Sue Corcoran, Pam Hair, Daniel Gehrich, and Matthew Atanian; Associate member – Lois Melican

The purpose of the Paxton Historical Commission is to maintain, preserve, study and catalogue historical items, papers, and artifacts from Paxton's past. The Commission co-sponsored an antique appraisal event with the Friends of Richards Memorial Library. Internationally recognized authority, Stuart Whitehurst, presented an entertaining and educational evening for the many people who attended.

The Commission completed and assembled historic and picturesque photos of present day Paxton into a calendar for 2008. Proceeds from the calendar sales will be used to benefit the town.

The Commission presented a large display at the June Paxton Days Festival. Since it occurred on Flag Day (June 14th), there was a flag folding demonstration by Boy Scouts from Paxton and a receptacle for the disposal of discarded torn American flags that the Boy Scouts later retired in a special flag ceremony. There was also a state flag identification contest in which dozens of residents tried to correctly identify a wide variety of unique state flags with the winner receiving a gift certificate to Coffee on the Common.

The Commission lost one of their members when Matthew Atanian decided due to circumstances to resign from the Commission. The members thank him for all the effort he had put into the Historical Commission while he was a member.

The Commission continues to look to the Paxton community for additional photos, documents, and historic artifacts in order to help in the preservation of Paxton's unique past.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Fenton, Secretary

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The Board of Registrars held new voter registration during the year as required by law. New totals as of June 30, 2008:

Democrat	772
Libertarian	7
Republican	426
Unenrolled	1730
TOTAL	2935

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

CHANGES TO POLITICAL PARTIES: 2008

The Green Rainbow is now a political designation. Voters registered as Green Rainbow are now in a political designation and cannot vote in any state elections. The Libertarian is now a political party. The Working Family is no longer a Political Party and did not become a political designation.

Voting is held at the Paxton Center School, which is handicap accessible. Town Hall is handicap accessible for voter registration.

In order to exercise the voting franchise, anyone who needs help may call the Town Clerk at 508 799-7347, ext.15. The Town now has an Auto MARK voting machine, which is handicap accessible at all, elections.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre L. Malone
Town Clerk

WIRING INSPECTOR

Electrical Application for Permits received during fiscal year 2008 were 96 in comparison with 89 the previous year.

7 New homes completed
82 Additions and Miscellaneous

Permit applications and fee schedules are available at the Town Hall and on the Town's web site www.townofpaxton.net. Permits may be applied for from the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant 508-754-7638 ext. 10. All wiring, whether done by the homeowner or a licensed electrician, requires a permit and inspection. Electricians should be prepared to show an electrician's license and a current certificate of insurance.

The Wiring Inspector is Dennis Benoit and he may be reached at 508-755-5171.

Respectfully submitted
Electrical Inspector

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Local Cultural Council is the largest grassroots cultural funding program in the nation, supporting community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and the sciences. For 2008 the Paxton Cultural Council received \$4000, which was distributed through the funding of a portion of dozens of grant applications. Recipients included: the Audio Journal, numerous programs for the Paxton Council in Aging, programs and passes for

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Richards Memorial Library, individual performers such as, John Porcino, and several bands such as Yankee Notions and the Borelli Band, and a Puppet Show. It is hoped that These grants will continue to add to the cultural enjoyment of all ages of residents of Paxton.

Chairman – Anita Fenton
Secretary – Sarah Newman
Treasurer – Barbara Socha
Members- Barbara Lorge and Daniel Gehnrich

BAYPATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

2008-2009 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jack Haroian – Auburn
Donald H. Erickson – Auburn

Clarence A. Bachand – Charlton
Olaf R. Garcia – Charlton

Sandra A. Cristina– Dudley
Alfred C. Reich – Dudley

Francis A. LaMothe – North Brookfield
Donald J. Gillette – North Brookfield

Benjamin J. LaMountain – Oxford
Randall G. Slauenwhite - Oxford

Robert Wilby – Paxton
Sandy M. Benoit – Paxton

Robert K. Mowatt – Rutland
Michael S. Pantos – Rutland

Paulette A. Desorcy – Southbridge
Helen I. Lenti - Secretary – Southbridge

Kenneth R. Wheeler – Assistant Treasurer - Spencer
Robert L. Zukowski – Chairman – Spencer

Alfred E. Beland Vice-Chairman– Webster
Edwin G. Stalec - Webster

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School graduated a class of 233 students in June of 2008, and accepted a class of 298 Freshmen in September of 2008. Our current enrollment has reached 1,098 students.

Of the 4 Paxton Seniors who graduated, 3 are now gainfully employed in occupations related to their training. Currently, 16 students from Paxton are enrolled in one of our 21 vocational areas.

Three Paxton students are receiving extra service from our Special Education Department.

This year, we have taken in less tuition students than in the past. Townspeople should realize that those towns, which do not belong to the District, pay between \$12,393 and \$14,146 to the District for each student. Those towns also pay all transportation costs. This compares favorably with the Town of Paxton's cost for the 2008-2009 school year of \$10,912.24 per student, including transportation. The acceptance of out of district students to fill available vocational space allows us to lower the assessments of member towns.

Whenever possible, we have continued our practice of utilizing our occupational programs to complete projects for our towns. This year we completed over 15 projects for the Town of Paxton and its residents utilizing our Auto Collision and Repair and Automotive Technology programs. We will continue this type of work whenever possible, keeping in mind that the projects must be of educational value for our students.

Our Evening School Program continues to serve the adult needs of our 10 Town District, as well as an additional 20 surrounding towns. Our spring and Fall programs had a combined enrollment of 3700, in programs ranging from Business & Finance, Career/Licensing; Computers; Cooking; Entertainment; Health & Fitness; Hobbies & Crafts; Home & Job; Language & Art; and Sports & Leisure. The program also offered a wide variety of over 400 online courses, including career certificate programs and courses to satisfy professional development requirements for teachers.

We are taking advantage of every opportunity to seek State and Federal Grants to help us lower our costs to the District Towns. In the 2008-2009 school year, we are receiving approximately \$730,000 in various Federal and State grants. As usual, State and Federal money is received with stringent requirements and reporting responsibilities.

The Wachusett Regional School System continues to provide excellent cooperation for our recruiting program and we are thankful for their efforts. I believe that they share our feeling that all students must be given the right, the information, and the opportunity to make an informed school choice.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Papagni, Superintendent Director

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Residents:

As we begin the process of developing our appropriation for the upcoming fiscal year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you have shown for our schools over the course of the last few years. During that time, you have provided the schools with the financial capacity to decrease class size and to restore programs that had been cut during more difficult times. We have been grateful especially for your support of the Literacy Initiative, which has shown to improve the early reading skills of students in all of our schools and we are certain that this improvement will pay dividends for years to come.

It has taken the school district four budgetary cycles to restore personnel and programs that were cut during the first couple years of this century. Unfortunately, we are poised at the edge of a budgetary decline that threatens to wipe out all of our recent gains and more. The problems are obviously widespread, real and unavoidable. The only thing in question is our response. Will we bicker with one another and assign local blame to problems that have origins far from our region? Or will we work together to find solutions that are beneficial to the citizens of our Member Towns?

It is too early to tell what path we will follow; however, the District will make every effort to be a part of the solution. At times this will mean advocating for the needs of our students because that has to be our primary focus. But we will also work to reduce the growth of spending in this district by finding efficiencies when we can and by learning to live without if necessary.

With all this said, it is our goal to present an appropriation to Town Meetings that is educationally and fiscally sound. This will be a difficult task considering the state of the economy but it is our goal nevertheless. At this writing, there is no clear path to this destination but through hard work and cooperation we can find a solution to the fiscal challenges that threaten the future of our children.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS ANNUAL REPORT

Colleen Abrams, Chair
Steven Dubrule
Margaret Lock
Kenneth McDonnell

Stanley Miller
Christine Nichols
Ida Nystrom
Edward P. Yaglou

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

In 2008 Wachusett Greenways continued the quest to connect our communities with trails and greenways. Greenways, our partner Towns and the Commonwealth worked to maintain and expand the Mass Central Rail Trail and to maintain the White Oak Trail. Wachusett Greenways is grateful for the wonderful support of our partners, volunteers and donors.

Rail Trail Construction and Improvement

We completed the 1.3-mile section of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Rutland from the Midstate Trail to Muddy Pond Culvert and Route 122 in Oakham. Greenways contracted Bob Salvadore to handle trail construction and hired Mike Grady to pave the surface with stone dust. The multi-use trail and associated parking lots developed on Route 122 in Rutland at the Midstate Trail and Route 122 in Oakham just west of Old Turnpike Road are complete. A DCR Recreational Trails Grant, along with a matching contribution from Wachusett Greenways donors funded the construction.

We completed the trail section from Miles Road to Route 56 in Rutland where we hired Mark Sadowski to construct the base. This short section is significant, because it opens the way to begin planning the Route 56 underpass, which will connect the rail trail at Rutland Center. The David Camarra and Roland Veaudry families donated the easement for the connection from Miles Road.

Greenways received a DCR Partnership Matching Grant to help make improvements and complete the stone dust paving of rail trail sections in Holden and Rutland. We enhanced the connector between Manning and River Streets by adding more drainage, repairing the gravel base and paving the top with stone dust.

Engineer, Bruce Pennino, and Rail Trail Task Force Chair, Ed Yaglou, along with several volunteers, completed construction of a "mini-bridge" west of the Muddy Pond Culvert. The heavy-duty design will handle construction equipment.

Rail Trail Maintenance

The Towns, Wachusett Greenways and the DCR carried out trail maintenance. The Town DPWs mowed the rail trail shoulders. Greenways volunteers' trimmed brush, cleared drainage, raked leaves, and planted and cared for flowers at the trailheads as they managed 14 miles of rail trail. Greenways volunteers continued placing stones to repair erosion at the Quag Bridge in Sterling. Trail patrollers have adopted each trail section and provide regular care for the trail by removing downed limbs and the minimal litter at parking lots or along the trail.

ICE, ICE, ICE

The major ice storm in December left hundreds of trees down or damaged on the Rail Trail and White Oak Trail. Volunteers immediately began the cleanup, which will continue in 2009, culminating in what we expect will be several days of chipping. The DCR also helped with clearing leaners and hangers on the trail between River Street in Holden and Oakdale.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

Youthful Energy Welcomed

The summer internship program expanded to include four youths from four towns ranging from middle school to college age. They performed trail work over several sessions and were an enthusiastic team. Bancroft middle-school students continued in their wonderful community service program by helping on the trail on three work days during the school year. In Rutland, Cody Kennedy completed his Eagle Scout project by developing an historic booklet and placing a granite monument on the rail trail at the site of the 1932 train wreck.

Reaching Out:

Parading with Rutland and West Boylston

We were greatly honored to serve as the Grand Marshal for Rutland's Golden Jubilee Fourth of July Parade. The day began with Greenways volunteers serving pancakes for the celebrity breakfast and ended with Greenways folks helping to **judge the floats** for this community event. We led the parade with several bicycle riders and two terrific floats. One float was designed by Bob Bolton and constructed by Dick and Ruth Spaulding and the Springdale Mill Committee to reflect the Mass Central Rail Trail logo with a full-sized model of a steam locomotive. The second float was a tree-covered wagon prepared by Bob Salvadore, and ridden by smiling Greenways volunteers modeling the many uses of the trail.

The second parade was West Boylston's 200th anniversary parade in September. For this festive occasion we again entered our float with the locomotive designed to represent the MCRT logo, and several volunteers donned costumes to reflect the late 1800s when the Springdale Woolen Mill was in full swing.

StoryWalk™

Greenways debuted The StoryWalk™, an interactive project, originally developed in Vermont, that combines wonderful children's books with the pleasure of walking. A storybook is posted page-by-page along the trail for all to enjoy. Greenways director, Margaret Lock, placed the first stories in West Boylston and in Sterling to an enthusiastic public reception.

Family Fun Day, Springdale Mill Celebration, Four Seasons Exhibit

Wachusett Greenways continued to strengthen its community presence by coordinating three major outreach events. In June Wachusett Greenways held its annual Family Fun Day in West Boylston. The festive event included storytelling, children's games and art activities, treasure hunts and helmet and bike safety checks by West Boylston Police. Volunteers served delicious food and the Paddock & LePage Band performed festive music. The Rail Trail Tellers were trained by Katie Green in a workshop series prior to the event. The story telling was supported in part by a grant from the West Boylston Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

REPORTS OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TOWN OF PAXTON

The Springdale Mill Celebration was held in September at the historic mill site in Holden. The event offered an interpretive treasure hunt, live music with the Paddock/Lepage Band and good food. The program was supported in part by a grant from the Holden Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. A Sam's Club Foundation grant also supported Family Fun Day and the Springdale Mill Celebration.

The second annual Four Seasons of Wachusett Greenways art exhibit opened at our annual meeting in April and traveled through Wachusett towns until August. Artists included those who share their wonderful creations each year and several talented newcomers for this quality multi-media presentation.

Year Round Events

Outdoor events included hikes, interpretive walks, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing and moonlight adventures. A luminaria walk at the rail trail in Holden in December was well attended.

Saying Goodbye

We will miss several good friends of Wachusett Greenways who passed away. Pearl Towle was a great encourager of our efforts who lived 101 years enjoying the great outdoors. Dan Harrington gave generously to help build the rail trail in addition to a lifetime of philanthropy shared with his wife. And in January 2009, we lost two more good friends: Chris Erickson had completed his Eagle Scout on the rail trail where he helped build the Springdale Mill River Walk and Interpretive Site. Ray Stewart, from Rutland, was a stalwart and cheerful volunteer who helped with trail clearing and greatly enjoyed the outdoors.

Welcoming the Return

The Greenways Board of Directors welcomed Ken McDonnell back as he returned from a long rehabilitation from injuries he suffered in a bicycling accident on Route 122 in 2007. We are thankful for his healing.

We closed 2008 with a giant THANK YOU to our generous Wachusett friends and neighbors and a wish for many happy trail days ahead.



TOWN TREASURER

REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER

Operating Cash	\$3,803,213.62
Receipts for the Year	\$19,701,004.75
Payments for the Year	\$17,000,289.59
Balance, June 30, 2007	\$6,503,928.78

Analysis of Operating Cash, June 30, 2008

Webster Bank	\$6,580,530.63
NOW Accounts	(\$385,356.94)
Money Market Accounts	\$272,619.25
Agency Accounts	\$35,885.84
Petty Cash	\$250.00

Total	\$6,503,928.78
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Interest and Dividend Income

Town Operating	\$36,899.96
Electric Depreciation	\$28,009.09
Agency Accounts	\$315.78
Electric Operating	46985.22
Tax Title	
Title V – Special Revenue	\$785.22
Cultural Council	\$70.30
Water	\$3,500.84

Total	\$116,566.41
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Non-Operating Account Balances, June 30, 2008

	Non-Spendable	Spendable
Richards Memorial Library:		
Trust (Book Value)	\$166,543.56	\$0.00
V. Howland Library Trust	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Other Library Trusts	\$25,318.23	\$0.00
Cemetery Trusts	\$221,449.26	\$24,085.67
Village Improvements	\$1,000.00	\$2,701.01
C.D. Boyton Poor Fund	\$1,000.00	\$15,090.59
C.D. Boyton Gen. Purpose	\$7,675.00	\$51,111.87
Stabilization	\$0.00	\$420,865.47
Income from WWII War Bonds	\$0.00	\$6,003.92
Conservation	\$0.00	\$40,331.79
Bigelow School Book Fund	\$1,000.00	\$777.15
AT&T Library Stock (Book Value)	\$0.00	\$180.00
Lucent Technology Library Stock		
(Book Value)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazel Gay Fund	\$393.15	\$159.52
Capital Depreciation Fund		\$402,759.98
Capital Improvement		\$1,251.09
Total	\$434,379.20	\$965,318.06



TOWN COLLECTOR

TOWN OF PAXTON PAYROLL

TOWN HALL	
Dennis Benoit	4057.00
Charles Blanchard	76592.94
Charles Bolster Jr.	195.50
Rosemary Buckley	11316.29
Thomas Carroll	109.33
Sarah Cole	1453.00
Wayne Curran	9919.00
Francis Ford	100.00
Frederick Goodrich	1420.35
Donna Graf-Parsons	25740.40
Timothy Hackett	1076.00
Dennis Harney	797.50
Judy Hatstat	109.34
Doris Huard	1350.67
Deirdre Malone	54765.00
John Malone	1923.80
Marilyn Mathieu	25655.04
John Noone	4242.60
David Parent	109.33
Jean Parent	437.00
Michael Quinlivan	1420.35
Carol Riches	30406.35
Mary Savage	5049.60
Joanne Savignac	1350.66
John Slabich	109.00
Adam Smith	2219.00
Susan Stone	8192.29
Richard Travers	1375.00
Richard Trifero	23148.25
David Trulson	150.00
B. Peter Warren	6313.62
Jeffrey Wentzell	1273.00
Nancy Wilby	35242.23
Stephen Wilder	141.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Daniel Acuna	3044.08
Rodolfo Acuna	4040.85
Corey Anderson	2056.94
Chris Bagdis	4656.78
Greg Belden	714.36
Michael Benoit	16154.60
Lionel Berthiaume	145.17
Kellan Boudreau	2732.80
Jay Conte	26542.14
Peter Conte	5433.62
Jeffrey Crosby	2135.28
Thomas DeCroteau	1413.52
Sean Doherty	109.26
Andrew Eisch	10141.74
Michael Flek	946.66
Richard Gaffney	8858.71
Daniel Gagne	14628.25
Andre Gaudet	3058.21
Joseph Germain	1503.23
Donna Graf-Parsons	5009.50
Kenneth Grensavitch	5699.70
Christopher Hamilton	3452.64
James Hansson	1199.75
Richard Jenkins	10945.21
Timothy Kenney	655.56
Richard LaTour Jr.	15142.95
Kevin Marchard	182.10
Adam Martin	182.10
Robert Martin	729.60
Christopher McCluskie	11101.52
Philip McPherson	109.26
Richard Molnar III	83.79
Benjamin Morris	368.52
James Olson	345.20

TOWN OF PAXTON PAYROLL

Jeffrey Olson	9606.91
Dean Osgood	6194.47
Stephen Page	21935.18
Ryan Patrician	2615.38
Shane Perry	2335.14
Michael Pingitore	9644.08
Kevin Quinn	6207.40
Gary Richards	9775.08
Michael Rowe, Jr.	923.62
Thomas Savage, Jr.	22302.89
Raymond Savignac	843.72
Orville Sheldon	48.12
Sean Smith	2699.09
Matthew Stone	14998.50
Ward, Alex	3152.32
B. Peter Warren	2908.86
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	
Tracey Coetzee	12613.60
Roni Huard	42068.37
Samuel Knipe	41309.27
Mark Leveille	44946.56
Philip McPherson	35661.24
Michael Putnam	58248.90
Gary Richards	47523.59
Adam Smith	40006.46
Peter Warren	2260.00
LIBRARY	
Deborah Bailey	39458.50
Jillian Balcewicz	1211.25
Barbara Braley	4862.00
Kara Buckley	490.96
Arnold Childs, Jr.	4068.90
Lindsay Glass	415.83
Aislinn Lewis	31442.25
Danielle Martin	1147.50

Kathryn Parent	814.00
Jennifer Robideau	6182.00
Gregory Tuft	180.00
Susan Wheeler	11151.25
RECREATION DEPARTMENT	
Kathy Card	1008.24
Kristan Coffey	2461.52
Kyla Brown	922.26
Sarah Cole	2416.55
Rory Glowick	1550.00
Kaitlyn Graham	682.50
Mitchell Handy	856.00
Elizabeth Kusz	2568.38
James Kusz	1514.75
Molly Madaio	1054.01
Andrew Masterman	2000.00
Craig Masterman	19863.25
David Murphy	365.63
Jenna Noel	208.00
Kathleen O'Donoghue	854.44
John Parent	541.88
Daniel Riches	840.00
Joanne Riches	318.75
Candice Ross	6100.82
Eva Ryan	2004.35
Ryan Shooshan	406.88
Kaila St. George	1007.51
Meredith St. George	136.88
Zachary St. George	903.76
Jacquelin Stiments	910.63
John Sullivan	1009.44
COUNCIL ON AGING	
Paul Belsito	2579.08
Rosemary Buckley	922.63
Donmarie Desrosiers	3448.49

TOWN OF PAXTON PAYROLL

George Heeley	24075.00
Marcella Kelleher	8003.65
John McKiernan	3183.00
Richard Sears	350.10
Pierre St Laurent	5428.45
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	
Joseph Andrasik	111.44
Christopher Bergeron	6914.49
Sean Cooney	35252.10
Herbert Duggan	17391.66
Andrew Eisch	3158.52
Richard Fairbanks	35542.71
Joshua Murdock	1183.79
David Opacki	7544.60
Dean Osgood	7304.93
Daniel Spencer	11222.78
Patrick Spencer	6597.11
Forrest Thorpe III	17511.06
LIGHT DEPARTMENT	
Benjamin Allen	13781.21
Michael Benoit	600.00
Susan Blackwood	40195.79
Paul Crowley	600.00
Diane Dillman	83406.40
Brian Foley	71498.73
Jean Miley	4101.00
Yvette Orell	48627.10
Matthew Stone	25569.01
Joseph Thompson	81488.03
Emerson Wheeler	600.00
Timothy White	42268.07
POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Robert Desrosiers	76198.32
Kenneth Johnson	49401.50
David Keller	56896.58

William Lang	60025.39
Paul Newsham	70013.79
William Reilly	77052.20
Eva Ryan	30812.00
Mark Savasta	91027.27
Ralph Scala	8441.12
Jason Silvestri	85060.11
Forrest Thorpe III	30009.29



TOWN CLERK

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK VITAL STATISTICS

JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Birth, Deaths and Marriages

Number of Births 41

Number of Deaths 25

Number of Marriages 8

Dog Licenses Issued

Males/Female 44

Neutered/Spaded 360

Kennel Licenses 1

Amount Paid to General Fund \$4310.00

Fishing Licenses Issued

Amount Paid to

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife \$1506.00

Respectfully submitted

Deirdre L. Malone

Town Clerk



TOWN ACCOUNTANT

**Schedule of Outstanding Debt
As of June 30, 2008**

	Balance July 1, 2007	Issued Fiscal 2008	Retired Fiscal 2008	Balance June 30 2008	Interest Fiscal 2008
<u>LONG TERM - BOND PAYABLE</u>					
School Renovations	3,960,000		330,000	3,630,000	179,916
Water Department	310,000		30,000	280,000	14,070
Title V Loan Program	107,615		7,698	99,917	5,558
Fire Truck	120,000		120,000	-	1,950
<u>TOTAL LONG TERM</u>	4,497,615	-	487,698	4,009,917	201,494

SHORT TERM DEBT PAYABLE

Rescue Truck	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	2,501
Window Replacement	114,500	114,500	114,500	114,500	4,339
DPW Truck	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	1,516
Police Cruiser	31,500		31,500	0	1,194
DPW Truck	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	2,577
Street Sweeper	128,000	128,000	128,000	128,000	4,954
Ambulance		42,370		42,370	-
DPW Renovations		40,100		40,100	-
Police Equipment		32,000		32,000	-
DPW Equipment		71,500		71,500	-
Public Safety Complex		925,000		925,000	-
Public Safety Complex		4,075,000		4,075,000	-
Chapter 90 Highway	94,320	138,258	94,320	138,258	1,862
<u>TOTAL SHORT TERM</u>	542,320	5,740,728	542,320	5,740,728	18,943

AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED

	Authorized June 30, 2008	Unissued June 30, 2008
Public Safety Complex	8,798,100	3,798,100

TRUST FUNDS - PRINCIPAL

Cemetery Perpetual Care	93,736	
Howland Library	10,000	
Richard Memorial Library	166,544	
Bigelow Library	24,107	
Village Improvement	1,000	
D. Russell Poor Fund	7,675	
C.D. Boynton General Purpose	1,000	
Bigelow School	1,000	
Hazel Gay	393	
Library Trust AT&T, Lucent	180	305,635

TRUST FUNDS - EXPENDABLE

Stabilization	420,865		
Library Operations	(1,222)		
Richards Memorial Library	18,259		
Other Library Funds	1,113		
Cemetery Perpetual Care	21,736		
Hazel Gay Fund	160		
E.D. Bigelow School	777		
Holden Hospital	30,988		
Village Improvement	2,701		
D. Russell Poor	8,416		
C.D. Boynton General Purpose	57,787		
War Bond General Purpose	6,004		
Conservation Fund	40,332		
Library Trust AT&T, Lucent	680		
Capital Improvement	1,251		
Municipal Affordable Housing	250		
Capital Depreciation	402,760	1,012,856	\$ (736,437)

Schedule of Special Revenue Funds
As of June 30, 2008

STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

Gov Hwy Safety Grant	(2,842)	
Community Policing	9,526	
Fire Grant	885	
Chapter 90 Funding	(138,506) *	
Water Grant	111	
Title V Septic Grant	126,033	
Library State Grant	28,298	
Cultural Council Grant	2,451	
Smart Growth Grant	10,200	36,157
		<hr/>

*SAAN issued

REVOVLING FUNDS

Police Gift/Donations	7,729	
Road Details	9,321	
Firearm Permits	4,538	
Fire Gift/Donations	7,638	
AMC Gift/Donations	3,281	
Historical Comm Gif/Donations	2,190	
COA Gift/Donations	2,959	
COA 53E 1/2 Revovling	22,126	
Composting Bins	683	
Recreations 53E 1/2	25,179	
Wetland Protection	24,658	
Sale of Cemetery Lots	128,513	
Charter Communications	68,842	307,659
		<hr/>

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects 2006	(288,139) *	
Capital Projects 2007	(125,472) *	
Capital Projects 2008	(2,023,092) *	(2,436,703)
		<hr/>

AGENCY FUNDS - Performance Bonds

Glad Hill Associates	6,919	
Highland Village	20,929	
Fox Run / Molumco Development	2,073	
Forestdale Realty	8,038	37,959
		<hr/>

**Combined Balance Sheet -- Enterprise Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Total (memorandum)</u>
Cash & Investments	116,084	2,044,037	2,160,121
Receivables:			
User Charges	53,055	162,927	215,982
Liens	1,210	9,162	10,372
	<u>116,084</u>	<u>2,044,037</u>	<u>2,160,121</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 170,349</u>	 <u>\$ 2,216,126</u>	 <u>\$ 2,386,475</u>
Payables	2,374		2,374
Deferred Revenue	54,265	172,089	226,354
	<u>54,265</u>	<u>172,089</u>	<u>226,354</u>
 Total Liabilities	 <u>\$ 56,639</u>	 <u>\$ 172,089</u>	 <u>\$ 228,728</u>
Other Reserves		2,044,037	2,044,037
Undesignated F/B	113,710		113,710
	<u>113,710</u>	<u>2,044,037</u>	<u>2,157,747</u>
 Total Fund Balances	 <u>\$ 113,710</u>	 <u>\$ 2,044,037</u>	 <u>\$ 2,157,747</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	 <u>\$ 170,349</u>	 <u>\$ 2,216,126</u>	 <u>\$ 2,386,475</u>

**Combined Balance Sheet -- Special Revenue Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

	Grants	Revolving	Capital Projects	Trusts	Agency	Total (memorandum)
Cash & Investments	174,415	307,659	3,165,767	1,318,491	37,959	5,004,291
Receivables	94,178					94,178
Total Assets	\$ 268,593	\$ 307,659	\$ 3,165,767	\$ 1,318,491	\$ 37,959	\$ 5,098,469
Deferred Revenue	94,178					94,178
Notes Payable - SAAN	138,258		5,602,470			5,740,728
Total Liabilities	\$ 232,436	\$ -	\$ 5,602,470	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,834,906
Reserved for Endowments				305,635		305,635
Reserved For Expenditures:						
Performance Bonds					37,959	37,959
Other	36,157	307,659	(2,436,703)	1,012,856		(1,080,031)
Total Fund Balances	\$ 36,157	\$ 307,659	\$ (2,436,703)	\$ 1,318,491	\$ 37,959	\$ (736,437)
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	\$ 268,593	\$ 307,659	\$ 3,165,767	\$ 1,318,491	\$ 37,959	\$ 5,098,469

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

**Combined Balance Sheet
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Enterprise Funds	Long Term Debt	Total (memorandum)
Cash & Investments	739,215	5,004,291	2,160,121		7,903,627
Property & Excise Tax Receivables	379,886				379,886
Other Receivables	18,130		226,354		244,484
Special Assessments		94,178			94,178
Loans Authorized				4,098,100	4,098,100
Amount to be Provided for Long Term Debt Obligations				4,009,917	4,009,917
Total Assets	\$ 1,137,231	\$ 5,098,469	\$ 2,386,475	\$ 8,108,017	\$ 16,730,192
Payables	14,771		2,374		17,145
Allowance for Exempt. & Abatements	49,675				49,675
Deferred Revenue:					
Property & Excise Taxes	330,211				330,211
Other Departmental	18,052	94,178	226,354		338,584
Loans Authorized and Unissued				4,098,100	4,098,100
Notes Payable - SAAN & MWPAT		5,740,728		280,000	6,020,728
Bonds Payable				3,729,917	3,729,917
Total Liabilities	\$ 412,709	\$ 5,834,906	\$ 228,728	\$ 8,108,017	\$ 14,584,360
Reserved for Encumbrances and Continuing Appropriations	50,703				50,703
Reserved For Expenditures	441,432				441,432
Other Reserves	(66,151)	305,635	2,044,037		2,283,521
Designated F/B		(1,042,072)			(1,042,072)
Undesignated F/B	298,538		113,710		412,248
Total Fund Balances	\$ 724,522	\$ (736,437)	\$ 2,157,747	\$ -	\$ 2,145,832
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 1,137,231	\$ 5,098,469	\$ 2,386,475	\$ 8,108,017	\$ 16,730,192

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

I have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Paxton Massachusetts, as of and for the year ending June 30, 2008 (except for the Electric Enterprise Fund which is December 31, 2007), which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Town of Paxton's management. My responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on my audit. I did not audit the financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund, which represents 69% of total assets, 62% of net assets and 81% of revenues of business type activities and proprietary funds of the Town of Paxton. Those financial statements have been audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to me.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United State of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contain in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those Standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. I believe that my audit and the report of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, based on my audit and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Paxton, Massachusetts, as of June 30, 2008 (except for the Electric Enterprise Fund which is December 31, 2007), and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Bill Fraher, CPA



***REPORT ON LOSS OF RECREATION
COMMISSION
Investigation under
M.G.L Chapter 41 Section 23B***

REPORT ON LOSS OF RECREATION COMMISSION

The Board of Selectmen requested an investigation on 12/3/07, into the reasons that the town lost the elected recreation commission through mass resignations submitted 10/11/07 through 10/16/07 to the town clerk. Resignations were received within 21 days of the notification to the Board of Selectmen of a public safety problem on the access road to the Center School fields on 9/19/07. The intention, pending results of this investigation is to establish policies and procedures, which will avoid recurrence of such an action by any board, commission or committee, elected or appointed, in the future.

THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE RECREATION COMMISSION

Parking of vehicles on both sides of the access road, located in the center school recreation area, by spectators, players, parents created a safety problem as the narrowed roadway: 1. Becomes impassable for other vehicles including public safety vehicles, police cruisers, ambulance, and fire apparatus. 2. Becomes dangerous for pedestrian traffic, particularly for children who use the road to reach the parking lot or enter or exit the recreation area. 3. Speeding on this driveway is also a safety concern.

JURISDICTION:

The access road lies within recreational land, which is town owned, therefore is a driveway, not a "public way". Therefore is not subject to parking regulations adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

This property was originally conveyed to the Town of Paxton (trustees, Mr. Herbert Wentworth, Mr. M. Lawrence Price for specific recreational purposes, by Mr. E. Illig, April 1, 1937. Subsequently, by annual town meeting, April 16, 1956 (article 25) operation and control of the property was placed under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission for park and playground purposes.

Additionally, another strip of land adjacent to the former Illig property was conveyed by Edward and Phyllis Smith to the trustees named above for park purposes on November 28, 1951 and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission at special town meeting, October 30, 1957.

The Recreation Commission was created under MGL Chap. 45 sec. 14 by annual town meeting vote, Feb. 5, 1923.

As Chap. 45 sec. 14 states, that land acquired for recreational for playground purposes should be used with the consent of and subject to the conditions and terms prescribed by the Board in control of the land. The town's Recreation Commission therefore has jurisdiction and should adopt any restrictions on the use of the driveway to include a statement of parking fines, if deemed necessary, to be enforced under MGL Chap. 90 sec. 20A.

By way of information, generally, all town properties including park land which may contain playing fields may come under the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

RECREATION COMMISSION ACTIONS:

The Recreation Commission identified the public safety issue on Sept. 19, 2007 as a result of emails and notifications and calls from concerned parents, the Recreation Director and other observers. There is no indication of a discussion by the entire commission in minutes of meetings prior to 9/25/07. However, the Recreation Commission requested support and advice from the Board of Selectmen on the 9/19/07. As the email was not distributed to the selectmen, there was no direct response by the Board of Selectmen, as was expected.

No parking signs had been posted but were not effective except to provide vandals another opportunity to deface town property.

The Police Chief also received calls and messages from residents and parents stating concern about the safe use of the driveway, requesting assistance from the police department.

Members of the Recreation Commission, Andy Serrato and John Glowik met and discussed the safety problem with the Police Chief. Initially the driveway was temporarily closed by placing barrels at the entrance to the driveway to stop vehicular traffic. These obstacles were removed by people in order to drive to the soccer fields and to park along the driveway.

Subsequently, with the concurrence of the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, the Recreation Commission discussed the problem on 9/25/07, and was primarily concerned for the safety of children, voted to permanently close the road by placing chains across the road. Keys would be provided to the Fire Dept. and the Dispatch Center to allow access by emergency vehicles.

The Chief advised the Town Administrator on 9/26/07, that he thought this was the best solution in the interest of public safety. Ticketing of parked vehicles was not an answer to the problem, if it was even a legal option.

PAXTON YOUTH SOCCER BOARD:

It should be noted that the Paxton Youth Soccer Board were also involved in email discussions on how to resolve the safety problem independently of the Recreation Commission. While there was no meeting of the two groups, the Paxton Youth Soccer Board thoughts included, gating the driveway and partially closing the driveway to prevent vehicular traffic, but to allow pedestrian traffic from the parking lots.

After the barrels were placed (temporary measure), some Paxton Youth Soccer members state that emails were sent to Recreation Commission to address the issue but were unanswered. This turns out to be untrue, please see below.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

The Board of Selectmen was apprised of the situation regarding safety on the driveway at its 9/24/07 meeting, during review of general correspondence to the Board. The email from Andy Serrato, Recreation Commission member, with some additional correspondence, sought assistance, advice and support from the Selectmen. The BOA Chair asked to have the Police Chief review the situation, enforce any parking restrictions and to advise the Board.

The Recreation Commission expected a call in response from members of the select board, particularly the liaison, Mike Quinlivan, which was not forthcoming. Mr. Quinlivan advised Mr. Serrato on 10/2/07 that he had a solution to the problem. He had also been contacted by "soccer moms" after the temporary road closing and that it would be resolved at the next meeting of the BOS, to which the Recreation Commission would be invited.

Following a Capital Improvement meeting on 10/4/07, Selectman Quinlivan instructed the Town Administrator, Charles Blanchard to invite the Recreation Commission to the BOS meeting on 10/9/07. This discussion was confirmed by a witness in attendance. There was no invitation extended, and the discussion was not placed on the agenda. As the discussion was not included in the Town Administrator update. This may be an error, or lapse of memory on the part of the administrator.

On 10/9/07, 11:30 a.m., a member of PYS board inquired of the secretary of the BOS as to their attendance at the BOS meeting and was advised to attend. James Lang and Katie Siemen attended for the purpose of learning the status of the access road. There was no intent to change the decision to close the road, just to learn the status. Each attested that they would have "lived with" the road decision being closed, and did not expect the decision from the BOS. It was, however, their preference to have the road open for the 2 weeks remaining on the soccer schedule.

As part of the Town Administrator update, the Board was presented a copy of a letter from Chief Desrosiers to the Recreation Commission dated 10/3/07, wherein the Chief confirms his agreement of the concern for safety, parents speeding, congestion caused by parking and the concurrence that a permanent road block be established by the Recreation Commission. As well as to advise them that while ticketing vehicles was not an optimal solution, if people didn't accept the Board decision and continue to jeopardize public safety, the police would ticket and tow vehicles.

Also provided was a copy of a response to recreation member Andy Serrato by the Town Administrator, Charles Blanchard on 10/2/07 advising ticketing for parking was not advisable and advised that immediate jurisdiction over the access road and the fields was that of the Recreation Commission.

During a rather extended conversation, PYS representatives stated that they would prefer the road was opened, but just wanted to know what the status was. They believed that the parents would no longer park on the road. It was also stated the Recreation Commission had not responded to an inquiry on the road closing. This turned out to be somewhat incorrect; certain members of PYS were not copied on the email response.

Selectman M. Quinlivan proposed that under MGL 40 sec. 21, limiting access was wrong and that the Recreation Commission had no authority to close the road without authority granted by the Board of Selectmen. Given the definitions stated in an earlier paragraph, this was not a viable alternative at this time.

Selectman Fred Goodrich proposed to continue the meeting to 10/11/07, discontinuing any further conversation until the continued meeting, including the Recreation Commission, Police, Paxton Youth Soccer Committee so all parties could resolve the safety problem. There was no second to the proposal. There was a motion by Goodrich later to discontinue the discussion.

Chair J. Malone, concerned about child safety, not being aware that the road was closed prior to this discussion, and thinking this road to be a public way, sought to find a temporary solution with the agreement of PYS to alter game schedules in order to reduce congestion. While he did not feel this was as "big a deal" as was being made, ordered the barriers be removed, caution tape be put up along the road to prohibit parking and the road be opened for the next 2 weeks. Subsequently, there would be a meeting of all parties to find a long-term solution.

There was no vote to accept this proposal; the Chairman and the Town Administrator put the plan in place.

The Town Administrator was instructed to inform the Recreation Commission early the next day prior to any other notifications. No one, Town Administrator or Selectman called Recreation Commission members that evening to advise them of the action taken to counter their decision to close the road.

CONCLUSIONS OF INVESTIGATION:

Systemic error in communications in those messages from the Recreation Commission to Selectmen in that the messages did not reach selectboard members, who might have acted sooner and in concert with the commission in a more timely manner.

The seriousness of the public safety problem was not recognized by the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen, therefore failing to respond to the Recreation Commission directly.

Failure on the part of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator to initiate a conference with all parties in order to resolve the problem.

Misinterpretation of reason for Paxton Youth Soccer representatives for attending the selectboard meeting resulting in a Board of Selectmen action contrary to the Recreation Committee position.

The discussion and action taken by the Board of Selectmen without the involvement of the Recreation Commission, who had responsibility for the area or the Police Department who was in agreement with the commission and had recommended their decision, was not within a proper protocol.

The reason the town lost the members of the Recreation Commission of long standing, is the failure of the Board of Selectmen to recognize this elected board by usurping their authority and decision by overriding their directive to protect the public by closing the driveway to vehicular traffic which by its conduct, was detrimental to the safety of the residents.

The act of opening the driveway by the Board of selectmen is in fact less of an issue than the direct personal affront felt by the members of the Recreation Commission by the action taken. These elected officials, who are volunteers to the community, were made to feel their efforts did not matter. They could no longer abide the lack of respect exhibited by the Selectboard and the Town Administrator, therefore all submitted their resignations effective 10/15/07, 21 days from first having identifying the public safety problem to the Board of Selectmen.

RESPONSE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

February 14, 2008

To: Board of Selectmen

From Charlie Blanchard

Re: Investigation under M.G.L Chapter 41 Section 23B

I am disturbed by the action taken by the Board of Selectmen in allowing one selectman to conduct a private investigation out of the public's eye and submit a final report to the Town Clerk and the Board of Selectmen without providing the Board of Selectmen the opportunity to review the alleged facts, independently question witnesses or allow individuals whose actions have been questioned to present their side of the story.

Since this report has not yet been accepted by a vote of the Board of Selectmen, I respectfully request that the information provided herein be considered for inclusion in the accepted report or as an alternative I request that this memo be attached as an addendum to the final document.

Material Errors of Alleged Fact

On page 2 the statement is made that "...the Recreation Commission requested support and advice from the Board of Selectmen on the 9/17/07 (e-mail). As the email was not distributed to the selectmen, there was no direct response by the Board of Selectmen, as was expected."

The actual message in the 9/17/07 e-mail from Andy Serrato, addressed to Carol Riches, Joseph Bagshaw, Sheila Ducharme and copied to John Glowik, Charles Blanchard, Craig Masterman and Candice Ross (which also contained a string of emails between the Recreation Director and members of the Soccer League) is as follows:

TO ALL

Listed below is an email that Candice sent to Jim Lang from Soccer to get their boards help on some issues at the field. You will see Neils response listed as well. I have sent emails to Jim Lang on this and am surprised at Neils response on not knowing of some of the problems because it has been mentioned to their previous board. Any ways there is signs up no parking on access road and the road was made wider for access not parking. There are also signs stating no dogs. Any thoughts. As far as the dogs we have asked in the pass if the animal control officer could address this he can. Charlie I think we need you to step in on this

As you can see, there is no request of "support and advice from the Board of Selectmen" as claimed in the report.

Further, as confirmed on the next page of the report, "The Board of Selectmen was apprised of the situation regarding safety on the driveway at its 9/24/07 meeting, during review of general correspondence to the Board."

This was the first public meeting for the Board of Selectmen after the 9/17/07 e-mail was received, and a public meeting is the only forum in which the Board of Selectmen may legally take action regarding any matter brought before it.

Information packets including the agenda, correspondence and the Town Administrator's update are available for the Board to pick up and review the Friday before each meeting, in this case on Friday, September 21st, only three days after the subject e-mail was received.

The minutes of the September 24, 2007, Board of Selectmen's meeting show the following action under **Correspondence**:

- Complaint by the Recreation Director to the Recreation Commission regarding parking and dogs at the Town's playing fields. (JM) asked that the Police Chief review situation and enforce any parking restrictions.

There was no concern expressed by any member of the Board of Selectmen during the September 24th meeting that information was withheld from them, or that they should have been informed of the Recreation issue in another fashion.

The next error regarding an alleged fact has to do with the following statement from the report: "Following a Capital Improvement meeting on 10/4/07, Selectman Quinlivan instructed the Town Administrator, Charles Blanchard, to invite the Recreation Commission to the BOS meeting on 10/9/07. This discussion was confirmed by a witness in attendance."

Mr. Quinlivan did ask me to stay after the Capital Improvement meeting, and discussed the political nature of the problem between the "soccer moms" and the Recreation Commission, that as a former Selectman I was probably aware of the seriousness of this issue and that it had to be handled carefully, that he had received numerous calls and that he had a plan to resolve it. While we are all subject to lapses in our listening powers, I definitely did not hear Mr. Quinlivan ask me to set up any meeting or invite anyone in to the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

The first I had heard of this request was in late January when Mr. Goodrich interviewed me during his investigation. He said that Mr. Quinlivan stated he asked me on October 4th to set up a meeting between "the soccer people and the Recreation Commission." I told Mr. Goodrich that I was not asked to do that. I further pointed out that on October 5th, the very next morning, when I prepared my update for the Board of Selectmen's October 9, 2007 meeting I addressed the Recreation issue with the following item:

3. Attached for the Board's information is a memo from Chief Desrosiers to the Recreation Commission and an e-mail from me in response to some questions raised by Andy Serrato regarding the issue of the access road beyond Illig Pond.*

*Note the reference to this e-mail in **Omissions in the Report.**

I pointed out to Mr. Goodrich that if I had been asked to set up a meeting, I would certainly have addressed that in the update I wrote the very next morning, and went on to say that if I had been asked to invite the "soccer people" I would have had no idea who to invite.

The report changes Mr. Quinlivan's request from asking me to set up a meeting between the Recreation Commission and the "soccer people" to instructing me to invite the Recreation Commission to the October 9th BOS meeting.

I note that at the October 9, 2007, meeting of the Board of Selectmen no one questioned the lack of attendance by the Recreation Commission. If a member thought the Recreation Commission was to be in attendance, why wasn't I questioned about it that evening?

An additional error of alleged fact in the report is with the statement:

"The Town Administrator was instructed to inform the Recreation Commission early the next day prior to any other notifications. No one, Town Administrator or Selectman called Recreation Commission members that evening to advise them of the action taken to counter their decision to close the road."

This statement is misleading - I was asked to inform the Recreation Commission of the decision to open the road before the notice on the opening was announced by Mr. Lang to the soccer teams. I said that I would e-mail all the members of the Recreation Commission about the road opening the next morning and would let Mr. Lang know when this had been done so that he could notify his soccer group after that. Here is a copy of the e-mail I sent out to each member of the Recreation Commission as I was requested to do:

While the Board of Selectmen appreciates your efforts to solve the safety issue with cars blocking the access road to the fields beyond Illig Pond, they have received numerous calls and e-mails about problems the closure of the road has created. They also recognize the authority the Recreation Commission has regarding the care and maintenance of the playing fields and parking areas, but feel they must exercise their authority regarding the access road, particularly if Police action against violators of parking regulations is required.

At their meeting of October 9, 2007, the Board of Selectmen decided, as a short term solution to the problem, to open the access road under the condition that no parking will be allowed on the road. There are two more weeks of soccer games and practices and parents and spectators will have the opportunity to demonstrate that they understand the

seriousness of the congestion problem by not parking on the access road. We hope that peer pressure will help enforce this no parking requirement.

In addition, the starting times of the soccer games will be adjusted to reduce the congestion from people leaving from one game and arriving for the next game at the same time.

At the conclusion of this year's soccer season the Board of Selectmen will hold a meeting, or a series of meetings if necessary, with the Recreation Commission, representatives of all the sports teams that use the Center Fields, residents and public safety officials to develop a long term solution to this issue.

Chairman Jack Malone asked me to convey his hope that this issue can be resolved in a cooperative manner with positive input and suggestions from all those who have a stake in this important issue.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Charlie Blanchard

At no time during this entire situation did the Town Administrator exhibit a lack of respect for the Recreation Commission.

Omissions in the Report:

The report concludes that the Town Administrator failed to respond to the Recreation Commission directly, yet the Board was provided a copy of the following October 2nd e-mail to which Andy Serrato replies with his thanks:

Thanks, You don't know how helpful this is, in my eyes anyways. I did not even know if it was addressed by anybody.

----- Original Message -----

From: Charles Blanchard

To: andy

Cc: Sheilascharm@aol.com ; mcmom@charter.net ; JG1973HC@aol.com ;

jbagshaw@wpi.edu ; Bob Desrosiers

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2007 12:33 PM

Subject: RE:

Andy:

After receiving the e-mails on the problem the Board of Selectmen and I asked the Chief of Police to have his officers evaluate the situation and decide whether they thought ticketing of cars parked in the "no parking" area would be effective.

The Chief discussed this with the officers who have seen the congestion on the road on the weekends and they felt that closing the road on the weekends when the fields had the most use would be the best solution. Cruisers were not even able to turn around when they reached the end of the access road and it was clear that emergency vehicles could not use the road under these congested conditions if they had to.

Ticketing was not believed to be either an immediate or a long term solution, and questions could arise as to the legality of the ticketing – (for example were the “no parking” signs erected by a legal vote of the Board of Selectmen or put there by the Recreation Commission? - and fines for traffic violations are authorized by Chapter 90 of the Mass General laws which doesn't apply directly to parking areas and access roads such as this.)

The access road, like the fields and the parking areas near the fields, is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission so that decisions can be made on uses and maintenance by the body that is most aware of the recreational needs of the community. Ultimately the jurisdiction for all Town property rests with the Board of Selectmen, but situations like this which relate to their use for recreation activities really rest first with the Recreation Commission.

When Chief Desrosiers spoke with Craig Masterman about the immediate solution of closing the access road, the Chief was under the impression they were talking about the heavy vehicle use with the numerous games on Saturdays and Sundays. If the use of the access road and the parking area on week nights doesn't create the same problem that exists on weekends, why not just close the access road on weekends?

Charlie

From: andy [mailto:andys@serratosigns.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2007 1:10 PM

To: Charles Blanchard

Cc: Sheilascharm@aol.com; mcmom@charter.net; JG1973HC@aol.com; jbagshaw@wpi.edu

Subject:

This is part of an email sent to me from a board member. The question is the access road. could you please get this answered with-in 24 hours we are trying to resolve a parking, road access problem that I had sent to you and the select board on two separate occasions which both have read but neither responded.

We have a jurisdiction problem. I raised the question at our last meeting, "Who owns the road?". If the police can not/ will not ticket cars parked in violation of the "No Parking" sign, what if any recourse do we have? If the owner of the road will not/can not take responsibility for the safety of all those properly using the fields, if we as the Paxton Recreation Commission have no authority over access to the fields,

Andrew M. Serrato

The report also omits the fact that at the October 9th BOS meeting, in addition to stating that the Recreation Commission had no authority to close the road, Selectman Quinlivan also made very forceful statements declaring that because of the serious safety issue it was the Board's responsibility to take immediate action to open the road. I believe these statements had an impact on Chairman Malone's decision regarding the road opening.

Other aspects not addressed in the report which might have had an impact on the resignations are the prior relationship between the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission and other issues within the Recreation Commission. For example, on August 7, 2007, the Chair of the Commission announced his resignation citing lack of commission support for the Recreation Director, later clarifying that the resignation was only from the position of Chairman, not from the Recreation Commission.

Finally, I would like to note my concern that the recommendations (copy attached) provided by Town Counsel at the request of Chairman Malone for conducting an investigation under Chapter 41 § 23B were not followed.

Conclusions

While there is no question that the resignation of the entire Recreation Commission is a very serious matter and steps need to be taken to prevent something like this from happening again in the future, once the Board of Selectmen decided that an investigation was needed I believe that, as suggested by Town Counsel, either the entire Board should have conducted the investigation in open public sessions, or an independent investigator should have been appointed.

I believe the decision to place the burden for the entire investigation on one individual who was a participant in the actions leading to the resignations, despite all good intentions, has prevented the current report from being as complete and thoughtful as it could have been.

Since my appointment as Paxton's first Town Administrator I have attempted to act in a professional manner to support the needs of the Board of Selectmen, Town departments and other boards and committees in a fair and impartial manner. While hindsight is 20/20, and after the fact we can all think of things that might have been done differently, as outlined by the facts that I have submitted I do not feel my actions relating to this matter display any absence of support or lack of respect for the Recreation Commission.

As stated previously, I respectfully request that the information I have presented be included in the final report or as an alternative added as an addendum to the report.

Mirick O'Connell
Attorney at Law
100 Front Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Charles T. Blanchard, Town Administrator
Town of Paxton
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612

Re: M.G.L. c.41, S23B- Investigation by Board of Selectmen

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

I am writing in response to your request that we review Section 23B of Chapter 41 of the general laws. The statute provides that "the Selectmen of any town may make an investigation into the conduct and operation of any town department." Upon completion of the investigation the Selectmen must submit a report to the Town Clerk and print a report in the Town's Annual Report. We did not find any regulations or case law relevant to this statute.

It is my understanding that the Paxton Board of Selectmen voted to conduct an investigation of a town department in accordance with Section 23B of Chapter 41. The Board, however, designated one member to conduct the investigation on its behalf and to report back (the one member, therefore, will not be subject to Open Meeting Law requirements).

While we believe it is legally permissible to have one member of the Board of Selectmen conduct the investigation, we also believe it is preferable to have the entire Board conduct the investigation or for the Board to designate an outside party to conduct the investigation on its behalf. Preliminarily, the person charged with conducting the investigation should be qualified and the matter and scope of the investigation should be well defined by the Board of Selectmen. Designating a member of the Board to conduct an investigation may present some practical or administrative difficulties. For instance, when the one member reports the results of his investigation, the Board may seek to take further action, based upon the report. Basically, the investigator will become the decision maker. Also, consider whether a selectmen that questions or disagrees with a conclusion in the report will be at a disadvantage, not having participated in the investigation (and the investigation not having been conducted in an "Open Meeting"). Again, while we found no legal prohibition to having one member conduct the investigation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, the Board should be aware that it may present some practical or administrative difficulties.

Please let me know if you have any question concerning this letter.

Very truly yours,
Stephen F. Madaus cc: Peter J. Dawson, Esq., Town Counsel

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

DIAL "911"

Fire: 508-756-1400

Police: 508-791-9296

Medical: 508-791-9296

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER: 508-791-6600

10 West Street

Open 24 hours to provide information and assistance to the residents of Paxton.

TOWN HALL, 697 Pleasant Street: hours: Monday-Thursday 9am- 4pm, Friday 9am - 1pm.

Contact the Town Services Coordinator, Nancy Wilby at 508-753-2803, ext. 11 for Board of Appeal, Planning Board and Board of Health

Board of Appeals

Paul Robinson, Chair

Board of Health

David Parent, Chair

Planning Board

Neil Bagdis, Chair

Board meets on an "As needed" basis

Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Board meets the second Monday or Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Building Commissioner

Richard Trifero

Home: 508-756-5622

Sanitary Inspector

Wayne Curran

Home: 508-757-4180

Gas & Plumbing Inspector

Dennis Harney

Call direct for an inspection

Home: 508-868-8950

Wire Inspector

Dennis Benoit

Call direct for an inspection

Home: 508-799-0392

Fire Inspector

Matthew Stone

Call for Inspection

508-868-8928

Town Accountant

Donna Couture

Town Collector, Treasurer

Deirdre Malone

See Town Hall hours

508-754-7638 Ext. 13

508-754-7638 Ext. 15

Town Clerk

Assessors

Joanne Savignac, Chair

Donna Graf-Parsons,

Administrative Assessor

Hours: Monday - Thursday,
9 a.m.-Noon

508-754-7638
Ext. 16

Board of Selectmen

Frederick Goodrich, Chair

Carol Riches,

Administrative Assistant

Board meets every other Monday -

Call in advance for meeting dates

508-754-7638

Ext. 10

Town Administrator

Charles Blanchard

Department of Public Works

Michael Putnam, DPW Supt.

Town Hall

Office: 107 Holden Road

508-754-7638 Ext. 20

508-753-9077

Water Commissioners

John Malone, Chair

Board meets third Tuesday of each
month at 7pm

Municipal Light Department

Diane Dillman, Manager

Michael Benoit, Chair

Office: 578 Pleasant Street. Board
meets second Tuesday of each
month.

508-756-9508

Police Department

Robert Desrosiers,

Police Chief

Office: 10 West Street (Business
Only)

508-755-1104

Dog/Animal Control Officer

B. Peter Warren

Contact Dispatch

508-791-6600

Recreation Commission

Paul Riches, Chair

Commission meet the third

Monday of each month

508-752-7204

Council on Aging

Gerry Ryan, Chair

George Heeley, Director

Office: 17 West Street

Board meets the first Tuesday of
each month.

508-756-2833

Conservation Commission

Christopher Keenan, Chair

Board meets the second Thursday
of each month

508-735-0035

Historical Commission

Anita Fenton

Board meets the third Thursday of
each month

Veteran's Agent

Timothy Hackett

Richards Memorial Library

Debbie Bailey, Librarian

Charles Innis, Trustee Chair

Trustees meet the first Tuesday of
each month

Home: 508-755-1477

508-754-0793

LIBRARY HOURS

HOURS:

Sunday & Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

WINTER

CLOSED

1-8 p.m.

9-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.

1-8 p.m.

9-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.

10-4 p.m.

SUMMER

CLOSED

1-5 p.m., 7-9 p.m.

1-5 p.m.

1-5 p.m., 7-9 p.m.

1-5 p.m.

CLOSED