

# ANNUAL REPORT

## TOWN OF HARWINTON, CONNECTICUT



FOR FISCAL YEAR  
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023  
DEDICATION PAGE

## James I. Bement (1923-2023)

Jim was born and raised in Torrington. He served as a combat infantryman during WWII in North Africa and Italy. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He moved to Harwinton shortly after returning home from the war where he resided at 19 Weingart Rd with his wife, Gracie. He and Gracie raised three children there and he resided there until his passing.

Jim joined the Harwinton VFW and American Legion posts shortly after moving to Harwinton and was a member of the VFW until its folding a few years ago and has been a member of our Legion post for over 60 years ... still active until his passing. He served in almost all capacities at the Post, including Commander and was a Post Service Officer until the end. In this capacity, he helped Harwinton veterans in need, be it health, money, or lending hand issues. He was inducted into the Connecticut American Legion Hall of Fame.

Jim was Master of Ceremonies for the Harwinton Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony for many years. He attended and was involved in our Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies for over seventy years. He was a member of the team that designed and built the original Harwinton Veterans War Memorial and contributed as a consultant to the new memorial that is currently under construction. In the 1960s he founded the Legion Post's scholarship program for graduating Lewis Mills HS students. This program, which is now named after Jim, is still going strong and has awarded close to \$100,000 in scholarships over the years.

Jim was a very active member of his beloved Harwinton community and was the recipient of the respect, admiration, and love of the many people he touched. Jim passed away on July of 2023; two weeks shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. His mental faculties and sense of humor were still working on all cylinders when he passed. During his last day in hospice care, he declared to his family and pastor in attendance, "At least Hitler didn't get me!"

# TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

## **SELECTMEN**

Michael R. Criss

Evan Brunetti

Paul Honig

### **TOWN CLERK & REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

Nancy E. Eldridge  
Laurie Boyan, Assistant

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Beth G. Hamel

### **TREASURER**

Janet Russo

### **ASSESSOR**

Michele M. DaSilva

### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Peter B. Thierry, Chairman

John Fredsall

Robert Barry

Sandra K. Davis

Timothy G. Bobroske

Charles L. Casella

### **TOWN HISTORIAN**

Susan McClen

### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

Dale M. Adkins, Sr.

Joseph Arcuri

Peter Brazaitis, IV

Evan Brunetti

Michael P. Butler

Michael R. Criss

Terrence P. Ferrarotti

J. Richard Fowler

Cathleen Gautherin

Marie Knudsen

Roland Perreault

Roland D. Smith

Sandra Sulek

### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Deb Shea, Republican

Candace Crawford, Democratic

Claire M. Ferrarotti, Deputy

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Michael J. Orefice, Chairman

Alan Michael Colombie

William Lee Hall, Secretary

Paul G. Roche

Roland Perreault

Cecelia Brothwell, Alternate

Debra Freidus, Alternate

Laurie Moss, Alternate

### **HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Dale M. Adkins, Sr., Chairman

Charlotte C. Mochak

William R. Gangloff

Sabrina Janko

Lynne Bobroske

### **RECREATION COMMISSION**

Michael Flowers, Chairman

Michael Zaba

John D. Goodno

Wayne D. Delmonte

Brian Kelleher

Bruce W. Wilcox

### **RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Kerri Stolle

**HARWINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Leslie A. Flowers, Chairman  
Carol Symonds  
Deborah Janssens  
Patricia J. Sederquist  
Arthur Potwin  
Jamie O'Meara-Cartwright  
Naomi Toftness  
Paul Edwards  
Elizabeth Booth

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Carole A. Romano, Chairman  
Gregory E. Marshall  
Joann Hohensee  
Peter John Brazaitis, IV  
Bree B. Gurin  
Power Boothe, Alternate

**INLAND WETLANDS AND  
WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

Francis Skarp  
Benjamin Ogonoski  
Robert S. Wesneski  
Susan P. Ryan, Chairwomen  
Timothy G. Bobroske  
Todd Werner  
Nicholas Carbone, Alternate  
Marc Matsil, Alternate

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Brooke Gero

**BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL**

Jeff Neumann

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**DIRECTOR**

Vincent W. Wheeler

**HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR**

Dave Bousquet

**BURNING OFFICIAL**

William R. Rinko, Jr.

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL**

**AUTHORITY**

Laurie Mosley, Chairman  
Gene Daily  
Nick Canny  
Glenn McGrane  
Lorrie Little Alternate  
Benjamin Ogonoski, Alternate

**ZONING COMMISSION**

William Ponte  
Daniel C. Thurston, Chair  
Cynthia Kasey  
Deborah C. Kovall  
Theodore Root  
David Foster, Alternate  
Michelle Whitford, Alternate

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Thomas J. Rotondo, Chairman  
Theodore W. Root, Jr.

Tamara Barry  
Stephen Sheak  
Peter Brazaitis, IV  
Lynne Steincamp, Alternate  
Pamela Root, Alternate  
Brooke Cheney, Alternate

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

Terrence P. Ferrarotti, Chairman  
Sandy Sulek  
Wayne Delmonte

**LAND USE COORDINATOR**

Polly Redmond

**REGION #10 BOARD OF**

**EDUCATION**

**HARWINTON MEMBERS**

John Vecchitto, Chairman  
Scott R. Ragaglia, Vice Chair  
Thomas R. Fausel  
Matt Szydlo

**BURLINGTON MEMBERS**

Dean Cowger, Secretary  
Zack Rankin  
Paul P. Omichinski, Treasurer  
Cassandra Dubois  
Melanie Wilhelm  
Scott Savelle

**RECYCLING COORDINATOR**

Terri Christenson

**RESIDENT STATE TROOPER**

Greg Kenney

Nicholas Baldwin

**TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH**

Robert A. Rubbo, Sr.

**TOWN COUNSEL**

Michael D. Rybak

Guion, Stevens & Rybak LLP

**TREE WARDEN**

Dave Bousquet

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMISSION**

Celeste Eichlin

Noreen Saks

Leisa Zadrick

Jonathan Sederquist

Weld Royal

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

**COMMITTEE**

David Bousquet, Chair

John D. Fredsall

Mike Mastrobattisto

Patrick Doyle

William T. Buys, Jr.

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

Michael J. Orefice, Chairman

Gene Heavens

Mark D. Gauger

Gretchen E. Mathes

John Bigos, III

Patricia J. Sederquist

Spencer Luthy

Brooke Cheney, Alternate

**BLIGHT COMMISSION**

Betsy Bosco

Robert Barry

**BLIGHT OFFICER**

Shawn Boyne

**HARWINTON VOLUNTEER FIRE**

**DEPARTMENT**

William Buys, Jr., Chief

Dave Bousquet, Deputy Chief

Keith Whitecross, Captain

Sean Burke, Lieutenant

Bill Buys, III, Lieutenant

Stephen McDonald, Lieutenant

Andrew Smail, Lieutenant

Bill Buys III, Training Officer

Kevin Smail, Commissioner, Chaplin

Roger Rosseau, Commissioner

Todd DeDominics, Commissioner

Bruce Wilcox, Treasurer

Peter Thierry, Secretary

Marlene Pac, Auditor

Matt Piechota, Auditor

**HARWINTON WESTSIDE FIRE**

**DEPARTMENT**

Scott Kellogg, Chief

Michael Soliani, Deputy Chief

Seth Kellogg, Captain

Raymond Wheeler, Lieutenant

Curtis Joseph, Lieutenant

Scott Kellogg, President

Michael Soliani, Vice-President

Daren Knox, Secretary

Vincent Wheeler, Treasurer

**FIRE MARSHAL**

Terrence Ferrarotti

Robert Diorio, Deputy Fire Marshal

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

To the Residents and Property Owners of the Town of Harwinton:

The Board of Finance presents herein the Annual Report of the various officers, boards, commissions, agencies, and organizations serving the Town of Harwinton for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

The 2023-2024 budget was adopted by Town Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2023. To fund this budget, the Board of Finance adopted a mill rate of 29.2 on the grand list of October 1, 2022.

The Board of Finance wishes to thank all the Town officers, boards, commissions, agencies and organizations for their help and cooperation this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

### **Harwinton Board of Finance**

Peter B. Thierry, Chairman

Sandra Davis

John Fredsall

Charles Casella

Robert Barry

Tim Bobroske

# Annual Report of Town Meetings

## Special Town Meeting December 6, 2022, 7:00pm

1. Voted to authorize the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to approve supplemental appropriations of \$383,000 for construction of Bogue Road Bridge and to apply for additional grants to defray costs.
2. Voted to approve and amend ordinance #90 Burglar, Holdup and Automatic Telephone Dialer Alarms.
3. Voted to approve and amend ordinance #100 Open Burning and further voted to amend dates of open burning.
4. Voted to approve supplemental appropriation for the Building Official from General Funds surplus fiscal year 2021-22 in the amount not to exceed \$48,615.25.
5. Voted to approve ordinance prohibiting the use of cannabis products on municipal property.
6. Voted to approve the Veteran's War Memorial contracts for construction and installation of the memorial, not to exceed \$130,000.

## Annual Town Meeting February 28, 2023, 7:00pm

1. Accepted annual town reports.
2. Voted to authorize borrowing funds.
3. Voted to enter into Town Aid highway agreements.
4. Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and receive any State or Federal Grants.
5. Elected members to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission three members to serve full terms until 2025 annual town meeting.
  - a. **Robert Wesneski – Elected to fill a full term to 2023 ATM.**
  - b. **Francis Skarp – Elected to fill a full term to 2023 ATM.**
  - c. **There were no nominations for this seat/seat remains vacant.**
6. Voted to elect to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission two members to fill vacant terms until 2023 annual town meeting.

**There were no nominations for the 2 vacant seats.**
7. Voted to elect to the Water Pollution Control Authority two members to fill vacant terms until 2023 annual town meeting.
  - a. **Nicholas Canny – Elected to fill a vacant term to 2023 ATM.**
  - b. **There were no nominations for the other vacant seat.**
8. Voted to elect to the Water Pollution Control Authority to fill two vacant alternate members terms until 2024 annual town meeting.

**There were no nominations for the 2 vacant seats.**
9. Voted to approve the purchase and installation of security cameras in the amount not to exceed \$64,111.00.
10. Voted to approve the purchase of an ambulance in an amount not to exceed \$380,000.00.
11. Voted to accept Break Maiden Lane and Steeple Chase Road as public highways.
12. Voted to authorize the Board of Finance to enter into a contract with Cardinal Engineering for the initial design and RFP paperwork needed for the Local Bridge Program for Valley Road, in an amount not to exceed \$115,462.00.

## Annual Budget Meeting May 16, 2023, 7:00pm

1. Voted to approve Town Budget of \$21,360,096.00
2. Voted to amend and approve Ordinance #107 and adopt a new ordinance #162 changing the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed.
3. Voted to amend and approve Ordinance #107 and adopt a new ordinance #163 changing the position of Town Treasurer from elected to appointed.
4. Voted to table Ordinance #145.

5. Voted to approve the Board of Selectmen to enter into and adopt an interlocal agreement to share Animal Control Facility and Animal Control Officer by and between Town of Harwinton and Town of Morris.
6. Voted to allocate \$104,154.00 to clean, repair and replace rotted wood trim on the town hall and library buildings and cover it with vinyl.
7. Voted to approve \$442,750.00 to develop Pickle Ball Courts and Tennis Courts.
8. Voted to approve funding, not to exceed \$36,570.00 from Capital Account 9037 to resurface & replace existing basketball courts.

# Report of the Tax Collector

Fiscal Year 22-23

The Tax Collector's Office is responsible for the billing and collection of town property taxes and all related penalties and charges. Its goal is to assist in maintaining the fiscal stability of the Town by ensuring the timely collection and recording of all taxes through the diligent application of state statutes, town ordinances, regulations, and other enforcement aids. The Tax Office is also responsible for the collection of Sewer User Fees as the Tax Collector for the Water Pollution Control Authority.

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023, the Tax Office was charged with the collection of \$17,615,963.69 for the 2021 Regular Grand List and \$67,624.90 for the Sewer User List of the Water Pollution Control Authority.

The tax office ended the fiscal year with a collection rate of 99.8% for regular taxes and 100.4% for sewer user fees. These numbers include the 60-day collection timeframe between July 1 and August 31, 2023, for the 2021 grand list.

<b>Actual Tax Collections:</b>	<b>17,578,783.61 /</b>	
<b>Adjusted Grand List:</b>	<b>17,615,963.69</b>	<b>.9978 or 99.8%</b>
<b>Actual Sewer Collections:</b>	<b>67,881.41 /</b>	<b>1.004 or 100.4%</b>
<b>Adjusted Grand List:</b>	<b>67,624.90</b>	

As required by State Statute the Tax Collector compiled the following reports which are housed in the Town Clerk's Office:

- Tax Collector's Annual Report of Collections for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
- \$2,607.31 in past due taxes were added to the Suspense List for 2023 calendar year and approved by the Board of Finance
- \$28,225.24 in Refunds were processed during the fiscal year and approved by the Board of Selectmen
- \$49,553.98 in Lawful Corrections (additions and deletions) were processed during the fiscal year and authorized by the Assessor.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hamel

Tax Collector, CCMC, CCMO

## Report of the Tax Collector - WPCA

Fiscal Year July 2022- June 2023

Grand List	Sewer Fees	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Adjusted Taxes	Actual Collections			Balance Uncollected
	Collectible		Additions	Deductions	Collectible	Taxes	Interest	L & F	6/30/2023
	10/1								
2021		65,500.00	2,124.90		67,624.90	67,881.41	1,121.61	74.25	(256.51)
2020	247.81		2.19		250.00	250.00	78.75	24.00	-
2019					-				-
2018	(15.00)		15.00		-				-
2017									
2016									
2015									
2014									-
2013									-
2012									-
2011									-
2010									-
2009									-
2008									-
2007									-
<b>TOTAL</b>		65,500.00	2,142.09	-	67,874.90	68,131.41	1,200.36	98.25	(256.51)
<b>Total Collections</b>									
	Taxes		68,131.41						
	Interest		1,200.36						
	Liens&Fees		98.25						
	Collected		69,430.02						



# **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The Building Department has an online permitting process which also accepts online payments. This feature allows for a credit-based payment either by accessing the permitting process via the town's website or the kiosk in the land use office. The hours for the kiosk are still 8:30-12:00 Monday- Friday. If other hours are needed or if you have questions for the BO, they are done by appointment.

The Building Official can be contacted by either calling Town Hall at 860-485-2784 ext. 1122 or his cell at 860-806-8742 between the hours of 8:30-4:00 Monday- Friday.

The Building Department reviewed, processed, inspected, and filed 508 permits this past year. The permits are broken into the following categories.

Building:	226
Demo	3
Electrical:	132
Mechanical:	75
Plumbing:	34
Fuel gas:	37
Fire Protection:	1

Of the 226 building permits issued, 15 were single family homes, 3 age restricted homes and 3- four-unit Townhouses.

46 of the 132 electrical permits were for roof mount PV solar for a total value of \$1,697,165.65.

Total value of work performed in town \$ 12,256,195.27.

Total permit fees collected were \$ 153,516.26.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Neumann Building Official, Town of Harwinton

# TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

The TAHD served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities, and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: **6** giardiasis, **10** campylobacteriosis, and **10** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **566** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with 13 residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **9 specimens** to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **52** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

TAHD is an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. The 5210-fitness initiative serves as the cornerstone of the group's outreach and educational efforts. Fit Together allocates its resources to provide community assistance and has awarded \$15,000 in mini grants to community partners. These grants aim to support projects that align with Fit Together's mission and strategies. Some of the funded projects include assisting the Torrington Kids Marathon, purchasing spin bikes for Oliver Wolcott School, buying local fruits and veggies for the school meal program in Torrington Schools, and obtaining stencils and paint to create black tops around schools. These areas serve as a creative way to promote a variety of physical activities. Fit Together has also supported sustainable healthy environmental opportunities in Torrington and Winsted by designating funding for a new all-level fitness trail along the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway.

TAHD actively participates in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)** and as a member of the LCOTF executive committee, developing strategies and solutions to combat the opiate epidemic. Additionally, TAHD staff has provided training sessions to local pharmacies and medical offices on various topics such as the CT Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System, Naloxone administration, Medication-Assisted Treatment, and Resetting Pain Expectations. This training falls under the Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety initiative. Furthermore, TAHD is also involved in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). The primary objective of RCORP is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. By participating in this program, TAHD aims to strengthen and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services, allowing rural residents to access appropriate treatment and make progress toward their recovery goals.

TAHD contracted with United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to expand upon cross-sector efforts within the state to implement a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention to reduce suicide morbidity and mortality among three key vulnerable populations in the state: 1) middle-aged adults 35-64 years of age, particularly those in high-risk occupations or with serious mental illness or substance use disorder, 2) young adults 18-24 years of age and 3) adolescents 10-17 years of age. The TAHD provides QPR training to community members with the goal of reducing suicidal behaviors and saving lives. QPR Gatekeeper Trainers deliver this training and offer an innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention approach. QPR is an excellent method for individuals and organizations to empower our communities in effectively intervening on behalf of suicidal and in-crisis individuals.

TAHD is an active member of the **National Diabetes Prevention Program**, dedicated to preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes. The program is designed for individuals with prediabetes and those at high risk for type 2 diabetes, spanning an entire year and focusing on promoting lifestyle changes. The program's objectives for participants involve engaging in 150 minutes of physical activity each week and achieving weight loss of 5 to 7%. The first session for this year commenced in November at the Litchfield Community Center.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** collaborates with local providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with CT childhood immunization laws. In partnership with 12 medical and 40 community-based organizations in the district, TAHD focuses on educating, raising awareness, and promoting immunization. To support medical providers, TAHD supplies them with educational materials for both staff and patients, aiming to foster vaccine confidence and organizing educational events. Additionally, for community partners, TAHD arranges displays in libraries, museums, and food banks, and actively participates

in various events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Posters are distributed in public spaces like post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls to further spread the message. To boost vaccination efforts, TAHD continues to leverage social media.

The TAHD **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provided case management for more than 40 children with blood lead levels ( $\geq 3.5\mu\text{dl}$ ) as well as provided educational information to more than 100 families. Abatement/Remediation Orders were issued for 9 properties. 7 abatements were completed.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **875** food inspections, **806** temporary food permits, **118** new septic systems, **252** repaired septic systems, **167** private well permits, **130** private pool permits, **200** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **616** house addition permits, **355** soil tests, **28** subdivision lots, **43** public pools were inspected, and **26** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **557** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **293** complaints of various public health concerns; **24** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

TAHD **Emergency Preparedness Program** continues to work and participate with local, regional, and state community partners to prepare for unprecedented events. The activities include but are not limited to outbreak investigation, surveillance, consultation and communication with health partners, public safety, town, and school officials, receiving and distributing personal protective equipment, promoting flu vaccination clinics, practicing closed point of distribution drills (POD) at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and meet CT-DPH deliverable by conducting multi-regional and multi-agency Anthrax tabletop exercise.

The TAHD **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continues to work actively and recruit new volunteers with the goal of focusing on local community health and well-being. The program's main emphasis lies in education and outreach, covering a wide range of topics. These include but are not limited to, first aid, CPR/AED, QPR Gatekeeper, Stop the Bleed training, Human trafficking training, Build an Emergency Kit, and generic emergency preparedness at home. Moreover, the program actively participates in local fairs and community outreach events. The primary objective of TAHD MRC is to raise awareness and develop a comprehensive training curriculum. This curriculum aims to better equip the public in protecting themselves and their family members in a safe, timely, and effective manner. As of July 2023, TAHD has successfully recruited 220 volunteers and plans to retain and recruit even more.

TAHD continues to distribute at-home COVID-19 test kits throughout the community including community centers, libraries, shelters, and food pantries.

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

# REGISTRARS OF VOTERS ANNUAL REPORT

## July 1,2022– June 30, 2023

State Election Laws through the Secretary of State’s Office prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the Registrars of Voters.

Registry and enrollment lists are maintained throughout the year and are updated regularly. A canvass of registered voters must be conducted each year. Notices of Intended Removal are sent out to update lists. Registrars also conduct all elections, primaries, referenda and ballot votes at town meetings and school budget meetings. Registrars are expected to attend district meetings to keep pace with the ever-changing election laws. Registrars must be certified by the Secretary of State and required to participate in continuing education each year to maintain their certification.

State Election	Nov,8,2022
Canvass of Voters	Jan - May 2023
Region #10 Budget Vote	May 1, 2023
Region #10 Budget Referendum	May 2, 2023
Town Budget Vote	May 16, 2023

New voters registered between July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Democrats- 79	Republicans-115	Unaffiliated- 159
Independent-4		

Total voters as of June 30, 2023 - 4307

Republicans – 1497
Democrats – 934
Unaffiliated –1,818
Green Party- 9
Independent - 56
Libertarian - 11

Respectfully Submitted,  
Candace Crawford, Democratic Registrar & Deborah Shea, Republican Registrar

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

A person may want to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for two basic reasons. First, he or she may disagree with a decision the enforcement officer has made or an action he or she has taken. Second, the appealing party may believe that an exception (variance) to the zoning laws should be made for his or her property.

The Harwinton Zoning Board of Appeals holds public hearings to determine the validity of an enforcement order and to make the decision to uphold, modify, or withdraw such order as well as to grant or deny applications for exceptions to the zoning regulations. The Zoning Board of Appeals is the only board that can vary the application of the zoning regulations. To vary the application of the zoning regulations, a parcel of land must have unusual conditions not generally found in the specific zone, which would make development in accord with the regulations extremely difficult. Determination cannot be based on personal, financial, or self-imposed hardships.

Any variance granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals shall run with the land and shall not be personal in nature to the person who applied for and received the variance.

It is the Zoning Board of Appeals who decides on applications for location approval when there is a proposal for repairing motor vehicles in a municipality with a population of less than twenty thousand.

For the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals generated \$900.00 from four (4) applications with one application being denied due to self-imposed hardship. A \$60.00 fee is included and collected from each application made in accordance with Connecticut General Statute, Title 22a, Chapter 439, Section 22a-27j. The town retains \$2.00 of this fee for administrative costs and DEEP collects \$58.00.

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of eight volunteers who are elected for a term of five years, with vacancies filled by the Board of Selectmen. The following members and alternate members served during this fiscal year:

Thomas Rotondo, Chairman

Peter Brazaitis IV

Tamara Barry

Theodore Root, Jr.

Stephen Sheak

Alternate Members: Lynne Steincamp

Pamela Root

Brooke Cheney

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Redmond

Land Use Coordinator

## **ZONING COMMISSION**

If you are planning to construct or alter your house or add a structure on your property, you must complete a Zoning application obtained through the Land Use office. For structures or additions in excess of 200 square feet, you must provide the Commission with a site plan certified by a licensed professional engineer. This is to assure the Commission that the size of the building or addition and distances from your neighbor's property lines are exact. Regulations prevent you from building too close to any of your four boundaries and the Commission is entitled to know exactly where you wish to build. Structures measuring under 200 square feet and meeting setbacks can be signed off by the Land Use Coordinator. Please examine the Zoning Regulations and determine what zone you are in to determine how far off each boundary line you must stay. Work involving grading, excavation or bringing in of fill more than 50 cubic yards also requires a permit through the Zoning Commission.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Don Truskauskas, who can be reached at 485-8367, conducts zoning inspections and receives written complaints. He can also be contacted at [zoning@harwinton.us](mailto:zoning@harwinton.us). Please be sure to contact him for erosion and sedimentation control inspections once they are in place. The Zoning Enforcement Officer also signs off on Certificates of Compliance after as-built plans are provided, reviewed and a final inspection is done. The Certificate of Compliance is then forwarded to the Building Inspector for issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

For the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Zoning Commission generated \$10,035.00 from nine (9) new home construction applications and thirty-nine (39) other permits for additions, garages, barns, decks, sheds, and pools including two (2) applications for Special Permits requiring public hearings for accessory apartments. A \$60.00 fee is included and collected from each application made in accordance with Connecticut General Statute, Title 22a, Chapter 439, Section 22a-27j. The town retains \$2.00 of this fee for administrative costs and DEEP collects \$58.00.

In July 2022 the Zoning Commission held a public hearing on a Commission initiated proposal to amend the Zoning Regulations to consider prohibiting or allowing cannabis establishments in town per Public Act 21-1. The hearing closed on July 25, 2022, and a decision was made on August 22, 2022, to approve and adopt a regulation amendment to prohibit recreational and hybrid cannabis/marijuana establishments.

In March 2023 the Zoning Commission began discussions on proposed revisions to the Zoning Regulations for housekeeping purposes. Discussion continues into the fall of 2023.

The Zoning Commission consists of volunteers who devote many hours of service to ensure that the Zoning Regulations are adhered to and are current. Those members are:

Daniel Thurston, Chairman  
Cynthia Kasey, Secretary  
Theodore Root

Alternate Member Michelle Whitford  
Alternate Member Dave Foster  
Alternate Member Victoria Elliott

William Ponte  
Deborah Kovall

The Commission also acknowledges Zoning Enforcement Officer, Don Truskauskas, who has had many challenging matters to contend with during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Polly Redmond  
Land Use Coordinator

Doc: Zoning – Annual Report 2022-2023

# Recycling and Material Solid Waste Report FY 22-23

Harwinton does not have a “dump site”. FY 2022-2023 saw the first year of our 5-year contract with USA Hauling & Recycling as we opted out of the remainder of the MIRA contract. This contract saved us money from overstaying with MIRA as with many municipalities opting out, the cost would have been prohibitive. This is the first year that we have been paying a tip fee for recyclables. Each household contracts with USA Hauling to pick up trash and recyclables from the curbside. The subscription fee per household according to USA Hauling has increased over the last year. USA offers bear-proof containers for a higher cost. The household pays the subscription fee to USA Hauling to transport the waste and recyclables to their facility. The Town of Harwinton pays the ‘tip fee’ to dump trash and recycling at this facility. The cost of the ‘tip fee’ for 2022-2023 is \$105/ton for trash and \$45/ton for recyclables. The cost for FY 23-24 is \$111/ton for MSW and \$45/ ton for recyclables. Recyclables are processed at a USA Hauling facility and waste is transported to landfills out of state. This year Household hazardous waste costs almost doubled. This increase is an ongoing issue as there are very few companies that offer this service. The Northwest Hills Council of Government arranges these collections twice per year as a regional service which does save overall.

Recyclables include newspaper, catalogs, magazines, glossy paper, office paper, junk mail, brown paper bags, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers, most household plastic containers, (NO BLACK PLASTIC), milk and juice containers, cardboard boxes (cereal, pasta, tissue, and gift boxes). **SHREDED PAPER IS NOT RECYCLABLE.**

Residents and businesses are required by state law and local ordinance to recycle as much as is possible to conserve natural resources and to keep town costs down by keeping weight out of the waste stream. The state of Connecticut Comprehensive Material Management Strategy has set a goal of 60% diversion of MSW (material solid waste) to recycling by 2024. This CCMMS is currently undergoing review by the D. E. E. P. We are currently at about a 20% level here in Harwinton. Harwinton does not reimburse our hauler for commercial accounts or single cleanouts; we only pay the tip fee for residential customers in Harwinton. Currently we have 4 dates per year for Electronics collection at no charge to the residents. These occur in March, May, August, and October. We collect Mattresses and bulky waste 2 times per year in May and October. We are currently exploring options to do this 3-4 times per year going forward. The Town of Harwinton does not have curbside bulky waste pickup currently. USA Hauling can be contacted and will collect bulky waste at a charge. We are currently exploring other opportunities for bulky waste collection to make it more convenient and less costly in between collections. Waste oil, used antifreeze, and lead acid batteries are collected the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:00 – 11:00, except October due to the Harwinton Fair. We collect the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October. Textiles should not be placed in either recycling or trash receptacles. Clothing, bedding, shoes, towels, curtains, etc. should be recycled either curbside with Simple Recycling or brought to the Bay State receptacle at town hall for recycling. Currently Bay State Textiles pays Harwinton \$.06 for each lb. of textiles collected. Simple Recycling pays the town of Harwinton \$.05 per collection. The ease of using Simple Recycling to come to your home to collect textiles adds convenience for some residents that may not be able to bring textiles to the town receptacle by the library. Returnable cans and bottles should be returned to the store or donated to Bronc Callahan Foundation. Residents are always encouraged to compost. Properly done, it does not draw bears. Christmas Trees can be left at the Conservation area free from ornaments and tinsel during the month of January. Boags of leaves can be left at the Town Garage for disposal. We do not collect yard waste or branches and storm debris from residents currently.

Each January, detailed information and scheduling is bulk mailed to residents. Community Outreach and education is scheduled throughout the year. Recycling information and schedules are displayed on the town website [www.harwinton.us/recycling](http://www.harwinton.us/recycling). Questions can be directed to [recycling@harwinton.us](mailto:recycling@harwinton.us) or 860-485-2784 ext. 1121. Recycling office hours are 8:30 – 2:00 pm Tuesday and 9:00 – 3:00 Thursdays.

## Recycling and MSW Information for FY 2022-2022

Tip Fees (Paid to MIRA FY 22-23)	\$197,354.20
Tonnage of MSW	1688.64 Tons
Tonnage of Recycling	445.50 tons

Leaf Collection	157.15 Cubic yards
Used Motor Oil	400.25 Gallons
Antifreeze	45.5 Gallons
Mattresses	79 mattresses
Christmas Trees	60 trees
Storage Batteries (Lead Acid)	24 batteries
Electronics	6.95 tons
CFL Lighting	328 lbs.
Household batteries	205 lbs.
Household Hazardous Waste	\$6,716.88
Textiles	8.15 tons/\$863.10 collected

**Many of the above items could have ended up in MSW. Each ton of material that does not go into a landfill is healthier for the environment and less costly for the town.**

The town of Harwinton is currently exploring new opportunities to control costs and add convenience to the residents as far as disposing of many items.

# **Historic District and Historic Properties Commission**

## **Annual Report for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023**

The Harwinton Historic District Commission was established in 1987 and is dedicated to encouraging the preservation of sites and buildings within the Town that contribute to the educational, architectural, and aesthetic values that make Harwinton unique and serve as an informational resource to owners of historic houses.

Harwinton has two distinct Historic Districts: The Center Corners District (North Road, South Road, and Litchfield Road) and The Catlin Corners District (Locust Road, Harmony Hill Road, and Burlington Road), and one Historic Property outside the districts, the Samuel Peck House on County Line Road. The historic homes within the two districts are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over the course of the past year, the Commission steadfastly pursued its goal of sharing its knowledge of Harwinton's historical architecture and promoting awareness of our districts' homes and buildings. Our districts are unique, containing many fine examples of early Harwinton homes and modern homes representing the style of the decades in which they were built. Future generations will have the opportunity to learn and study about the evolution of the Town buildings and sites. The Commission prides itself on offering historical guidance and working with modern families' needs and budgets to bridge the gap between historic preservation and homeowners' needs. We field many inquiries and help with the application process to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness, which is required for architectural changes to an historic building or home. We evaluate each project before starting the COA application process to determine whether a certificate is needed since many projects can be labeled routine maintenance. If a COA is not required, supporting information and photos are still needed for the records. We try to make the process as quick and painless as possible while still following the guidelines of local, state, and federal mandates for historic district properties and those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Please help us preserve these historic properties.

The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month, depending on needs. We also meet virtually via Zoom for the convenience and safety of all. The public is welcome to attend, and links will be provided to interested parties. Please contact us if you are interested in attending. In-person meetings are held at the Harwinton Townhall when needed. Meetings start at 7 pm. We recently established our information on the Town's website, accessible at <https://www.harwinton.us/historic-district-Commission>. Links from the page for important information are available, as well as to the Historic Commission handbook, which is available in PDF format on the site. The handbook is a valuable resource for Historic District homeowners, answering many questions and offering guidance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Romano, Chairperson

Peter Brazaitis IV, Vice Chairman  
Joann Hohensee, Secretary  
Greg Marshall, Regular Member  
Bree Gurin, Regular Member  
Power Boothe, Alternate

# **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Planning Commission, among other duties, oversees adherence to the Subdivision Regulations.

These Regulations apply to subdivisions and resubdivisions of land within the Town of Harwinton.

No subdivision or resubdivision of land shall be made by any person, firm, or corporation until an application for such subdivision or resubdivision has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Commission and a map thereof has been endorsed by the Commission and approved and filed by the applicant in the office of the Harwinton Town Clerk.

For the period July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the Commission generated no monies and heard no applications.

In August 2022, in accordance with CGS 8-3(a)b, the Planning Commission had the opportunity to review the Zoning Commission's proposed regulation amendment to consider implementing Zoning Regulations in connection with Public Act 21-1, Cannabis Establishment Uses, where the Zoning Commission was considering whether to prohibit or allow such establishments in town. In a 3-2 vote, the Planning Commission found that the proposal to prohibit Cannabis Establishment Uses was in keeping with the Plan of Development.

In February 2023 the Planning Commission gave a favorable 8-24 Referral that the town accept Break Maiden Lane and Steeple Chase Road within Equestrian Estates Subdivision.

The Planning Commission continues to take a stand that Affordable Housing is a matter of utmost priority for the town.

The Planning Commission consists of volunteers who devote many hours of service to making sure that the regulations are adhered to and are current. Those members are:

Michael Orefice, Chairman

Lee Hall, Secretary

Roland Perreault

Paul Roche

Alan Colombie

Alternate member Debra Freidus

Alternate member Celia Brothwell

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Redmond

Land Use Coordinator

# **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY - Annual Report 2023**

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) consists of a six-member volunteer board that meets monthly throughout the year to establish policies for and monitor the Town's Sewer Program and its operation. The WPCA performs this mission with the assistance of Town staff. Jen Bucci is our Executive Assistant and Town Public Works Director Justin Downes is our liaison to the roads and proposed projects.

By state statute, the WPCA is responsible for long-range planning and coordination of maintenance and care of the sewer district environment. The WPCA is also responsible for negotiating and implementing an Inter-municipal Agreement with the City of Torrington. All the sewage from our district is gravity fed to the Torrington Sewer Plant and processed by them. Our contract with them expired over five years ago. We hope to have the new agreement in place in 2023-2024.

The city of Torrington is complete with a very large Capital project to upgrade the Torrington Wastewater Treatment plant. The Town of Harwinton (sewer district) is partially responsible in paying for this upgrade. This is a large increase to our payments to Torrington under debt services. The Harwinton WPCA has been able to keep the annual user fee at \$250.00; a public hearing may be scheduled in early 2024 to discuss an increase to offset the payments.

The Harwinton Water Pollution Control Authority oversees the operation and maintenance of approximately three and a half miles of sanitary sewers in Harwinton and is currently working with Wright Pierce on an extensive I-I Project and to upgrade the condition of all manholes in various areas within the sewer district. This portion of the project is scheduled to start in spring of 2024.

## **Town of Harwinton Blight Enforcement.**

In December 2016 the town of Harwinton passed the current Blight Ordinance (150). The purpose of the ordinance is to define, prohibit and abate blight and nuisances, to protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare, and to preserve and protect property values in the Town of Harwinton. The current Blight Commission consists of First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti, Selectman Paul Honig and two appointed members, Betsy Bosco, and Bob Barry.

Since December 2016, thirteen complaints concerning blighted properties have been received.

As of the date of this report, three properties were determined to be in compliance, six properties have been brought into compliance. Currently the office has four open cases concerning properties found not currently in compliance with the current ordinance.

During this report period, three of the noted complaints were received by the office. Presently two remain open files and a third property was brought into compliance.

The Blight Enforcement Office works closely with the Office of First Selectman, Torrington Area Health Department, the Town of Harwinton Building Inspector, Town of Harwinton Land Use, and the Town of Harwinton Recycling Department in its efforts to provide the property owner's available resources to assist them in bringing the blighted properties into compliance with the ordinance.

Residents are encouraged to review with current blight ordinance 150 for specific details as well as contact the Blight Enforcement Office online [Harwintonblight@Harwinton.us](mailto:Harwintonblight@Harwinton.us) or (860) 485-9051 Ext.1118

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shawn M. Boyne  
Town of Harwinton Blight Enforcement Officer.

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## **INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

For the period July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the Wetlands Commission generated \$2,350.00 from ten (10) regulated activity applications and one (1) After the Fact application resulting from a Cease-and-Desist Order. Applications included one application for a garage, one shed, two inground pools, four applications for single family dwellings and one application for clearing of land within a regulated area. The Land Use Coordinator, as a certified Acting Agent of the Wetlands Commission, signed off on thirteen (13) Inland Wetlands applications involving non-regulated uses requiring no application fee. Those applications included approvals for seven (7) single family dwellings, two (2) barns, three (3) garages and one (1) pool.

A \$60.00 fee is included and collected from each application made in accordance with Connecticut General Statute, Title 22a, Chapter 439, Section 22a-27j. The town retains \$2.00 of this fee for administrative costs and DEEP collects \$58.00.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission acknowledges the volunteers who devote their time to ensure the Wetlands Regulations are adhered to. Those members are:

Susan Ryan, Chairwoman, Todd Werner, Timothy Bobroske, Robert Wesneski, Brent Lafferty, Francis Skarp, Benjamin Ogonoski, Alternate Member Nicholas Carbone, and Alternate Member Marc Matsil.

The Commission also acknowledges Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Don Truskauskas, who has had many challenging matters to contend with during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Redmond  
Land Use Coordinator

## **Food Pantry Annual Report 2022/2023**

Since its inception by the First Selectman and Troop 55 Eagle Scout Ryan Hall, the Food Pantry has been a robust part of the community and continues to thrive.

During the challenges of the pandemic the Food Pantry received additional donations from various community groups and residents. The pantry also received food donations from Region #10 and various local businesses that helped keep the cost down for the replenishment of staple items.

The Food Pantry is run by two volunteers and overseen by the First Selectman's Office. The volunteers stock the pantry as needed with the items most used by residents who visit on a regular basis. Before purchasing, donated items are stocked. We have had the benefit of receiving fresh fruit and vegetables from local businesses, local farms, and residents. The volunteers purchase fresh and refrigerated items as well as most used staple items. The average monthly grocery bill is about \$394.00; the allowance is \$400.00. We have an annual budget of \$5,000.00; some months there is less spent. The pantry enjoys donated fresh items that also come from the garden planted in the town hall lawn located above the Food Pantry parking lot. We spend a little less around the Holidays as there are many donated items and additional funds donated for the purchase of specialty items. The town also works closely with community groups to provide and distribute such items. The Food Pantry is funded by various sources and has remained a sustainable account as the donated funds exceed the annual budget. The Food Pantry received a total of \$11,794.00 in monetary donations.

Each year we receive donations from the following sources:

Thomaston Savings Bank Grant - \$1,500.00 - \$3,500.00.

Region #10 Schools: HCS, HarBur, LSM - \$3,000.00 - \$5,000.00.

LSM Crew Booster Club - \$500.00 - \$1,100.00.

Lions Club - \$200.00 - \$500.00.

And numerous individual donations.

As of 6/30/2023 the Food Pantry balance is \$28,296.74. Monthly Reports are generated by the Finance Department and reviewed by the Executive Assistant and the Volunteers to confirm all purchases.

The Food Pantry has been thriving and continues to be a resource for those in need in our community. We hope to expand its services to fuel/energy assistance and social services as they continue to be a growing concern in our community.

# **2022 Harwinton Net Taxable Grand List Summary**

*(After BAA changes, CO Prorates, Certificate of Corrections)*

Real Estate	\$490,913,907
Personal Property	\$46,220,925
Motor Vehicles	\$86,363,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$623,498,586</b>

REAL ESTATE                      Number of parcels - 3,356

PERSONAL PROPERTY        Number of accounts - 250

MOTOR VEHICLE                Number of accounts - 7,200

EXEMPTIONS                    240 Veterans  
    10 Totally Disabled

TAX RELIEF (over 65)        40 Owners - 21 Renters

## **ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS**

2021 Motor Vehicle Supplemental Grand List \$8,119,323

Michele DaSilva C.C.M.A I, Assessor

# HARWINTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls in the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Motor Vehicle Accidents	83
Automatic Fire/Smoke/CO Alarms	27
Mutual Aid	14
Structure Fires	6
Chimney Fires	2
Gas Odor/Leak	6
Fuel Spill	1
Ambulance Assists	27
Water in Basement	1
Electrical Hazard/Wires Down	14
Smoke Investigation	7
Outside Fires	12
Brush Fires	6
Vehicle Fires	5
Animal Rescues	2
Total calls for service	213

The following is a list of the Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department Officers for the period from April 4, 2022 to April 3, 2023:

Bill Buys Jr	Chief
Dave Bousquet	Deputy Chief
Keith Whitecross	Captain
Andrew Smail	Lieutenant
Bill Buys III	Lieutenant
Sean Burke	Lieutenant
Stephen MacDonald	Lieutenant
Todd Dedominicus	Training Officer
Todd Dedominicus	Commissioner
Roger Rousseau	Commissioner
Kevin Smail	Commissioner
Peter Thierry	Secretary
Bruce Wilcox	Treasurer
Matt Piechota	Auditor
Marlene Pac	Auditor

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04/03/23

Accrual Basis

**Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Corporate Contributions	5,755.33
Grant	
Forestry	219.99
TSB Training	4,000.00
Total Grant	4,219.99
Individ, Business Contributions	4,387.13
Town Funding	
Capital Equipment	30,000.00
Town Funding - Other	101,300.00
Total Town Funding	131,300.00
Direct Public Support - Other	2,030.00
Total Direct Public Support	147,692.45
Indirect Public Support	
BBQ income	12,200.00
Fair Booth Income	14,479.00
Fair booth rental	4,500.00
Total Indirect Public Support	31,179.00
Investments	
Acct Fees	-2.05
Acct interest	161.60
Lincoln Invest dividends	
Lincoln Invest Capital Gain	667.90
Lincoln Invest dividends - Other	1,137.93
Total Lincoln Invest dividends	1,805.83
Lincoln restricted dividends	
Lincoln restricted capital gain	40.74
Lincoln restricted dividends - Other	1,301.23
Total Lincoln restricted dividends	1,341.97
Market Value	-26,144.01
Misc & Corporate Actions	18,452.27
Investments - Other	-0.37
Total Investments	-4,384.76
sale of old equipment	10,000.00
State Payments	
Rte 8 Payments	1,500.00
Total State Payments	1,500.00
Total Income	185,986.69
Expense	
Awards	
Memorial & Get Well	1,164.82
Total Awards	1,164.82
BBQ expences	
Fund raising start change	0.00
BBQ expences - Other	3,913.93
Total BBQ expences	3,913.93
Business Expenses	
Bad Check	20.00

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04/03/23

Accrual Basis

**Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Business Registration Fees over payment	2,375.00
Business Expenses - Other	2,595.00
	80.00
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<b>5,070.00</b>
Contract Services	
Outside Contract Services	350.00
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	<b>350.00</b>
Facilities and Equipment	
Heat/Hot water/ Cooking	3,809.89
Scott SCBA Equipment	
fit test	65.00
repair	767.29
Scott SCBA Equipment - Other	16,355.86
<b>Total Scott SCBA Equipment</b>	<b>17,188.15</b>
Uniforms	397.00
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>21,395.04</b>
Fair Booth Expense	
start up change	0.00
Fair Booth Expense - Other	4,191.58
<b>Total Fair Booth Expense</b>	<b>4,191.58</b>
New Engine 3 Operations	64,950.05
Applicant background check	253.99
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	159.00
Building Maintainace	
Building Maintainace	2,661.04
Building Maintainace - Other	1,593.67
<b>Total Building Maintainace</b>	<b>4,254.71</b>
Computer	
Computer Programing	1,500.00
<b>Total Computer</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
Equip Maintenance	
rescue equipment & maint	
Rescue Jacks	16,685.12
rescue equipment & maint - Other	8,506.11
<b>Total rescue equipment &amp; maint</b>	<b>25,191.23</b>
Equip Maintenance - Other	3,463.47
<b>Total Equip Maintenance</b>	<b>28,654.70</b>
Equipment Fuel	2,677.18
Fire Fighting Equipment	
nozzles	1,266.90
Fire Fighting Equipment - Other	7,283.75
<b>Total Fire Fighting Equipment</b>	<b>8,550.65</b>
Fire Police Equipment	95.41
Fire prevention week	849.08
Office Supplies	
Postage, Mailing Service	58.00
Office Supplies - Other	477.19
<b>Total Office Supplies</b>	<b>535.19</b>
Official Dinners	4,444.24

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04/03/23

Accrual Basis

Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department  
Profit & Loss  
January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Physicals	1,285.00
Supplies	194.10
Training	1,350.00
Turn Out Gear	
cold water gear	1,690.84
Turn Out Gear - Other	7,222.40
Total Turn Out Gear	8,913.24
Utilities	
AT&T	1,933.44
Cable	1,243.60
Electricity	7,895.54
Phone	1,022.30
Water	441.90
Total Utilities	12,536.78
Vehicle Maintenance	12,329.83
Web Page	283.83
Total Operations	88,866.93
Other Types of Expenses	
Insurance - Liability, D and O	32,781.00
interest/fees	137.38
Total Other Types of Expenses	32,918.38
Radios and Pagers	
Pagers	3,000.00
portable Radio	4,136.00
Radios and Pagers - Other	128.00
Total Radios and Pagers	7,264.00
Refreshments	706.95
Travel and Meetings	
Travel	1.50
Total Travel and Meetings	1.50
Total Expense	230,793.18
Net Ordinary Income	-44,806.49
Net Income	-44,806.49

Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department

Cash on hand 1 Dec 2022:

Checking	63,080.45	
Money Market/Truck Fund	121,765.99	
Fire Police Checking	4,999.41	
Lincoln Restricted	49,204.61	
Lincoln Unrestricted	124,837.62	
	=====	
	363,888.08	
Income	185,986.69	
	=====	
	549,874.77	
Expenses	230,793.18	
	=====	
		<u>319,081.59</u>

Cash on hand 31 Dec 2022:

Checking	24,370.07	
Money Market/Truck Fund	120,311.46	
Fire Police Checking	4,904.00	
Lincoln Restricted	54,631.67	
Lincoln Unrestricted	114,864.20	
	=====	
		<u>319,081.40</u>

Respectfully Submitted

Bruce W Wilcox  
Treasurer



### **Board of Directors**

Chief – Kevin Ferrarotti  
Immediate Past Chief – Jason Emery  
Town Member at Large – Donald Cromwell  
Town Member at Large – Patrick J. Wall, Esq.

### **Officers**

Chief – Kevin Ferrarotti  
Deputy Chief of Administration – Aaron Franzi  
Deputy Chief of Operations – Tyler Reginatto  
Captain – Raymond Wheeler  
Secretary – Donna Bielefeld  
Treasurer – Brenda Reginatto

Together, with the Harwinton Fire Department, Harwinton Westside Fire Department, and our Resident State Troopers, the Harwinton Ambulance Association provides emergency response needs for those who live and pass through our community. Our primary function is to provide EMS coverage 24 hours a day 365 days a year. During FY 2022-23, we responded to 701 incidents.

This past fiscal year, our dedicated volunteers continued to provide monthly free community outreach training for our town residents, including opioid awareness, mental health and wellness, as well as CPR and first aid. Our community education and outreach programs are recognized throughout the state and we are considered as a leading organization in community CPR and injury prevention by the Department of Public Health. To learn more about the vast programs that we offer our residents, please visit our website at [www.harwintonems.org](http://www.harwintonems.org) for class schedules and information.

Our association's success is due to the great volunteers that provide dedicated and tireless support. Through the efforts of our volunteer officers and board of directors, we developed critical public health partnerships for the betterment of our community. Through these efforts, Harwinton Ambulance became the first EMS agency in the region to offer leave behind Naloxone kits, which help to reduce the risk of fatal overdoses that we see in our community as a result of the opioid epidemic.

With the generosity of so many in our community, we also were able to update the equipment used by our first responders. Through another generous grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, we were able to replace necessary capital equipment, which assures the safe movement of patients.

On behalf of the Ambulance members, officers, and board, I extend our sincere thanks to the residents of Harwinton, the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance for their continued support of our mission to provide quality emergency medical services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Ferrarotti, Chief  
Harwinton Ambulance Association

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July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

*Income*

Billing revenue	\$259,651.96
Town Stipend	\$300,000.00
Donations	\$8,808.98
Other income	<u>\$4,916.22</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$573,377.16</b>

*Expense*

ALS Agreements	\$11,750.00
Ambulance stretcher	\$9,557.92
Billing services	\$23,271.37
Communications	\$4,544.44
Contract labor	\$410,848.24
Depreciation	\$9,543.00
Education	\$3,511.14
House & Grounds	\$21,356.72
Insurance	\$15,063.00
Licenses	\$50.00
Medical Equipment	\$842.94
Medical Supplies	\$8,356.51
Office Equipment	\$6,747.44
Postage	\$118.81
Outreach	\$1,300.00
Service fees	\$49.00
Uniforms	\$727.61
Utilities	\$10,564.23
Vehicle expense	\$22,734.07
Other income	<u>\$18,155.20</u>
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$579,091.64</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$5,714.48)</b>



# HARWINTON WESTSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

199 Scoville Hill Road – Harwinton, CT 06791

## Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Last year, the Harwinton West Side Volunteer Fire Department proudly responded to 254 emergency calls with an active membership of 48 personnel including 27 Connecticut certified firefighters, 5 non-certified firefighters, 2 Fire Police Officers, 12 support personnel, and 2 Junior Firefighters (Age 15-18). Members spent over 3,500 man hours responding to emergencies, training, fund raising, and participating in community events.

The Harwinton West Side Fire Department takes pride in its ability to protect the town of Harwinton and its visitors on a 24 hour a day, 365 day a year basis using highly trained volunteer personnel and state-of-the art equipment all at a cost of \$23.19 per capita.

I would like to thank all of the officers and members of the organization for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank the Town of Harwinton and its residents for their continued support of the Harwinton West Side Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Kellogg, Fire Chief

### Officers

#### Board of Directors

President – Scott Kellogg  
Vice-President – Michael Soliani  
Secretary – Daren Knox  
Treasurer – Vincent Wheeler  
Mark Galinsky  
Samantha Kellogg  
Andrew Weimann II

#### Line Officers

Fire Chief – Scott Kellogg  
Deputy Chief – Michael Soliani  
Asst. Chief of Admin – Daren Knox  
Asst. Chief of Safety – James Newkirk  
Captain – Seth Kellogg  
Lieutenant – Ray Wheeler  
Lieutenant – Curtis Joseph

## Financial Report

Income	
Town of Harwinton	\$127,150
Donations	\$7,731
Fund Raising	\$54,020
Grants	\$4,500
Investment Income	(\$487)
Other Misc Income	\$8065
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$200,979</b>

<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$14,949</b>
--------------------------	-----------------

Expenses	
Building Maintenance	\$16,033
Dues & Fees	\$1,457
Insurance	\$21,913
Office Supplies & Postage	\$781
Utilities	\$15,576
Vehicle Maintenance	\$41,956
Communications Equip	\$6,005
Equipment Maintenance	\$5,688
Equipment Purchases	\$10,857
Fuel	\$1,439
Information Technology	\$3,838
Regulatory Compliance	\$4,022
Training	\$6,349
Capital Projects	\$6,632
Fund Raising Expenses	\$21,964
Good of the Department	\$11,011
Recruitment & Retention	\$3,751
Other Misc Expenses	\$6,758
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$186,030</b>

## Emergency Responses 22-23

FDID	MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
<b>01081</b>			
	Fires	25	9.8%
	Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	1	0.4%
	Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	91	35.8%
	Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	35	13.8%
	Service Call	11	4.3%
	Good Intent Call	63	24.8%
	False Alarm & False Call	27	10.6%
	Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.4%
	<b>Total Number Incidents for 01081:</b>	<b>254</b>	



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

**Harwinton Resident State Trooper's Office**  
Annual Report – 2022 to 2023



Resident Troopers work in the Town of Harwinton under the command of the Troop-L - Litchfield Barracks. The Resident Troopers work closely with the Board of Selectmen, Public Works, Harwinton Volunteer Fire Departments, Harwinton Volunteer Ambulance Association, and other Town departments regarding public safety matters in town. The Resident Troopers are responsible for the investigation of all crimes and the enforcement of motor vehicle laws within the Town of Harwinton.

Currently there are two Resident Troopers assigned to the Town. Trooper First Class Gregory Kenney #628 is assigned to the day shift. Trooper Kenney is a certified K-9 handler and his partner is Chase, a six-year-old German Shepard, who responds to calls for service within the town. K-9 Chase is certified in human tracking, evidence recovery, building searches and handler protection. K-9 Chase is also cross certified in Human Remains Detection (HRD) / Cadaver and is a member of the State Police Search & Rescue Team. In addition to this, Trooper Kenney is assigned as a Community Trust Liaison (CTL) for the Troop-L barracks and is an advisor for the Troop-L Police Cadet Program. The Cadet Program serves young adults ages 13 to 20 in an educational and community-based law enforcement learning program.

Trooper Nicholas Baldwin is assigned to the evening shift. Trooper Baldwin is a member of the State Police Dive Team and is a U.S. Navy trained diver. Trooper Baldwin is also certified as a DARE Instructor.

Resident Troopers are in Town for the majority of their shifts. They occasionally travel to Troop-L for necessities such as fuel, prisoner processing, submission of paperwork, and roll call. Additionally, they may upon occasion provide mutual aid in emergencies to proximate Towns, such as Burlington, which is reciprocated. However, they are not assigned to investigate complaints outside of Harwinton. The Resident Trooper's primary focus is on, and in, the Town of Harwinton. They are part of your community, and value our partnership to help keep this community safe.

The Resident Troopers office participated this past fiscal year in an annual Cadet Food Drive in November and Toy Drive in December which benefited numerous citizens in need from Harwinton's community. Two donations of gift cards were made to the Harwinton Food Pantry as well as numerous boxes of food and Toys.

In this fiscal year there were approximately 5,763 calls for service in Town that were handled by Troopers. These calls included the following approximate calls for service by type:

- 1) Traffic Accidents (including RT 8) – 116\* (89\* in the previous year)  
\*Figure includes D.W.I. Traffic Crashes – 7 (7 in the previous year)  
\*Figure includes Fatalities – 0 (0 in the previous year)
- 2) Alarms, residential, commercial, and panic – 118 (127 in the previous year)
- 3) Burglaries, both residential / commercial and vehicle – 3 (10 in the previous year)
- 4) Narcotic Arrests – 7 (7 in the previous year)
- 5) Larcenies – 17 (16 in the previous year)

- 6) Weapons Offenses – 3 (3 in the previous year)
- 7) Domestic Violence – 25 (14 in the previous year)
- 8) Disturbances – 24 active, 11 non-active for a total of 35 (21 in the previous year)
- 9) Sex Assault – 3 (4 in the previous year)
- 10) Missing Persons – 31 (21 in the previous year)
- 11) Suspicious Persons / Vehicles – 91 (94 in the previous year)
- 12) Medicals – 84 (53 in the previous year)
  - \* Naloxone Deployments – 0 (3 in the previous year)
  - \* Psychiatric Committals – 29 (13 in the previous year)
- 13) Traffic Stops (including RT 8) – 1,803 (699\* in the previous year)
- 14) D.W.I. Arrests – 25 (19 in the previous year)

The remaining calls are for various other services to citizens such as: vandalism, fires, trespassing, identity theft, harassment, warrants, untimely deaths, patrol checks, etc.

We believe that we can reach our goal of a safer Town through proactive efforts and, most importantly, your help. Please contact us at our office (860-485-1421) or Troop-L (860-626-7900) with any comments or suggestions. Please dial / text 911 in an emergency.

Respectfully Submitted,

***TFC. G. Kenney #628***

TFC Gregory Kenney #628  
Connecticut State Police  
Harwinton Resident State Trooper (Day Shift)

***TPR. N. Baldwin #651***

TPR Nicholas Baldwin #651  
Connecticut State Police  
Harwinton Resident State Trooper (Evening Shift)

## **NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023**

1185 New Litchfield Street \* Torrington, CT 06790 \* 860 626 7222 \* [www.nwcd.org](http://www.nwcd.org)

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is an environmental non-profit organization serving 34 municipalities in northwestern Connecticut. Our mission is to promote conservation and protect the environment through education and technical assistance services.

### **TECHNICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO MUNICIPALITIES**

During 2022-2023, we assisted our towns' land-use departments and citizens with on site development reviews and field inspections of sites in a variety of land use settings. Our recommendations on proposed land use changes balance development with protection of the natural environment. We provide practical, science-based solutions using the latest techniques, including Low Impact Development (LID), to ensure that projects work with the landscape and are designed to address changes in our climate. Our professional soil scientist is able to review inland-wetland delineations.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT**

We conducted workshops on topics including LID and stormwater management, residential rain gardens, soil health, renewable energy options, pollinator gardens, home composting, invasive plant management, cover crops and other best agricultural management practices. We support the work of the state-wide Pollinator Pathway Northeast ([www.pollinatorpathway.org](http://www.pollinatorpathway.org)).

We provide support to USDA-NRCS's conservation planning program and to farms in our District through our Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative that provides free cover crop seed to farmers to help them transition to healthy soil practices.

We support the CT Envirothon Program ([www.ctenvirothon.org](http://www.ctenvirothon.org)) providing hands-on science for high school students through workshops and educational support. Participating schools take part in an annual May Field Day statewide competition and the winning team competes at a National Conservation Foundation (NCF) competition. Twelve teams participated in the event. NWCD participating schools included Housatonic Valley Regional; Northwest Regional 7; Marvelwood School from Kent, and Nonnewaug High School winner of the statewide competition and that went on to the international competition in Canada.

### **EARTH DAY PLANT SALE**

Our Earth Day Plant Sale is held annually at the Goshen Fairgrounds over a three-day period in late April. Through the plant sale we continue to encourage people to make personal changes to promote clean air, clean water, healthy soils, and quality habitats. This year we provided extensive educational material with an expanded display of literature and information boards on many topics and we shared literature from many of our northwest corner partners. NWCD staff and Master Gardeners are on hand to help people select the right plants for their needs and growing conditions.

### **OUTREACH AND WEBSITE**

We continue to publish our "Voice of Conservation" bi-annual newsletter, as well as a new yearly "Education Edition" in print and electronic offerings through our website, and Facebook. Recorded webinars and educational articles are now offered on our website with news and links on our Facebook page, and we are planning additional resources for on-line outreach to help read and conserve natural habitats and wildlife. Our goal is to make our educational programming available to a wider audience. To be added to our mailing list, email [info@nwcd.org](mailto:info@nwcd.org).

## HARWINTON TOWN REPORT 2022-2023

### VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, INC.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County was created in 2020 by the mergers of Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (est. 1904), VNA Northwest (Bantam, est. 1928) and Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care (Winsted, est. 1922). The combined agencies will be caring for the residents of all towns in Litchfield County plus Burlington, Canton, and Hartland.

VNHLC is a State licensed, Medicare certified, non-profit VNA providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. VNHLC provides services in the areas of Skilled Nursing, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies, Medical Social Work, Hospice, Dietary, Pediatrics, Wound Care, Chronic Disease Management and non-medical Home Assistance Programs.

VNHLC employs 115 people, 95% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,204 patients and provided 50,198 patient visits in 2022-2023.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Harwinton. 59 persons from Harwinton received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-four (84%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 24% lived alone.

VNHLC also offers, with funding assistance from the town, the following services free of charge to residents of Harwinton:

- Matter of Balance Classes – classes focus on how to maintain balance, continue moving and exercise at any age.
- Blood Pressure Clinics
- Health Promotion Visits - VNHLC receives an annual allocation from the town to help defray the costs of providing free Health Promotion visits and Public Health Programs. Health Promotion is a program in which certain elderly at-risk patients, who normally live alone and no longer qualify for insurance benefits, are routinely monitored free of charge by one of our staff nurses, therapists, social workers, or dieticians.

Structured Bereavement Groups are held twice a year. The groups are free and open to anyone in the community who has lost a family member or friend. The bereavement coordinator is also always available to meet privately with people. Just before the holiday season, an event, The Tree of Lights, is held to honor and remember VNHLC patients who have passed within the past 18 months to which family members and caregivers are invited.

This past year VNHLC was able to conduct public and many private flu clinics and administered more than 1,400 flu vaccines to mostly high-risk individuals. All ages, 18 and older, were welcome to attend.

Since VNHLC is a non-profit health agency, the Board of Directors serve on a voluntary basis and represent all the towns in which full services are provided.

Referrals for services are accepted from anyone and services are provided regardless of ability to pay, as long as contributions, grants and other appropriations are sufficient to cover these costs.

Michael Caselas, Executive Director

## TOWN HISTORIAN

In the fall of 2022, an article I wrote on Theodore and Newman Hungerford, Harwinton benefactors, was published in the Connecticut Society of Genealogists magazine, "Connecticut Genealogy News." A few months later, I asked permission from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists if I could post the article on a Facebook site, "Harwinton In Time and Beyond." Permission was granted, and the article was put on the Facebook site.

In January of 2023, I became the President of the Harwinton Historical Society. Articles I have written on Harwinton's history have been published in the HHS newsletter. I am also the secretary of the T.A. Hungerford Memorial Museum.

As a genealogist, when the Harwinton Public Library gets a request that a patron needs help with genealogy, an appointment is made. I go in and meet with the patron and see how I can help them. There is no set time for an appointment, so I am available days, evenings, and Saturday- whenever the library is open.

I also receive requests from the Town Clerk's office to research ownership of real estate and help researching a lineage. Lineage help involves searching for vital records, deeds, etc. to help with tracing a line. As a genealogist, when I am contacted it is because the person has checked Ancestry.com and needs to have the Town Vault checked to see if there are records that are not on Ancestry.com.

The Town Historian files are in the vault. I used my budget for 2022-2023 to purchase sleeves to put old newspaper clippings, etc. that are in the files to help preserve them. I also add to the files in the vault with my research.

Susan Fenn McClen  
Town Historian

**RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Commission Members:

Michael Flowers, Chairman

Wayne Delmonte

John Goodno

Brian Kelleher

Bruce Wilcox

Michael Zaba

Parks & Recreation Director: Kerri Stolle

Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Director: Patricia Hine

**Recreation**

Our goal in the Harwinton Recreation Department is to offer a variety of programming year-round for people of all ages. This year we were able to continue our most successful programs and we added a few new programs. Last summer we launched our MyRec website for registration and facility reservations. This has been a great addition because people are able to register and pay online. It has also made running reports on registration or finance much easier. It also allows the Recreation Department to notify everyone with an account of upcoming programs and events.

**Community Events**

Last summer the outdoor movies had a very poor attendance overall which is why this year we switched to concerts instead. Most of our community events were successful.

Trunk or Treat had a great turnout. We had 35 different people/groups who decorated trunks. We easily had over 600 people come to the event and many of them stayed until the end.

Our Hometown Holiday went well this year despite the need to use the rain date. We were back to a walk-thru event with food trucks, the hayride, cookies, hot cocoa, a photo booth, and visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus. We estimated that about 2,000 people attended the event. We raised about \$10,000 from local businesses and organizations.

Our Easter Egg Hunt had 120 registrations ages 3-12. We utilized the Sports Complex, and we were able to separate the age groups into different fields which went over very well with the parents.

The Fishing Derby had 40 registrations and although the fish were slow to bite, we did have several kids catch fish. This year we plan on getting the fish a few days earlier so they can acclimate to the water a bit more before the derby day.

We partnered year with Heidi Kirchofer from Matica Arts. Heidi received a grant through the Northwest Arts Council. She was able to put on a live acrobatic event put on by teens with large-scale sculpture costumes this June. The show was visually stunning, and we believe it would have had a better turnout if it had not been such a busy weekend in our area.

## **Programs**

Our youth programs continue to be our most successful. Last year we had a great turnout for our half-day summer camp. We had 45-60 kids each week. We brought in a magic show, and water slide, many parents expressed the desire for a full-day program which is what we decided to do for the summer of 2023.

Our afterschool programs for dance, karate, and art were full for every session from September through June. We may attempt to add another day of karate this year because we always have a waitlist.

We added a few new youth programs last year. We did a 6-week soccer clinic for 5-8-year-olds as well as a STEM homeschool program for middle school-aged students. Both programs were taught by Kerri and many parents who were involved asked if we were going to do these programs again this year.

Our adult programs have proven more difficult to get registrations for. We attempted to add in a low-impact fitness class as well as a HIIT class which did not have enough registrations to run. However, we did have Zumba from September through June. We also added another day for our adult volleyball players at HCS which had over 25 registrations.

This year we may attempt a pick-up basketball league for adults. Multiple residents have expressed interest in this, so we hope to be able to add it to our 2023-2024 programs.

## **Facilities/Locations**

The Conservation Area has been utilized by more local groups and people than last year. We hope to be able to make the pavilion more accessible in the future so that we can rent out the facility more. We did apply for a grant to hopefully be able to do some work on the trails at the conservation area. Unfortunately, the grant is very competitive, and we did not receive the funding. In the next few years, we hope to be able to add more trail markers and do more work at the Conservation and Recreation Area.

Our Sports Complex continues to be a great place for our youth sports programs. We rested a few fields and added in some clay to prepare for the spring season. We had a very busy spring season hosting lacrosse, baseball, and soccer at the sports complex. We had teams on-site every day.

As you know we did get the restoration of the basketball courts approved at the town meeting in May. We are also awaiting the discretionary funding to begin our pickleball courts which will be a huge draw for adults in the area.

Our facilities are all back and open for reservation and we continue to get interest in Community Hall and the Senior Center from community members.

This year we hope to continue to add new programs and provide events that interest the Harwinton Community.

# COMMISSION ON AGING

Commission on Aging Members:

Peggy Shanahan, Chairman

Sandra Alexander

Joan Cominotti

Marilyn Mitchell

Jo-Ann Jayne

Cathy Canfield

Robin Reid

Parks & Recreation Director: Kerri Stolle

Assistant to the Parks & Recreation Director: Patricia Hine

## **Senior Center**

Last September we reopened the Senior Center for 3 days a week. We coordinated the dial-a-ride with Northwest Transit so our residents have transportation to and from the Senior Center. We have a well-established group of members who are there all three days that the center is open.

Last year we had several changes in the staff at the Senior Center. Suzanne Stitch retired in August and Kerri helped to run the senior center during the fall. In November Patricia (Trish) Hine was hired as the Assistant to the Parks and Recreation Director. Luckily, Trish has been a member of the center and worked with Sharlene and Suzanne for years. It was a seamless transition, and she has done a phenomenal job of planning things for our members.

Trish has continued to set up our monthly parties with entertainment. We also continue to do Bingo every Tuesday which is our most popular "in-house" program. Trish runs the crafts each month as well as monthly "derby races," raffle baskets, and 50/50 raffles that have been great fundraisers for the center. They raised enough money to buy a new TV.

We continue to do at least one bus trip every month. We have done shopping trips to Danbury, New Milford, Orange, and Plainville for our members. Our members were also able to go see the Christmas lights at Hubbard Park last December. This year we hope to add trips to see musicals or other shows at the request of our members.

We did receive funding once again from WCAAA. We did go back to the amount we were receiving pre-pandemic. We hope that our fundraising efforts will help us to continue to offer new programs for seniors.

Last year we discovered that a Commission on Aging is no longer required by the State of Connecticut. Many of the former commission members no longer come into the Senior Center. We

have also begun to work closely with Kerri Ouellette, our Municipal Agent on Aging. We have started offering sessions about topics relevant to Seniors such as Medicare, Senior Fraud, energy assistance, Financial and Estate Planning, and Community resources. We hope to get a more regular schedule in January of 2024 to increase the interest in these programs.

Our membership has grown from 102 to 150 in the past year. We hope to continue to bring in new members and add programming that will appeal to some of the younger members.

# Office of the Harwinton Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Terrence Ferrarotti  
Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Diorio

The Fire Marshal is granted their authority by the CT General Statutes.  
We provide 24/7 coverage to the Town and its citizens.

The Fire Marshal is State Certified and shall follow all applicable State of CT Laws and Regulations, in addition to all National Fire Prevention Codes and Standards. Fire Marshals belong to several local, state, and national organizations that provide ongoing required continuing education.

## Duties:

Investigate all fires to determine the cause and origin of each.

- Work with the State of CT State Police  
FEIU Accelerant Detection K9's and their handlers

Enforce the State of CT Fire Prevention Code and the  
State of CT Fire Safety Code.

- Periodic Inspections of all Businesses in the Town
- Approve all new commercial businesses and structures.  
In addition to the approvals from the Building Official
- Develop a Life Safety Plan for any major event.
- Overseas all Blasting Permits and Firework Shows

Fire Prevention Activities and Community Risk Reduction

# **REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

## **BIRTHS OCCURRING BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023**

Females 32

Males 26

TOTAL BIRTHS: 58

## **MARRIAGES OCCURRING BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022- JUNE 30, 2023**

In Town: 75

Out of Town: 21

TOTAL MARRIAGES: 96

## **DEATHS OCCURRING BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

In Town: 12

Out of Town: 26

TOTAL DEATHS: 38

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy E. Eldridge, CMC  
Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics

## **HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Harwinton Historical Society is a non-profit organization that was organized by volunteers in the early 1970s and continues to encourage preservation and an appreciation of the town's history.

Throughout the year, a variety of history-related programs are offered to the public, usually without charge. One of the most popular offerings continues to be a free self-guided tour of the South Road Cemetery. Program guides are available in a mailbox at the cemetery entrance.

The Society also oversees the 1840s restored one room schoolhouse and nearby barn museum on Route 118 in front of the Consolidated School and across from the local post office. Installation of a new sign completes the restoration project.

Historical Society offices are in the Jason Skinner House at the entrance to the Wintergreen senior housing complex off Bentley Drive.

To schedule a tour of the schoolhouse or barn museum or to volunteer to help, please leave a message on the Harwinton History web site at [www.harwintonhistory.org](http://www.harwintonhistory.org).

**END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2022-JUNE 2023  
FOR THEODORE A. HUNGERFORD MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

Account book:	\$ 12.99
Electrical:	1,094.69
Heat:	1,295.54
Insurance:	3,675.95
Yearly Post Office Box rental:	140.00
Postage:	60.00
State of CT:	50.00
Fund Raiser Expense:	1,157.86
Telephone:	680.73
Lawn Maintained:	1,490.00
Security:	<u>1,443.34</u>
	\$11,101.10

Income:

Town of Harwinton:	\$5,000.00
Man of the Year:	1,000.00
Fund Raiser:	2,608.14
Amazon Smile:	33.25
Anonymous:	147.00
Donation Box:	22.00
Interest:	<u>65.13</u>
	_\$8,875.52

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol Deleppo, Treasurer



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOCG) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

NHCOCG generally meets monthly to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. Additional information on COG initiatives and activities is available at: [www.northwesthillscog.org](http://www.northwesthillscog.org)

At the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, NHCOCG approved a budget that realized increases in funding and services levels in many areas. These areas included an increase in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG), an increase in the state DOT planning funds for the region, the creation of a regional opioid response fund and a \$1.2M award from Health Resources and Services Administration over the next 4 years for the establishment of a Rural Health Network Project Director to continue the work in this area over the last couple of years. Leonardo Ghio was added to NHCOCG staff as the new Project Director for this work.

During the Fiscal Year of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, NHCOCG planned for a relocation of the home office from Goshen to Litchfield in space within the EdAdvance building at 355 Goshen Road. The move will become official on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and will provide additional office space for a growing staff, several sizes of conference room space and efficiencies with other overhead costs along with full time access to our current Information Technology services provided by EdAdvance.

NHCOCG also initiated a review and update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Major strategies outlined in the current CEDS include expanding access to high-speed fiber optic broadband (Fiber to the Home – FTTH), promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs and innovation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of 3-year funding from US EDA was applied for and granted at the end of the FY and will provide for the continued update to our 5-year CEDS and continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within.

NHCOCG is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects (LOTICIP) and projects are currently in various stages of approval/development in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.

NHCOCG also serves as the oversight agent for approximately \$365,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for the Department of Emergency Management and



Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5. There are several projects and equipment acquisitions to support this program within multiple Emergency Support Function groups in region-5 (all of NHCOC and portions of NVCOG and WESTCOG).

In 2022-2023, NHCOC continued coordination of numerous popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program. NHCOC also started a few new programs including being the fiduciary of a Produce Rx Program and the recent designation of the Wild and Scenic status for a portion of the Housatonic River working with the 7-town membership of the Housatonic River Commission (HRC).

NHCOC continuously promotes the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by NHCOC in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public trails in the region.

In addition, NHCOC continued to host a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans. These also have been utilized to meet the new statutory requirements of Land Use Officials annual training program.

Serving as officers of NHCOC during the majority of FY 2022-2023 were Henry Todd, Chairman, Mike Criss, Vice Chairmen; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Tom Weik, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert Phillips*

Robert A Phillips, AICP  
Executive Director

## **BOARD ASSESSMENT OF APPEALS**

The Harwinton Board of Assessment of Appeals meets twice a year to hold public hearings on Real Estate, Personnel Property, and Motor Vehicles.

When the date is set for a public hearing, a legal notice is published in the Republican American.

A public hearing was set for September 20, 2022, for Motor Vehicles appeals. There were six motor vehicle appeals. All six had a change in assessments. A public hearing was set for April 18, 2023 for Real Estate and Personnel Property Appeals. There was an appeal for Real Estate. No change was made to their assessment. There were two personnel property appeals. Both had a reduction in their assessed values.

The Board of Assessment Appeals consists of three members who are elected for a four-year term.

Chairman: Terry Ferrarotti, Sandra Sulek, & Wayne Delmonte

Respectfully submitted, Candy Crawford, Clerk

## **First Selectman Annual Report 2022/2023**

I am very pleased and honored to serve the residents of the Town of Harwinton and submit my Annual Report for review. I continue to enjoy representing all of you and doing the work of the people. As we have settled into the post-Covid 'norm' there have been significant challenges over the past few years, and I am happy to report that the Town of Harwinton handled them seamlessly.

I am honored to have been elected for another term, making this my 7<sup>th</sup> term. My goal is to continue to keep the town running efficiently and continue to represent all residents and their needs while being fiscally conservative and socially responsible.

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance worked together to agree on increasing the mill rate, to cover expenses, from 28.5 mills to 29.2 mills. The Region 10 School District is 70% of the Town's budget and is a huge impact on the mill rate determination.

The Town of Harwinton continues to participate in the Homeland Security Grant which helps facilitate and fund what type of emergency equipment to buy and then share with the other 21 communities that partake in this grant program to increase safety equipment for the NW corner.

We enjoyed our 6<sup>th</sup> year of volunteers from Lewis S. Mills that come to the Town Hall throughout the year to help various departments. We look forward to our volunteers participating throughout the year and have developed a healthy, professional, and ongoing rapport with these students to keep them engaged and included in our community.

Region #10 and the town continue to work together to get our young residents involved in local government by promoting 'Civic Action Projects'; this program has become more active. Some of our high school students continue to attend our Board of Selectmen meetings to present projects that would benefit the community. They are not only observing the process of holding a meeting to present a project but are actively involved in the process and learn how to plan and research for effective presentations for progressiveness within the community.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding was made available to the Town of Harwinton in the amount of \$1.5 million. Public Informational meetings were held to review the projects approved by the ARPA committee which consists of the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance. The list includes: SCBA Breathing Apparatus, Fuel Tanks, Emergency Management Communication System, Ventilation Evaluation, and system, for the Town Hall, The Hungerford Museum, the First District Schoolhouse, Harwinton Agricultural Society, Veterans Memorial, and the Harwinton Ambulance.

We continue to manage your tax dollars and prevent frivolous spending while investing in protecting and upgrading our community. As you will read in our departmental reports, we have made significant strides in public safety, public works, training, and numerous upgrades to continue to be conservatively savvy while driving our community forward for years to come.

The Town continues to apply and receive Local Capital Improvement Project (LoCip) funds for numerous capital investments. One such investment was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance, and the Town at the Annual Town Meeting to install outdoor security cameras on the Town Hall, Library, Senior Center, and Public Works. This project will better ensure safety and security of our main municipal buildings.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Hometown Holiday Celebration took place and continues to be a great community event with no impact to the taxpayers. It is the second largest event that takes place in Harwinton and the only totally free event that takes place annually catering to all ages. This is made possible through our generous donors. We worked with the restrictions of Covid and the Holiday Hometown Committee worked creatively to put together a drive-thru that now will transition back to a walk-thru that will restore the original hometown feel that Harwinton is known for.

The First Selectman's 'Readers are Leaders' summer reading program in cooperation with the library has enjoyed its 9<sup>th</sup> year of successful young readers. The program has grown and allows the top readers to have their name drawn to be 'Honorary Selectmen for the Day'. This has not only encouraged reading for young students but also gives them exposure to local government and the experience that their involvement does make a difference; potentially creating future leaders.

The First Selectman's Office continues to represent Harwinton in Harford to ensure that our voice is heard against erroneous tax proposals and the State's attempt to remove local control over our quaint little town. We will always continue to protect our community from mismanagement and unnecessary state unfunded mandates. We continue to change and strengthen our staff to leave Harwinton in a better place for the future. We are all Harwinton! My door is always open, and I encourage residents to continue to reach out on anything that may concern you or that you may need help with, Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Criss  
First Selectman  
Town of Harwinton

TOWN OF HARWINTON		BUDGET MEETING 5/16/23					
		APPROVED	EXPENDED	APPROVED	PROPOSED		
<b>ACC T</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024		
1010	BD OF SELECTMEN	\$259,717.00	\$259,717.00	\$278,162.00	<b>\$286,387.00</b>		2.96%
1014	SOFTWARE & LICENSING	\$20,677.00	\$20,193.00	\$23,240.00	<b>\$31,491.00</b>		35.50%
1015	UTILITIES AND OIL	\$154,644.00	\$167,378.00	\$168,555.00	<b>\$305,444.00</b>		81.21%
1016	PROBATE	\$4,260.00	\$4,259.00	\$4,405.00	<b>\$4,436.00</b>		0.70%
1019	ELECTION EXPENSE	\$32,608.00	\$25,566.00	\$33,216.00	<b>\$35,600.00</b>		7.18%
1022	BD OF FINANCE	\$21,000.00	\$20,817.00	\$21,000.00	<b>\$22,000.00</b>		4.76%
1028	ASSESSORS	\$80,403.00	\$80,310.00	\$83,108.00	<b>\$86,056.00</b>		3.55%
1031	WPCA	\$2,364.00	\$2,364.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1034	BD OF ASSESSMENT	\$710.00	\$239.00	\$727.00	<b>\$1,665.00</b>		129.02%
1037	TAX COLLECTOR	\$102,229.00	\$101,423.00	\$105,502.00	<b>\$109,640.00</b>		3.92%
1046	TOWN ATTORNEY LEGAL	\$30,000.00	\$27,714.00	\$30,000.00	<b>\$30,000.00</b>		0.00%
1048	LEGAL-OUTSIDE	\$15,000.00	\$5,542.00	\$15,000.00	<b>\$8,500.00</b>		-43.33%
1049	TOWN CLERK	\$122,068.00	\$122,068.00	\$125,396.00	<b>\$130,042.00</b>		3.71%
1053	OFFICE EXP & PRINTING	\$22,685.00	\$19,545.00	\$24,931.00	<b>\$27,629.00</b>		10.82%
1055	ZONING COMMISSION	\$3,750.00	\$3,287.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1058	ZONING BD OF APPEALS	\$1,600.00	\$253.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1059	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	<b>\$100.00</b>		-80.00%
1060	LAND USE	\$51,685.00	\$48,842.00	\$64,251.00	<b>\$69,422.00</b>		8.05%
1061	PLANNING COMMISSION	\$920.00	\$630.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1065	HAR PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$194,343.00	\$187,432.00	\$198,047.00	<b>\$203,115.00</b>		2.56%
1070	BUILDING CODE OFF	\$75,000.00	\$123,615.00	\$75,000.00	<b>\$95,000.00</b>		26.67%
1073	IWWC	\$1,250.00	\$492.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1076	PARKS AND REC	\$157,224.00	\$147,720.00	\$174,575.00	<b>\$190,249.00</b>		8.98%
1078	TOWN HISTORIAN	\$600.00	\$348.00	\$600.00	<b>\$600.00</b>		0.00%
1079	HISTORIC DIST COM	\$1,000.00	\$159.00	\$1,000.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>		0.00%
1080	HARWINTON HOUSING	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00	\$13,092.00	<b>\$12,000.00</b>		-8.34%
1083	MUNICIPAL COMPLEX	\$30,825.00	\$30,813.00	\$55,600.00	<b>\$58,000.00</b>		4.32%
1084	COMMUNITY HALL	\$2,575.00	\$12.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1085	SENIOR CENTER	\$7,200.00	\$5,032.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		
1087	GL INS & WORKER'S COMP	\$141,582.00	\$139,406.00	\$158,298.00	<b>\$165,145.00</b>		4.33%
1088	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$408,369.00	\$365,104.00	\$510,752.00	<b>\$561,398.00</b>		9.92%
1091	PENSIONS	\$211,800.00	\$211,188.00	\$213,726.00	<b>\$225,000.00</b>		5.27%
1094	SOCIAL SECURITY	\$140,763.00	\$134,027.00	\$153,255.00	<b>\$164,676.00</b>		7.45%
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOV.</b>	<b>\$2,305,951.00</b>	<b>\$2,262,095.00</b>	<b>\$2,531,938.00</b>	<b>\$2,824,595.00</b>		11.56%
2005	911 SERVICE	\$62,059.00	\$62,059.00	\$63,999.00	<b>\$66,096.00</b>		3.28%
2020	FIRE MARSHAL SERVICES	\$13,916.00	\$13,916.00	\$17,244.00	<b>\$18,002.00</b>		4.40%
2025	FIRE PROTECTION	\$70,166.00	\$70,166.00	\$73,081.00	<b>\$0.00</b>		

2030	HAR VOL FIRE DEPT	\$127,895.00	\$127,895.00	\$131,300.00	<b>\$138,077.00</b>	5.16%
2040	HAR WESTSIDE FIRE	\$127,895.00	\$127,895.00	\$127,150.00	<b>\$138,077.00</b>	8.59%
2060	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$5,000.00	\$3,364.00	\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	0.00%
2070	POLICE SERVICES	\$309,106.00	\$287,300.00	\$388,898.00	<b>\$285,376.00</b>	- 26.62%
2080	BURNING OFFICAL	\$2,621.00	\$2,621.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
2090	AMBULANCE ASSOC	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$230,000.00	<b>\$385,000.00</b>	67.39%
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$928,658.00</b>	<b>\$905,216.00</b>	<b>\$1,036,672.00</b>	<b>\$1,035,628.00</b>	-0.10%
4020	GENERAL HIGHWAY MAINT	\$1,694,416.00	\$1,693,094.00	\$1,761,567.00	<b>\$1,900,000.00</b>	7.86%
4030	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$85,000.00	\$84,878.00	\$85,000.00	<b>\$85,000.00</b>	0.00%
4080	RECREATION FIELD MAINT	\$44,171.00	\$43,838.00	\$45,451.00	<b>\$52,000.00</b>	14.41%
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>\$1,823,587.00</b>	<b>\$1,821,810.00</b>	<b>\$1,892,018.00</b>	<b>\$2,037,000.00</b>	7.66%
5001	YOUTH SERVICES	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
5010	ELDERLY NUTRITION	\$1,952.00	\$1,951.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
5015	TORR AREA HEALTH	\$29,702.00	\$29,702.00	\$29,976.00	<b>\$30,184.00</b>	0.69%
5040	TOWN REFUSE	\$231,251.00	\$211,581.00	\$243,856.00	<b>\$267,273.00</b>	9.60%
5065	SOCIAL SERVICES	\$4,725.00	\$3,725.00	\$11,458.00	<b>\$14,016.00</b>	22.33%
5075	NW TRANSIT DISTRICT	\$983.00	\$983.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL CONS. &amp; HEALTH</b>	<b>\$270,313.00</b>	<b>\$249,642.00</b>	<b>\$285,290.00</b>	<b>\$311,473.00</b>	9.18%
8010	HUNGERFORD MEMORIAL	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	0.00%
8025	MEMORIAL DAY & FLAG	\$750.00	\$166.00	\$750.00	<b>\$750.00</b>	0.00%
8050	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	<b>\$100.00</b>	0.00%
	<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>	<b>\$5,266.00</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>	0.00%
9003	VAULT EQUIPMENT	\$715.00	\$715.00	\$715.00	<b>\$715.00</b>	0.00%
9010	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	11.11%
9011	MUNICIPAL TECHNOLOGY	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	11.11%
9020	TENNIS COURT CAPITAL	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	0.00%
9022	REC PLAYGROUND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	0.00%
9030	RECORD RESTORATION	\$322.00	\$322.00	\$360.00	<b>\$360.00</b>	0.00%
9035	REVALUATION	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	0.00%
9037	MUNICIPAL PROPERTY	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	0.00%

9069	TOWN PLAN	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	<b>\$500.00</b>	0.00%
9085	HIGHWAY CAPITAL	\$254,000.00	\$254,000.00	\$273,000.00	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	9.89%
	Truck #4 (203,000)					
	Truck #9 (66,000)					
9090	NON-RECUR. EMS CAP	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	0.00%
9099	HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	<b>\$22,000.00</b>	0.00%
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXP</b>	<b>\$510,837.00</b>	<b>\$510,837.00</b>	<b>\$530,975.00</b>	<b>\$559,075.00</b>	5.29%
	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$5,845,196.00</b>	<b>\$5,754,866.00</b>	<b>\$6,282,743.00</b>	<b>\$6,773,621.00</b>	7.81%
9910	REGION #10 ECS	\$2,430,050.00	\$2,557,926.00	\$2,430,050.00	<b>\$2,451,411.00</b>	0.88%
9920	REGION #10 TOWN B	\$11,617,638.00	\$11,085,700.00	\$11,646,538.00	<b>\$12,135,064.00</b>	4.19%
	<b>TOTAL REGIONAL #10</b>	<b>\$14,047,688.00</b>	<b>\$13,643,626.00</b>	<b>\$14,076,588.00</b>	<b>\$14,586,475.00</b>	3.62%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,892,884.00</b>	<b>\$19,398,492.00</b>	<b>\$20,359,331.00</b>	<b>\$21,360,096.00</b>	4.92%



EDUCATION						14586475	
		TOTAL				21360096	
REVENUE BUDGET:							
ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EDUCATION GRANTS						2904122	
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION						18455974	
BEFORE SURPLUS AND TAX RESERVE							
SURPLUS DESIGNATED						0	
RESERVE DESIGNATED						0	
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION						18455974	
GRAND LIST AT 10/01						623498586	
PRO RATED CONSTRUCTION						INCLUDED ABOVE	
ANTICIPATED MOTOR VEHICLE SUP 2020						8119323	
TOTAL GRAND LIST ESTIMATED						631617909	
<b>ESTIMATED MILL RATE</b>			18455974/631617			29.22	