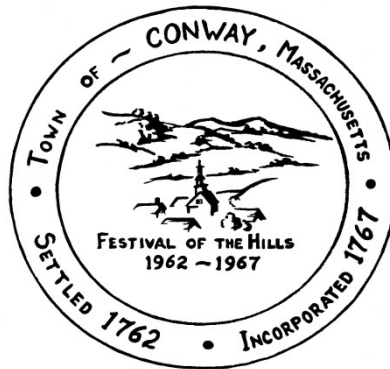


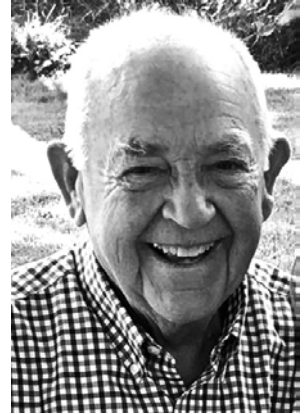
TOWN OF CONWAY  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
2021 Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2021  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

In Memory of  
Anthony Borton - 1933-2021  
Ann Hawkes - 1942-2021  
Marie Iken - 1949-2021  
Judy Loughlin - 1951-2021  
Mary Merriam - 1931-2021

Tony moved his family to Conway in 1967. Once he saw the town and drove through the covered bridge, he knew that he had found a special place. He never wanted to live anywhere else. He was friendly to all, enthusiastic, and humble. He was dedicated to helping improve life in Conway, whether it was coaching youth league baseball, serving on various town committees, or fundraising for the Conway Pool. He was a strong advocate for preserving Conway's open space. The words that he wrote last year sum it up best: "Every morning when I get up and look at the sunrise and view across the field and I know that it will remain open land for future generations to enjoy it is one of the most satisfying things I have ever done. It has been a privilege to have lived here for 56 years."



Anthony Borton



Ann Hawkes

Ann Hawkes - who for many years gave her time and dedication as a member of the Firemen's Auxiliary.

Marie José Iken and Maarten van de Kamp moved to Conway in 1976 where they raised their children, Elisa and Nickolas van de Kamp. They were people who loved the land and appreciated what Conway had to offer as a community and home. She created a composting program that lasted for many years at Conway Grammar School and brought a composting program to the Transfer Station as well. She was committed to the Board of Health, and to keeping BOH operations within the town.



Marie José Iken



Judy Loughlin

Judy Loughlin for many years chaired the Conway Grammar School Committee, upgrading it to one of the top elementary schools in the state. She dedicated much of her professional life to empowering educators to employ evidence-based literacy practices and challenged them to provide the best literacy instruction they possibly could for all students. She advocated for better literacy policy at the district and state levels, and offered direct instruction to educators and colleagues.

Mary Merriam - to acknowledge her dedication to the Conway Historical Society, her diligence in maintaining town cemeteries and for the creation of the town flag that she designed to hang in the State House. Mary was a talented quilter, and many will remember her yearly exhibit at the Festival of the Hills.



Mary Merriam

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## FAQs about Town Meeting

Frequently Asked at Town Meeting: What do the following terms mean?

<b>The term . . .</b>	<b>means...</b>
dismiss an article	defeat it
postpone an article indefinitely	defeat it
take no action on an article	defeat it
lay the question on the table	kill or postpone a measure
table the question	kill or postpone a measure
move the previous question	cut off debate and vote on the issue at hand

## Meeting Schedules

*Subject to change; please see postings at Town Office/Town Hall or contact the Chair to confirm. For the convenience of the public, some meetings may be attended remotely, most via Zoom.*

### **Board of Assessors**

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m., Town Hall

Administrative Assessor: Natalie Whitcomb [assessors@townofconway.com](mailto:assessors@townofconway.com), 369-4235 X5

Clerk Hours: Monday, Wednesday, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **Board of Health**

2nd and 4th Mondays, 5 p.m., Town Hall

Chair: Kathy Llamas [boardofhealth@townofconway.com](mailto:boardofhealth@townofconway.com), 369-4235 X8

Clerk Hours: Monday, Wednesday, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **Conservation Commission**

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Chair: Bruton Strange, [concomm@townofconway.com](mailto:concomm@townofconway.com)

### **Conway Grammar School Committee**

3rd Thursday, 6:00 p.m., CGS Library

Chair: Elaine Campbell, [elaine.campbell@frsu38.org](mailto:elaine.campbell@frsu38.org), 413-369-8089

### **Council on Aging**

1st Wednesday, 9 a.m., Town Hall

Chair: Patricia Lynch, [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net), 413-369-4284

### **Franklin County Technical School Committee**

2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., FCTS

### **Frontier Regional School Committee**

2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m., FRHS Media Center

Chair: Robert Halla

### **Planning Board**

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7 p.m., Town Office

Chair: Beth Girshman [planningboard@townofconway.com](mailto:planningboard@townofconway.com)

### **Selectboard**

June-November, Alternating Mondays, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall; December-May, Every Monday

Chair: Phil Kantor [selectboard@townofconway.com](mailto:selectboard@townofconway.com), 369-4235 X3

***Annual Town Meeting:*** June 4, 2022, Conway Grammar School Gym

***Annual Town Election:*** Thursday Following Town Meeting, Town Hall

## National, State, and Regional Officials

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

#### **Ed Markey (D)**

975 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston MA 02203, 617-565-8519  
1550 Main Street 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103, 413-785-4610  
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-2742  
[www.markey.senate.gov/contact](http://www.markey.senate.gov/contact)

#### **Elizabeth Warren (D)**

2400 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 02203, 617-565-3170  
1550 Main Street, Suite 406, Springfield MA 01103, 413-788-2690  
309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, 202-224-4543  
[www.warren.senate.gov/contact](http://www.warren.senate.gov/contact)

### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

#### **Richard Neal (D)**

78 Center Street, Pittsfield MA 01201, 413-442-0946  
300 State Street, Suite 200, Springfield, MA 01105, 413-785-0325  
372 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-5601  
[https://forms.house.gov/neal/webforms/contact\\_Forms.shtml](https://forms.house.gov/neal/webforms/contact_Forms.shtml)

### GOVERNOR

#### **Charlie Baker (R)**

State Office Building, 436 Dwight Street, Suite 300, Springfield MA 01103, 413-784-1200  
Massachusetts State House, Office of the Governor, 24 Beacon Street, Room 280  
Boston MA 02133, 617-725-4005; Toll-free in MA 888-870-7770  
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office>

### REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT

#### **Senator Adam G. Hinds (D)**

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District  
100 North St. Suite 4, Pittsfield, MA 01201, 617-722-1625  
24 Beacon St., Room 109-E, Boston, MA, 02133, 413-344-4561  
[adam.hinds@masenate.gov](mailto:adam.hinds@masenate.gov)

#### **Representative Natalie Blais (D)**

First Franklin District  
PO BOX 450, Sunderland, MA 01375, 413-362-9453  
24 Beacon St., Room 134, Boston, MA, 02133,  
[natalie.blais@mahouse.gov](mailto:natalie.blais@mahouse.gov)

### FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Executive Committee, 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield MA 0130  
[www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org), 413-774-3167

## Elected Officials

### **Board of Assessors**

Russell French - June 30, 2024  
Natalie Whitcomb - June 30, 2022  
Vacancy

### **Board of Health**

Jackie Choate - June 30, 2024  
Mathilde Hunting - June 30, 2023  
Kathy Llamas - June 30, 2022  
Emily Sweet - June 30, 2022  
Devon Whitney-Deal - June 30, 2023

### **Community Preservation Committee**

Carolyn Thayer - June 30, 2022

### **Constables**

Brian Blakeslee - June 30, 2022  
Ronald Hawkes - June 30, 2022  
James Recore - June 30, 2022

### **School Committee**

Elaine Campbell - June 30, 2022  
Jared Campbell - June 30, 2022  
Philip Kantor - June 30, 2023  
Michael Merritt - June 30, 2023  
Denise Storm - June 30, 2024  
Vacancy

## Appointed Officials

*These are the officials serving as of April 30, 2022. Unless otherwise noted, officials are appointed by the Selectboard; there is no requirement related to the number of members.*

### **Agricultural Commission**

Kim Goddard - 2022  
Elizabeth Pawlikowski - 2022  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

### **Animal Control**

Joseph Colucci - 2024

### **Board of Registrars †**

Tammy Bennett - 2022  
Troy Lucier - 2022  
Sarah Newman - 2024

### **Franklin Regional School Committee**

Ashley Dion - June 30, 2022

### **Moderator**

James Recore - June 30, 2022

### **Planning Board**

Susan Fentin - June 30, 2023  
George Forcier - June 30, 2022  
Beth Girshman - June 30, 2023  
William Moebius - June 30, 2022  
Jennifer Mullins - June 30, 2024  
Joseph Strzegowski - Associate

### **Selectboard**

Robert Armstrong - June 30, 2022  
Erica Goleman - June 30, 2023  
Philip Kantor - June 30, 2024

### **Town Clerk**

Laurie Lucier - June 30, 2022

### **Tree Warden**

Walter Goodridge - June 30, 2023

### **Cable Advisory Committee**

Bill Arduser - 2022  
Robert Armstrong - 2024  
Jonathan Barkan - 2022  
Ronald Hawkes - 2024  
Vacancy

### **Capital Improvements Planning Committee**

Robert Armstrong - 2022  
Roy Cohen - 2024  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Cemetery Commission**

Peter Freisem - 2023  
 John Harrison - 2024  
 Stephen Jackson - 2022

**Community & Economic Development Committee**

Geoffrey Baker - 2024  
 Robert Baker - 2022  
 Mikayla Reine - 2023  
 Eileen Schneider - 2024  
 Vacancy

**Community Preservation Committee**

Aimee Anderson - 2023  
 Donald Joralemon - 2023  
 Dusty King - 2022  
 William Moebius - 2024  
 Robert Nowak - 2022  
 Vacancy

**Conservation Commission**

Robert Armstrong - 2022  
 Grace Larson - 2022  
 Robert Nowak - 2022  
 Bruton Strange - 2024  
 Vacancy

**Conway Youth Sports**

Michael Merritt - 2023

**Council on Aging**

Gail Connelly - 2022  
 Henry Horstmann - 2024  
 Patricia Kocot - 2024  
 Patricia Lynch - 2022  
 Carolyn Thayer - 2022  
 Margaret Tiley - 2022  
 Robin Yerkes - 2024

**Cultural Council**

Suzanne Artemieff - 2022  
 Ruth Bowman - 2022  
 Stein Feick - 2024  
 Joan Haley - 2024  
 Gisele L'Italien - 2024  
 Sophie Michaux - 2024  
 Michelle Sanger - 2024  
 Gayle Sullivan - 2022

**Elections †**

Claire Conklin - 2022  
 Debra Craven - 2022  
 Phylis Dacey - 2022  
 Dorothie Harris - 2022  
 Michelle Harris - 2022  
 Margaret Kennedy - 2022  
 Katherine Whitcomb - 2022  
 Natalie Whitcomb - 2022

**Emergency Management Committee**

Amanda Herrmann - 2022  
 Philip Kantor - 2024

**Finance Committee ‡**

Roy Cohen - 2022  
 Thomas Donovan - 2024  
 Rhyanna McLeester - 2022  
 Alan Singer - 2023  
 Vacancy

**Forest and Trails Committee**

Suzanne Artemieff - 2024  
 Paul Charest - 2024  
 Deborah Donaldson - 2024  
 Courtney Gilligan - Associate  
 Cynthia Lawton-Singer - Associate  
 Priscilla Lynch - 2023  
 Marilyn Webster - 2024

**Highway Facilities Committee**

Walter Goodridge - 2024  
 Henry Horstmann - 2024  
 Peter Jeswald - 2024  
 Kenneth Ouimette - 2024  
 Ronald Sweet - 2024

**Historical Commission**

Cynthia Bluh - 2022  
 Willis Burnett - 2022  
 Carl Darrow - 2024  
 Laura Nicholls-Shaw - 2024  
 Yulia Stone - 2024  
 Sarah Williams - 2024

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Committee**

Beth Girshman - 2022



**Newsletter Committee**

Carol Baldwin - 2024  
Louise Beckett - 2023  
Véronique Blanchard - 2022  
Kathy Llamas - 2023  
Patricia Lynch - 2023

**Public Buildings Committee**

Walter Goodridge - 2024  
Christopher Herrmann - 2023  
Peter Jeswald - 2024  
Kenneth Ouimette - 2023  
Ronald Sweet - 2022

**Open Space Committee**

Aimee Anderson - 2024  
Janet Chayes - 2022  
Jack Farrell - 2022  
Stephen Jackson - 2023  
Andrew Levchuk - 2024  
Mac McCoy - 2023  
Michele Turre - 2024

**Town Administrator**

Véronique Blanchard - 2024

**Upper PV Veterans Service**

Roger Goshea - 2022

**Veterans' Grave Officer**

Donald Graham - 2022

**Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee**

Harry Bovio - 2022  
Tanya Campbell - 2022  
Paul Charest - 2022  
Michael Merritt - 2023  
Vacancy

**Wastewater Committee**

Carl Nelke - 2023  
Michele Novak - 2023  
Strzegowski - 2023

**Personnel Committee ‡**

Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Phyllis Craine - 2024  
Gary Fentin - 2023  
Erica Goleman - 2024  
Peter Jeswald - 2024  
Andrew Levchuk - 2024  
Mark Silverman - 2024

† - Town Clerk Appointed

‡ - Moderator Appointed

**Conway Representatives Appointed To Regional Organizations**

FCAT Board of Directors. . . . . Robert Armstrong - 2023  
Franklin Co. Emergency Dispatch  
Robert Baker - 2022  
Kenneth Ouimette - 2022  
Gemma Vanderheld - 2022  
Franklin Co. Solid Waste Mgmt. District. . . . . Lynn Rubinstein - 2022  
Franklin Co. Tech. School Dist. Committee *Moderator Appointed, 3-Year Term.* . . . . John Pelletier - 2024  
Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. . . . . Philip Kantor - 2022  
Franklin Reg. Emergency Planning Committee. . . . . Robert Baker - 2022  
Franklin Regional Planning Board  
Robert Armstrong - 2022  
Joseph Strzegowski - 2022  
Franklin Regional Sign-Making Program Advisory Council. . . . . Ronald Sweet - 2022  
FRCOG Coop. Public Health Oversight Board  
Jackie Choate - Alternate  
Devon Whitney-Deal - 2022

FRCOG Regional Transportation Authority..... Robert Armstrong - 2022  
 FRCOG Town Accounting Program..... Mike Kociela  
 Fred W. Wells Trust..... Kate French - 2024  
 Greater Franklin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.. . . . . Robert Armstrong - 2022  
 Upper PV Veterans Services District. . . . . Roger Goshea - 2023

## Reports - Boards, Committees, and Commissions

### Agricultural Commission

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this Commission.

### Board of Assessors

Fiscal Year 2021’s tax levy to be raised from all sources to cover the town’s expenses was \$8,344,134.40. However, the revenues from other sources totaled \$3,158,300.00, leaving the amount to be raised by taxes (levy) at \$5,185,834.40. Our total taxable base (real estate and personal), was \$276,873,166, for a FY21 tax rate of \$18.73, a decrease of \$0.03 or 0.16% from FY2020’s rate. To look at it another way,

	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
Total town expenses	\$7,884,645	\$8,344.134
Other revenues	<u>2,896,318</u>	<u>3,158,300</u>
To raise from taxes	\$4,987,327	\$5,185,834
Town tax base	\$265,848,994	\$276,873,166
Tax rate	\$18.76	\$18.73

$$\text{Tax rate} = \text{amount to be raised}/\text{tax base}/1,000$$

Conway’s real estate market was improving in FY21 in spite of the pandemic, with properties selling for increasingly higher prices and we had our first sale of over \$1,000,000 in Sept. 2021. New construction continued to be slow, with projects being gradually completed.

Our prior CSC valuation system produced was used for the last time for the FY2021 bills and we will eventually archive the old system and its data. The new Tyler iasWorld valuation system is now in place. Because Tyler adapted a program from other state for use in Massachusetts, there have been some small matters to resolve, but they have been diligent in working with our towns.

Our warrant article this year is the annual request to set aside the usual \$5,000 toward our next revaluation/recertification. Instead of having to pay for it all in one year, it has been our practice to partially fund it annually, in anticipation of the final cost. We hire professional appraisals of the hydroelectric plant, the large solar array on Main Poland Road and possibly of one residential property that will be outside the regular bounds of anything in this region. We just completed revaluation/recertification for FY2022 and the next will be for FY2027.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Single Family Parcels</b>	<b>Average Single Family Value</b>	<b>Average Single Family Tax Bill</b>	<b>Rank in State (of 351)</b>	<b>Conway's Tax Rate</b>	<b>Overlay Reserve</b>
2010	592	300,939	3,948	148	13.12	65,334
2011	595	300,525	3,901	165	12.98	36,256

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Single Family Parcels</b>	<b>Average Single Family Value</b>	<b>Average Single Family Tax Bill</b>	<b>Rank in State (of 351)</b>	<b>Conway's Tax Rate</b>	<b>Overlay Reserve</b>
2012	597	295,141	4,194	152	14.21	36,336
2013	597	289,600	3,968	179	13.70	30,375
2014	596	281,368	4,412	156	15.68	27,100
2015	599	283,593	4,586	156	16.17	27,562
2016	609	282,937	4,719	160	16.68	56,959
2017	610	290,899	5,163	137	17.75	43,867
2018	612	283,050	5,236	146	18.50	19,475
2019	611	285,200	5,319	156	18.65	19,048
2020	610	287,613	5,396	161	18.76	29,332
2021	606	314,514	5,646	163	18.73	5,576

Although COVID interrupted our usual plan of cyclical site visits, we hope to be able will continue in the coming warmer months, focusing on the village and east end of town. These visits are both necessary and helpful, in maintaining current records and in catching any data errors that might exist. Accurate and complete data is the basis of and fair valuations. For most of FY2021, our work continued remotely, and the best way to reach us is via email at [assessors@townofconway.com](mailto:assessors@townofconway.com).

Although the change occurred in FY2022, many of you will have noticed that our former clerk, Laura Hutt, left us in August 2021, after 16 years' service. We wish her every happiness and success and thank her sincerely for all her hard work and welcoming personality. Town Clerk Laurie Lucier came on board as our clerk and moved her office to the Town Hall, which has spurred lots of improvements in our working space. She is also now in training to take on Lee's job of Administrative Assessor in a couple of years. Our long-time volunteer, Ute Bargmann retired early in 2021. She had worked diligently with our historic documents, many from the 1700s and 1800s, cataloging and archiving them for long-term storage.

The Assessors' section on the town website at [townofconway.com](http://townofconway.com) has some general information, downloadable forms, and directions for access to our GIS website and property maps. As always, you are welcome to contact us at 369-4235, x5 [assessors@townofconway.com](mailto:assessors@townofconway.com) with questions or concerns regarding the assessing process, your valuations on real estate, personal property, motor vehicles, personal exemptions, abatements or any other assessing matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Natalie H. Whitcomb, Chair  
 Russell A. French  
 Malcolm J. Corse  
 Laurie Lucier, Clerk

**Board of Health - January 2021-December 2021**

Members of the Conway Board of Health in 2021 were Carl Nelke, Véronique Blanchard, Jackie Choate, Tilda Hunting, Kathy Llamas, Devon Whitney-Deal with Ginny Knowlton and Laurie Lucier as Clerk.

In January of 2021, Carl Nelke announced his intention to vacate the Chairmanship of the Board, a position he had held since 2000. When his term was completed in June, he retired from the Board but retained his position as the Title V Inspector. Also, in that month, Jackie Choate joined us. Véronique Blanchard resigned from the Board in June after she was hired by the Selectboard as the new Town Administrator. In

July, Kathy Llamas joined the Board, filling in the spot vacated by Carl. In the beginning of Summer, Ginny Knowlton informed the Board that she would be retiring in September. The position was then filled by Laurie Lucier, who by this time was the Town Clerk, the Clerk of the Assessors, and the Clerk of the Board of Health.

All Boards of Health in the Commonwealth have been charged with protecting the public health of its citizens in the following areas:

- Disease prevention and control
- Oversight of transfer stations
- Title V enforcement for septage and refuse
- Title X enforcement of food service establishments
- Sanitary conditions of camps, swimming pools and beaches
- Sanitary living conditions in dwellings
- Animal Health

**Disease prevention and control** COVID-19 had been with us since last March and we started the second year under its looming shadow. Lisa White has remained the Town nurse. She conducted clinics as COVID-19 restrictions allowed. She worked with our Board of Health member Jackie Choate on doing COVID-19 vaccination sites in town. She served our older population with health and wellness programs; the frequency of these programs was again tempered by COVID-19 restrictions. As the number of cases began to rise, there was discussion on whether hours at the Town Offices would be amended and if the Board of Health had the authority to so order it.

In February 2021, Jackie Choate began to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to homebound members of the community and others who may have some difficulty otherwise getting the vaccine. Lisa White and Jackie conducted some of these visits.

In May the Board voted to opt-out of the mosquito control program. The Board also began to discuss partnering with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) on matters of Public Health.

In June, the partnering with FRCOG was brought before the Selectboard. There was an agreement of a three-year term. There is much to learn and understand about the ever-evolving changes in regulations in Public Health and this partnership will make our Board better prepared and more knowledgeable.

July of 2021 brought the challenge of the Delta variant to our doorstep. There was also a higher-than-expected rise in cases of Anaplasmosis. The state accepted our request to opt-out of the Mosquito Program. In August, we instituted a Mask Mandate which required anyone entering an indoor space wear a mask – especially when encountering an immune-compromised person. This was in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) recommendation. Although numbers were relatively low in our area, the mandate help to maintain that stability.

The Fall season saw more vaccine and Flu clinics in our area. A new COVID-19 variant, MU, was finding its way around. Fortunately, it did not seem to be in our area. The State began a new way of reaching those in need of the vaccine or the booster by means of a mobile vaccine center dubbed the VAX-BUS.

**The Transfer Station** Three days a week the transfer station was a busy, often bustling part of life here in the town of Conway. People used the bulky waste area, paper recycling and of course the normal refuse hopper. There were at times issues with equipment malfunctions and staffing shortages which put a strain on the Transfer Station Attendants (TSAs).

In April 2021. The transfer station began a new composting program. This was well-received and often used. The stickers used at the transfer station were sold at the Town Offices as well as the station. Attendants needing to update or take the OSHA training were enrolled in the program. Kathy Llamas came forth and asked to organize and reopen the recycling/upcycling center affectionately known as the “Conway Mall”. This was a part of the transfer station that hadn’t been opened since COVID-19 forced its closure.

In June the BOH met with a concerned citizen about what he saw as issues happening at the transfer station. We had a productive conversation and tried to address his concerns.

August saw a suspension of the composting program, when the vendor was no longer able to provide the service.

In September, there were staffing changes and shortages. The BOH recommended three new attendants to the station which were then hired by the Selectboard. The Conway Mall was repainted and opened in August, with a grand opening early in the month. It was at this time that Véronique came forward with an offer to relieve the BOH with the task of running the transfer station. Her vast experience in her prior work of running a transfer station as well as the management of personnel would serve the station well. Later that month, the Selectboard and the BOH had a joint meeting and the running of the station was so transferred.

**Title V Inspections** Carl Nelke, our Title V inspector conducted over 40 inspections this year. He has been the Inspector for many years now and worked with the community to ensure that the septage and well perks were in good and proper order.

**Title X – the enforcement of food service establishments** In January of 2021, the Board of Health made the decision to no conduct food establishment inspections through the Spring and perhaps beyond that, given the COVID-19 restrictions on food operations. With Marie’s (Majo) resignation from the BOH, her records were culled by Ginny Knowlton, our Clerk. Contacts were updated and letters were sent to the various businesses that were affected by the stoppage.

In July, the inspections resumed and two were completed.

In October of 2021, those food proprietors and other people needing or renewing Safe Serve their certification were offered a class set up by FRCOG, taught at the Grammar School. By November, two additional food inspections were conducted, with the final inspection completed by December.

**Animal Health Inspector** Joe Colucci was reappointed the Animal Inspector in March of 2021 for his sixth year. He also acts as the Barn Inspector and Animal Control or Quarantine Officer as needed. As much of his reporting is confidential and therefore goes directly to the State; statistics are not available. The BOH appreciates Joe’s efforts on behalf of the animals and the community of Conway alike.

### **Board of Registrars - January 1 through December 31, 2021**

The Town of Conway Board of Registrars hereby report that residents eligible to vote in Elections and Town Meetings in the year 2021 as of December 31, was 1,485. In the year 2021, there was one election, the Annual Town Election (6/10). Amongst the challenges set forth by the pandemic, the Board of Registrars and the Town Clerk were faced with the challenge of safely administering elections under the advisories set forth by the Elections Division and the State Board of Health.

Following the Annual Town Census taken during the month of January, the Town’s population was 1,643. Voter registration sessions were held as required by Massachusetts General Laws prior to Elections and Town Meeting. In addition to certifying elections, the Board of Registrars certified nomination papers and signatures on petitions as required by law.

The following Town Meeting(s) were held during the year 2021:

Annual Town Meeting – June 05, 2021

As required by MGL, all election results and actions taken at Annual and Special Town Meetings were permanently recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk.

The Board would like to remind residents that election information including results, campaign finance reporting, and upcoming elections is available on the Town’s website. The Board of Registrars works in conjunction with the Office of the Town Clerk to comply with Massachusetts General Laws related to elections and voter registrations.

If you have any interest in becoming a member of the Board of Registrars please contact the Town Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Town of Conway Board of Registrars

**Cable Advisory Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this committee.

**Capital Improvements Planning Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this committee.

**Cemetery Commission**

In February 2020, the Town of Conway established a volunteer Cemetery Commission to oversee the management of the seven historic town-owned cemeteries within our borders. These cemeteries are: Boyden, Cricket Hill, Maynard Farm (Poor Farm), Poland, Pumpkin Hollow, Shirksire, and South Part.

Two of Conway’s largest local cemeteries, Howland and Pine Grove, are privately managed. The Cemetery Commission consists of three members: Peter Freisem, Chair; Stephen Jackson, and John Harrison. Members usually meet once a month.

Some matters the Cemetery Commission has been working on since inception are:

- Developed cemetery guidelines and pricing for future burials and burial lot sales.
- Established basic procedures for lot sales and record keeping through cooperation with Selectboard and Town Clerk.
- Performed site visits to each of the seven town managed cemeteries to assess their current condition and to develop plans for accurate mapping of current burials and capacity of each.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Freisem, Chair

**Community Preservation Committee**

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) property-tax surcharge and state match allows towns to fund open-space/recreation, historic, and affordable-housing resources.

The Community Preservation Committee screens projects for legality, then forwards them to Town Meeting for approval. Members are:

- Aimee Anderson, Open Space Committee Representative
- Malcolm Corse, Historical Commission Representative
- Don Joralemon, Representative at Large
- Dusty King, Treasurer, Representative at Large
- Mary McClintock, Planning Board Representative
- Bob Nowak, Conservation Commission Representative
- Carolyn Thayer, Housing Committee Representative

Last year Town Meeting voted to fund buying land in the center of town for flood mitigation and building a Habitat for Humanity house.

As of 6/30/21 our fund balances are:

- Historic Preservation: \$50,832
- Open Space and Recreation: \$13,481
- Affordable Housing: \$91,215
- Unreserved: \$732,871

Every year Town Meeting must, by law, vote to reserve 10% for each of the three project categories, with the rest being unreserved. We also reserve 5% for administrative uses, but almost never use any of that so it gets returned to the unreserved balance.

### **Conservation Commission**

The Conway Conservation Commission works with the community to protect wetlands, buffer zones, rivers, and streams, and to assume the role of steward for conservation restrictions on behalf of the Town. The commission's responsibility is to bring an environmental perspective to the ongoing interaction between the environment and projects being undertaken within the Town. As the local representative of the Commonwealth Department of Environmental Protection, the commission is charged with the primary enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act – two statewide laws. Our goal as a commission is to approach our responsibilities from an educational perspective and to assist citizens with understanding the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Act, and the benefits derived from these laws.

It is the responsibility of the commission to make formal determinations for landowners and homeowners as to whether the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act or Rivers Act apply to their projects. It is an important goal of the Commission to work with landowners to balance their needs and rights with the requirements of these Acts. This process is done by the Commission interpreting the regulations that have been promulgated by Massachusetts upon inquiry by citizens and landowners by means of informal inquiry, and formal Requests for Determination of Applicability of the Acts (RDA), or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to do work within a designated area of jurisdiction.

The Commission ideally consists of five members, volunteers who meet generally twice a month (the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the Town Hall), to review projects and assist landowners. Currently the members are: Bob Armstrong, Grace Larson, Robert Nowak, and Bruton Strange, Chair.

The Commission has obtained and attached to the town web page a helpful summary as to landowners' rights and responsibilities (see Con Com Helpful Links: Wetlands Protection Act Brochure). The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 was \$803.00.

In the past fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) the Commission has acted on thirteen requests for Determination of Applicability and four Notices of Intent. In addition, the Commission reviewed six Forest Cutting Plans and reviewed, or made site visits for, sixteen building permit applications. There was one emergency certification issued.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruton Strange  
Chair, Conway Conservation Commission

### **Council on Aging**

Every community throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a Council on Aging (COA), created by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs under Ch. 40, s.8B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Monies from a Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a town appropriation underwrite the council's programs. The Conway COA is a group of volunteers who meet monthly to assess the needs of Conway's senior population and to plan programs to meet those needs.

As in past years, the COA continues to advocate for elders in the community. Chief among the council's concerns is the health of elders. A monthly foot screening continued to be held at Town Hall despite the pandemic, using prescribed precautions. The council maintains a collection of durable medical equipment, which residents are welcome to borrow.

Two weekly yoga classes are offered – one a mat class, the other chair yoga for those less able. These have been conducted on Zoom, as is a twice-weekly Healthy Bones and Balance class. Each Monday from April through November a walking group takes easy walks around town. Conway seniors who live alone and/or have special needs are visited each month by a Triad officer. Van transportation for medical appointments and shopping trips is provided to Conway elders by the Shelburne Falls Senior Center.

We offer weekly grab-and-go meals. In warmer weather we held ice cream socials and picnic lunches in Memorial Park, following CDC pandemic guidelines. Meals on Wheels delivers meals to seniors who need this service, at the same time serving as a wellness check.

Notes on COA programs and on senior issues, concerns, and events are published each month in *Conway Currents*. The Senior Calendar provides a quick review of each month's activities.

The COA worked closely with LifePath to make Conway an age-friendly community. On May 7, 2021, the town committed to this and was accepted as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The COA will continue working with the LifePath coordinator throughout this process. The COA's goals for the coming year are to continue to support ongoing programs through the current crisis and, when possible, to develop new programs to meet future needs. We anticipate the revival of our free home repair program for seniors. The Conway COA is grateful to the townspeople and the town for the support given to all seniors and for the use of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Ann Lynch, Chair; Carolyn Thayer, Treasurer; Gail Connelly, Hank Horstmann, Patricia Kocot, Margaret Tiley, Robin Yerkes

### **Cultural Council**

The Conway Cultural Council is a group of volunteers who oversee and administer a grant program funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Council members serve for three years, and included Gisele L'Italien, Michelle Sanger, Stein Feick, Gayle Sullivan, Ruth Bowman, Suzanne Artemieff.



Grant funds are intended to benefit our community by supporting programs and events in the arts, humanities, and natural sciences. The Council meets in November/December to review grant applications and make funding decisions.

Our goal is to fund programs and events that provide citizens with affordable entertainment, education, and opportunities for creative growth. Our priority is programming that includes local artists, individuals, and groups that directly benefit our town. We also strive to serve a wide range of age groups, from preschoolers to senior citizens.

For fiscal year 2021 we reviewed 30 proposals and awarded \$5,207.17.00 to 22 grantees. We were pleased to support several quality Conway-centered proposals as well as programs that benefitted Conway citizens such as the Mohawk Trails Concert Series, Silverthorne Theater, Franklin Land Trust and many others.

Because of the continuing pandemic it was a challenging time for several of the grantees to complete their projects. A few grantees were unable to complete their projects and funds were rolled over to FY22 while others offered a virtual experience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Co-chairs Gisele L'Italien and Michelle Sanger

### **Energy Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this Committee.

### **Finance Committee**

The Town of Conway Finance Committee appreciates the services of our recently departed member, Steven Dinkelaker and we wish Steven continued, professional successes. The Town of Conway Finance Committee continues to seek suggestions of residents potentially interested in filling the newly available slot. The remaining four slots continue to be filled by long-time members Tom Donovan and Roy Cohen as well as Rhyanna McLeester and me, Alan Singer, Finance Committee Chair.

Key notes to the Town of Conway FY21 officially adopted at this year's June Town Meeting: 1) the overall increase in spending is projected to be in the range of only ~2.5% over the previous fiscal year; 2) the school portion of the FY20 annual budget (Conway Grammar School, Frontier Regional School and Franklin Technical High School) saw nominal assessment increases to the Town; 3) the Town's free cash position has recently been certified at \$428,900 – much higher than originally projected.

The Finance Committee looks forward to closely coordinating with the Long-term Capital Planning Committee and in identifying key, capital budgeting items to be incorporated into our FY '22 budget – and beyond. In addition, the Finance Committee welcomes Véronique Blanchard as our Town Administrator and is encouraged by Véronique's interest in further developing our long-term capital budgeting.

Looking ahead, the Finance Committee remains concerned that although property taxes are projected to rise by only ~1.8% for FY '22 over FY '21, our FY '22 budget is projected to increase at a percentage rate higher than 1.8% AND our new growth rate is still projected to be below 1.8%. The encouraging news is that our outside CPA firm, Roselli, Clark & Associates of Weyburn, MA noted in the FY '20 municipal audit that the Town of Conway's excess levy capacity for FY '21 was approximately \$400M versus approximately \$300M for the previous fiscal year – showing us to be in good stead. In summary, the Finance Committee continues to

appreciate the extraordinary volunteer residents of our fellow residents in making the Town of Conway all that it is and all it yearns for in healthier times ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alan Singer, Chair; Roy Cohen, Tom Donovan, and Rhyanna McLeester

### **Forests & Trails Committee**

In 2020 the town engaged experts in forestry management to help the community assess our vision and desires for the two town owned parcels of land, the Fournier Lot and the Town Farm Forest. The products of that contract are two very detailed Forest Stewardship Plans. In June of 2021 the Forest & Trails Committee was formed to develop these plans. We see our tasks as the following:

- to foster community, education and connection with our woodlands.
- to prioritize and implement aspects of the Forest Stewardship Plans and encourage the health of the town forests.

Five members and two associate members were elected and sworn in to the committee:

Deb Donaldson, Co-Chair; Marilyn Webster, Co-Chair; Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary; Priscilla Lynch; Paul Charest; Cynthia Lawton-Singer, Associate; Courtney Gilligan, Associate

As our first project the Committee has chosen to develop the trails on the Fournier Lot, directly behind the Conway Grammar School, into an educational nature trail. In October we applied to the Conway Cultural Council for a \$500 grant that was awarded in December. We have engaged with the school and the highway department to begin developing this vision. The project will be driven by the interests of the 6th grade with guidance by professionals in the field. It will include identifying and labeling native plants, and interesting landscape and historical features. A website will be developed with QR links to the signage. Future grants will expand on this project and provide funding for invasive removal, plantings of native plants and trail development.

In addition, the committee has met with other town committees and groups. We have connected with the Open Space Committee, Conway Snowmobile Club, Conway Carbon Trust Project, DCR, and other professionals to foster a cooperative network concerned with the health and maintenance of our forests and trails.

The committee has also engaged with the Audubon Climate Smart Forestry Program to update the Stewardship Plans. We anticipate this new format will bring our plans up to date with the most comprehensive and environmental knowledge in making our forest resilient to the rapidly changing climate. It will also enable us to access state and federal funds to do this important work. We look forward to expanding our vision of a healthy forest and engaging the community in one of our most valuable resources.

Respectively submitted,  
Deb Donaldson, Marilyn Webster, Suzanne Artemieff, Priscilla Lynch, Paul Charest

### **Highway Facilities Committee**

Since the Committee was established, the members have been: Ron Sweet, Ken Ouimette, Liv Wyatt, Hank Horstman, Peter Jeswald, and Walter Goodridge, Chair.

This report spans fiscal 2021 as well as the calendar year ending December 31, 2021. As of December 31 both the storage building and the maintenance building are being used by the Highway Department. The storage building has been complete for some time, and the little work remaining on the maintenance building should be finished by March or April 2022. As with the storage building, Kurtz Inc. has been an excellent general contractor, and Vreeland Design Associates an excellent engineer. They both were available informally for helpful advice. The Committee met as needed, and members made frequent visits to the site.

The Town has been very fortunate. Despite the impact of COVID-19, The Franklin Regional Technical School was able to take on the plumbing and electrical portions of the maintenance building construction. Though this has delayed completion, there have been significant positive trade-offs in addition to the cost savings. Ken Ouimette and Ron Sweet have worked with the school instructors, our engineers, and Franklin County inspectors to simplify some aspects of the design. They have also saved time and money by arranging for some material purchases.

Ron and the highway crew helped in many ways, and did all the excavation for the project. This included work on the water supply, septic system, propane tank, electrical service, and drainage systems. We got first class work, while saving money.

The Tech School and the students in the plumbing/heating and electrical programs have also benefitted. They have been in a safe environment without having to work around other contractors. Conway can be proud that via Ken we have made a positive impact on the plumbing/heating students. Ken worked alongside the students as an instructor. This was a real trifecta where the students, the school, and Conway all gained a lot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Goodridge

### **Historical Commission**

For most of the past year, the Historical Commission was working on a unique and promising project to preserve an important Conway historic site, which its owners verbally offered to donate to the town, through the commission, on the condition that the town first lease the property, at no cost, for a period of time. Historical preservation of this sort is squarely within the commission's jurisdiction, and thus enabled our participation in a project made possible by the generosity of the site's owners.

Shortly before the submission of this report, negotiations finally reached the stage of a written draft lease-to-donate agreement between the parties. In accordance with our jurisdiction, in the commission's first revision of the owners' proposed lease agreement we needed to ensure the historical preservation of the site, and safeguard the town from costs or other complications resulting from the lease. In advance of an overall review by town counsel, we therefore reviewed the standard lease language provided to us by the owners, and, after considerable due diligence, proposed revisions to that language to meet those objectives. The commission also made provision in its revisions for a Town Meeting vote prior to formal transfer of the property's title. The draft revisions by the commission, however, evidently presented difficulties for the prospective donors, because we've just learned that they have declined to proceed with the lease and donation, or to discuss changes to the draft agreement language with us. Thus, the historic site's owners have ceased working with the town on this project.

The Historical Commission would like to express its appreciation to George Foncier, who volunteered to be our liaison on this project, in order to assist us in communicating with the prospective donors, and others, and to help with the anticipated workload of making the project a reality. When the commission made its 2021 decision to proceed with this endeavor, we sought a non-voting, alternate commission member to help carry the load, and

George quickly agreed to fill that role. Thus, from September through February, and for several months before his formal appointment, George energetically worked on the town's behalf to gather information, facilitate communication between parties, and to otherwise advance the project to the best of his ability as an alternate commission member. We are grateful for George's dedication to the project, and for the research that he conducted, which, we hope, will now play a role in preserving the property in another context. We thank, too, all those contacted by George who willingly gave of their time to offer advice or cost estimates, and, in one case, to offer to work on the property at no cost to the town.

We also want to acknowledge and sincerely thank Conway Historical Society President Peter Engelman for his partnership with us on the proposed project, at every stage of the process during the past year. Peter and the society also conducted private fundraising to help the project reach the stage that it did, including covering legal and surveying costs. They were also planning to work with the commission and town in future, through a new society fundraising subcommittee and otherwise, to make the historic site as well-designed and utilized as possible, at minimal long-term cost to taxpayers. Thanks to Peter's perseverance, and the efforts of the society as a whole, we understand that an alternative local approach to preservation of the site may be a possibility, which could potentially continue or build upon the progress made before the commission's participation ended.

Our involvement in the project proceeded under some time pressure, and was conducted during continuing COVID-19 concerns, yet all involved went out of their way to promote and facilitate the project without complaint. We regret that so much volunteered time and energy on everyone's part failed to reach a successful conclusion through our efforts, or to achieve the objective that the commission and the owners, through their generous offer, seemed to share at the outset.

The community lost a former, decades-long member of the Historical Commission last year, amid the local and national turmoil. We honor the memory of gentlewoman Mary Merriam, neighbor and friend. Mary was an extraordinary quilter and quilting teacher, an inspired crafter of miniatures and model scenes, and quietly steadfast and loyal to her Nims family heritage and friends in Greenfield and Deerfield. Beyond her long service on the Historical Commission, many here will fondly remember Mary and her beloved husband Bob as founding members and early promoters of the Conway Historical Society, and gracious bed-and-breakfast hosts at their historic, carefully-tended "Whig Newhall" home on Newhall Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bluh, Willis Burnett, Malcolm Corse, HC member on CPC, FY21-FY23, Carl Darrow, Laura Nicholls-Shaw, Yulia Stone, Sarah Williams, Chair, George Foncier, Alternate Member, 9/2021-3/3/2022

### **Newsletter Committee - January 2021-December 2021**

*Conway Currents*, the town-supported newsletter was created in February of 2020. The monthly publication has a continuing mission:

- Give a create voice to those who live in, work in, or have a familial connection to the Town of Conway
- Connect the readers of *Conway Currents* to programs, services and social groups in the community
- Provide a vehicle for the town administration to communicate essential information to the residents of Conway
- Give readers of *Conway Currents* an awareness of local businesses and services through articles of interest or when said businesses purchase advertising space

Each issue has something for everyone. If your interest is primarily town news, it is in there. Are you leaning more towards town history? The columns profiling local history and past and present people of distinction will

delight any historian. Looking for a new recipe, a poem to provoke thought, gardening, health related information or creative writing pieces? – You will find many of these in our monthly or reoccurring columns.

*Conway Currents* is mailed to all Conway households by the first of the month. We greatly value our regular submitters, but always encourage new contributors. For general submission information, please email us at: [conwaycurrents@gmail.com](mailto:conwaycurrents@gmail.com).

We are happy to report that in August, we added a member: Carol Jean Baldwin, has enriched us both as a member of our staff and as a contributor to the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Llamas, Chair; Louise Beckett, Vice-Chair; Véronique Blanchard, Treasurer; Patricia Ann Lynch, Secretary and Carol Jean Baldwin, Member

## **Open Space Committee**

The Open Space Committee pursued its mission of stewarding our natural resources on several fronts last year. Chief among them was updating the Town's Open Space & Recreation Report (OSRP), a comprehensive inventory, analysis and action plan for the next seven years. With the expertise of the Land Use & Natural Resources Program at Franklin Country Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), we reviewed and updated our resource inventory during seven Zoom meetings in FY21. We also consulted with numerous other Conway committee folks and developed an Open Space and Recreational Resources survey seeking input on priorities from all residents. Responses revealed a great deal of interest in Conway's natural resources. In particular, residents expressed concern about protecting forests, farmland and the South River from development while providing resiliency against climate change. Plans are available at <https://townofconway.com/open-space-committee/>.

The town-owned 11-acre South River Meadow serves as a popular walking/wading and resting spot. The lovely river is visible thanks to the ongoing remediation project to rid it of invasive Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle and bittersweet that clogged the riverbanks and overtook native flora. Many seedlings of elderberry, red osier dogwood, and willows that were donated and planted in 2019 by volunteers – including 6th graders – continue to survive. In addition, Committee members and other volunteers have been pulling highly invasive garlic mustard from the Meadow – hopefully encouraging others to do so on their own properties and neighborhoods. Look for garlic mustard's white flowers blooming in May and pull it before it goes to seed. At the Meadow, a second memorial bench (to Judy Loughlin) was donated and installed at the far end near the wading pool. New donated witch-hazel trees were planted on both sides of the bench. Finally, the new entrance sign on Shelburne Falls Road was erected. If you haven't been there, now it's easy for all to find!

Late summer and fall, the annual invasive Japanese Stiltgrass was the removal target along roadsides, and now also on riverbanks, interior woods and fields. Like other invasives that overtake native plants critical for wildlife, this should be a priority for all concerned with the environment. It's also a case where everyone can make a difference! There's now significant knowledge on best practices for the various invasives and we're more than happy to advise anyone who asks. Special thanks to Michele Turre for her nearly 10-year contributions in curbing stiltgrass.

*A Pollinator Action Plan: Identifying and Expanding Wild Pollinator Habitat in the Town of Conway* was developed by FRCOG staff and a dozen or more residents who shared their knowledge about local existing pollinator habitat and opportunities for its expansion and protection in town. Included is a concept design for the

Bigelow Property, a 2.3-acre, Town-owned site in Conway Center that is permanently protected. On a hillside with lovely views, it's located across Shelburne Falls Road from the South River Meadow and across from Howland Cemetery. These plans provide a welcome framework for potential implementation. See <https://townofconway.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pollinator-Action-Plan-2022.pdf> and <https://frcog.org/franklin-county-regional-pollinator-plan/>.

Last February, Open Space Committee members snowshoed up Abbott Hill, among the town's highest elevations, off Main Poland Road to view the NexAmp solar project which entailed clearcutting about 30 acres. From the road we viewed part of Keyes Swamp, a privately owned marsh/lake covering nearly seven acres. It is an important migratory bird habitat.

Throughout 2021 two members represented the town on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) State Action Grant for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Regional Adaption & Resilience Project to prioritize climate-resilient river restoration projects in Conway. We participated in numerous meetings and conducted extensive outreach with riverfront property owners. This resulted in the next suite of proposals to Protect the South River Watershed: allocating existing funds to acquire three unused riverfront properties for flood remediation. A Public Info Zoom Session on June 2nd was widely announced and well-attended. Mac McCoy, Joe Strzegowski and river scientist Nic Miller presented cogent explanations at the June 5th Town Meeting, which led to the passage of all four warrant articles.

Our river was featured on TV! New England Public Media dispatched *Connecting Point* reporter/producer Brian Sullivan to compile and film *The Past and Future of Franklin County's South River*. After much planning, it aired on WGBY on Jan. 29, 2021. The informative short piece can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCLIE50fEw4>.

Professional Forest Stewardship Plans for the two town-owned forests were released in August 2020: <https://townofconway.com/forest-stewardship-plan/>. The 64-acre Fournier Lot abuts the Grammar School and the 108-acre Town Farm Forest on Cricket Hill Road abuts the Conway State Forest. These extensive reports with lots of community input and useful environmental information that can also apply to private landowners. Conway residents ranked the protection/enhancement of forest resources as one of their top stewardship goals. The plans for Community-based Forestry addressed forest resilience and sustainability recommendations such as climate mitigation and carbon accumulation; forest vigor and regeneration; invasive plant control measures and native shrub planting; young forest enhancement for biodiversity; trail mapping and maintenance; and educational outreach.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Chayes, Chair

#### **Parks, Recreation & Trails Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this Committee.

#### **Personnel Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this Committee.

#### **Planning Board**

The Planning Board of five elected members was authorized at a Special Town Meeting in October 2011. The first meeting of the board, elected in May 2012, was held on June 14, 2012.

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday evenings of every month at 7:00 pm. For most of the year, meetings were held remotely via Zoom, but did change to in-person in the Town Hall, at the end of June, at which time the meeting time was also changed to 7:00 pm. As is customary when business allows, the board reduced the meeting schedule to once a month in July and August of 2020.

**Mission Statement:** The Planning Board is responsible for drafting, amending and modifying zoning By-Laws, and granting Special Permits. It is charged with creating a Master Plan that forecasts the long-term needs of the town with respect to: housing, land use, economic development, environmental concerns, services and facilities, conservation, and recreation. The Board will make studies, hold meetings, authorize technical research, prepare plans, and develop proposals with regards to the future needs of the town.

Membership from July 2020 through June 2021: Beth Girshman, Chair; Mary McClintock, whose term ended in 2021 and who did not seek re-election; Bill Moebius; Jennifer Mullins, appointed Vice-Chair; Susan Fentin, re-elected; Associate Member Joe Strzegowski – beginning in 2020 when he retired as a full member; one empty seat going into FY22 as no one ran for Mary’s seat during town elections – since filled by newly appointed member George Forcier, October 2021.

From July 2020 through June 2021, the Planning Board:

- Monitored the Nexamp solar project. Held an informational meeting to hear the concerns of abutters and neighbors. Made site visits, worked with Tighe and Bond. Concerns included: screening/sightline, replanting, stormwater and erosion, noise from generator;
- Worked with Kimberly MacPhee of FRCOG to gather information and facilitate a town-wide information session and conversation about the possibility of river corridor overlay district zoning;
- Worked with FRCOG consultants on state-required floodplain district bylaw revision to bring before 2022 Town Meeting;
- Began to plan for community input and a possible rewrite of the Master Plan;
- Used a public information session to gather public input, then brought to 2021 Town Meeting warrant to amend Article 9 of Zoning Bylaws related to Solar Overlay District;
- Held a public information session on housing and bylaw revision related to tiny houses and accessory dwelling units, affordable housing, rental assistance, zoning bylaw changes, senior housing, and a housing needs assessment;
- Continued to monitor processes related to the special permits of Vertex Cell Tower and Roaring Glen Farms, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Girshman, Chair

### **Selectboard**

I am pleased to report that the state of the Town of Conway is very good. And when one considers the collective pandemic traumas that we have all endured in the past few years, we are in excellent shape.

First, some of the municipal highlights of the year gone by. Number one on this list has to be the hiring of our new town administrator, Conway resident Véronique Blanchard. We did this in a planned and thoughtful manner. After eight years of valued service, we said farewell to our long-time town administrator, Thomas Hutcheson – may he find the grass in Dalton truly is greener – and we started the hiring process with an interim town administrator, Ross Perry. Ross is a very experienced town administrator who assisted greatly in getting

our affairs in order and giving us the breathing space necessary to cast a wide net for the permanent town administrator position. Ross has since acted as a mentor to the TA we were fortunate enough to hire. Hopefully most of you have by now had the opportunity to meet her, and hopefully you agree that we did well in hiring her.

I am continuously amazed at the kindness, experience, and competence of our department heads. I could start with Police and Fire Department Chiefs, each with over 40 years on the job, and go down the list from there. Hopefully you can take the occasional moment to thank these fantastic people and appreciate the fine job these folks do on our behalf.

A few words on some of our other more notable municipal accomplishments during this past year: We continued with the fitting out of our new highway facility behind the Grammar School, and by the time you read this we should have announced the date for a grand opening celebration and open house. A special note of appreciation to Ron Sweet, Ken Ouimette, Peter Jeswald, Walter Goodridge and the rest of the building committee, who saved this town hundreds of thousands of dollars and delivered to us a better facility as well. Thank You on behalf of the residents of Conway.

The town also participated in building the new track and field complex at Frontier Regional High School; built a new playground at Conway Grammar School – try the group swing if you get a chance – and has begun the process of rehabilitating the public safety building to something approaching 21st century standards as well as meeting the current and future needs of its three occupants: our Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments.

This year Conway also organized some new town committees and working groups. Thank you one and all for your willingness to serve in Town Government. And in the interest of brevity I'll just randomly highlight one group – the new Town Forest and Trails Committee, with its co-chairs Deb Donaldson and Marilyn Webster. This committee has, in just a few months of existence, written and been awarded two grants for projects with true town-wide utility, and their competence in this regard has led the Selectboard to recommend for them a new but modest budget line item, which we hope you'll also support.

And finally we come to the budget and municipal finances. The truth is that you are an essential part of our local government, and the Town Meeting form of government is the greatest yet invented on this planet. You are the Legislature – the Congress, if you will – and it is you who has the power of the purse in this arrangement. Use your power wisely, be open-minded, and ask questions.

Finally, if you are reading this and are not currently a volunteer in some part of Conway Town Government – we need you! This whole form of government disintegrates without volunteers, and we have many needs all across town government. Please ask Véronique what positions are open and say yes to one of the options she presents to you.

It has been my pleasure and honor to be your Selectboard chair this past year, and you have my thoughts and prayers that 2022/2023 turns out much better for all of us than 2021/2022.

With gratitude,  
Philip Kantor, Chair

#### **Wastewater Committee**

No report was submitted for FY2021 from this Committee.



## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The ZBA gratefully welcomed three new members: Phyllis Craine, Andy Levchuk and Peter Jeswald, and the help of Erica Goleman who temporarily switched out of her Selectboard hat to be a third member this past spring. This is the first time in years that there has been a full board of five members.

There was one application for a Variance during 2021 which was resolved with the building inspector, as well as the granting of an extension for a 2020 Variance, due to delays caused by the pandemic. Also, there were various inquiries about building and land projects which did not involve the Zoning Board of Appeals, but we were able to steer these residents toward the correct departments or boards.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Silverman, Chair

## **Departments – Administrative**

### **Town Administrator**

FY21 has been a year of transition for the Town Administrator's office. In April of 2021, our longtime town administrator Tom Hutcheson left to work for the Town of Dalton. Tom had been working for Conway from August 12, 2013 – April 29, 2021 for a total of seven years, nine ½ months. While technically there had been two town administrators before Tom, they each worked for only three months or so, having been hired after the creation of the position of town administrator by annual town meeting in 2012. Tom was therefore the town's first long term administrator, and his work and vision have helped shape the town over the last almost eight years.

When Tom announced his resignation, the Selectboard decided to hire an interim administrator to bridge the gap while the town searched for a permanent replacement. Ross Perry, retired former town administrator for Sterling, MA, was hired to help transition the town. Ross began on April 15th to help with the upcoming June 5, 2021 annual town meeting, and stayed through July, 2021 to help train the incoming town administrator. I was hired as the new permanent town administrator in May and began work on June 28th, 2021, and so have only served for three days in this fiscal year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom for his many years of service to the town. I know he was passionate about both his work and his love for the town. I would also like to thank Ross for his time and mentoring expertise in helping me transition into my new role.

Although I was only here for three days, here are the highlights I have found in the background documents from the past year:

This is now year two of the pandemic, and COVID-19 continues to affect the country, our town, businesses, schools and residents. At the worst of times this past year, over 200 people in town were unemployed, compared to a baseline of about 20. Thankfully those numbers declined as the year progressed.

The town was concerned about a lack of revenues due to the pandemic; fortunately this potential shortfall was not as high as expected and the town was able to enact a retroactive pay raise for employees.

Work has been progressing on the new Highway Garage, and the town is very fortunate to have the Franklin County Technical School and the Highway Garage Committee at the helm. Work has begun on the new playground at the Conway Grammar School, which will include equipment suitable for those with accessibility needs.

The town applied for a Municipal Vulnerability Program grant, the purpose of which is to help mitigate the threat of flooding in Conway Center.

The town was awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant from FEMA to control the threat of erosion on Delabarre Avenue.

The new Forest & Trails Committee was created by the Selectboard, with the goals of fostering community, education and connection with our woodlands and prioritizing and implementing aspects of the proposed Forest Stewardship Plan to maintain and encourage the health of the town forests.

The Energy and Personnel Committees are both without members and therefore not operating.

*Conway Currents* was given its own budget this year and continues to keep residents updated on town news. The town purchased a new color printer to continue to bring color photos to the newsletter, as in the beginning the copies were being done using a volunteer's equipment. I would also like to thank Lisa Turowsky for her years of service as Assistant to the Town Administrator. Lisa served from October of 2016 through August of 2020.

Louise Beckett was hired as the new Assistant to the Town Administrator in September of 2020, in the thick of the pandemic, and has weathered both the complications brought on by the pandemic as well as the changing town administrators with both grace and expertise.

Despite all the transitions this past year, the town remains on course, due in large part to the ongoing efforts of many of its townspeople. Please consider adding your voice and talents to this lovely place we all call home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Véronique Blanchard  
Town Administrator and Resident

### **Town Clerk - January 1 – December 31, 2020**

**Mission Statement:** To be a reliable provider of information and quality services to the community and its residents; we strive to work cooperatively and in coordination with all departments, boards and committees to maintain and achieve established goals of the Town while complying with state and local statutes as well as the Town Bylaws. We are dedicated to the preservation of all the Town of Conway's past, present and future documents and vital records to the benefit of all residents and future generations. We respect the right to vote and will assure that all elections are conducted in a fair and open manner providing equal access to all citizens. This office will promote public confidence and good will by providing the highest level of courteous and efficient service to ensure transparent governance, and to uphold the highest degree of integrity. Notary public and Justice of the Peace Services are provided to the public.

The population for the Town of Conway according to the 2021 Annual Town Censes was 1,643.

As the Chief Election office of the Town of Conway, the Town Clerk serves as the liaison office of the Board of Registrars and maintains voter registrations and all materials related to elections. The Town Clerk is responsible for coordinating and administrating all local and State elections. The following elections were held and the total number of registers voters in the Town of Conway reported per election in 2021 is as follows:

Annual Town Election – June 10, 2021  
Registered Voters: 1,450  
Voter Turnout: 92 (6%)

As required by Massachusetts General Laws, minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meetings, and all election results are certified by the Town Clerk and are permanently recorded in the Town record books.

The Office of the Town Clerk offers many services on a walk-in basis to residents, such as, issuing marriage licenses; dog licenses; certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates; voter registration; absentee ballot applications; and raffle and bazaar permits. In addition, the Office of the Town Clerk serves as the filing/clerical office for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the filing office for the Planning Board. Residents can also obtain Town Meeting warrants, sample ballots for elections, annual reports and the annual street list (\$10) in our office.

During the calendar year of 2021, the following were issued:

Dog Licenses – 356 individual, plus 6 kennel licenses  
Business Certificates – 14

### **Vital Records**

#### **Number of Recent Births Recorded in Conway**

For reasons of privacy, names of children are no longer published in the town report.

Male – 5 / Female – 2

#### **2021 Deaths Recorded in Conway**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name and Age</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
January 11	Joan Helen Land, Age 79	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
January 16	Joshua Steven Frankhouser, Age 51	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
February 15	Mary Merriam, Age 89	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
February 22	Cheryl Darlene Smith, Age 69	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
March 9	Judith Ellen Loughlin, Age 70	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
March 17	Douglas Ward Hobbie, Age 77	St. Michael Crematory, Boston, MA
May 31	Ann E. Hawkes, Age 79	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
June 6	Anthony Borton, Age 88	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
August 14	Ute H. Bargmann, Age 81	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
August 24	Sharon Francese Brown, Age 65	Ker Phaneuf Crematorium, Brattleboro, VT
November 7	Claude A. Belair, Jr., Age 89	Howland Cemetery, Conway, MA
November 11	Gene F. Mallow, Age 62	Pittsfield Cemetery and Crematory, Pittsfield, MA
November 12	Theodore Harold Lefkowitz, Age 80	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
December 1	Paul Shedd, Age 59	Cheshire Family Crematory, Troy, NH
December 26	Marie Jose Iken, Age 72	Cheshire Family Crematory, Troy, NH

### 2020 Deaths Recorded in Conway

*2020 Deaths in Conway were inadvertently missed in last year's Annual Report and are therefore included in this report. We regret the omission.*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name and Age</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
January 11	Dwight Edward Clary, Age 73	Blue Hill Crematory, Braintree, MA
January 13	Helen Reed, Age 103	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
January 16	Raymond M. Rice, Age 84	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
February 28	Jane G. Hale, Age 74	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
March 9	Robert Walker Blossom, Age 80	Phaneuf Crematory, Manchester, NH
April 11	Natalie Sokoloski, Age 93	Cheshire Family Crematory, Troy, NH
April 18	Richard John Williams, Age 92	Howland Cemetery, Conway, MA
April 20	Albina G. Fitzgerald, Age 93	Howland Cemetery, Conway, MA
May 14	Bonnie Lou T. Craig, Age 76	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
May 21	Mildred E. Hanas, Age 87	Holy Ghost Ukrainian Cemetery, Whately MA
June 23	Gordon D. Mulvey, Jr., Age 66	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
June 27	Vivian G. Wakefield, Age 74	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
June 30	Joyce Greenwood, Age 94	St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Leeds, MA
September 9	Kevin R. Shaw, Sr., Age 63	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
September 17	James Sutton Hardigg, Age 97	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
October 15	Roger R. Osell, Age 88	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
October 16	William Robinski, Age 72	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
November 12	Ryan Edward Tremblay, Age 29	Park Crematory, Putnam, CT
November 15	Warren A. Lunden, Age 79	Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
November 21	Lawrence Harold Domash, Age 78	Westlawn Cemetery, Norridge, IL

### 2021 Marriages Recorded in Conway

February 19	Timothy James Morris of Deerfield and Nancy Anne Palmer of Deerfield Married in Conway, MA
March 27	Yuskei Olin Murayama of Conway and Inez Valk of Conway Married in Conway, MA
June 20	Gerard Francis LeBlanc of Conway and Jiyanna Rose Vagedes of Conway Married in Conway, MA
July 1	Benson William Hyde of Conway and Toni Nicole DeLuca of Conway Married in Conway, MA
July 24	Isaiah Christian Elwell of Brooklyn, NY and Edna Amelia Bissoon of Brooklyn, NY Married in Conway, MA
September 4	James M. Facey of Wendell and Amber Joan Tergliafera of Wendell Married in Heath, MA

- September 4 Michael Alan Kip of Conway and Arieh Blowers of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA
- September 18 David Francis Hayes of Buckland and Laurie Ann Richards of Buckland  
Married in Colrain, MA
- October 13 Morgan Buchanan-Gauthier of Conway and Meghan Elizabeth Forcier of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA
- October 17 Nikolaus Greydon VanderHeld of Conway and Heather Lynn Amos of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA
- December 2 Roger F. Goshea of Conway and Sandra K. Hay of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA

**2020 Marriages Recorded in Conway**

*2020 Marriages Recorded in Conway were inadvertently missed in last year's Annual Report and are therefore included in this report. We regret the omission.*

- September 26 Christopher Paul Herrmann of Conway and Amanda Marie Dunnell of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA
- October 3 Heath Elliott Roberts of Conway and Alyssa Lee Kabat of Conway  
Married in Conway, MA
- October 10 James Allan Cabral of Amherst and Michelle Kristin Hosp of Amherst  
Married in Conway, MA



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Annual Town Meeting Minutes  
June 5, 2021

**A**T A LEGAL TOWN MEETING of the inhabitants of the Town of Conway qualified to vote in town affairs, convened at the time and place and for the purpose specified in the warrant, 133 voters were checked at the door and issued electronic voting clickers for the purpose of voting. Tammy Bennett and Sarah Newman served as checkers. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator James Recore, and it was unanimously voted to dispense with the formality of having the warrant read by the Town Clerk. The following action was taken by those persons in attendance:

**ARTICLE 1:** Voted that Town Meeting pass over Article 1.

**ARTICLE 2:**

**Section A:** Voted that the Town approve Section A of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$2,652,425.**

**Section B:** Voted that the Town approve Section B of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$2,026,243.**

**Section C:** Voted I move that the Town approve Section C of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$1,518,797.**

**Section D:** I move that the Town approve Section D of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$146,711.**

A.

Dept #	Department Name	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021 Rec.*	FY21-22 Change
114	Moderator	350	350	350	0
122	Selectboard	6,500	2,900	8,500	5,600
131	Finance Committee	300	300	300	0
132	Reserve Fund	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
135	Town Audits	1	1	1	0
141	Assessors	8,155	10,690	12,008	1,318
141	Assessors Salary, Wages	58,606	49,114	61,511	12,397
145-146	Treasurer-Collector	16,878	17,898	17,783	-115
145-146	Treasurer-Collec. Salary, Wages	60,337	60,337	63,391	3,054
150	Town Administration	18,700	16,000	18,700	2,700
150	Town Administration Salary, Wages	88,787	98,787	106,380	7,593
151	Legal	11,000	10,000	10,000	0
159	Information Technology	29,980	34,431	37,586	3,155
161	Town Clerk	13,850	6,150	7,750	1,600
161	Town Clerk Salary, Wages	34,513	34,513	37,500	2,987
162-163	Registrars and Elections	8,950	9,600	15,800	6,200
170 Series	Concom, Pl. Brd., ZBA, Ag. Com, Open Space	9,056	6,004	6,254	250
190	Personnel Committee	200	1	1	0
192	Building Maintenance	56,100	59,600	59,600	0
192	Building Maintenance Sal., Wages	17,833	17,833	0	-17,833
193	Town Insurance	73,000	84,710	85,419	709
210	Police	18,150	18,050	18,775	725
210	Police Salary, Salary, Wages	110,922	110,620	116,220	5,600
220	Fire	36,945	36,005	39,805	3,800
220	Fire Salary, Wages	30,693	36,673	39,600	2,927
231	Ambulance	25,000	22,400	25,000	2,600
290 Series	Dog & Tree Wardens, Emergency Mgmt.	7,535	7,535	7,635	100
422	Highway	256,000	256,000	256,000	0
422	Highway Salary, Wages	260,781	260,781	304,873	44,092
423	Winter Roads	105,000	103,000	103,000	0
423	Winter Roads Wages	19,830	19,830	20,834	1,004
512	Board of Health (BOH)	139,968	165,131	164,559	-572
512	BOH Salary, Wages	60,469	60,469	63,833	3,364
540 Series	Human Services (COA, Veterans)	13,718	11,943	12,685	742
630	Parks, Recreation, Trails	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
650	Town Newsletter	0	0	6,000	6,000
691	Historical Commission	400	400	400	0
751	Debt Service	33,441	103,046	102,149	-897
752	Short Term Interest	1	1,650	1,650	0
830	FRCOG (Town Nurse under Board of Health)	51,992	56,474	56,716	242
900	Employee Costs	668,468	731,191	715,857	-15,334

B.					
300A	Grammar School Operating	1,868,752	1,868,752	1,945,554	76,802
300B	Grammar School Transportation	83,520	83,520	80,689	-2,831
C.					
892A	Frontier Regional Operating	1,478,594	1,473,565	1,477,649	4,084
892B	Frontier Regional Transportation	54,729	38,734	41,148	2,414
D.					
320A	Technical Schools	151,468	111,831	120,342	2,211
320B	Technical Schools Transportation	-	20,443	26,369	5,926
FY 20 to 21:		6,037,472	6,165,362	<b>6,344,176</b>	<b>FY 21-22</b>
127,890	<b>Grand Total for Operating Budget:</b>				<b>178,814</b>
2.12%					<b>2.90%</b>

*\*recommended unanimously by the Selectboard and Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 3:** Voted that the Town transfer \$71,000 from the Grammar School Capital Stabilization Fund to the general fund for **capital expenses of the Conway Grammar School.** (Two-thirds vote.)

**ARTICLE 4:** Voted that the Town transfer \$34,000 from free cash to the **Conway Grammar School capital stabilization fund.**

**ARTICLE 5:** Voted that the Town **Pass Over** Article 5.

**ARTICLE 6:** Voted that the Town borrow \$170,000 for **paving a section of Shelburne Falls Road,** and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that any bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall mature in not more than 15 years from their date of issue, excluding the term of any notes that may be issued in anticipation of the issuance of any such bonds, such borrowing to be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion ballot question. *(two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 7:** Voted that the Town transfer \$150,000 from free cash to the **Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund.**

**ARTICLE 8:** Voted that the Town transfer \$220,000 from the Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund for **capital improvements** as follows:

For the Highway Department – \$220,000 to **replace a 6-wheel Highway Truck.** *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 9:** Voted that the Town transfer \$41,300 from free cash for **current year Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School tuition and transportation.**

**ARTICLE 10:** Voted that the Town transfer \$24,841 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund for a **partial payment for Ambulance Department operational expenses.**

**ARTICLE 11:** Voted that the Town transfer \$20,000 from free cash to the **OPEB Trust Fund.**

**ARTICLE 12:** Voted that the Town transfer \$15,290 from free cash to the general fund for a **retroactive pay raise for Town employees for FY 2021.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Voted that the Town transfer \$14,923 from free cash to the general fund for **partial debt service for the Highway Garage.**

**ARTICLE 14:** Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund as a partial contribution to the **recertification of property values.**

**ARTICLE 15:** Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund as a **partial contribution to replenish the Grant Match Fund.**

**ARTICLE 16:** Voted that the Town transfer \$2,707 from free cash to the **Field Library** to help ensure its accreditation.

**ARTICLE 17:** Voted that the Town will transfer \$3,775 from free cash to the general fund to pay a **prior year Assessors' bill for a software subscription.** *(four-fifths vote.)*

**ARTICLE 18:** Voted that the Town transfer \$1,065 from free cash for **prior year Town Office supply expenses.** *(four-fifths vote.)*

**ARTICLE 19:** Voted that the Town transfer \$570 from free cash for **prior year Board of Health payroll expenses.** *(four-fifths vote.)*

**ARTICLE 20:** Voted that the Town **authorize the Selectboard to acquire in fee simple** by purchase, with CPA funds allocated by successful vote of article 23 A, for an amount not to exceed \$2,800, the appraised value of said property, a parcel of land owned by Judith Waldo which address is 0 Shelburne Falls Road, and more particularly described as follows: Assessors' Map 410, Lot 26.5. for the public purpose of the South River Flood Resiliency Project. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 21:** Voted move that the Town will **authorize the Selectboard to acquire in fee simple** by purchase, with CPA funds allocated by successful vote of article 23 A, for an amount not to exceed \$3,700, the appraised value of said property, a parcel of land owned by Mary Boeh which address is 0 Shelburne Falls Road, and more particularly described as follows: Assessors' Map 410, Lot 26.5, being part of the property conveyed to John and Mabel Chesbro, probably as recorded in Book 623, page 90 or in Book 482, page 54 in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds for the public purpose of the South River Flood Resiliency Project. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 22:** Voted that the Town transfer the remainder of the Cricket Hill Road Special Revenue Fund and the remainder of the Sale of Real Estate, Ch. 44, Sec. 63 Special Revenue Fund, as a portion of the cost for the public purpose of purchasing a parcel of land owned by the South River Trust, which address 69 Main Street, and more particularly described as Assessors' Map 102, Lots 2 and 2.1, as part of the South River Flood Resiliency Project and further to authorize the Selectboard to acquire in fee simple by purchase said property. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 23:** Voted that the Town appropriate, or reserve for later appropriation, monies from the **Community Preservation Fund** as listed in the warrant, with each item considered a separate appropriation.

- A: \$50,000 from the Unbudgeted Reserve for Expenses for land acquisition at 69 Main Street and two unnumbered, unbuildable parcels along Shelburne Falls Rd., for costs not to exceed \$80,000, the appraised values of the parcels;
- B: \$15,000 from the Unbudgeted Reserve for Expenses for a Chapter 21 E Phase 2 environmental assessment for 69 Main Street;



C: \$45,000 from the Housing Reserve for a Habitat for Humanity house at 638 South Deerfield Rd.; and

D: From FY 2022 Annual Revenue:

10% to the Community Preservation Historical Resources Reserve (\$9,378, estimated);  
10% to the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve (\$9,378, estimated);  
10% to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve (\$9,378 estimated);  
5% from FY 2021 Annual Revenues for Administration of the Community Preservation Committee (\$4,689, estimated); and  
the remainder to the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve (\$60,957, estimated).  
*(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 24:** Voted that the Town authorize the Treasurer to spend \$15,000 from the **Medicaid Revolving Fund** to pay related reimbursement fees.

**ARTICLE 25:** Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws to change the date of its annual Town Meeting, as printed in the warrant.

**ARTICLE 26:** Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Selectboard, and, for such purposes, to **replace throughout the by-laws the words “Board of Selectmen” or “Selectmen” with “Selectboard,” and “Selectman” with “Selectboard Member”**, and to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and number issues in related text is revised to properly reflect such change in title; and, further, to amend the General Bylaws by inserting new Sections therein as printed in the warrant.

**ARTICLE 27:** Voted that the Town **amend its Protective (Zoning) Bylaws** to replace the words “Board of Selectmen” where they appear in Sections 6-61 and “Selectmen” where it appears in Sections 6-62 with “Selectboard,” as printed in the warrant. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 28:** Voted that the Town amend its Protective (Zoning) Bylaws, as referenced in Article 2 of those by-laws, to remove the Fournier parcel, so called, (off Fournier Road) from the Solar Overlay District and to adopt an amended Official Zoning Map dated February 22, 2021, as printed in the warrant. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 29:** Voted that the Town amend its Protective (Zoning) Bylaws, Article 9, Large Scale Solar Facilities Bylaw, as printed in the warrant. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

At 4:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned until Thursday, June 5, 2021, to the Town Hall between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., to bring in their votes for:

One Selectman for three years;  
One Assessor for three years;  
Two members of the Board of Health for three years;  
Two members of the local School Committee for three years;  
One member of the local School Committee for one year;  
Two members of the Planning Board for three years;  
One Moderator for one year: and

To vote the following question related to borrowing \$170,000 for paving a section of Shelburne Falls Road, as printed in the warrant.

A true record of the Meeting,  
Attest:

Laurie L. Lucier, Town Clerk



**Treasurer**

Treasurer office hours by phone and email are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

**Debt**

**Debt Schedule**

Description	Initial Loan Amt	Term	Re-remaining Term	July 1, 2021 Beginning balance	FY2021 New Debt	FY2021 Retirement	FY21 Interest Pd.	June 30, 2021 Balance
Septic Repair Prog	38,306	20 yr	0	\$1,979		\$1,979	\$0	\$0
Fire Truck	151,000	5 yr	0	\$30,000		\$30,000	\$897	\$0
Highway Garage	988,000	15 yr	14 yr	\$988,000		\$66,000	\$21,231	\$922,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>\$1,019,979</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$97,979</b>	<b>\$22,128</b>	<b>\$922,000</b>

**Tax Liens and Possessions**

Tax Liens are being addressed regularly. There were no new foreclosures in FY2021 and no sales of any tax possessions. We have 2 larger bills that are in foreclosure process with our attorney, but expect them to be paid off during FY2022.

**Tax Title Balance**

Description	Balance 7/1/2020	Additions	Payments and Adjustments	Balance 6/30/2021
Real Estate	\$116,016	\$59,938	\$68,300	\$107,654
Community Preservation fund	\$1,772	\$1,022	\$1,449	\$1,344
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$117,787</b>	<b>\$60,960</b>	<b>\$69,749</b>	<b>\$108,998</b>

**Tax Possessions**

Description	Balance 7/1/2020	FY 2021 Foreclosures	FY2021 Sales	Balance 6/30/2021
Bardwells Ferry Rd; Map 405, lot 8 and 9	\$7,798			\$7,798
Main Poland Rd; Map 415 Lot 28	\$3,834			\$3,834
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,632</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,632</b>

**Health Insurance**

We are members of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The trust rates are compared annually to the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission benchmark and remain to be the better option for the town and employees. There was a small rate increase in 2021.

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Expense	\$433,118	\$420,858	\$409,674	\$412,220	\$390,315	\$347,656
Increase	2.91%	2.73%	-0.61%	5.61%	12.27%	7.70%

### Banking

Earning General Fund Banking Interest was challenging this year. We use Adams Community Bank for holding most of the general fund money and transfer it out as needed. This year, their rates were between 1.1% and 0.75% while other local banks were 0.1% and below. They are FDIC and DIF insured. We use Rich Rogers as a long-term investment manager. Rich is currently using LPL Financial and has helped us protect our long-term investments while capitalizing on return for over 15 years. Our investments are limited by the approved state list which can keep us from higher returns that the public may experience, but also keeps losses at a minimum. Rich's experienced attention to our account yielded a considerable return this year.

#### General Fund interest earnings

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$15,493	\$27,377	\$16,646	\$8,614	\$6,329	\$5,732	\$5,387

#### Long term investment return

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
6.57%	3.39%	2.82%	-0.55%	1.77%	3.91%	1.90%

### Long Term Investments

Fund Name	Beginning	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Realized	Ending	Market Value
	Balance					Balance	
	7/1/2020			Earned	Gains/Losses	6/30/2021	6/30/2021
Ambulance Stabilization	\$155,067.19	\$0.00	\$0	\$3,268	\$838	\$159,173	\$173,826
Capital Stabilization	\$377,965.19	\$0.00	(\$132,700)	\$6,440	\$1,332	\$253,037	\$275,970
G Schl Stabilization	\$273,435.50	\$0.00	\$0	\$5,763	\$1,477	\$280,675	\$295,959
Stabilization	\$252,041.47	\$0.00	\$0	\$5,312	\$1,361	\$258,715	\$286,348
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,058,509.35</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>(\$132,700)</b>	<b>\$20,783</b>	<b>\$5,007</b>	<b>\$951,600</b>	<b>\$1,032,103</b>
A & E Boice Germain	\$17,598	\$0	\$0	\$371	\$95	\$18,064	\$19,601
C & F Field	\$11,328	\$0	\$0	\$239	\$61	\$11,628	\$12,683
C S Boyden	\$81,658	\$0	(\$6,200)	\$1,646	\$414	\$77,518	\$85,918
D O Paul	\$15,418	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$83	\$15,826	\$17,269
E C Glazier	\$467	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$3	\$480	\$546
E.M. Chase Fund	\$752	\$0	\$0	\$16	\$4	\$771	\$806
Emory Field	\$934	\$0	\$0	\$20	\$5	\$959	\$1,093
G. Howland	\$17,720	\$0	\$0	\$373	\$96	\$18,189	\$19,850
Guilford Fund	\$819,193	\$1,298	(\$116)	\$17,206	\$4,425	\$842,006	\$929,077
J. Boyden	\$8,870	\$0	\$0	\$187	\$48	\$9,105	\$9,927
M & M Germain	\$500,055	\$0	(\$2,125)	\$10,519	\$2,694	\$511,142	\$573,821
M B Germain	\$24,154	\$0	\$0	\$509	\$130	\$24,794	\$27,799
M H Germain	\$91,515	\$0	\$0	\$1,929	\$494	\$93,938	\$103,141
S Bradford	\$467	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$3	\$480	\$546
S.F. Howland	\$11,414	\$224	\$0	\$244	\$63	\$11,946	\$13,080
Sale Of Lots	\$11,172	\$0	\$0	\$235	\$60	\$11,467	\$12,508
Tanner	\$467	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$3	\$480	\$546
W E Tucker	\$934	\$0	\$0	\$20	\$5	\$959	\$1,092

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Withdrawals</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Realized</b>	<b>Ending</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Earned</b>	<b>Gains/Losses</b>	<b>Balance</b>	
	<b>7/1/2020</b>					<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>
Whiting Street Fund	\$20,184	\$0	\$0	\$425	\$109	\$20,719	\$22,613
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,634,301</b>	<b>\$1,522</b>	<b>(\$8,441)</b>	<b>\$34,293</b>	<b>\$8,795</b>	<b>\$1,670,471</b>	<b>\$1,851,917</b>
<b>Comm Pres Fund</b>	<b>\$1,175,185</b>	<b>\$152,443</b>	<b>(\$68,444)</b>	<b>\$25,278</b>	<b>\$6,361</b>	<b>\$1,290,823</b>	<b>\$1,377,018</b>
<b>OPEB</b>	<b>\$53,652</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,246</b>	<b>\$343</b>	<b>\$65,240</b>	<b>\$68,641</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,921,647</b>	<b>\$163,965</b>	<b>(\$209,585)</b>	<b>\$81,600</b>	<b>\$20,507</b>	<b>\$3,978,134</b>	<b>\$4,329,679</b>

**Allocation of Funds by Bank Accounts  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021**

\*Please note that these are bank balances only and do not include 4th quarter transfers to/from the general fund. See accountant report for current figures

**INTEREST BEARING CHECKING**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/2021</b>
Unibank	Payables	\$40,388.13	280,265	\$95.90	\$320,748.86
Unibank	School Payables	\$11,901.09	400	\$11.14	\$12,312.23
Unibank	Payroll	\$8,231.23	(0)	\$12.87	\$8,244.10
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>60,520</b>	<b>280,665</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>341,305</b>

**LIQUID INVESTMENTS**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Interest Earned &amp; Net Gain</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/2021</b>
Adams Community Bank	Money Market	\$622,055	\$1,641,454	\$11,786	\$2,275,296
Easthampton Savings Bank	Money Market	\$52,024	\$0	\$151	\$52,174
Greenfield Savings Bank	General	\$111,610	(\$103,681)	\$13	\$7,943
Unibank	Money Market	\$2,153,325	(\$2,053,513)	\$2,716	\$102,528
Unibank	Ambulance Rct	\$4,913	\$18,070	\$4	\$22,988
Unibank	Tax Collections Deputy Tax	\$26,381	\$96,807	\$26	\$123,214
Unibank	Collections	\$3,471	\$3,396	\$3	\$6,869
Unibank	Bond Proceeds	\$988,165	(\$365,090)	\$439	\$623,515
Unibank	Unipay School	\$153	\$5,834	\$1	\$5,988
Unibank	Remote Deposit	\$44,514	\$78,017	\$98	\$122,629
Unibank	Treas Receipts	\$4,656	(\$165)	\$1	\$4,493
Unibank	School Lunch	\$698	\$250	\$0	\$948
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4,011,965</b>	<b>(\$678,621)</b>	<b>15,240</b>	<b>3,348,584</b>

**Special Revenue Accounts**

**LIQUID INVESTMENTS**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Interest Earned &amp; Net Gain</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/2021</b>
Unibank	Cultural Council	\$6,854	(\$2,786)	\$3	\$4,071

<b>LIQUID INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Interest Earned &amp; Net Gain</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/2021</b>
Greenfield Savings Bank	Student Activity	\$104	\$2,698	\$0	\$2,802
Peoples United Bank	Septic Repair	\$44,783	\$9,222	\$13	\$54,018
Unibank	Planning Board	\$13,352	\$4,542	\$9	\$17,903
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$65,094</b>	<b>\$13,676</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$78,794</b>

<b>TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Transfers interest earned</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>
Greenfield Savings Bank	CD Flex	\$10,363	\$196,000	\$133
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$10,363</b>	<b>\$196,000</b>	<b>\$133</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$4,147,943</b>	<b>\$(188,280)</b>	<b>\$15,517</b>	<b>\$3,975,179</b>
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Warner  
Treasurer/Tax Collector

### Tax Collector

Tax Collector hours by phone and email are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Taxpayers can make their payments online, by mail or in person. Our new tax collection software has been fully implemented and offers many online options for paying or viewing bills. You can now retrieve a report for all taxes paid in a prior year for filing your income taxes at [www.townofconway.com](http://www.townofconway.com). Feel free to contact our office for any questions or concerns you may have.

Collections are in line with prior years and delinquent all efforts (per Mass General Law) are being made to collect on delinquent accounts.

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>New Commitments</b>	<b>Payments &amp; Adjustments</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>MV TAX</b>	0	233,622	216,451	17,170
<b>2021</b>	<b>PERS TAX</b>	0	340,395	339,949	447
<b>2021</b>	<b>REAL CPA</b>	0	94,018	91,685	2,333
<b>2021</b>	<b>REAL TAX</b>	0	4,844,792	4,733,476	111,316
<b>2020</b>	<b>MV TAX</b>	13,722	20,311	32,181	1,851
<b>2020</b>	<b>PERS TAX</b>	1,382	0	703	679
<b>2020</b>	<b>REAL CPA</b>	1,869	0	1,878	-9
<b>2020</b>	<b>REAL TAX</b>	113,957	0	94,637	19,319
<b>2019</b>	<b>MV TAX</b>	3,146	0	1,517	1,629
<b>2019</b>	<b>PERS TAX</b>	703	0	0	703
<b>2019</b>	<b>REAL TAX</b>	5,549	0	5,549	0
<b>2018 and prior</b>	<b>MV TAX</b>	9,010	0	5,864	3,146
<b>2018 and prior</b>	<b>PERS TAX</b>	982	0	0	982
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$150,320</b>	<b>\$5,533,138</b>	<b>\$5,523,890</b>	<b>\$159,568</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Janice Warner, Treasurer & Tax Collector

**Accountant**

**Town of Conway  
 General Fund Appropriations  
 Fiscal Year 2021**

**General Fund Revenue Budget to Actual Summary:**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Personal Property Taxes	336,824	342,160	(5,337)
Real Estate Taxes	4,794,370	4,749,466	44,904
Tax Title/Liens Redeemed	0	68,300	(68,300)
Motor Vehicle Excise	165,000	241,825	(76,825)
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	8,250	22,345	(14,095)
Fees	19,500	42,057	(22,557)
Licenses & Permits	0	2,003	(2,003)
Intergovernmental	873,730	868,585	5,145
Fines & Forfeitures	0	190	(190)
Earnings on Investments	3,750	15,520	(11,770)
Miscellaneous Revenue	750	50,023	(49,273)
Transfers From Other Funds	282,700	282,700	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,484,874</b>	<b>\$6,685,175</b>	<b>(\$200,301)</b>

**General Fund Expenditure Budget to Actual Summary:**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Encumbrances</b>	<b>Balance</b>
General Government	719,610	561,525	95,012	63,073
Public Safety	343,170	290,407	34,129	18,634
Education	3,684,689	3,534,731	135,266	14,693
Public Works	1,548,244	832,994	684,489	30,761
Health & Human Services	256,887	201,979	18,215	36,693
Culture & Recreation	20,574	5,374	8,119	7,081
Debt Service	132,131	119,025		13,106
State & County Assessments	93,286	92,262		1,024
Pension & Fringe Benefits	710,227	682,942		27,285
Transfer to Other Funds	160,000	160,000		0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,668,818</b>	<b>\$6,481,239</b>	<b>\$975,230</b>	<b>\$212,349</b>

**Town of Conway  
 Special Revenue Funds  
 Fiscal Year 2021**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>Fund Balance July 1, 2020</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Fund Balance June 30, 2021</b>
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**Town of Conway**  
**Special Revenue Funds**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**

231	Ambulance Reserve for Rcpts	66,643	41,932	0	108,575
232	Dog Revolving Fund	7,333	3,943	(703)	10,573
233	Recreation Revolving	1,778	50	0	1,828
234	Tax Title Revolving	3,169	1,935	(5,506)	(401)
237	Conservation Wetlands Fund	7,736	1,117	(1,143)	7,711
238	Sports Revolving	6,286	2,435	(1,869)	6,852
240	Medicaid Revolving Fund	42,160	17,938	(467)	59,631
245	Conway Currents Newsletter	30	363	0	393
252	Insurance proceeds	1,262	5,640	(5,640)	1,262
255	MIIA Risk Management Grant	0	0	(2,000)	(2,000)
262	Elections COVID Response Grant	0	5,000	(5,000)	0
265	Council on Aging Grants & Gifts	14	11	0	25
271	Conservation Donations	2,088	0	0	2,088
272	Fire Donations	4,137	300	0	4,437
273	Police Donations Fund	5,453	50	0	5,503
275	Planning Board Consulting C.44 S.53g	17,884	9	(4,800)	13,093
277	Ambulance Donations	9,354	1,827	(57)	11,124
278	Cricket Hill Road	20,450	0	0	20,450
282	Sale of Real Estate C.44, S.63	84,695	0	0	84,695
283	U. S. Flag Fund	749	50	(282)	517
284	Historical Commission	459	75	0	534
285	Holiday Tree Fund	1,300	0	0	1,300
286	Fitzgerald Bridge	931	0	0	931
287	Covered Bridge	401	0	0	401
288	Youth Fund	844	0	0	844
289	Delabarre	800	0	0	800
290	Highlands Initiative	883	0	0	883
291	USDA/NRCS Grant	4,001	0	0	4,001
292	Septic Loan Paybacks	67,855	9,234	(1,979)	75,110
293	Peg Access/Broadband	56,648	25,520	(18,191)	63,977
294	Extended Polling Hours	4,290	0	0	4,290
296	Conway Trails	223	0	0	223
297	Public Utility Surcharge	3	1	0	4
380	Community Preservation Act	1,213,737	265,327	(129,568)	1,349,496
403	Dare Grant-Police	2,814	1,000	0	3,814
404	Comm Policing Grant	2,635	0	(420)	2,216
405	Bulletproof Vest Grant	825	0	0	825
406	Watch your Car Grant	700	0	0	700
409	FEMA-All Hazards Grant	(7,500)	7,500	0	0
412	Council on Aging Grant	1,314	6,000	(5,529)	1,786
414	Library State Aid	11,966	3,389	0	15,355
415	Cultural Council	4,068	4,803	(4,657)	4,214
416	Small Cities Grant	43,848	0	0	43,848
419	COVID19 Emergency Expenses	18,031	86,445	(111,320)	(6,844)
421	Master Plan Grant	595	0	0	595
422	DCR Fire Grant	(1,398)	1,577	0	179
424	EMPG	(4,775)	4,775	0	0
425	DEP Grant Recycling RF	6,501	0	(317)	6,185

**Town of Conway**  
**Special Revenue Funds**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**

426	Recycling Dividend Program FCSWMD	7,657	3,500	(3,280)	7,877
428	FRCOG Multi town	13,750	0	0	13,750
431	Municipal ADA Improvement Grant	2,688	0	0	2,688
432	Community Compact Grant-Town Accountant Training	102,312	(2,312)	0	100,000
439	ARPA COVID-19 Fund	0	98,022	0	98,022
502	School Choice	355,421	279,881	(201,215)	434,087
503	REAP Grants	482	19,810	(20,292)	0
505	SPED Assist	(1,053)	24,515	(24,002)	(540)
506	Wings Program	186,447	379,912	(291,912)	274,447
507	Grant Funded Teachers Stipends	(500)	2,090	(1,590)	0
509	Erate Reimb School	196	0	0	196
511	Child/Adult FDC	2,123	0	0	2,123
514	Summer Wings program	10,452	1,750	(2,175)	10,027
519	School Coronavirus Prevention	0	4,450	(3,085)	1,365
520	Comprehensive School Health Svces Grant	(4,623)	33,457	(28,834)	0
551	After School Program	39,834	100	(2,498)	37,436
552	Early Childhood Tuition	94,733	13,501	(73,925)	34,309
553	School Lunch	6,268	67,946	(57,021)	17,193
555	Student Activities Fund	594	10,485	(7,787)	3,292
556	Wellness Grant	149	800	(705)	244
557	Moves and Grooves	1,505	0	0	1,505
558	Fournier School Fund	2,822	0	0	2,822
730	Highway Garage STM 12/9/2019 Art. 14	988,000	0	(428,120)	559,880
811	Sumner Boyden Trust	84,238	5,400	(6,820)	82,818
812	Cemetery Perpetual Care	25,917	0	0	25,917
813	Guilford Trust	870,875	58,817	(416)	929,277
814	G. Howland Trust	18,603	1,247	0	19,850
815	A & E Boice/Germain Fund	18,363	1,239	0	19,601
816	Whiting Street Fund	21,193	1,421	0	22,613
817	S.F. Howland Trust	12,260	819	0	13,080
818	Sale of Lots	11,721	786	0	12,508
819	M & M Germain	540,472	35,099	(4,875)	570,696
820	M. B. Germain	26,099	1,700	0	27,799
821	M. H. Germain	96,699	6,441	0	103,141
822	Joshua Boyden	9,303	624	0	9,927
823	Arabelle Turner	513	33	0	546
824	D O Paul	16,183	1,085	0	17,269
825	C & F Field	11,886	797	0	12,683
826	W E Tucker	1,027	66	0	1,092
827	E C Glazier	513	33	0	546
828	S Bradford	513	33	0	546
829	Emery Field	1,027	66	0	1,093
830	General Stabilization Fund	268,608	17,740	0	286,348
831	Ambulance Stabilization	162,912	10,914	0	173,826
832	Capital Stabilization	390,212	168,458	(282,700)	275,970
833	Garage Stabilization	2,509	(2,509)	0	0



**Town of Conway  
Special Revenue Funds  
Fiscal Year 2021**

834	Grammar School Stabilization	276,713	19,245	0	295,959
838	Edith Moore Chase	753	53	0	806
840	OPEB	54,251	14,390	0	68,641
891	Off Duty Police Detail	1,770	29,058	(25,258)	5,570
892	Firearm ID Cards	139	3,374	(2,613)	900
894	Fire Dept Fees	300	1,915	(1,865)	350
896	Town Clerk Fees	300	336	0	636
897	BOH Consulting Fees	3,815	3,380	(3,005)	4,190
898	Deputy Collector	414	2,717	(2,674)	457
<b>Total Town of Conway</b>		<b>\$6,451,861</b>	<b>\$1,820,930</b>	<b>(\$2,110,208)</b>	<b>\$6,162,584</b>

## Departments - Public Safety

### Ambulance

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented challenges that all emergency and medical service have been faced with, Conway ambulance has done our very best to serve the Town of Conway and our citizens in the manner that is expected.

Early in the pandemic, and for weeks following, several members of Conway departments and boards held conference calls for updates on cases, treatment, testing and regulations, these calls allowed us, as a town, to stay on the same page and up to the minute with the ever-changing situation that we were faced. Those meetings have since ended and we are a little more lenient with requirements and expectations.

We typically respond to 80-100 calls for help annually. Due to the nature and confidentiality of our work we cannot disclose the types of calls, but rest assured, we will do our duty to the best of our ability, regardless of the type of call. The pandemic has certainly been an added stress for everyone, and we as emergency personnel are no different. Initially we did have some delays in getting certain personal protective equipment, but ultimately, the community spirit of the hilltowns/Pioneer Valley and Western Mass EMS (our State level liaison) we were able to obtain and maintain our equipment to protect ourselves and our patients. Currently the supply chain for personal protective equipment is pretty stable and we have not had many issues.

This year we have continued to work and train with the fire and police departments to the extent that we are able. As restrictions are lessened, we hope to return to more regular trainings and to assist with the annual First Responder training for those departments. As EMT's we are also required to complete several continuing education hours, this year most of those have remained online, as well as meetings, press conferences etc. that we participate in. For some of us this has been a huge change: If 2020 and 2021 showed us anything, it was to be grateful for the adaptability of ourselves and that we will persevere.

2021 brought another record number of donations to the ambulance. I have done my best to thank each of you directly, but if I missed you, please accept my apologies, and our sincere THANK YOU.

The ambulance department has gained three new EMT's this past year, however the ambulance remains at a low for EMT's and we are actively seeking anyone interested in becoming certified, or already certified. Please contact me at 413-369-4235 or [ambulance@townofconway.com](mailto:ambulance@townofconway.com) for more information.

To be trusted with the care of another person is a truly humble and rewarding responsibility, and I urge everyone able to dedicate some portion of your time, in any capacity, to helping your fellow citizens and neighbors

On a personal note, I would like to thank our Asstistant Director Chris Herrmann, our Clerk, Amanda Herrmann, and two of our newest EMT's: Sebastian Meyer and Heidi Flanders for their incredible coverage of the ambulance. There were several months throughout 2021 that I was not able to respond for calls or complete the regular paperwork required to keep the ambulance running smoothly. These four people have gone above and beyond to make sure that things were taken care of and that our calls were answered to the best of our ability. I am deeply grateful for the dedication that they have shown.

On behalf of myself and my fellow EMT's, I thank you for trusting us with your emergency medical needs and we look forward to serving you for another year.

Gemma VanderHeld  
Director, Conway Ambulance

**Animal Control**

In 2021 I received 78 complaints involving animals in Conway. Approximately 30% of the calls involved loose dogs. The remaining calls included both farm and wild animals. I brought five dogs to the Franklin County Regional dog shelter. Three dogs were licensed and three were current on rabies vaccination. Providing owner information on his or her collar will facilitate their return home.

Conway has a bylaw requiring your dog to be leashed while walking in public areas. MA state law requires dogs and cats to be rabies vaccinated. Dog licenses must be renewed with the town clerk by March 31, 2022. These laws are enforceable with non-criminal summonses. Rabies vaccinations protect both your pets and the public.

**Incidents of Animal Calls**

Loose dogs. . . . .	24	Dog Bites. . . . .	3
Horses. . . . .	13	Porcupines. . . . .	3
Cows. . . . .	7	Bats. . . . .	2
Sheep. . . . .	5	Cats. . . . .	2
Racoons. . . . .	4	Woodchuck. . . . .	2
Deer . . . . .	3	Other*. . . . .	10

\*Includes beaver, crows, donkeys, fox, goats, llamas, skunks and squirrels.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Colucci, Animal Control Officer

**Emergency Management**

It was a slow year for Emergency Management, and that's a good thing. As usual I attended a variety of training sessions and regional meetings, all via zoom. The weather was monitored on a daily basis, and South River water levels were checked as well.

During the Board of Health mask mandate, boxes of masks were distributed to local business establishments for distribution to employees and customers.

G.W. Murphy,  
Emergency Management Director, emeritus.

## Fire Department

To the citizens of Conway I hereby submit my forty-second annual report of the fire department. This past year our department responded to 65 calls consisting of:

Wires Down calls	17
Smoke/CO alarms	8
Ambulance Assistance	7
Mutual Aid calls	7
River rescue/search	7
MVA Accidents	6
Brush Fires	5
Chimney Fires	5
Miscellaneous calls	2
Woodland Search	1

This past year we were kept busy doing river rescues and searches due to so many people participating in outdoor activities because of COVID-19. Our department continues to practice COVID restrictions on every call. The department has received a volunteer firefighter assistance grant for which the town pays only 50% of the cost to purchase \$4,000.00 worth of forestry equipment and supplies.

We were notified by the Mass State Police that as of 07-01-21 we would be receiving our new 800mhz radios and portables.

At the end of this fiscal year we have 26 firefighters and 8 junior firefighters age 14-18. I would like to thank our firefighters and juniors for their time and dedication throughout the year.

Yours first in Fire Safety,  
Robert Baker, Fire Chief

## Police Department

Fiscal year 2021 was essentially a continuation of 2020. Due to the severe health risks many programs that we either sponsor or participate in with other entities had to be cancelled for the second year.

We were able to resume Firearms Training Classes, with much smaller class sizes in the spring of 2021. This is a state mandated safety training class for any new applicant wishing to obtain a License to Carry Firearms or a Firearms Identification Card.

## Statistics

The following listed items required Conway Police involvement:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	18	Disabled Motor Vehicle	11
911 Calls	85	Burglar Alarms	27
Animal Complaints	30	Larceny	11
Disturbances	29	Arrests	2
Public Safety Hazards	57	Paperwork Served	43
License to Carry Firearms	34	Firearms I.D. Card	4
Assorted Calls & Complaints	686		

The Conway Police Department invites and welcomes community input. I would like to thank my officers who are part of the essential workforce for their dedication and support to the community. They include Ron Hawkes, Randall Williams, Christina Conklin, David Johnson, and Donald Bates. On behalf of the entire Conway Police Department, I would like to say THANK-YOU to the people of the Town Office, Massachusetts State Police, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Shelburne Control, the staff at the Conway Grammar School, the Conway Sportsman's Club, and the numerous volunteers who continue to give so much of themselves.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kenneth D. Ouimette  
Chief of Police

## Departments - Public Works

### **Highway Department**

The Highway Department is responsible for over 60 miles of roads here in the Town of Conway. Maintenance of our roadways is continuous, due to ever-changing conditions, and requires frequent monitoring. Our goal is to take in a full view of our environment to foresee possible issues and resolve them. This approach helps us compile a running itemization of projects based on priority and allows us to utilize our budget in the most cost-efficient way.

One of our main projects is to improve the safety and longevity of our roadways. We continue to clear the areas within approximately 10 feet of our roadways. This involves clearing brush and small trees and cutting back the tree canopies. Each job we do in this project is for specific reasons and they come full circle to the integrity of our roadways.

This fiscal year continued to be very busy. Projects included chip seal on approximately two miles of Whately Road, 1.5 miles of East Guinea Road, two miles of Main Poland Road, and 1.5 miles of Hoosac Road. We continue, too, to build up and repair our gravel roads. This year we used around 5,000 yards of crushed gravel and 1,400 yards of hardpack.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 413-369-4696 or email me directly at [highway@townofconway.com](mailto:highway@townofconway.com).

I would like to thank the residents for their continued support, and the Highway Department crew for their hard work and dedication to the Town.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ron Sweet  
Highway Superintendent

### **Tree Warden**

The Tree Warden's work for FY2020 did not call for any expenditure beyond salary. During the year the tree warden consulted with residents, the Superintendent of the Highway Department and with Eversource regarding tree removal issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Goodridge

## Departments – Schools

### Conway Grammar School

#### Conway School Committee

##### Term Expires

Elaine Campbell, Chair	2022
Michael Merritt, Vice Chair	2023
Denise Storm, Secretary	2024
Philip Kantor, Member*	2023
Jared Campbell, Member	2022

##### Administration

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Special Education	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Elementary Education	Kimberly McCarthy
Director of Early Childhood	Aimee Smith-Zeoli
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Geoffrey McDonald
Principal	Kristen Gordon

##### Support Staff

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Donna Hathaway
Administrative Assistant (SPED)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Secretary to Principal	Lora Hanas

#### Conway Grammar School Enrollment - October 1, 2021

	Resident Students	School Choice	Tuitioned-In	Total
Pre-K	12	0	6	18
K	6	10	0	16
1	10	5	0	15
2	9	8	1	18
3	12	7	1	20
4	4	9	3	16
5	12	8	1	21
6	14	6	1	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>145</b>

**Union #38 Teachers' Salary Schedule  
Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately  
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

<b>Step</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B+15</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M+15</b>	<b>M+30</b>	<b>M+45 CAGS</b>
3	\$45,068	\$46,474	\$47,926	\$49,426	\$50,970	\$52,485
4	\$46,474	\$47,926	\$49,426	\$50,970	\$52,565	\$54,080
5	\$47,926	\$49,426	\$50,970	\$52,565	\$54,207	\$55,723
6	\$49,426	\$50,970	\$52,565	\$54,207	\$55,897	\$57,412
7	\$50,970	\$52,565	\$54,207	\$55,897	\$57,643	\$59,158
8	\$52,565	\$54,207	\$55,897	\$57,643	\$59,446	\$60,961
9	\$54,207	\$55,897	\$57,643	\$59,446	\$61,303	\$62,819
10	\$55,897	\$57,643	\$59,446	\$61,303	\$63,218	\$64,732
11	\$57,643	\$59,446	\$61,303	\$63,218	\$65,192	\$66,708
12	\$59,446	\$61,303	\$63,218	\$65,192	\$67,231	\$68,746
13	\$61,303	\$63,218	\$65,192	\$67,231	\$69,337	\$70,852
14	\$67,105	\$69,133	\$71,623	\$73,778	\$76,699	\$78,229
20	\$69,188	\$71,254	\$73,796	\$75,994	\$78,975	\$80,506

Nature's Classroom Teacher: \$100 per day of attendance by a teacher.

Workshop Presenters: \$30 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

Tutoring Rate: \$33 per hour

Head Teachers: \$1,500

Placement on 20 occurs when a teacher has completed 19 years of service as a teacher in Union #38.

Mentors: \$500 per each new teacher, \$250 for second/third-year teacher, \$250 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year.

The Town of Conway currently pays 70% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remainder 30% of the health insurance premium contribution.

**Union #38 Instructional Assistants' Salary Schedule  
Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately  
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

<b>Instructional Assistants</b>		<b>Educational Support Nurses, LPN, COTA, SLPA &amp; PTA</b>	
Step 1	\$14.56	Step	2%
Step 2	\$15.06	1	\$23.94
Step 3	\$15.56	2	\$24.97
Step 4	\$16.07	3	\$25.99
Step 5	\$16.57	4	\$27.01
Step 6	\$17.07	5	\$28.03
Step 7	\$17.59	6	\$29.05
Step 8	\$18.09	7	\$30.08
Step 9	\$18.60	8	\$31.11
Step 10	\$19.14	9	\$32.14
		10	\$33.14

## Conway Grammar School Superintendent's Report

### District Mission Statement

*Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.*

### District Vision Statement

*Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities promoting the growth of every student.*

This past year provided many unprecedented challenges across our nation, and the world, as educators in schools, parents, families and communities navigated the pandemic. Our nurses, in collaboration with school staff, worked diligently to implement procedures to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff amidst the COVID pandemic.

I am proud of our success in keeping our schools open for our students during the 2021 school year. Despite the challenges created by COVID, our students continued to learn and participate in many extracurricular activities including athletics, clubs, musical and theatrical productions.

During the 2021 school year, the district has committed to the professional development of teachers and staff in the areas of trauma-informed instruction and Culturally Responsive Education which is defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education *as an approach to viewing students' culture and identity (including race, ethnicity, multilingualism, and other characteristics) as assets, and creating learning experiences and environments that value and empower them.*

The district has formed committees to oversee this work and created an anti-racism committee with community members, teachers, instructional assistants, administrators, and students represented. This work is ongoing.

Our schools are the heart of our communities. Our hard-working, committed staff and the ongoing support provided by our community members enables success with our students. Thank you.

**Enrollment & School Choice:** The October 1, 2021 enrollment for Conway Grammar School totaled 145 (PreK-6) students. This is an increase of 21 students from the October 1, 2020 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 124 students. Of those 145 (PreK-6) students, 53 were School Choice students. This is an increase of 11 students from the October 2020 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 42 students.

**Curriculum and Professional Development:** Elementary faculty members continued to participate in professional development on anti-racism and equity focusing on culturally responsive education. Teachers began working to design learning experiences and environments that affirm, value and empower students' own cultures and identities as well as explore those different from their own.

In the fall of 2021, teachers began the process of examining curriculum materials and instructional strategies to identify ways to effectively incorporate culturally responsive teaching practices. This work included introducing new picture books to read aloud to students in Preschool through grade 6. These books, created by culturally diverse authors and illustrators, were selected by a committee of district teachers. They include empowering stories about real life historical figures and fictional characters representing and celebrating a variety of cultures and races.

During the fall of 2021, Pk - 12 faculty and staff were fortunate to participate in a workshop with Gholdy Muhammad, a nationally recognized author of *Cultivating Genius*, who created an equity framework for culturally and historically responsive education. Dr. Muhammad will return to the district in 2022 to continue supporting teachers in designing lessons based on her framework for culturally responsive teaching.

Mental health and student well-being was another area of focus for professional development this year. The disruptions in school and societal norms over the past two years had a notably negative impact on students, who experienced increased levels of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. District teachers participated in a series of workshops provided by the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (BRYT) that provided training in strategies for supporting students' well-being.

Teachers continue the ongoing process of reviewing and revising curriculum, and analyzing assessment data that measures student progress in academic content areas to ensure that instruction meets the needs of all of their students.

**Retired Staff:** Paulette Levchuk, Reading Specialist; Arlene Mikolajczuk, Physical Education Teacher; Shafiya Finger, School Psychologist; and Richard Gifford, Grade 6.

**New Staff:** Chris Williams, Physical Education Teacher; Julie Woodbury, School Psychologist; Brenna Bean, Intervention Teacher and Amy Tolman, Grade 4.

**Special Thanks:** We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Conway School Committee members Chair Elaine Campbell, Vice Chair Michael Merritt, Secretary Denise Storm, and Members Philip Kantor and Jared Campbell. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Conway. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darius E. Modestow  
Superintendent of Schools

## Frontier School Report

### Frontier Regional School Committee

	Term Expires
Robert Halla, Chair, Whately*	2022
William Smith, V. Chair, Whately	2022
Judy Pierce, Secretary, Sunderland	2022
Olivia Leone, Member, Deerfield	2024
Philip Kantor, Member, Conway*	2022
Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield*	2022
Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland*	2022
Melissa Novak, Member, Deerfield	2023
Ashley Dion, Member, Conway	2022
Lyn Roberts, Member, Sunderland	2023
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	2022

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

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 6:00 p.m.



### Administration

Darius Modestow	Superintendent of Schools
Shelley Poreda	Director of Business Administration
Karen Ferrandino	Director of Student Services
Sarah Mitchell	Director of Secondary Education
William Hildreth	Director of School Facilities
Scott Paul	Director of Instructional Technology
Geoffrey McDonald	Director of Food Services

### Support Staff

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Donna Hathaway
Administrative Assistant (SPED)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Substitute Coordinator	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper, FRS	Donna Lloyd
Treasurer	Inna Stytsenko
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
SIS Data Specialist	Deborah Coons
Network Administrator	Stuart Dusenberry
Information Technology Specialist	Keith Van Buren

### Frontier Regional School

George Lanides	Principal
Scott Dredge	Assistant Principal
Roberta Reiter	Principal's Secretary
Kelly Blanchette	Special Education Secretary
Michelle Russell	Attendance Secretary
Mary Lapinski	Guidance Secretary

### Frontier Regional School Enrollment - October 1, 2021

Grade	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	School	Tuitioned	Total
7	14	35	12	14	24	1	100
8	9	27	32	10	30	1	109
9	14	37	12	12	29	0	104
10	13	29	15	6	34	0	97
11	9	36	16	7	27	0	95
12	13	31	21	6	28	0	99
SP	0	2	2	0	1	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>610</b>

**Frontier Regional  
Salary Schedule  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

0	\$44,448	\$46,590	\$49,215	\$51,676
1	\$46,739	\$48,615	\$51,077	\$53,630
2	\$48,678	\$50,692	\$53,004	\$55,654
3	\$49,877	\$52,841	\$54,999	\$57,748
4	\$51,623	\$54,532	\$57,017	\$59,869
5	\$52,975	\$56,320	\$59,159	\$62,117
6	\$55,256	\$58,117	\$61,112	\$64,166
7	\$56,713	\$59,962	\$63,081	\$66,234
8	\$58,215	\$61,473	\$65,929	\$69,224
9	\$61,111	\$64,966	\$68,859	\$72,302
10	\$64,315	\$68,730	\$71,880	\$75,476
11	\$65,382	\$71,264	\$75,198	\$78,958
12	\$67,923	\$73,897	\$77,894	\$81,789
13	\$68,941	\$75,005	\$79,062	\$83,015
*20L	\$69,941	\$76,005	\$80,062	\$84,015
**25L	\$70,941	\$77,005	\$81,062	\$85,015

**APPENDIX A  
2019-2022 Salary Schedules**

**Unit C Instructional Assistants**

Step	2019-2020	Hourly Rates	
		2020-2021	2021-2022
		2%	2%
2*	\$14.57	\$14.87	\$15.16
3	\$15.09	\$15.39	\$15.70
4	\$15.57	\$15.89	\$16.20
5	\$16.10	\$16.42	\$16.75
6	\$16.59	\$16.93	\$17.26
7	\$17.14	\$17.48	\$17.83
8	\$17.61	\$17.97	\$18.33
9	\$18.15	\$18.51	\$18.88
10	\$18.67	\$19.05	\$19.43
11	\$19.20	\$19.58	\$19.98

**\*NOTE: Due to the elimination of a step, the new scale shall be steps 2-11. Employees will move one step effective July 1, 2019. For example, an employee on step 1 would move to step 2 on July 1, 2019.**

## Unit C Educational Support Nurses

Step	Hourly Rates		
	2019-2020 1%	2020-2021 2%	2021-2022 2%
1	\$23.47	\$23.94	\$24.42
2	\$24.48	\$24.97	\$25.47
3	\$25.48	\$25.99	\$26.51
4	\$26.48	\$27.01	\$27.55
5	\$27.48	\$28.03	\$28.59
6	\$28.48	\$29.05	\$29.63
7	\$29.49	\$30.08	\$30.68
8	\$30.50	\$31.11	\$31.73
9	\$31.51	\$32.14	\$32.79
10	\$32.49	\$33.14	\$33.80

### Frontier Regional School Superintendent’s Report

*Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.*

As Superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union #38 Schools, I am pleased to submit the 2021 Superintendent’s Report on behalf of the dedicated teachers and administrators of this district. Frontier Regional and Union #38 schools continue to serve our communities by providing excellent public education with an ongoing focus on meeting the individual needs of each student.

This past year provided many unprecedented challenges across our nation, and the world, educators in schools, parents, families and communities navigated the pandemic. Our nurses, in collaboration with school staff, worked diligently to implement procedures to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff amidst the COVID pandemic.

I am proud of our success in keeping our schools open for our students during the 2021 school year. Despite the challenges created by COVID, our students continued to learn and participate in many extracurricular activities including athletics, clubs, musical and theatrical productions

During the 2021 school year the district has committed to the professional development of teachers and staff in the areas of trauma-informed instruction and Culturally Responsive Education which is defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education *as an approach to viewing students' culture and identity (including race, ethnicity, multilingualism, and other characteristics) as assets, and creating learning experiences and environments that value and empower them.*

The district has formed committees to oversee this work and created an anti-racism committee with community members, teachers, instructional assistants, administrators, and students represented. This work is ongoing.

In addition to a focus on staff development, we have completed several facilities improvement projects using the community supported Capital Improvement Bonds to repair the track and provide much-needed building improvements. These mark the beginning of more regular improvements to keep our facilities in good working condition.

Our schools are the heart of our communities. Our hard-working, committed staff and the ongoing support provided by our community members enables success with our students. Thank you.

**Overview:** Frontier Regional School opened in 1954 in the town of South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The school includes students in grades 7 through 12 with an enrollment of 610 students. This is a decrease of 39 students from the October 1, 2020 enrollment figures of 649 students. Of the 610 students, 173 were School Choice students, which is the same number of students from the October 1, 2020 School Choice enrollment figure of 173.

The class of 2021 had 98 graduates; 69% planned to attend a four-year college, 18% a two-year college, 2% plan to attend vocational schools, 1% planned on a post-grad year, 2% will enter military service, and 7% plan to enter the labor market. This is different from previous years. There were 93 graduates in the class of 2020: 49% planned to attend a four-year college, 23% a two-year college, 2% vocational schools, 2% to gap year and 14% plans unknown, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

**Spring 2021:** Students returned to full time in person learning in April of 2021. A remote learning option remained available for students.

**Fall 2021:** All students returned to in person learning. Students continued to wear masks to protect themselves and the health and safety of the school community. Staff and students continued to participate in weekly pooled testing to identify the presence of COVID. These and other measures helped our schools to return to a more normal schedule.

**Curriculum and Professional Development:** Faculty continued to participate in professional development on antiracism and equity focused on culturally responsive education. This means that teachers design learning experiences and environments that affirm, value and empower students' own cultures and identities as well as explore those different from their own. In the fall of 2021, faculty members began to revise curriculum to reflect culturally responsive teaching practices. This work included introducing new picture books in the elementary grades created by culturally diverse authors and illustrators. These books, selected by a committee of teachers, include empowering stories about real life historical figures and fictional characters representing and celebrating a variety of cultures and races.

During the fall, Pk - 12 faculty and staff were fortunate to participate in a workshop with Gholdy Muhammad, a nationally recognized author of *Cultivating Genius*, who created an equity framework for culturally and historically responsive education.

Mental health and student well-being was another area of focus for professional development. The disruptions in school and societal norms over the past two years had a notably negative impact on students, who experienced increased levels of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. District faculty members participated in a series of workshops provided by the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (BRYT) that provided training in strategies for supporting students' well-being.

Secondary teachers participated in a series of workshops on writing in the content areas and received professional development on strategies to strengthen inclusionary practices for serving students with special needs.

**Special Education:** A new special education delivery model was adopted at the high school level. Special educators now spend the majority of their day supporting students in the general education setting rather than providing support in a separate classroom. The short C block is reserved for students to receive intensive support services in addition to their regular classes.

## **Staff:**

**Retired Faculty:** Laura Sienkiewicz, Life Skills Teacher; Denise Sitler, Strings Keyboard; and Maureen Collins, Math (MS) Title I Teacher

**Faculty Resignations:** Kurt Marchl, Math/Physics (HS) Teacher; Kristine Bourque, Special Education Teacher; Olivia Frosch, Special Education Teacher and Lynette Howard, ABA Teacher

**New Faculty:** Susan Matsui, Strings Teacher; Mamadou Cisse, Math (MS) Teacher; David Butts, Math (HS) Teacher; Meghan Dawe, Special Education/Life Skills Teacher; Andrew Rup, Special Education (MS) Teacher; Andrea Carnes, Special Education Teacher; Jodi Greenberg, World Language Teacher; and Celeste Lunt, ABA Teacher

**Special Thanks:** We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Robert Halla, Vice Chair William Smith, Secretary Judy Pierce, Members Mary Ramon, Lyn Roberts, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, Olivia Leone, Ashley Dion and Melissa Novak. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you to the citizens of our four towns for being supportive of public education and our wonderful schools.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darius Modestow, Superintendent of Schools

## **Regional Organizations**

### **Franklin Community Access Television (FCAT)**

2021 was an exciting and important year for Community Access Television. As the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing, FCAT served the community in a variety of different ways during these uncertain times. From bulletin board work, documentaries and channel programming by Jonathan Boschen, to sports and event coverage by Kevin Murphy, FCAT has proven itself to be an extremely important resource and communication tool for the towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately.

School event coverage was undertaken by Kevin Murphy, who provided FCAT's viewers with professional quality coverage. Throughout the course of the year, FCAT live-streamed many school events including concerts, sports, and other school functions to the station's YouTube page and to channel 12. With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing and restrictions in place prohibiting audiences at sporting events and school functions, Kevin Murphy's live coverage was in many instances the only way to watch these events. When restrictions were eventually lifted allowing for in-person audiences to return, this live event coverage was still essential as many individuals were still uneasy about going to large public gatherings. Kevin Murphy's sports coverage, especially during the winter season, was highly appreciated by many throughout western Massachusetts and was even highlighted in an excellent article written about it by the *Greenfield Recorder*.

In terms of local government, FCAT assisted the four towns in broadcasting and/or running recorded remote Selectboard meetings and school committee meetings on the station's YouTube channel and channel 23. This gave members of the community access to important information, especially when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak during winter and early spring. As the year progressed and with some towns moving to a hybrid fashion for several meetings, FCAT assisted in running and broadcasting these meetings. In addition, FCAT also successfully took on the challenge of covering the four town's annual town meetings. All four town meetings

were professionally recorded and documented by FCAT as historical records for the towns and state. Direction and production of the four town meetings was overseen by Jonathan Boschen and Chris Collins.

Other noteworthy work for the towns consist of several projects overseen by FCAT's Executive Producer Jonathan Boschen. This work consisted of producing several local lighthearted common interest documentaries and also managing the channels' bulletin boards. Over the past year, Jonathan has devoted a lot of work to managing and completely re-imagining the bulletin boards which run on channels 12, 15 and 23. Boschen's objective for the bulletin boards is to completely break away from the commonly used PEG access PowerPoint styled bulletin boards, so they can successfully compete against other means of communication - social media, TV ads, web info graphics, etc. Boschen's technique is to use simple but interesting background art with different fonts, and utilizing different visual styles and branding to communicate important information.

Moving forward into 2022, there are a lot of exciting projects and ideas in the works for FCAT that are being overseen by Jonathan Boschen and/or Kevin Murphy. Both Boschen and Murphy will continue to build on their projects from 2021 and work to provide the best coverage of government and local events as possible. In addition to this there are some other projects in the works, one of which is installing a set into our studio. This set would consist of black staging curtains and would provide a simple but sleek backdrop for staff members, volunteers and members of the community to produce professional-looking media content. When FCAT reopens to the public – maybe this year as the Omicron variant is said to not be as threatening as the previous COVID-19 strains – we hope that this set will attract new interest in the station. Other ideas for FCAT in 2022 consist of an FCAT scholarship to help motivate Frontier students to get involved with the station, community filmmaking workshops and other youth programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan A. Boschen  
Interim General Manager

### **Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter**

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility. As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 22 of the 26 Franklin County towns.

During the course of 2021, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 157 canine intakes. *104 where brought in as strays, and 53 where Surrendered, Transferred or Returned adoptions to our facility.*

### **What happened to the dogs?**

- 80 where returned to their owners.
- 50 where adopted into new fur-ever homes.
- 9 where transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.
- 10 where sadly euthanized by an attending veterinarian. Euthanasia is not something we take lightly and we do our best to explore all available options before choosing this course of action. Of these 10, (4) where owner intended euthanasia; (2) where medically compromised; (4) where euthanized for severe aggression towards people and other animals.

While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Control Position the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 33 cats. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all cats are transferred to an appropriate agency.

**Food Pantries:** During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Shelter has worked to supply pet food into local food pantries for residents who are in needed. If you are struggling to feed your pet, or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food please let us know!

**Rabies Clinics:** In 2021, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Turners Falls, Heath, and Shelburne Falls. Between these (3) clinics, a total of 86 pets were vaccinated against rabies.

**Dog Licensing:** Some Town Clerks have granted the ability for the shelter to issue a dog license for a dog that was brought in and not licensed. As Massachusetts General Law requires every dog be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before it can be released from the shelter. This ability has drastically reduced the time that an owned dog must stay at the shelter, if it was unlicensed upon intake.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today, during 2021 our volunteers logged 4,777 volunteer hours! Our volunteers assist the operation of the shelter by helping with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog's needs. We are always in need of new volunteers, if you are interested in joining our volunteer team; please check out the volunteer application on our website.

**Did you know?** The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days? During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

### **Franklin County Solid Waste Management District**

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

A review of recycling tonnage for 2021 shows a decrease of 100 tons of recycling compared to 2020. District residents recycled just over 2,700 tons of paper and containers. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold for recycling primarily to domestic companies. For six months, the market revenue exceeded the processing fee so towns received revenue for their recycling tonnage.

The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of both 2021 Clean Sweep collection events.

We did hold our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2021. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. We adjusted our collection protocol to account for health and safety requirements during the pandemic. A total of 420 households participated in this event.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$94,000 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) or visit us at 117 Main Street, 2nd Floor in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*  
Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain – *Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*  
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield – *Treasurer*

**Franklin County Technical School**

We submit this annual report for 2020-21 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the FY23 budget represents an October 1, 2021, which is always a year behind according to the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment submission of 546 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	Erving	28	Montague	95	Sunderland	6
Buckland	18	Gill	17	New Salem	13	Warwick	7
Colrain	27	Greenfield	123	Northfield	28	Wendell	7
Conway	10	Heath	9	Orange	82	Whately	13
Deerfield	30	Leyden	0	Shelburne	11		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 109 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2021. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities. FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing and landscaping to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2019 FCTS had approximately 50% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. In 2020, due to COVID-19 issues there were approximately 20% of our seniors on paid Coop. 2021 students are once again going back to work and taking advantage of paid Coop opportunities. FCTS offers excellent academic offerings with Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education courses to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science and Medical Assisting. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 14. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45- minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry standard competency guidelines.



Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Capital Skills Grants. FCTS has received more than 1.2 million dollars in grants over the last several years without using FCTS funds to enhance its Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, and Machine Technology vocational programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernized CNC machines. In addition, FCTS will continue its partnerships with MassHire to explore new adult evening programs in the fall of 2022.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community on an annual basis. FCTS has finished its second new home in Erving and is beginning a new home building project in Greenfield. In New Salem, FCTS students built a new pavilion for the Swift River Elementary School, in Greenfield, Landscaping and Horticulture (LH) is working with the Franklin County Fair Grounds planting new trees and beautification projects. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification. Plumbing and Electrical students are working at the new Conway DPW putting in new radiant floors and plumbing students are busy installing new bathroom and kitchen units, while electrical students continue to wire the entire facility. Welding worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair. Culinary Arts cooks meals for the Montague Housing Authority and regularly serves the local Community Senior Center and Chamber of Commerce.

Auto Collision Repair is working with the Turners Falls Police Department turning a marked police vehicle into an unmarked vehicle. Auto Technology continues to support community vehicles for all member towns. In addition, the Auto Technology program has saved member towns a substantial amount of money by maintaining the school's vehicle fleet. Many of our school vehicles are used for our various construction jobs within Franklin County and also provide for athletic transportation, which significantly reduces our overall transportation costs and allows FCTS to not require athletic user fees. FCTS Auto Technology and Collision Repair program are very appreciative of the donated vehicles which provide our students with real world experiences. The newly established Veterinary Science program has provided vaccinations for the Franklin County Sheriff's Animal Shelter by supporting their grooming needs.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard J. Kuklewicz, School Committee Chairman  
Richard J. Martin, Superintendent-Director

### **Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)**

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. Partnership for Youth provides substance use and chronic disease prevention; The Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and health officials.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to shape the ways we did business in 2021, and while the attention of some staff remained focused on pandemic response, our typical work did not stop, nor did our mission to serve the interests of citizens, municipalities, and the region as a whole. We've included some of that work here, and *FRCOG's 2021 Annual Report*, published this spring, will further summarize our regional efforts. The following pages list services specific to Conway.

**COVID Response and Recovery** FRCOG engaged in regional and municipal COVID response and recovery in numerous ways, including:

- Maintained up-to-date regional websites; developed and distributed community education messages; provided mask order and social-distancing signage for use at town facilities, non-profits, and businesses.
- With partners in the Franklin County Regional Vaccination Collaborative, coordinated 140 regional vaccination clinics administering nearly 32,000 doses of vaccine.
- Advocated for the needs of rural communities and local public health; facilitated information sharing on COVID case trends, new state guidance and initiatives, and sharing of best practices.

### **Climate Resilience**

- Concluded the \$1.5M regional Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) Regional Climate Resiliency Project with the completion of several projects in the South River Watershed in Conway. Work included technical assistance to the planning board for river corridor management, engineering plans for reconnecting the South River to its floodplain, engineering plans for a culvert replacement on Main Poland Road, mapping and developing a right-sizing protocol for drainage culverts.
- Assisted the planning board with drafting a Flood Plain Overlay District zoning bylaw in accordance with the new model prepared by the MA Emergency Management Agency.

### **Economic Development**

- Completed a Phase I Brownfields Environmental Site Assessment.
- Assisted with developing the Shelburne Falls/West County Initiative grant program for businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers.
- Completed an inventory and map of recreational assets in the MTWP area.

### **Finance and Municipal Services**

- Conway contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; school district elevator service and fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses.
- The Cooperative Inspections program issued 74 building permits, 42 electrical permits, and 38 plumbing/gas permits for Conway in 2021. Five (5) Certificate of Inspection were issued.
- The Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and department heads. Accountants assisted in completing the recap for tax rate; completed Free Cash certification and Schedule A submission at year-end; and customized, developed, and distributed reports for committees and departments. They assisted with the annual audit, if necessary. All accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office, and backed-up daily.

### **Land Use and Natural Resources**

- Worked with the Open Space Committee to complete the Conway Open Space & Recreation Plan for a MA Department of Conservation Services review.
- Developed the Conway Pollinator Action Plan as part of the Regional Pollinator Action Plan, including

potential revisions to the town’s zoning bylaws to create and protect pollinator habitat.

- Began a National Water Quality Initiative Watershed Assessment for the South River to identify potential sources of nonpoint source pollution.
- Provided technical assistance on zoning for accessory dwelling units and floodplain overlay districts.
- Assisted the town, among others, with formation of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Project (MTWP) Board that will assume responsibility for future MTWP activities, in accordance with state legislation.

**Public and Community Health** Conway is a member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at FRCOG, for Public Health Nursing. In July of 2021, Conway contracted to receive Food Safety and Community Sanitation services as well.

- Held 4 monthly walk-in wellness clinics at Town Hall where residents made 41 visits with CPHS nurses for health screening services, assistance with management of chronic illnesses, and flu vaccination.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all walk-in wellness clinic nursing hours.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, including 34 Conway cases.
- Gave 897 Flu and 77 COVID vaccinations at CPHS flu clinics, COVID pop ups, and home visits. Among these, 64 Conway residents received flu vaccine and 33 COVID vaccines were delivered to Conway residents at home or in local pop up clinics.
- Continued support for Age-and Dementia-Friendly community initiative, including planning for needs assessment survey early in 2022.
- Offered tick prevention materials and help for residents accessing tick tests. Sixteen (16) Conway residents received low-cost tick tests through a district program and Department of Public Health subsidy, a value of \$320. Of ticks tested in Conway, 30% tested positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen, and 6% for the Miyamotoi pathogen.
- Provided guidance and training to Conway Board of Health members serving as agents for the Town.
- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 298 Frontier students, representing 90% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided training, technical assistance, and evaluation for the evidence-based LifeSkills substance use prevention curriculum in the school district.
- Provided resources for advancing racial justice in school districts/schools to the school district.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the new, evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.

**Training and Education** The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Conway public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Support:**  
Bi-Weekly Coordination Roundtables – 1-3

**Public Health & Community Awareness:**  
3-in-1 Food Safety Certification - 6

**Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education:**  
Funding Water & Sewer Infrastructure - 2  
Town Administrators Meeting - 1  
American Rescue Plan Overview - 1  
Cybersecurity - 4

**Planning, Conservation & Development:**  
Diversifying Rural Housing Opportunities - 1  
Review of MA’s Model Floodplain Bylaw - 3

Additionally, staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

### **Transportation**

- Completed an update of the Mohican–Mohawk Trail map.
- Administered a state Recreational Trails Grant for improvements to the Mohican–Mohawk Trail.
- Wrote an application to the MassTrails Program for trail improvements and information kiosks on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Consulted and provided guidance on electric vehicle charging station funding programs and resources.

If you have more questions about procedure or how Town Meeting should proceed please go to the following web site for the “Citizen’s Guide to Town Meetings”

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cistwn/twnidx.htm>

### **Franklin Regional Retirement System - January 1 - December 31, 2020**

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 611 retirees, 55 beneficiaries, 1,066 active employees, and 625 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). We contract with an independent auditor to do a full audit of our system each year. We also contract with an actuary to perform a complete actuarial valuation every two years. PERAC audits our operations and financial records every three years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the member, and combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds are spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2020, we are 85.6% funded at 32 years (80%) into the 40-year mandate.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year; therefore our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and as a consequence the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website: [www.FRRSMA.com](http://www.FRRSMA.com).

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our state oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

	<b>CY 2020</b>	<b>CY 2019</b>	<b>CY 2018</b>
<b>Balances</b>			
Cash	1,492,254	1,579,892	1,548,623
Investments	174,179,165	155,459,951	137,212,980
Receivables	101,506	73,637	99,508
Payables	2,209,591	2,988,090	2,460,693
Annuity Savings (members)	32,662,132	31,675,249	30,591,939
Retirement Reserves	140,901,202	125,438,231	105,808,479
<b>Revenues</b>			
Members contributions	3,955,793	4,368,605	3,754,462
Towns, Schools, Agencies	7,268,256	6,871,971	6,506,893
Retirement Cost Sharing	565,436	516,330	531,674
Miscellaneous Revenue	11,867	10,781	17,971
Investment Income (net)	20,436,491	24,332,594	(4,375,884)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Retirement Benefits	12,010,238	11,329,395	10,451,458
Operating Expenses	590,757	567,347	542,267
Investment Expenses	820,937	837,388	802,542
Retirement Cost Sharing	1,956,450	2,262,262	1,714,774
Refunds to Members	409,606	390,827	443,808
<b>Investment Performance</b>			
Target	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%
Since 1984	8.59%	8.47%	8.21%
10 years	9.31%	9.57%	9.60%
5 years	10.14%	7.79%	5.99%
Current Year	12.65%	17.92%	-3.13%
<b>Demographics</b>			
	<b>1/1/2010</b>	<b>1/1/2020</b>	<b>1/1/2018</b>
Members' Average Age	47.50	47.50	48.30
Members' Average Service	9.20	9.20	10.10
Members' Average Salary	37,982.00	37,982.00	37,651.00
Retirees' Average Age	72.80	72.80	72.60
Retirees' Average Pension	17,171.00	17,171.00	16,433.00
Disabled Members' Average Age	60.30	60.30	58.30
Disabled Members' Average Pension	29,998.00	29,998.00	28,790.00

Dale Kowacki, Executive Director  
Franklin Regional Retirement System

### **Fred W. & Ethel Dow Wells Trust**

Distributions from the Fred W. and Ethel Dow Wells Trust, established aid to students of many local towns help fund their education, support local health programs and provide funding to support local agricultural fairs. For the fiscal year 2021/2022 that total distribution amount is \$295,229.56.

Education: The Trustees approved educational scholarships totaling \$236,183.00 to be awarded to applicants from Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, Northfield, Rowe and Shelburne. The gift maximum per student per year is \$1,000.00. The current maximum total educational funding per student is \$4,000.00.

Health: These local health programs were approved funding totaling \$44,284.43 to be distributed among these agencies:

- Community Health Center of Franklin County
- NELCWIT
- FCHCC: Meals on Wheels
- Community Action

Agriculture: An amount of \$14,761.48 was directed by the Trustees to be distributed among these local fairs:

- Franklin County Agricultural Fair
- Heath Agricultural Fair
- Shelburne Grange Fair

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate French, Fred W. Wells Trustee

### **Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District - January 1 - December 31, 2021**

**Mission Statement:** To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels 2021 was a trying year for many. Our office remained fully open and fully staffed during all of 2021. We felt we would see more veterans and their dependents due to other services being closed or restricted and this proved true. We filed more VA claims and more VA health care applications than any other year that we have been in existence. The following are some brief highlights for the district during the past year:

- District now brings in \$1,793,282.18 in Federal and State money **per month** from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities and sales). Compare this to \$58,000 in expenses per month.
- Our office requested and sponsored a COVID vaccine clinic courtesy of the VA and Kringle Candle in Bernardston
- We created the State's first dedicated VA Telehealth center for veterans to use for their Telehealth appointments if they do not wish to travel far or do not have the skill set or technology to do at home. This is being emphasized by the VA after lessons learned from COVID.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents,

taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. Deputy Chris Demars is now a Certified National Service Officer, allowing us to directly submit VA paperwork, helping to speed up these claims. Finally, Brian Brooks, Veteran Service Officer, is currently the Massachusetts Marine Corps League Commandant, representing Marine Veterans across Massachusetts.

- As District Town Halls and Senior Centers are slowly re-opening we are returning to our normal outreach locations (call for latest times and places)
- We project a level funded Fiscal Year 23 budget while continuing to expand services in 2023.

Timothy Niejadlik, Director  
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District