

# TOWN OF SUNDERLAND



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

## TOWN OF SUNDERLAND - A BRIEF HISTORY

Sunderland, Massachusetts, is one of the southernmost towns in Franklin County. The community is situated in the eastern portion of the Connecticut River Valley in western Massachusetts.

Sunderland was incorporated as a town in 1718. Before being incorporated, Sunderland was known as Swampfield, so named by its first settlers because of the swampland within the town. Settlement of the town originated on what is now North and South Main Streets, with forty designed house lots. Settlers were also assigned an equal percentage of swampland, pasture land, and wood lots. North and South main Streets are scenic, broad avenues that appeal to our sensory of what a small New England town should be. In the late 1820's, maple trees were planted on each side of the street, which has added to Sunderland's beauty, especially as leaves change color, or after a snowfall. The houses are a pleasing mix of sizes and styles; in fact, Sunderland's main street has examples of most of the architectural styles of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Mount Toby range is another source of beauty and historic background. A watchtower is at the peak along with a commanding view of the river valley. The north part of Mt. Toby is the home of the "Sunderland Cave." It is not technically a cave, but huge slabs of tipped conglomerate rock. Caves are rare in this part of New England, which has made this one more widely known. Sunderland's first Irish immigrants located their homes on Mt. Toby in the mid-nineteenth century, which were known as "paddy farms." Trails are still evident, along with old stone walls marking boundary lines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Compiled by Wendy Houle  
Sunderland Historical Commission/Town Clerk*

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

## DEDICATION

Each year we have an opportunity to recognize an individual or group who has contributed their expertise, talents and or passion to the betterment of our community. Many groups or individuals have been recognized over the years, having served our town in ways that make Sunderland great.

This year, our Annual Report is dedicated to:



**SCOTT BERGERON**

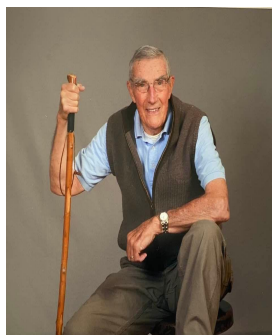
Many know Scott as an elected Selectboard member, a seat he has held since 2003 until stepping down in 2021. However, his town service started in 2000 as an elected Riverside Cemetery Trustee, a position he still holds today. He served as a Finance Committee member from 2000-2003 before joining the Selectboard. Being a Selectboard member goes beyond the Monday meetings or Annual Town Meeting. Selectboard members participate on many other committees which are a fundamental part of the town. Their expertise and vast knowledge of the town goals and vision enhances our growth as a community. Scott has served on numerous committees and organizations throughout his tenure contributing to the longevity and consistency of the project or organization he involved himself in.

While the list is long, Scott 's contributions are immeasurable. He has served many years on the Permanent Building Committee, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, the Housing Committee and Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team. He also represented the Selectboard on the Police Union Negotiation Team and new Town Administrator contract negotiations. As part of the Selectboard obligations, he also served as Sewer Commissioner and Local Licensing Authority for alcohol licensing.

Scott was an integral part of the 120 North Main Street Committee that was formed in 2014 for the development of senior housing on a town acquired property. While expected to be short-term, the committee persevered and are still serving today to see this project to completion which is expected to be the later part of 2022. As the Senior Housing project advanced, the Village Center Committee was formed, also with Scott's involvement, to focus on how Sunderland could enhance its community center for visitors and those traveling through our community, which is also still ongoing. We would also be remiss to not recognize Scott's generosity and expertise over the years.

We appreciate your continued service to our town Scott and thank you for your dedication to Sunderland.

## IN MEMORIAM



**RUSSELL LANE, MD**  
**1928-2021**

Dr. Lane served many years on the Planning Board, Historical Commission, and was a Riverside Cemetery Trustee. He received the 2000 Town Report Dedication recognizing his many contributions.



**STANLEY MIECZKOWSKI**  
**1935-2021**

Stanley was a field driver for the town which is similar to today's Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector.



**EDWARD MOGELINSKI**  
**1933-2021**

Ed was a field driver for the town. The position was similar to what is known today as an Animal Control Office/Animal Inspector.



**EDWIN SKRIBISKI**  
**1938-2021**

Eddie served as a field driver for many years which was a position similar to today's Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector. More recently, he was a long time Highway Department employee.



**UCHNEAT, MARYANN**  
**1942-2021**

Mrs. Uchneat served on the Frontier School Committee and she was a long-time teacher at Sunderland Elementary School.

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## APPOINTED and ELECTED OFFICIALS

### APPOINTMENTS:

#### EMPLOYEES

	FIRST	LAST	Term
Accountant/Contracted w/ FRCOG	David	Nordstrom	2022
Administrative Assistant	Cynthia	Bennett	2022
Assessors Office- Admin. Asst.	David	Zagorski**	2022
Board of Health Agent-Apptd by BOH	Stephen	Ball	2022
Housing Health Agent/Contract Apptd by BOH	Regina	McNeely	2022
Board of Health/Clerk -Apptd by BOH	Cynthia	Bennett	2022
Building Commissioner	Thomas	Quinlan Jr.	2022
Asst. Bldg. Inspector	Mark	Snow	2022
Asst. Bldg. Inspector	Ronald	Laurin	2022
Alternate Bldg Inspector	Louis	Hasbrouk	2022
Collector/Treasurer	Heather	Davis	2022
Asst. Collector/Treasurer	Geoffrey	Kravitz	2022
Town Administrator/Contracted	Geoffrey	Kravitz	contract
Chief Procurement Officer	Geoffrey	Kravitz	2022

#### FIRE DEPT.-OFFICERS APPOINTED BY FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief	Steven	Benjamin	2022
Captain	Mike	Zeoli	
Lieutenant	Cody	Jones	
Lieutenant	Scott	Smith	
Lieutenant	John	Sullivan	
Firefighter	Ricky	Fadus	
Firefighter	Keith	McFarland	
Firefighter	Lauri	Smith	
Firefighter	Ben	Snyder	
Firefighter	Mason	Jenkins	
Firefighter	Timothy	Gochinski	
Firefighter	Joshua	Manheim	
Firefighter	Matthew	Morin	
Firefighter	Milton	Rock	
Firefighter	Heidi	Olmstead	
Firefighter	Ricky	Ciliberto	
Firefighter	Joshua	Orrell	
Fire Prevention Officer (Inspections)	Cody	Jones	
Fire Prevention Officer (Inspections)-Alt	Timothy	Gochinski	
Fire Prevention (Education) MA State Credentialed SAFE Educator	Matthew	Morin	
Fire Prevention (Education)-Alt	Timothy	Gochinski	
Department Chaplin	Fr. Jonathan	Reardon	

Highway Department Supt.	George	Emery	2022
Highway Dept. Laborer	Hayden	Kanash	2022
Highway Dept. Laborer	Arnold	Rose	2022



Highway Dept. Temp. Laborer	Duane	Jenks	2022
Highway Dept. Temp. Laborer	Hanson	David	2022
Highway Dept. Temp. Laborer	Fred	Laurenitis	2022
Highway Dept. Temp Laborer	Connor	Waitkus	2022
Highway Dept. Temp Laborer	Emery	Payton	2022
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	Steven	Baronoski	2022
Plumbing & Gas Inspector-Alt.	Mark	Wendolowski	2022
Police Chief	Erik	Demetropoulos*	contract
Police Department-Clerk	April	Griffin	2022
Police Dept.-FT Officer	Benjamin	Peters	2022
Police Dept.-FT Officer	Peter	Scoble	2022
Police Dept.-FT Officer	Brenda	Tozloski	2022
Police Dept.-FT Sgt.	Brendan	Lyons	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Zachary	Smith	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Gerald	Beltran	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Vincent	Fabi	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Dale	Brown	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Benjamin	Drake	2022
Police Dept.-PT Officer	Jordan	Zukowski	2022
Police Dept.-Animal Control Officer/Inspector	Emmie	Martin	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Erik	Demetropoulos*	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Benjamin	Peters	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Peter	Scoble	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Brenda	Tozloski	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Brendan	Lyons	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Zachary	Smith	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Gerald	Beltran	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Vincent	Fabi	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Dale	Brown	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Benjamin	Drake	2022
Alcohol Enforcement Agent	Jordan	Zukowski	2022
Payroll Clerk	Joanne	Beagel	2022
Recreation Coordinator	James	Ewen	2022
Wiring Inspector	Peter	Murphy	2022
Wiring Inspector-Alt.	Bill	Erman	2022

#### **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES- APPOINTED**

120 North Main Street Committee	Stuart	Beckley	2022
120 North Main Street Committee	Carl	Fiocchi	2022
120 North Main Street Committee-Alt.	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
120 North Main Street Committee	Leon	Markowski	2022

120 North Main Street Committee	Jeff	O'Brien	2022
120 North Main Street Committee	Patricia	Patenaude	2022
120 North Main Street Committee	Lorin	Starr	2022
120 North Main Street Committee-Selectboard	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Agricultural Commission-Conservation Rep.	Jennifer	Unkles	2022
Agricultural Commission	Scott	Reed	2022
Agricultural Commission	Robert	Williams	2022
Agricultural Commission	Megan	Arquin	2023
Anti-Harassment Officer	Elizabeth	Sillin	2022
Burial Agent	Wendy	Houle	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	David	Pierce	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Mike	Skibiski	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Peter	Gagarin	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Dana	Roscoe	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Rock	Warner	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Gerry	Bridwell	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Lorin	Starr	2022
Civil Defense-EMD	Lauri	Smith	2022
Community Pathways Committee	Nancy	Pick	2022
Community Pathways Committee	Sara	Snyder	2022
Community Pathways Committee-resg 10.2021	Ian	Lippincott	2022
Community Pathways Committee	Rock	Warner	2022
Community Pathways Committee	Scott	Smith	2022
Community Pathways Committee	Vacant		
Community Preservation Committee-Recreation Rep.	Meghan	Arquin	2022
Community Preservation Committee-Housing Rep.	Stuart	Beckley	2022
Community Preservation Committee-Planning Board Rep.	Ellie	Kurth	2022
Community Preservation Committee-Con. Com. Rep	Jennifer	Unkles	2022
Community Preservation Committee-Citizen Rep.	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
Community Preservation Committee-Historical	Helen	Clark	2022
Community Preservation Committee- Citizen Rep.	Mike	Wisseman	2022
Conservation Commission	Mark	Zinan	2022
Conservation Commission	Gabrielle	Kurth	2022
Conservation Commission	Dan	Murphy	2024
Conservation Commission	Jennifer	Unkles	2023
Conservation Commission	Nancy	Pick	2023
Constables	Fred	Laurenitis	2022
Constables	Allan	Richards	2022



Constables	Michael	Wozniakewicz	2022
Council On Aging	Elizabeth	Foster	2022
Council On Aging	LaDonna	Olanyk	2022
Council On Aging	Mary Ann	Kowaleck	2023
Council on Aging	VACANT		
Cultural Council	Mary	Gorman	
Cultural Council	Barbara	Howey	
Cultural Council	Julie	Jacque	
Cultural Council	Peter	Lacey	
Cultural Council	Debbie	Russell	
Cultural Council	Tammy	Thompson	
		Roberge	
Cultural Council	Beth	Friedrichs	
Cultural Council	Vrishali	Javeri	
Cultural Council	Jessica	Fydenkevez	
Economic Development Committee	Jim	Berontas	
Economic Development Committee	Aleks	Kajstura	
Economic Development Committee	Fred	Laurenitis	
Economic Development Committee	David	Pierce	
Economic Development Committee	Barre	Tozloski	
Economic Development Committee	Rock	Warner, Jr.	
Election Officers/Republicans	Debra	Bennett	
Election Officers/Democrats	Christine	Drake	
Election Officers/Republicans	Edward	Gately	
Election Officers/Democrats	Mary Ann	Gundersen	
Election Officers/Democrats	Barbara	Howey	
Election Officers/Democrats	Ronald	Howey	
Election Officers/Republicans	Donna	McKemmie	
Election Officers/Republicans	Pam	Parsons	
Election Officers/Democrats	Allan	Richards	
Election Officers/Democrats	Stana	Wheeler	
Election Officers/Republicans	Barbara	Schulze	
Election Officers/Republicans	William	Sillin	
Election Officers/Democrats	Susan	Triolo	
Election Officers/Democrats	Stana	Wheeler	
Election Officers/Democrats	Carol	Ahearn	
Election Officers/Unenrolled	Carol	Kushi	
Election Officers/Unenrolled	Jean	McEnaney	
Election Officers/Unenrolled	Christina	Snover	
Emergency Management Director	Laurie	Smith	2022
Energy Committee	Aaron	Falbel	2022
Energy Committee	David	Goodwin	2022

Energy Committee	Scott	Reed	2022
Energy Committee	Laura	Williams	2022
Energy Committee	Meg	Fisher	2022

#### Finance Committee-Appointment by Moderator

Finance Committee	Sara	Smiarowski	2022
Finance Committee	Linda	Forget	2022
Finance Committee	Aleks	Kajstura	2022
Finance Committee	Francis	Mozea	2022
Finance Committee	Joseph	Elias	2022
Finance Committee	VACANT		2022
Finance Committee	VACANT		2022

Franklin County Solid Waste Rep			2022
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Franklin County Regional Planning Board	Zinan	Mark	2022
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Franklin Tech. School Rep-Moderator Appt	James	Bernotas	2022
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Hazardous Waste Coordinator	VACANT		2022
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Historical Commission	Wendy	Houle	2022
Historical Commission	Carl	Fiocchi	2022
Historical Commission	Helen	Clark	2022
Historical Commission	Stephen	Schneider	2023
Historical Commission	Jessica	Skibiski	2023
Historical Commission	Margaret	Orelup	2023

Housing Committee	Stuart	Beckley	2022
Housing Committee	Cristyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Housing Committee	Peter	Jessop	2022
Housing Committee	VACANT		2022

Parking Clerk	Heather	Davis	2022
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Personnel Committee-Employee Rep.	George	Emery	2022
Personnel Committee-Fin. Com. Rep	Francis	Mozea	2022
Personnel Committee-Selectmen Rep.	Cristyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Personnel Committee-Citizen Rep.	VACANT		2022
Personnel Committee-Citizen Rep.	Michael	Wozniakiewicz	2022

#### Public Weighers appointment is April 1st-March 31st

Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Dean	Cloninger	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Thomas	Kelly	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Jason	Massey	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Andrew	Pepyne	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Aleigh	Homquist-Parker	2022

Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Andrea	Cossaboom	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Tim	Smith	2022
Public Weighers-All States Asphalt	Peter	Chmyzinski	2022

Registrars	Edward	Kelley	2023
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### **SELECTBOARD COMMITTEES**

Housing Committee	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Village Center Committee	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Personnel Committee	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Sunderland Emerg Preparedness Team SEPT	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
120 North Main Street Committee	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022

120 North Main Street-Alt.	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
South County EMS Board of Oversight	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
Community Preservation Committee	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
FRCOG Rep. (Selectboard Designee)	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
South County Senior Center	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
Sunderland Emerg Preparedness Team SEPT	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022

Economic Development Committee	David	Pierce	2022
Ditch Committee	David	Pierce	2022
Sunderland Emerg Preparedness Team SEPT	David	Pierce	2022
Teacher Union 38 & Instructional Assistants Rep.	David	Pierce	2022
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	David	Pierce	2022

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

South Country EMS Board of Oversight	Robert	Ahearn	2022
South Country EMS Board of Oversight	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022

Sunderland Ditch Committee	Dewitt	Thompson	2022
Sunderland Ditch Committee	Gerald	Bak	2022
Sunderland Ditch Committee	James	Perot	2022
Sunderland Ditch Committee	Mark	Benjamin	2022
Sunderland Ditch Committee	David	Pierce	2022
Sunderland Ditch Committee	Mark	Zinan	2022

Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Stephen	Ball	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Ben	Barshefsky	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	George	Emery	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Tom	Fydenkevez	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Fred	Laurenitis	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	David	Pierce	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Erik	Demetropoulos	2022
Sunderland Emergency Preparedness Team	Steve	Benjamin	2022

Town Administrator Committees-Advisory/Non-Voting

Network & Electronic Resources Agent	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
Procurement Officer	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
ADA Coordinator	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
PVTA Representative	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
Ethics Municipal Liaison	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
Community EconDevelopment Strategy (CEDS)	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
Super RAO	Geoff	Kravitz***	2022
Town Counsel	KP Law		2023
Veterans Agent-Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District Rep	VACANT		2020
Veterans Graves Officer	VACANT		
Veterans Memorial Oversight Committee	VACANT		2022
Veterans Memorial Oversight Committee	Michael	Ahearn	2022
Veterans Memorial Oversight Committee	VACANT		
Village Center Committee (Business Rep)	VACANT		
Village Center Committee (Business Rep)	VACANT		2022
Village Center Committee (Selectboard Rep)	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2022
Village Center Committee (Community Pathways Rep)	Rock	Warner	2022
Village Center Committee (Planning Brd Rep)	Stephen	Gowa	2022
Village Center Committee (Historical Commission)	Jessica	Skibiski	2022
Village Center Committee (At Large Rep)	Lorin	Starr	2022
Village Center Committee (At Large Rep)	Elizabeth	Sillin	2022
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	Steven	Krol*	2022
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	Barre	Tozloski	2022
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	Stuart	Beckley	2022
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	James	Bernotas	2023
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	James	Williams, Jr.	2023
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Assoc Member</u>			
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) -PB Rep.</u>	Amanda	Hanely	2022
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Assoc Member</u>	Rock	Warner	2022
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Assoc Member</u>	Hollis	Graves	2022

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

BOARD OF ASSESSORS	James	Kowaleck*	2022
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	Michael	Skibiski	2024
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	Mary Ann	Kowaleck	2023
BOARD OF HEALTH	Caitlyn	Rock*	2022
BOARD OF HEALTH	Kenneth	Kushi	2024
BOARD OF HEALTH	Bruce	Bennett	2023

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Jessica	Corwin	2022
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Meghan	Arquin	2024
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Peter	Gagarin	2024
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Keith	McFarland	2023
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Gregory	Gottschalk	2023
FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Judith	Pierce	2022
FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Lyn	Roberts	2023
FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE-SES Rep	Keith	McFarland	2023
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Elizabeth	Berry*	2022
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Justine	Rosewarne	2022
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	David	Wissemann	2022
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Hollis	Graves	2024
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Emily	Pettit	2024
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Lorin	Starr	2024
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Gerald	Bridwell	2023
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Molly	Gowa	2023
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Valerie	Voorheis	2023
PLANNING BOARD, Clerk, VillCtr Comm rep, CPC	Stephen	Gowa	2024
PLANNING BOARD, ZBA Rep	Amanda	Hanley	2023
PLANNING BOARD, Vice Chair	Stephen	Schneider	2022
PLANNING BOARD	Ellie	Kurth	2024
PLANNING BOARD, Chair, Capital, FRCReg Plng Brd	Dana	Roscoe*	2025
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES	Michael	Wissemann	2022
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES	Scott	Bergeron*	2024
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES	Janet	Bergeron	2023
SELECTBOARD, Vice Chair	David	Pierce**	2022
SELECTBOARD, Clerk	Christyl	Drake-Temblay	2024
SELECTBOARD, Chair	Thomas	Fydenkevez*	2023
SEWER COMMISSIONERS	David	Pierce**	2022
SEWER COMMISSIONERS	Christyl	Drake-Tremblay	2024
SEWER COMMISSIONERS	Thomas	Fydenkevez*	2023
TOWN CLERK	Wendy	Houle**	2022
ASST. TOWN CLERK-APPOINTED BY TOWN CLERK	Geoff	Kravitz	2022
TOWN MODERATOR	Michael	Wissemann	2022
TOWN PARK TRUSTEES	Ben	Barshefsky	Will Dictates
TOWN PARK TRUSTEES	Kenneth	Kushi	2023
TOWN PARK TRUSTEES-School Comm Rep	Gregory	Gottschalk	2022

## **GENERAL TOWN INFORMATION**

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

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

**Town Offices Phone Number:** 413-665-1441

**Town Offices Fax Number:** 413-665-1446

**Building Hours:** Mon. 8AM-6PM \* Tues.-Wed.  
8am-4pm \* Thurs. 8am-12pm \* Fri: Closed

\*\*\*Offices hours may vary by Department\*\*\*

### **ABOUT SUNDERLAND**

- Town Incorporated: November 12, 17
- Population for the Federal Census-2010: 3,684
- Elevation above Sea Level is 137.121 feet
- Town is 14.78 Square Miles

### **IMPORTANT DATES and INFORMATION**

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

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** held the last Friday of April, pursuant to Town By-law.

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

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

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

### **AMENDMENTS to ZONING BY-LAWS:**

Amendments to the zoning by-laws of the Town by vote at an annual or special town meeting as

provided in MGL Chapter 40A, §6. (For more details, consult the Planning Board.)

**PERMITS:** Applicants must secure permits from the appropriate department for Board of Health services; the Building Commissioner for all construction work, Plumbing and Gas Inspector for plumbing and gas services and the Electrical Inspector for wiring permits for all electrical work. Permit applications are available in the Town Office Building or online at [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us) for Building and Electrical Inspector services.



### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS to Remember**

Town Administrator 665-1441 x9

Email: [townadmin@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:townadmin@TownOfSunderland.us)

Accountant 665-1441 x4

Assessors: Assessor Asst. 665-1441 x5

Email: [assessors@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:assessors@TownOfSunderland.us)

Board of Health - Secretary 665-1441 x6

Email: [boardofhealth@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:boardofhealth@TownOfSunderland.us)

Building Commissioner cell: 413-364-7782

Email: [building@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:building@TownOfSunderland.us)

Electrical Inspector cell: 413-768-9168

Fax-Town Offices 665-1446

Fire Department (non-emergency) 665-2465

Email: [fire@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:fire@TownOfSunderland.us)

Fire & Ambulance (Emergency) 9-1-1

Highway Dept-Superintendent 665-1460

Email: [Highway@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:Highway@TownOfSunderland.us)

Library-Director 665-2642

Email: [Director@SunderlandPublicLibrary.org](mailto:Director@SunderlandPublicLibrary.org)

Plumbing/Gas Insp: 413-775-3968

Police (non-emergency) 665-7036

Email: [police@townofsunderland.us](mailto:police@townofsunderland.us)

Police (Emergency) 9-1-1

Recreation Coordinator 665-1441 x8

Selectboard's Office 665-1441 x1

Email: [selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us)

Sewer Commissioners 665-1441 x1

Email: [selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:selectmen@TownOfSunderland.us)

Treasurer/Collector 665-1441 x2

Email: [treascollector@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:treascollector@TownOfSunderland.us)

Town Clerk 665-1441 x3

Email: [townclerk@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:townclerk@TownOfSunderland.us)

Wastewater Treatment Plant 665-1447

Water District, Sunderland 665-7685

Commissioner: Fred Laurenitis

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## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

[GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER](#) (Republican) -- [LT GOVERNOR KARYN POLITO](#)

Western Mass Office: State Office Bldg, 436 Dwight St, Ste 300, Springfield, MA 01103 / Phone: 413-784-1200 / TTY: 617-727-3666

Boston Office:

Constituent Services Main Office: 617-725-4005

Toll free: 888-870-7770 / TTY: 617-878-3889

Washington DC Office: Office of the Governor, 444 N. Capitol St., Ste. 208, Washington DC 20001, Phone: 202-624-3616

email: [cis@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:cis@sec.state.ma.us)

Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon S, Office of the Governor, Rm 280, Boston, MA -02133

[Elizabeth Warren](#), Democrat-Senator in Congress; 1550 Main Street, Suite 406, Springfield, MA 01103; phone: 202-224-4543 or Russell Senate Office Bldg., 2 Russell Courtyard, Washington, DC 20510 <https://www.warren.senate.gov/>

[Ed J. Markey](#), Republican;

- 1550 Main Street, 4th Flr, Springfield, MA 01101, phone: 413-785-4610 255
- 975 JFK Federal Bldg, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston MA 02203, phone: 617-565-8519
- Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, phone: 202-224-2742
- <https://www.markey.senate.gov/>

[Jim McGovern](#), Congressman for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Massachusetts – Representative in Congress

- 94 Pleasant Street, Northampton, MA 01060, Phone: 413-341-8700
- 24 Church Street, Rm. 27, Leominster, A 01453, Phone: 978-466-3973
- 370 Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, MD 20515, phone: 202-225-6101

[Senator Joanne Comerford](#) Democrat–Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District- Senator in General Court

District Office: Phone: (413) 367-4656

Boston Office: State House, Room 413-C, Mailing Address: Senator Jo Comerford, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133 / Phone: (617) 722-1532

[Representative Natalie Blais](#) (Democrat) – First Franklin District-Representative in General Court

District Office: PO Box 450, Sunderland, MA 01375 / Phone: 413-362-9453

Boston Office: 24 Beacon Street, Rm 134, Boston, MA 02133 / Phone: 413-362-9453



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## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Phone: 413-665-1445 / Email: [assessors@townofsunderland.us](mailto:assessors@townofsunderland.us)

The Assessors Office *continues* to work hard to provide more online information to residents than ever before. The Assessors page on the Town of Sunderland Web Page provides residents, prospective residents, realtors and appraisers links to many FAQ. The Administrative Assistant in the office has provided forms and information about everything assessing, including a link to get onto our (Geological Information Systems) GIS, a mapping technology that allows the user to interact with maps and data sources.

The Town continued their association with Bishop and Associates, Agawam Ma as our Valuation Vendor, who recently completed a town wide review of all properties. We are confident that Roy Bishop will provide us with accurate and up to date values for all properties in town.

The GIS link – hosted by Cartographic Associates of Littleton NH is an online tool that can provide information about every property in town. Properties can be searched by owner's name, address or map and lot. There is a guide to help navigate this on the Assessors page. Once a property is found it can be viewed on the map with lot dimensions. A property card with detailed information, photo, and building sketch can be shown. We have begun adding deeds, plot plans and agricultural liens as they come into our office. Information is updated monthly to provide the most current data. There are other tools or layers available on the GIS link include zoning and abutters lists.

Online Permitting allows the public 24-hour access to apply for a building and electrical permit.

Our mission has been and will continue to be:

- to assess properties at fair market value
- to treat each property owner in a fair and equitable manner
- to provide comprehensive customer service to all
- to make information readily accessible to all

Submitted by the Sunderland Board of Assessors

James Kowaleck – Co- Chairmen (2022)

Michael Skibiski- Co-Chairmen (2024)

MaryAnn Kowaleck Board Member (2023)

Prepared by

W David Zagorski

Assessors Administrative Assistant

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS****Tax Recapitulation of Tax Levy**

	<b><u>Fiscal 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Fiscal 2021</u></b>
Total Amount to be Raised	10,739,208	10,095,308
Total Estimated Receipts from Non-Tax Sources	<u>4,290,058</u>	<u>4,128,091</u>
Tax Levy	6,449,149	5,967,216

**Value of Real Estate by Class**

Real Estate Property Valuation		
Residential	393,762,700	343,215,815
Commercial	25,049,582	25,040,662
Industrial	6,321,200	5,507,000
Personal Property Valuation	<u>13,584,201</u>	<u>11,466,759</u>
Total Property Valuation	438,717,683	385,230,236
 Tax Rate (Levy/Valuation*1000)	 \$14.70	 \$15.49

**Local Expenditures**

Appropriations	9,903,441	9,450,103
Other Amounts to be Raised	835,767	645,204
Total Amount to be Raised	10,739,208	10,095,308

**Estimated Receipts and Available Funds**

Estimated Receipts - State	2,082,909	1,999,918
Estimated Receipts - Local	1,291,254	1,091,510
Free Cash	322,699	317,366
Other Available Funds	593,195	719,297
Total Estimated Receipts	4,290,058	4,128,091

**Abatements & Exemptions Granted (FY2022 application period not yet closed when report was submitted)**

Real Estate Abatements	311	0
Personal Property Abatements	561	0
Veteran's Exemptions	17,003	5,800
Blind Exemptions	875	1,312
Seniors' Exemptions	1000	0
Senior Work-Off Program	1998	2011
Total	\$21,748.00	\$9,123

Respectfully submitted, James Kowaleck, Co-Chair, Michael Skibiski, Co-Chair, Mary Ann Kowaleck, Member. Prepared by W. David Zagorski, Assessors Administrative Assistant

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## BOARD OF HEALTH

Phone: 413-665-1441 x6 / Email: [boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us](mailto:boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us)

The Board of Health is comprised of three (3) non-compensated elected members. In addition to the elected board, the Town has two part-time appointed Health and Housing Health Agents for a variety of services. We also contract a Public Health Nursing (PHN) service for public health matters that relate to communicable disease reporting, exposures and follow-up for patient care as required by the law. This year, the Public Health Nurse has been especially important as we continued with the COVID-19 Pandemic in our community, across our state and nation. The Board of Health does not provide vaccinations, medical examinations or offer advice or other medical related services.

The Board of Health team is an integral part of our community-wide Emergency Preparedness Team and participates in Emergency Management meetings and activities for Sunderland and Franklin County.

At this time, all Board of Health functions are by appointment only, with the exception of food inspections which are conducted at-will for the safety of our community. Call 413-665-1441 x6 or email [boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us](mailto:boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us) for appointments or other related matters. The Administrative Assistant's Board of Health office hours are Monday through Wednesday 8am-4:00pm and Thursdays 8am-12pm, the Town Offices are closed on Fridays and holidays, however, phone messages and emails are monitored. Agents are available upon request or appointment, but they do not hold office hours.

The Board of Health meets once per month on Monday evenings. Check the Town's [website calendar](#) for the scheduled date each month and /or sign up for [email notifications](#) when information is posted. Additional meetings may be posted as needed.

The Agents are responsible for a variety of inspection services for state mandated Title 5 testing, perc test, repair and new septic system plan reviews, soil evaluations final inspections for septic systems and housing related issues. Health Agents conduct inspections of semi-public pools at the town's apartment complexes. They also issue well permits and inspections for drinking or irrigation purposes, and participated in the development of the town's [Well Regulations](#). All food inspections for the town's restaurants including seasonal businesses, one-day special events, catering services, and elementary school cafeteria are conducted on a regular basis. The agents have continued to work closely with town restaurants for best serving and capacity practices related to the ever-changing COVID-19 recommendations. While many businesses may continue with reduced services, we were constant partners for the comfort of the business and their customers.

Housing Services include concerns related to sanitary conditions at rental properties, hoarding concerns, building condemnations, fire or disaster inspections, trash complaints, and other matters.

Some of the challenges for the Board of Health is addressing needs in a timely fashion with part-time staffing. We began Public Health Nursing services contracting because of the extensive follow-up and care required for certain cases, which we cannot provide in-house.

Due to the town's diverse population and our proximity to many educational institutions, predicting these needs are difficult at times. We may experience several cases in one year or none and therefore it is not cost effective to employ a public health nurse on our staff full or part-time. The Board of Health does not provide housing inspection services to private residences including Radon Testing, Lead Testing, Mold Testing, etc. State agencies are available for guidance through these concerns as well as market products available for personal testing that can be conducted by the homeowner.

The Board is committed to health and safety, with tobacco regulation and enforcement. With regulations in place, the Board of Health has been able to limit the types of tobacco products available, regulate packaging and pricing as well as raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21-years-old. The Board of Health "Tobacco Regulation Restricting Sale of Tobacco Products" and "Board of Health Regulation: Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces and Public" are available on the [town's website](#). Education and monitoring inspections are key to this program which has been successful in our local businesses to remain compliant with our regulations.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH SERVICES & INSPECTIONS PROVIDED BY AGENTS for 2021

- Camp Permits/Inspections: 2 (1-Day Camp, 1 Farm Camp)
- COVID related activities including outreach & work with schools, Public Health Nurse, Housing Health Agent, Health Agent & Board members—Numerous & ongoing
- Disposal Works Permits/Soil Evals & Inspections: 5
- Food Catering Permits: 3
- Food Establishment Inspections: 30 (includes complaints received from public)
- Food Permits/Inspections for Temporary Events: 6
- Food Permits: 19
- Housing Complaint Inspect.: 89 hrs /50 visits to properties
- Housing Hoarding: 2
- Installer's Permits: 7
- Perc Tests: 5
- Pool (semi-public) Permits/Inspections: 2
- Roadside Property (Bulk) Trash Complaints: 20
- Septage Hauler Permits: 5
- Title 5 Inspections: 14
- Tobacco Sales Permits: 5
- Tobacco Violations: 0
- Trench Permits: 1
- Well Permits: 1

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlyn Rock, Chair; Bruce Bennett, Ken Kushi

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## BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Phone: 413-665-1433 or 413-364-7782 /

Email: [Building@townofsunderland.us](mailto:Building@townofsunderland.us) or [tjbuild@aol.com](mailto:tjbuild@aol.com)

- Number of Permits for Calendar Year 2021
  - Building Permits - 158
  - Yearly Inspections - 11
  - TOTAL PERMITS = 169**
- Revenue for Calendar Year 2021
  - All Building permits = \$114,893.00
  - Yearly Inspections = \$1,100.00
  - TOTAL REVENUE = \$115,993.0**

A building permit is required by the State Building Code to construct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure, or to change the occupancy of a building or structure. If you are not sure whether your project will require a building permit, please call before you begin construction.

ONLINE PERMIT APPLICATIONS are found on the Town's website:  
(<https://www.building@townofsunderland.us>)

The Building Commissioner can be made available at your convenience. If you have a zoning, building, or permitting question, please call my cell at 413-364-7782. I can also make myself available to come to the Town Office Building, your home, or business if needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas F. Quinlan Jr.  
Sunderland Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

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## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Email: [cpc@townofsunderland.us](mailto:cpc@townofsunderland.us)

In 2021 the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommended, and Annual Town Meeting approved, the following proposals: \$200,000 for the Early Childhood Playground Renovation; \$69,000 for the Graves Memorial Library Foundation Repointing ; \$26,000 for Riverside Park Athletic Field Irrigation; \$20,000 for the Riverside Park Restroom Rehabilitation. These projects leveraged an additional \$177,700 from other sources to support the projects. With the match from the Commonwealth, the Town's CPA contribution was just 32% of the total for these projects!

Sunderland was one of only 8 towns in Massachusetts to receive a 100% match on our collections in 2021, with a distribution of \$124,889 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year. Our CPA fund is in excellent condition, with over \$715,000 available for new projects.

We look forward to supporting more community champions who initiate promising community preservation projects.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Jessop & Meghan Arquin, Co-Chairs; Jennifer Unkles, Treasurer; Helen Clark, Clerk; Tom Fydenkevez; Dana Roscoe; Mike Wisseman

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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Email: [Conservation@townofsunderland.us](mailto:Conservation@townofsunderland.us)

The Conservation Commission (“ConCom”) is Sunderland’s local environmental agency, responsible for protecting the town’s land, water, biodiversity, and other natural resources. A primary job of the Commission is to enforce the state Wetlands Protection Act, in addition to the town’s own wetlands bylaw.

Wetlands hold and filter water. They also play a vital role in preventing buildings from flooding, protecting groundwater, preventing pollution, and supporting healthy populations of fish and wildlife. The Commission reviews all proposed construction projects located near wetlands and water bodies, to protect and maintain these important resources.

Another major responsibility of the Commission is to protect open space. Preserving farmland, forest and other open spaces helps Sunderland maintain its “rural, small-town feeling.” Through the combined efforts of town residents, town boards, and our town’s farmers, we can create a balanced land-use base that preserves open space while maintaining stable taxes.

This has been a busy year for the Conservation Commission in our efforts to protect wetlands and farmlands and to expand outdoor recreational opportunities for town residents. Highlights of our activities during 2021 include:

- **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.** Conservation Commission members pitched in to help update the town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan. The update must be done every seven years, in order for the town to qualify for certain state land preservation and park grants. The new plan, which has received conditional approval by the state, will be valid through January 2029.

The update includes wonderfully detailed information about Sunderland’s history, land use, environmental priorities and more. New maps show protected land, water resources, and other features. Available on the town website, the plan is a great resource for anyone who wants to learn more about Sunderland—and it’s also good reading!

- **Wetland Site Reviews.** The Conservation Commission provided oversight of several construction projects in town located near water resources. In addition, the members have performed numerous site reviews, as Sunderland has become an even more desirable place to live in the wake of the pandemic.

- **Agricultural Land Protection.** Also in 2021, the ConCom contributed funds toward permanent protection of 12 acres of farmland in town, through the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction program.
- **Pollinators, Wildlife Corridors and More.** Commission members began planning educational outreach to raise environmental awareness in Sunderland. A wide range of issues were discussed, including: pollinator gardens, wildlife corridors, reducing pesticide use, replacing lawns with native plantings, protecting rare species, preserving habitat and more.

In addition, the Conservation Commission welcomed back Dan Murphy as its fifth member. His engineering expertise is greatly appreciated!

We are truly blessed to have so many outstanding natural resources in town. We enjoy the purest water from our aquifers under Mt. Toby, the most productive farmland in New England, abundant fish and wildlife resources, and some of the most beautiful views in the valley. Please join us in helping to conserve these natural wonders we call home.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7 pm. We welcome your input and questions regarding our role in protecting Sunderland's water and wetlands resources.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Unkles (chair), Gabrielle Kurth, Dan Murphy, Nancy Pick, Mark Zinan

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## **CODERED NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Stay informed with town community alerts and other important information as well as emergency notifications. Click on the **CODERED** (<https://www.townofsunderland.us/home/pages/codered>) link to join today. When enrolling you will have the opportunity to add up to 3 phone numbers, and 3 email accounts which will allow for receipt of texts or emails notifications. You may also enroll by texting the Keyword: SUNDERLAND to 99411. You will receive a response with a link to enroll. Did you know you can sign up for the town's Emergency and Community Notification System. The **CODERED** system is different than the website's "News and Announcements" email notifications – which you can also enroll on the town's website-bottom of the homepage <https://www.townofsunderland.us/subscribe> .



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Are you prepared for when a natural or other type of disaster affects your home and family? Being aware of your surroundings such as the normal level of brooks, streams and rivers near your property or a lack of electricity in your neighborhood is important. Remember – All emergencies are identified by someone noticing that things are not normal! Don't be afraid to call 911 if something looks out of place or different. Be sure to look out for the most vulnerable in our community – the elderly or those with disabilities. These are our neighbors who are often affected the most severely when disaster strikes. Planning for emergencies is a practical way to have piece of mind and help protect your family and home. The items below are a good review of the things that can help you through unexpected situations.

### **HOME EMERGENCY KIT**

- First Aid Supplies
- Basic Tools
- Portable Radio/flashlight, battery powered, additional batteries
- Bottled water- 1 gal/day/per person
- Non-parishable foods
- Can Opener: non-electric
- Plastic bags-zipper/re-sealable type
- trash bags
- Blankets/hats/gloves/warm clothing
- Prescription drugs & Medical Info
- Writing instruments & paper
- Cell phone & cord/adapters (fully charged before a storm)
- Household bleach
- Toilet paper & waterless hand cleaner/sanitizer
- Disposable Personal Protection Masks/gloves

### ***Additional Items you may want:***

- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Eye wear & supplies
- Pet supplies-leash, collar, food, ID, inoculations info, carrier
- Playing Cards / books

### **Car Emergency Kit**

- Booster cables
- Maps, shovels, road flares
- Tire repair kit & pump
- Spare tire
- Fire Extinguisher (ABC type-#5 All Purpose)
- Blankets/hats/gloves/warm clothing
- Non-perishable food
- First aid kit with manual
- Flashlight
- Carbon Monoxide detector
- Fix-A-Flat
- Empty gas can
- White cloth to signal distress
- Vehicle Registration & Insurance Info

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## ENERGY COMMITTEE

Email: [Energy@townofsunderland.us](mailto:Energy@townofsunderland.us)

In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic still raging, the Energy Committee pursued a number of projects aimed at saving energy for the Town of Sunderland and its residents:

**Green Communities Program:** Much of the year was taken up with identifying further energy-conservation measures for several of the Town's buildings. In April, we started discussions with B2Q Associates, an energy management company based in Andover, MA, and identified potential projects at the Public Safety Complex, the Elementary School, the Town Office Building, and the Public Library. These involved LED lighting retrofits, installation of Variable Frequency Drives, Heat Balancing, Insulation, and installing of Electronic Commutation motors (which are 30% more efficient). Unfortunately, due to various delays and scheduling mishaps, we were not able to make the October deadline to apply for Green Community grant funding for these projects. We aim to apply for funding for these and other projects in March of 2022.

**Community Choice Aggregation:** We took advantage of the very low electricity rates in 2020 to purchase bulk electricity for the Town's residents and businesses. The Community Choice Aggregation Plan afforded Sunderland residents cheaper electricity rates (on average), a greater amount of renewable electricity, and a three-year, price-stable contract. This last feature proved to be a substantial boon, as we were informed at the end of 2021 that Eversource's winter rates for its Basic Service were rising to a considerable extent, making our aggregation rate over 3 cents per kWh cheaper while also providing substantially more renewable energy. Even our 100% renewable MA Class I option was now cheaper than Eversource's Basic Service rate. This proved to be a very good deal for Sunderland and the other 12 Franklin County towns involved, saving money and reducing fossil-fuel use at the same time. Residents and businesses who originally chose to opt out of this program can choose to opt in at any time.

**Cooler Communities:** At the initiative of Committee Chair David Goodwin, we entered into discussions with representatives from Ener-G-Save, Inc. at the beginning of the year. Cooler Communities is a program within Ener-G-Save, a nonprofit spearheaded by former state senator Stan Rosenberg and sponsored by the Grinspoon Foundation. It encourages schools to engage in researching and enacting climate change solutions and promoting resilience. The aim is to tie projects into the existing curriculum, realizing that school teachers have little room to do anything extra. The goal is to create some sort of community event, such as a science fair, coordinated by local nonprofits and/or municipal organizations such as energy committees. They encourage teamwork with vendors, solar energy contractors, Mass Save, etc. Our committee felt that Sunderland Elementary School is overwhelmed right now, so this probably wouldn't happen before the next school year, at the earliest. In the fall, Principal Ben Barshefsky said he was "absolutely interested in participating in this program in the spring of 2022," but when he consulted with his staff, he learned that they were overwhelmed and couldn't add on anything new at this point. We thus felt we had no option other than to put this project on hold for now. We are still interested in collaborating with Ener-G-Save and Cooler Communities at some point in the future, either through Sunderland Elementary or through

Frontier Regional School, but we will wait until the school faculty and administration have the time and energy to devote to it.

**Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program:** MassEVIP is a program that offers municipalities substantial funding for installing charging stations for electric vehicles if sited on publicly owned land. Scott Reed, David Goodwin, and Gabriella Fox worked with the Town Administrator to explore several potential sites in Town: at the Town's Park & Ride facility across from the Blue Heron restaurant; in the parking lot of the Sunderland Public Library; at the Sunderland Elementary School; and in back of the Town Offices Building. All except for the last option proved problematic. The construction project on North Main Street that took place for much of the year precluded using the Park & Ride site, which would have been ideal. The Board of Library Trustees felt that parking spaces at the Library were already scarce, due to the demands of people using the boat ramp, Riverside Park, and the Riverwalk. Similarly, parking at the Elementary School was already in short supply. This left the Town Offices Building, and representatives from Eversource surveyed the site in June. In the end, they recommended four Level 2 charging stations. This was a lot more than we bargained for, and we questioned how much usage they would get at that site. Our Town Administrator also pointed out that there are conservation easements in place the further away one gets from the building, which made the siting for that many slots more difficult. In the end, despite all the hard work put into this project, we decided to table the issue, at least until the Park & Ride site might be considered as a possibility. The Biden administration may well make additional funding available for such projects at some point in the future, as part of the "Build Back Better" Infrastructure Bill. We view this as a postponement, not a cancellation.

**Public Programs:** Together with the Sunderland Public Library, we cosponsored a forum with Representative Natalie Blais and three of her colleagues (Reps. Joan Meschino, Liz Miranda, and Paul Mark) who discussed the Omnibus Climate Bill, then pending in the Massachusetts legislature. The bill passed later in the legislative session. This was a virtual event conducted over Zoom. This informative discussion was introduced and moderated by Aaron Falbel and was well attended. Video of this event can be viewed on the Library's website: [www.sunderlandpubliclibrary.org/programs-from-home](http://www.sunderlandpubliclibrary.org/programs-from-home). We also spent much of the year planning to show a film about energy and climate change. This proved to be quite a challenge since indoor events were not permitted due to the pandemic. After reviewing a number of films, we decided on *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, Al Gore's follow-up to his popular 2006 documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. We chose to show the film outdoors on the patio outside the Public Library, using their very large inflatable screen, rather than ask participants to watch the film independently using a streaming service. This proved to be quite challenging in the end. The weather on October 5 was not ideal, and our turnout was not the best. (Dealing with the inflatable screen also proved somewhat challenging.) By the time the film ended, it was getting late, cold, and quite dark, which cut short a meaningful discussion of the film. Those who did attend said the experience was meaningful to them, wished more had come to see the film, and said they would recommend the film to others. The film is available for streaming on Kanopy.com and can be obtained on DVD through the library system.

**Exploring a Transfer Station for Sunderland:** In May, largely due to the initiative of Committee member Laura Williams, we started to explore the idea of establishing a transfer station here in Sunderland. Such a facility would be a far less expensive option for residents than the current practice of hiring an independent hauler to pick up their trash and recycling. A

transfer station would provide many more opportunities for recycling, and especially for reuse of perfectly good, usable items that are currently thrown away. Like our previous (and highly successful) “pay as you throw” scheme, it would very likely cut down on the volume of trash being discarded. Members of our Committee visited transfer stations in the towns of Whately and Leverett, and, over the ensuing months, we invited Annette Herda (who coordinates the Leverett transfer station) and Jan Ameen (Executive Director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District) to address our Committee. This is still very much a work in progress and probably a few years away from happening, if it ever does, but we are more and more convinced that this would be a good addition to the Town. Many of the towns surrounding Sunderland have transfer stations and put them to good use. Residents not wanting to use a transfer station would always still have the option of contracting with a private hauler (as they do now) if they so desire.

**Solarize Mass:** Unfortunately, the Mass Clean Energy Center announced that the Solarize Mass and HeatSmart programs were not offered in 2021 due to the pandemic. These programs enable towns (or small groups of towns) to purchase energy-saving technologies at bulk-rate prices. These include solar photovoltaic panels, solar hot water systems, air-source heat pumps (aka “mini-splits”), and even electric vehicles. We hope to take advantage of this program when it is up and running again. Stay tuned!

**Personnel changes:** July of 2021 saw a few personnel changes for our Committee. Both Gabriella Fox and Ed Gately felt they had to step down from the Committee due to work-related demands on their time and other commitments that precluded attendance at our meetings. Both have contributed substantially to our Committee, and we were sorry to see them go. However, a few months later, Carrie Nobel Kline and Meg Fisher expressed interest in our Committee and started to attend our monthly meetings (as any Sunderland resident is permitted to do). As of this writing, they have not yet formally joined our committee, but their presence and input have already contributed much to our endeavors.

**Deerfield Climate Forum:** At the end of the year, we were planning on attending a Climate Forum to be held in Deerfield, though the date was postponed due to the Omicron surge of the pandemic. It will take place later in the spring of 2022. We hope to contribute a video demonstration of our ever-popular Window Insert Workshop, which we have held live and in-person in Sunderland for many years now.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Goodwin (chair), Aaron Falbel (clerk), Scott Reed, and Laura Williams.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 413-665-2465-Emergency: 9-1-1 / Email: [Fire@TownOfSunderland.us](mailto:Fire@TownOfSunderland.us)

In 2020 the Sunderland Fire Department responded to 140 incidents. The Department responded out of town serving as “mutual aid” 6 times in the past year and we received “mutual aid” once. This is an equal amount of mutual aid response out of town than in 2020 and 75% less mutual aid help coming into town. 21 times this year the Department assisted the South County Ambulance with critical medical calls, which is about normal based on a 5-year average. 2020 fire calls required more response – hours and resources. The average on – scene time for calls stands at 44 minutes. This means that between the response, the time on scene and the necessary cleanup afterwards firefighters are spending between 1 and 2 hours on each call. In 2021 the Department responded to 10 active fires ranging from cooking fires to structure fires. An increasing scenario that we deal with is overlapping incidents or concurrent calls. This is when the Department is committed at a scene and another call for service comes in. Resources are re – assigned to the new call if possible and mutual aid help from another town can be used, too. Covid – 19 precautions were necessary on each and every call – from brush fires to structure fires to medical calls in 2021. Precautions will be used in 2022 based on circumstances and exposure levels. Even while we enter the Endemic stage of COVID, it is important to ensure that our firefighters are keeping themselves healthy and not spreading sickness to our neighbors who are the most vulnerable. 8 firefighters from the Town of Sunderland are Massachusetts Fire Academy trained. The program involves 240 hours of training on nights and weekends plus countless personal hours studying for exams. The training is a mix of classroom instruction, hands – on skills work and practical evolutions in live – fire environments at the Commonwealth’s Department of Fire Services campus in Springfield, MA. Two additional Sunderland firefighters have applied for acceptance into the program and should be participating in 2022 or 2023 as space permits. This training is a significant obligation that I am proud to see our firefighters embrace. The Town of Sunderland enjoys the service of 20 engaged and enthusiastic firefighters. It is important to recognize and thank the members of the Fire Department and their families for their dedication and sacrifice. These traits are necessary to maintain the routine of responding to calls, participating in weekly drills, training and continuing education. Missed meals, nights without sleep, interrupted family events and holidays are all taken in stride by the men and women of our Fire Department while they perform their duty eagerly and professionally. Being a volunteer firefighter is a rewarding and fulfilling experience. We are always looking for people to help us serve our neighbors. If there is anyone interested in helping the Fire Department in any capacity please talk to any member of the Department or call the Fire Station. A big part of the Sunderland Fire Department’s routine activity is fire prevention work and inspections. Three personnel from the Department act in a Fire Prevention capacity by ensuring fire codes and state laws are being adhered to in local businesses, public gathering places and private property that is being bought / sold. Hundreds of these inspections occur every year in our town. Sunderland maintains a robust fire prevention program that is active in our Elementary School and the South County Senior Center: The SAFE Program – Student Awareness of Fire Education (fire safety students are represented by people of all ages!). Sunderland Fire quickly adapted to the Covid landscape in 2021, turning our education messaging to the web. Department members and Sunderland Fire’s Certified Safe Educator worked to bring fire safety messages to Facebook using fun educational video postings. When

circumstances allowed, a very large -scale outdoor public safety festival happened in the Fall. Over 20 public safety agencies and approximately 1200 attendees came to the Sunderland Elementary School where participants could absorb virtually every public safety element and message that one could think of from Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, and much more. This event could not have happened without significant efforts from the Sunderland Fire Department, the Sunderland Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police. Sunderland Fire's Safe Educator has also accomplished several home visits with older adults in the community to install secure key boxes. These key boxes are mounted outside of the home and hold keys securely so they can be accessed by EMS, Fire and Police if an emergency happens in the home. The key boxes save precious seconds and help avoid property damage.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO CITIZENS

- Display house numbers prominently so they can be seen from the street by first responders. We continue to sponsor a house number program. Senior Citizens can order house numbers free of charge from the Fire Department. Numbers are available to all others at a nominal fee.
- There is no parking in front of all fire hydrants 24/7. Violating cars can be ticketed or towed.
- Please help us by clearing snow from around fire hydrants during the winter months to make water connections happen faster. Seconds count during an emergency!
- There is no parking in the fire lanes of the Elementary School 24/7. Violating cars can be ticketed or towed.
- Open burning season runs from 15 January to 1 May annually. Burning permits are available online at [www.fcburnpermits.com](http://www.fcburnpermits.com). Permits can no longer be obtained by calling Shelburne Dispatch. Permits are necessary to be obtained BEFORE burning brush. Open burning is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP advises local fire departments if burn permits should be issued on any given day based on air quality.
- Please check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on a regular basis. Early detection of smoke and carbon monoxide is critical to survival. **If your smoke detectors are over 10 years old or your carbon monoxide detectors are more than 7-years old they should be replaced with new units. It's not that new units work 'better', these devices have finite lifespans and old units may not work at all.**

The Sunderland Volunteer Fireman's Association (SVFA) continues to support of the Fire Department. Thanks to their fundraising efforts and memorial donations, the SVFA provides valuable training materials and tools for the Fire Department.

Grants are a major focus of the Fire Department Administration, and a significant amount of time is spent in pursuit of this funding. Various sources for grants are available but the application and award process is very competitive and dynamic. Currently the Fire Department is applying for over \$100,000.00 in Federal FEMA grants for needed equipment. 2021 grant awards were as follows:

- \$1,200 from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for new wildland fire gear and tools.
- \$12,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over to purchase new gas meters and a thermal imager.

- \$6,000 from the Commonwealth because of our effective work on SAFE education. These funds will support work in the Elementary School and the South County Senior Center.

In closing, the following town departments deserve our thanks for assisting us this past year: Police Department, Highway Department, Town Office Administrative Team, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Water District, Health Department, Emergency Management Director, Building and Electrical Inspectors, School Committee, Principal and Superintendent. Thank you also to the local businesses that allow employees who are firefighters to leave work for the purpose of responding to fire calls. Several local businesses also anonymously donate resources to help the Fire Department – I thank you for your generosity. Please visit our department website at [www.sunderlandfire.com](http://www.sunderlandfire.com) for current information on your local Fire Department and upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven J. Benjamin, Fire Chief



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## FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (FCSWMD)

Phone: 413-772-2438 / Website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to 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 St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*  
Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*

Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain – *Chair*  
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield – *Treasurer*

## FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SERVICES- SUNDERLAND IN 2021

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 Sunderland.

### 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.

### Economic Development

- Provided support and participated in Rapid Recovery Plan technical assistance meeting.

### Finance and Municipal Services

- Sunderland contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; school district fire alarm and fire extinguisher services; and water treatment chemicals. Staff assisted the town with construction bids for Complete Streets Improvements, and bids for site improvements and building improvements at Riverside Park.
- The Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments. Accountants certified Free Cash and submitted a Schedule A at year-end; assisted in completing the recap for tax rate submission; and customized, developed, and distributed reports for committees and departments. They assisted with the annual audit, if necessary.

## Land Use and Natural Resources

- Helped the town administrator with completion of the FY21 Green Communities Annual Report.
- Completed an update to the Housing Production Plan, to be sent to the state for approval.
- Completed an update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan, currently under review by the state.

## Public and Community Health

- Gave 897 Flu and 77 COVID vaccinations at CPHS flu clinics, COVID pop ups, and home visits. Among these, 28 Sunderland residents received flu vaccines through these clinics.
- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators the 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 Frontier Regional 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 Sunderland public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Support:

Bi-Weekly Coordination Roundtables –1 to 3/per wk

### Municipal Officials' Continuing Education:

Funding Water & Sewer Infrastructure - 2

Town Administrators Meeting - 1

American Rescue Plan Overview - 1

### Public Health & Community Awareness:

Three-In-One Food Safety Training Certification - 1

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

- Inventoried the outdoor recreation assets in town.
- Provided a bicycle repair station to the town.
- Provided assistance to the village center committee on project ideas for the downtown.



ducted a traffic count on Plumtree Road for the Regional Traffic Counting Program.  
 collected traffic speed data for requested speed analysis on Hadley Road.

- Consulted and provided guidance on electric vehicle charging station funding programs and resources.
- Provided assistance on the implementation of projects funded through the MA Complete Streets Funding Program.

## FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Website: <http://www.frrsma.com/>

Visit: <http://www.frrsma.com/annual-statements-and-audits/>

### Annual Statements, Audits, and GASB 67/68 Reports

2020

[Audited Financial Statements – Powers and Sullivan 2020](#) – includes GASB 68 info for unit auditors.

[Audit Management Letter 2020](#)

[Actuarial GASB 67-68 Report 2020](#)

[2020 Annual Report signed and sent to PERAC](#)

→ [FRRS 2020 Annual Report for units to include in their FY2021 town reports – PDF](#)

→ [Word version FRRS 2020 Annual Report for units to include in their FY2021 town reports](#)

→ [Excel Chart 2020 FRRS annual report to towns excel chart for easy inclusion](#)

## FRONTIER CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION (FCAT)

Email: [mail@fcats.tv](mailto:mail@fcats.tv)

2021 was an exciting and important year for Frontier 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 extremely professional quality coverage. Throughout the course of the year, FCAT live-streamed many school events consisting of 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 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 Covid19 pandemic was at its peak during the wintertime 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 Boschen 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 breakaway from the commonly used PEG access PowerPoint styled bulletin boards, so they can successfully compete against other means of communication (such as social media, TV ads, web info graphics, etc.). Boschen's technique is to use simple but interesting looking 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, which may be this year as the Omicron variant is said to not be as threatening as the previous Covid19 strains, its hoped 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 by Jonathan Boschen, and other youth programs by Kevin Murphy.

Submitted by,  
Jonathan A. Boschen, Interim General Manager

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Phone: 413-665-1460 / Email: [highway@townofsunderland.us](mailto:highway@townofsunderland.us)

The Highway Department is responsible for approximately 40 miles of roads in the Town of Sunderland. Maintenance of our roadways is continuous, due to the ever-changing conditions, and requires frequent monitoring. Our goal is to be proactive and 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.

We have accomplished work on many projects such as replacing 160 ft of drainage and rebuilding 2 catch basins on Middle Mountain Road. All catch basins were inspected/cleaned and several were rebuilt throughout the town. Street sweeping and line painting was done throughout the town. Our dirt roads were graded and dust control was applied and any of the trouble spots were addressed. American Flags were put up from May Memorial Day Holiday to after 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Paving was done on Old Amherst Road and all catch basins were repaired or replaced before paving. Along with these projects we continue our normal daily tasks which include but are not limited to mowing, brush hogging, patching, and repairing roadways, and plowing, salting, and sanding in the winter months. We continue to interact with surrounding towns for different recourses as needed.

Our current crew and seasonal staff have done a great job to keep things running smoothly. We hired one new full-time employee in February. Our staff participates in ongoing training and certification courses to keep up to date on the most current information and trends. Our staff handles as much of the maintenance and repairs of our equipment and trucks as possible. We do our best to do most of our maintenance and repairs in-house, but some work must be done off-site with outside vendors on occasion.

Our goal is to keep the public informed and updated with current projects, road conditions or closures, storm, and weather conditions as well as information and tips. Please visit our website: <http://www.townofsunderland.us/highway>.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 413-665-1460. Finally, I would like to thank the residents for their continued support. I would like to thank the Highway Department crew and the part-time winter employees for their hard work and dedication to the Town.

Respectfully,  
George Emery, Highway Superintendent

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### **Highlights of Sunderland Historical Commission activities during 2021:**

This COVID-19 year was slow for the Historical Commission with no new projects that required comment by the commission, but some previous projects making progress that raised questions for the commission:

Work did proceed on some previously approved projects, and concerns were raised about construction on North Main Street and whether adequate measures were being taken to protect the champion sycamore (buttonball) tree. Commission members met with the town administrator to urge that care be taken during the construction to protect the tree and root system, and the town was already taking additional measures to address the concerns.

- 120 North Main Street Senior Housing: The commission reviewed and suggested modifications to an historical preservation restriction document to ensure the façade of the house maintained its historic appearance, then voted to approve the document. The project broke ground in 2021 and made steady progress throughout the year.
- North Main Street Reconstruction: Work on North Main Street began in the spring, and commission members were contacted with concerns about whether adequate measures were being taken to protect the champion sycamore (buttonball) tree. Commission members met with the town administrator and attended town meetings to urge that care be taken during the construction to protect the tree and root system. The town was already taking additional measures to address the concerns and to protect this historic tree.

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Submitted by: Steve Schneider (Chair), Margaret Orelup (Secretary), Helen Clark (CPC), Carl Fiocchi (120N Main St Committee), Wendy Houle (Town Clerk), and Jessica Skibiski (Village Center Committee)

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### **Highlights of Swampfield Historical Society activities during 2021:**

The Swampfield Historical society had an active year in 2021 with our major accomplishment being the launching of our website. With the help of our web designer Juliet Jacobson, we were able to develop the site and place a portion of our collection online. The photographing and digitizing of our artifacts are being done by our volunteer members and can be viewed at [www.Swampfieldhistorical.org](http://www.Swampfieldhistorical.org). Many new items have been donated to our collection such as the Whitmore family Civil War diary and photos of the former (no longer standing) Williams Tavern. Most of our society's activities remain on hold during the pandemic and we look forward to resuming as conditions permit. We encourage visitors to check our website frequently as we are uploading new items frequently. This is a long-term project with tens of thousands of artifacts yet to be made available for viewing.

Submitted by:  
Mike Walunas, President Swampfield Historical Society



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## PLANNING BOARD

Phone: 413-665-1442

In 2021, The Planning Board welcomed Amanda Hanley, joining Ellie Kurth, Steve Gowa, Stephen Schneider, and Dana Roscoe. The Board also reviewed and signed one request for Approval Not Required (ANR) parcel division from the Klemyk Family Trust. Due to Coronavirus, the Board continued meeting remote via Zoom throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted Dana Roscoe, Chair; Stephen Schneider; Stephen Gowa; Gabrielle Kurth; vacant fifth seat to be filled at annual town election.

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## SUNDERLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

105 River Road Sunderland, MA 01375

Phone: 413-665-7036 – EMERGENCY: 9-1-1 / Email: [police@townofsunderland.us](mailto:police@townofsunderland.us)

The Sunderland Police Department is dedicated to serving the community at the highest level. We will continue to foster communication and build strong relationships with our residents, schools and businesses. The Town of Sunderland is an exceptional place to be and we are dedicated to being an exceptional Police Department.

Currently our staff consists of Chief Erik J. Demetropoulos, one Sergeant, three full time officers, 6 part time officers and an administrative Clerk. Our department is dedicated to coverage of the town 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Our Officers participate in numerous hours of training and seek out additional training specific to the needs of the community. On any given shift Officers will conduct traffic/speed enforcement, check in with our local businesses, visit the school, work with school staff to implement safety plans along with area Police Departments and the State Police, patrol problem areas, respond to motor vehicle accidents, conduct investigations, attend court for hearings, respond to medical emergencies and patrol our residential neighborhoods.

We have all had an absolutely altered way of living this past year. With the Covid-19 Pandemic, many things were changed. I'm proud to say that our Officers did an outstanding job changing with the times and were able to still provide a professional police service to the community.

Social media plays a huge part in information sharing and public relations. As many of you know we have a Facebook & Twitter account. Both are a great source of information for the public as we post information on traffic advisories, road closures, safety tips, current events and much more. We urge you to follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook! Another

great resource to have is our Emergency Notification system known as **CODERED**. You can enroll yourself into **CODERED**, or enroll someone in your family. You would be able to get alerts for major emergencies, road closures, crime waves, and community notifications. These notifications would come to you as phone calls, text messages and/or emails. You can sign-up right from the Town's website!

Also, if you are applying for or renewing your firearms license to carry please contact Officer Brenda Tozloski at 413-665-7036 extension 3 to set up an appointment. We have the required forms in our lobby or you can go to our website, [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us), under Police Department then Firearms Licensing to find everything you need.

Everyone should already know by now that if you stop by the station, you might not see an Officer. Our Officers are usually out on patrol, checking businesses, conducting RADAR & Motor Vehicle stops, or responding to calls. It's quicker and easier to call us via our Regional 24x7 Dispatch Center at 413-625-8200. They'll get us on the radio and notify us of your needs.

We want to remind everyone that we can't do our job without your help! Your concerns, tips and observations help us tremendously in solving crimes and catching criminals. We ask that if you see something out of the ordinary, please don't be afraid to call us right away. **"If you see something, Say something."** Your timely notification of information will allow for a quicker response and could make the difference between a crime committed and a criminal being caught in the act, or it going unresolved. As always if you have an emergency call 911.

If you would like to get in touch with an officer immediately in regard to any concerns or anything out of the ordinary, please call our 24-hour Dispatch Center at 413-625-8200. If you would like to speak to an officer or the clerk for a non-emergency question or concern, please call our station at 413-665-7036 extension 9.

As always, the Sunderland Police Department would like to thank the community for their continued support and look forward to another great year.

I THANK YOU  
Erik J. Demetropoulos  
Chief of Police

**Statistics – Calendar Year 2021**  
**Sources: Dispatch Center & Department Records**  
**Total calls as logged by Shelburne Control Dispatch Center**

Total number of calls and type of calls do not reflect the numerous calls handled through this department and only reflect the Computer Activated Dispatch with Shelburne Control Dispatch Center. In **2020** Dispatch received/generated **7,462** calls vs **2021** receiving **8,279** calls for Sunderland. A lot of this has to do with the fact that our great citizens are calling us more and Officers are patrolling more, that with our continued cooperation with our Regional Dispatch Center & a Pandemic to deal with as well!

209A	27	ILLEGAL DUMPING	8
209A VIOLATION	4	INVESTIGATION	21
911 CALL	129	KEEP THE PEACE	12
911 HANG UP	40	LARCENY	21
911 MIS DIAL	49	LINE DOWN – Power/Phone/Cable	8
ABANDONED 911 CALL	40	LOCKOUT	17
ABANDONED MV	4	MEDICAL EMERGENCY	206
ADMINISTRATIVE	103	MISCELLANEOUS	30
ALARM BURG OR HOLDUP	102	MISSING PERSON	2
ANIMAL COMPLAINT	99	MOTOR VEHICLE AC w/ injury	6
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	3	MOTOR VEHICLE AC w/ no injury	59
ARTICLES LOST	5	MOTOR VEHICLE COMPLAINT	82
ARTICLES RECOVERED	14	MOTOR VEHICLE RECOVERED	0
ASSAULT	4	MOTOR VEHICLE – STOLEN	1
ASSIST CITIZEN	50	MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATION	965
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	49	NOISE COMPLAINT	100
BE ON THE LOOK OUT	12	NOTIFICATION	28
BREAKING & ENTERING AUTO	4	ODOR INVESTIGATION	2
B & E PAST	5	OFFICER WANTED	132
BRUSH FIRE	8	OPEN DOOR	2
BUILDING/LOCATION CHECK	3896	PAPERWORK SERVICE	30
BURN/AGRI PERMIT	1	PARKING COMPLAINT	28
CAR vs. DEER	18	PATROL AREA	348
CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARD	4	POWER OUTAGE / FAILURE	2
CHECK WELFARE	115	RADAR/TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	408
CHIMNEY FIRE	1	REPOSSESSION	2
CIVIL ISSUE	2	SAFETY HAZARD	23
COMMUNITY POLICING	27	SEARCH	1
COMPLAINT	19	SECTION 12	5
COURT	30	SERVE WARRANT	12
CRUISER MAINTENANCE	76	SERVICE CALL	6
CUSTODY ISSUE	3	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	14
DEATH	1	SHOTS FIRED	5
DETAIL REQUEST	25	SMOKE INVESTIGATION	2
DISABLED MV	38	SOLICITING	3
DISTURBANCE	41	SPILL OR LEAK	2
EMS ALARM-LIFE LINE ACTIV	11	STUCTURE FIRE	1
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	5	SUICIDE THREAT	5
FIGHT	2	SUMMONS SERVICE	6
FIRE ALARM	60	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	19
FIRE WORKS	4	SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE	2
FIRE, OTHER NON-SPECIFIC	3	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	19
FIREARMS LICENSING	59	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	41
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	73	THREAT	5
FRAUD / SCAM	29	TRAFFIC CONTROL	38
GAS LEAK	1	TRAFFIC HAZARD	42
GENERAL INFO	87	TRESPASS	3
HARASSMENT	19	UNWANTED PERSON	9
HIT AND RUN	1	VANDALISM	16
ILLEGAL BURN	3	VEHICLE FIRE	1



## SUNDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Email:** (413) 665-2642 / **Website:** [www.sunderlandpubliclibrary.org](http://www.sunderlandpubliclibrary.org)

Sunderland Public Library is a free public library serving the Town of Sunderland and surrounding communities. All are invited to visit the library and use its resources. The library provides free access to books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, eBooks, streaming films, technology, and much more. Sunderland Public Library prides itself on offering thoughtful and engaging programs for people of all ages. The library is part of the C/WMARS consortium, a network of over 150 libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts. Anyone with a free C/WMARS library card may borrow materials from Sunderland Public Library.

### The Library in 2021

- 57,801 books and other materials borrowed by patrons
- 13,617 visitors to the library
- 2,593 people attended library programs (in-person or virtually)
- 2,899 curbside pickup orders fulfilled

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued through 2021, Sunderland Public Library moved forward and found innovative ways to serve our patrons. Library staff continued offering remote and curbside services, as well as in-person appointments, until July when the library was able to fully reopen to the public. The library quickly resumed our pre-pandemic operating hours, which we have been able to maintain in 2022. Library staff are incredibly grateful to our community for their support as we learned how to provide safe and accessible library services and were so happy to see the library return to a vibrant hub of the Sunderland community. We dearly missed seeing our patrons in-person. The library's new remote and curbside services developed during the pandemic are still available to the public. Please reach out to the library to learn more about our curbside pickup, home delivery, or digital materials.

Streaming films, eBooks, and other digital resources continue to grow in popularity. In 2021 the library expanded access to more streaming films, eBooks, and eAudiobooks. The library is also proud to offer Mobile Hotspots to patrons, which provides free access to wireless internet, wherever they are. Patrons can borrow a Mobile Hotspot from the library for up to two weeks. This program is offered thanks to a generous grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Despite the increase in usage of digital materials, books still account for more than 65% of all items borrowed from the library.

### Library Leadership

After nearly fifteen years of service to Sunderland Public Library and the Town of Sunderland, John Sackrey stepped down from the Board of Library Trustees in 2021. The library is incredibly grateful for John's hard work and dedication to the library over the years. John contributed greatly to many

fantastic projects for the library, including organizing the popular Down by the River Outdoor Concert Series each summer and overseeing improvement projects for the library building and grounds. John's kind and generous nature helped the library make connections in our community, but his work ethic is what his fellow Trustees admire most. The Board is pleased to welcome Emily Pettit to the Library Trustees to fill the open position on the Board.

Our Library Director, Katherine Umstot, took a leave of absence in early 2021 as she welcomed her son to the world. Head of Adult Services Aaron Falbel served as Acting Director of the library for twelve weeks. Aaron did a fantastic job of keeping the library running smoothly in her absence, and Katherine and the Board of Library Trustees are extremely grateful for his help, leadership, and dedication. Katherine wishes to thank all of the library staff, including our Substitute Circulation Assistants Carol Baldwin, Kristen Farrell, Jane Howard, and Laura Williams, and most especially Aaron, for all of their hard work during her leave.

### **Thank You to our Volunteers**

We wish to thank our volunteers for all of their help this year: John Baltteim, Emma Burke, Christine Graves, Nimisha Gudimella, Nahusha Gudimella, Marianne Jakus, Kirsten Lindblom, Kathy Ryan, Stana Wheeler, Faith White, Laura Williams, and the students of the Life Skills Department of Frontier Regional High School. The work done by our volunteers is what keeps the library running, and we are very grateful for all of their efforts and dedication.

### **Thank You to the Friends of Sunderland Public Library, Inc. and our Donors**

The Friends of Sunderland Public Library, Inc. is a 100% local, volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Sunderland Public Library. While the library is grateful for the financial support we receive from Sunderland's tax payers, the library still relies on the Friends of the Library to purchase library materials, sponsor our community programs, and provide our patrons with access to critical technology. Without the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Sunderland Public Library, and without the generous gifts of their supporters, Sunderland Public Library would not be able to provide many of the pivotal services we offer to our patrons. Thank you to the Friends of Sunderland Public Library, Inc. for your support!

### **Library Hours**

Mondays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Tuesdays 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Wednesdays 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fridays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Saturdays 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Curbside Pickup and Home Delivery Services available upon request.

**LIBRARY STAFF:** Katherine Umstot, Library Director; Kelly Daniels Baker, Head of Youth Services, Aaron Falbel, Head of Adult Services, Heather McGuirk, Head of Young Adult Services, Vanessa Ryder, Circulation Assistant.

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES:** Justine Rosewarne, Chair, Gerald Bridwell, Vice Chair, Valerie Voorheis, Secretary, Beth Berry, Molly Gowa, Hollis Graves, Emily Pettit, John Sackrey, Lorin Starr, David Wissemann

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## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Phone: 413-665-1439

Despite Year #2 of COVID, the Recreation Department was still able to provide more than 20 different programs and events to Sunderland residents during this past year. In all, more than 125 youth and more than 65 adults took part in the various programs as participants and/or volunteers. Listed below are just some of these programs:

Last Winter, many indoor sports activities were very limited. There was no youth basketball due to indoor COVID restrictions. 26 folks did, however, take part in our 6-week Berkshire East Ski Program for youth and families with lessons and skiing on Wednesday afternoon/evenings; our annual Sunderland Ice Skating Day took place at the Greenfield rink during winter vacation. Unfortunately, due to equipment storage issues, our X-Country Ski & Snow Shoe Fun Days could not be held; but we were able to “loan” x-country ski equipment and snow shoes to several families who enjoyed some outdoor winter fun while the snow lasted.

Things opened up somewhat in the Spring, but we did not have the numbers we expected as some families were still wary about participation due to COVID. We were able to hold Girls Softball for grades 2-4 as usual, but we only had enough 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls for two teams. After discussions with coaches and parents, it was agreed to play in the Quabbin Valley League. For many of the girls, it was their first experience on a “travel team.” Both teams managed to win at least half their games and came in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 10-team league. We also held two Softball Pitching Clinics and a Softball/Baseball Umpires Clinic. We also sponsored T-Ball for PK & K-age youth. And were involved in the youth baseball program with the Sunderland Youth Baseball League, providing organizational assistance to the Frontier Youth Baseball League during a difficult year. Two Sunderland Days were held at a UMass Softball game and at a UMass Men’s Lacrosse game. We also facilitated some outdoor Yoga in the Park sessions in conjunction with Cadence Yoga center at Riverside Park. In the Fall, we had our usual Soccer Programs: Intro Soccer (Pre-K thru K) and teams at each of the grades 1&2, grades 3&4 and grades 5&6 levels. A Soccer Clinic was held for coaches and referees. We also facilitated Youth Girls Volleyball with sessions at both the grades 3&4 and grades 5&6 levels. COVID protocols were observed for all of these activities.

Several Sunderland residents participated in the following programs offered through our cooperative efforts with other towns: Adult pick-up Basketball in Whately; Adult Volleyball in Conway; the Sunderland Adult Volleyball Club, and Pilates and Youth Field Hockey in Deerfield. Several Sunderland Youth were on the Frontier Rec Field Hockey team that won their league championship.

We continue to work with the Sunderland & Frontier Youth Baseball League (grades 2-6), the Frontier Suburban Football program (grades 4-8), Frontier Suburban Basketball program (grades 5-8), Frontier Suburban Softball program (grades 4-6), the Franklin County Babe Ruth Baseball League (grades 7-12), the Frontier Suburban Girls Softball League (grades 7-12), the Frontier United Soccer program (grades 1-6), and the Franklin County and Amherst Youth Hockey Associations – coordinating participation and registrations for Sunderland youth. We also provide information and assistance with

registration for summer programs in cooperation with the Deerfield and Northampton Rec Departments and Amherst Leisure Services.

Unfortunately, due to the weather we had to cancel what was intended to be, for the second year in a row, a small Memorial Day Ceremony at Riverside Cemetery. Our usual “contingency” to move the service indoors to the Sunderland Elem School gym was not possible due to the gym being filled with excess school furniture and equipment due to continuing COVID restrictions. We are hopeful to have the usual parade and ceremonies in-person this year.

Last December, we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bright Lights Over Sunderland home holiday lights contest. Twenty-nine families made entries with winners in five categories: Traditional; Lights, Lights and More Lights; Lighted Lawn figures; Inflatables; and Best Overall. It was fun to drive the route around town and see all of different displays; and was a great diversion and bright spot from what had been a “downer” of a year because of COVID.

The Recreation Committee continues to be represented on the town’s Community Preservation Committee and on the Parklands Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Committee. Now that Phase 1 of the Riverwalk Project is complete, we look forward to Phase 2 which will provide for a new Rec Shed (in conjunction with the Kayak Kiosk and Baseball shed project), and much needed upgrades to the main soccer field. The existing bathrooms will also be renovated and provide for handicap accessibility. The Merritt Field softball facility at the Elementary School continues to see a lot of activity. We are thankful to Town Meeting for voting Field Maintenance funding which allows us to better maintain our town Rec fields going forward.

We would be remiss if we did not also say a huge “thank you” to the more than 50 volunteer coaches, scorekeepers, referees and umpires, and others who have helped with recreation programs in this past year. We would like to also thank Jim Ewen, Rec Coordinator, for his special efforts and extra time put in this past year on behalf of our kids and families.

We are not sure when we will get back to “normal” or exactly what that will look like, but we have begun to offer more of our usual programs and have already made plans to have Yoga Classes back again this year – along with some new activities. We will continue to observe appropriate COVID protocols and abide by restrictions consistent with local and state guidelines. If you are interested in assisting or have an idea for a new program, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sunderland Recreation Committee



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## RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

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The past year of 2021 was a busy year for Sunderland's Town cemetery. We facilitated many internments over this past year, and there is continued interest in Green burials. There were 7 internments and 7 plot sales in 2021.

Trustees organized the repair & valve replacement of 2 water hydrants. Thank you to Morowski Excavating for the repair work and to the Sunderland Water District.

The Trustees voted to raise the fees for plot sales:

Resident fee: \$1,000 per 2 vault plot (or 6 cremations) Non-resident fee: \$1,500 per 2 vault plot (Also adopted the sale of single plots where appropriate at the discretion of the Trustees.)

We are rescheduling a public presentation by the landscape architect that was originally set up for 2020. She will be explaining design proposals which include planting of replacement trees, a possible cremation garden and issues around the center road.

The cemetery landscape changed a lot due to storms in 2020 and removal of 4 large trees. But, thankfully 2021 was a more stable year. The Sycamore seedling from the Buttonball tree continues to do quite well.

The Trustees want to thank Snows Landscaping for their excavator services over the year and also to Ahern Landscaping for the mowing and Spring & Fall clean ups in 2021. Our continuing battle with invasive vegetation and with trash removal is hopefully improving areas along the riverbanks. This work will never end.

We hope to keep the area clean and improve the view of the river. Best to all.

Respectfully Submitted,

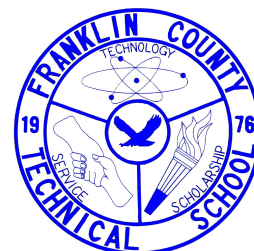
Riverside Cemetery Trustees: Scott Bergeron, Janet Bergeron, Mike Wissemann

## SCHOOLS

### FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

82 Industrial Boulevard  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376  
TEL: 413-863-4239 FAX: 413-863-2816  
[www.fcts.us](http://www.fcts.us)

**Richard J. Martin**  
Superintendent



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 count, 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,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz  
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin  
Superintendent-Director

## 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.

In service,  
Darius Modestow,  
Superintendent of Schools

### **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 Ghody 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

## FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

Website: <https://www.frsu38.org/index.aspx>

Annual Report from the  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
2020-2021

### **FRONTIER SCHOOL REPORT**

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

Dear Mr. Halla:

I respectfully submit the 2021 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

### **FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
* 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 Assist 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
Inna Stytsenko	Treasurer
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Deborah Coons	SIS Data Specialist
Stuart Dusenberry	Network Administrator
Keith Van Buren	Information Tech Specialist

### **FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL**



George Lanides  
 Scott Dredge  
 Roberta Reiter  
 Kelly Blanchette  
 Michelle Russell  
 Mary Lapinski

Principal  
 Assistant Principal  
 Principal's Secretary  
 Special Education Secretary  
 Attendance Secretary  
 Guidance Secretary

**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2021**

Choice	Tuitioned In	Grade Total	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	School
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

<u>STEP</u>	<u>Bachelors</u>	<u>Masters</u>	<u>M+30</u>	<u>CAGS/Doctorate</u>
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**

	HOURLY RATES		
Step	2019-2020	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**

	HOURLY RATES		
Step	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	1%	2%	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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### 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,  
Darius Modestow,  
Superintendent of Schools

**Enrollment & School Choice:** The October 1, 2021 enrollment for Sunderland Elementary School totaled 188 (PreK-6) students. This is an increase of one student from the October 1, 2020 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 187 students. Of those 188 (PreK-6) students, 42 were School Choice students. This is a decrease of 9 students from the October 2020 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 51 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.

Faculty Resignations: Heidi Gebo, Physical Education Teacher; Jillian Johnson, Grade 5 Teacher; Kimberly Salditt-Poulin, Special Education Teacher; Aleshia Reid, Grade 1 Teacher; Samantha Marsh, Grade 2 Teacher; Pauline Dean, Special Education Teacher, and Barbara Mullen, Special Education Teacher.

New Faculty: Glenn Sullivan, Physical Education Teacher; Kristin Miller, Grade 5 Teacher; Patrisha Nulph, Special Education Teacher; Britney Skiff, Grade 2 Teacher; Jacqueline Petrino, Grade 3 Teacher; Jacquelyn Capuano, Grade 6 Teacher; John Morrin, Special Education Teacher; and Hannah Harvester, Art Teacher.

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Sunderland School Committee members Chair Gregory Gottschalk, Vice Chair Jessica Corwin, Secretary Peter Gagarin, and Members Keith McFarland and Meghan Arquin. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Sunderland. 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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### 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.*

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### **Curriculum and Professional Development:**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Darius E. Modestow  
Superintendent of Schools

**SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2021**

Grade	Resident Students	School Choice	Tuitioned-In	Total
Pre-K	10	0	5	15
K	15	6	0	21
1	11	3	0	14
2	20	4	0	24
3	22	6	0	28
4	19	8	1	28
5	19	8	0	27
6	24	7	0	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>188</b>

**UNION #38 TEACHERS' SALARY SCHEDULE**  
**CONWAY, DEERFIELD, SUNDERLAND, WHATELY**  
**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

<b><u>STEP</u></b>	<b><u>B</u></b>	<b><u>B+15</u></b>	<b><u>M</u></b>	<b><u>M+15</u></b>	<b><u>M+30</u></b>	<b><u>M+45</u></b> <b><u>CAGS</u></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**

**Instructional Assistants**

<b>2020-2021</b>	
Step 1	\$14.56
Step 2	\$15.06
Step 3	\$15.56
Step 4	\$16.07
Step 5	\$16.57
Step 6	\$17.07
Step 7	\$17.59
Step 8	\$18.09
Step 9	\$18.60
Step 10	\$19.14

**Educational Support Nurses, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA**

<b>2020-2021</b>	
<b>Step</b>	<b>2%</b>
1	\$23.94
2	\$24.97
3	\$25.99
4	\$27.01
5	\$28.03
6	\$29.05
7	\$30.08
8	\$31.11
9	\$32.14
10	\$33.14

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY STAFF ROSTER

<b>SES Staff</b>	<b>First_Name</b>	<b>Last_Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
SES	Elizabeth	Antes	Instructional Assistant
SES	Lucille	Antes	Teacher K
SES	Josh	Arond	Special Education Teacher
SES	Benjamin	Barshefsky	Principal
SES	Sarah	Belder	Cafeteria Assistant
SES	Darrel	Beymer	LTS Special Education Teacher
SES	Elise	Budziszewski	Instructional Assistant
SES	Carolyn	Burns	Speech Language Pathologist
SES	Jacquelyn	Capuano	Grade 6 Teacher
SES	Donna	Carmody	Teacher Grade 5
SES	Megan	Carr	Teacher Band
SES	Michelle	Cialek	Instructional Assistant
SES	Ryan	Copeland	Teacher Grade 6
SES	Flora	Cox	Instructional Assistant
SES	Alison	Crochier	Cafeteria Team Leader
SES	Jasmine	Delsie	Occupational Therapist
SES	Michael	Doney	Custodian
SES	Ashley	Downey	OST Teacher
SES	Omnia	Elborgy	Instructional Assistant
SES	Elizabeth	Etman	Instructional Assistant
SES	Samantha	Fabian	Nurse
SES	Jodie	Fraser	Teacher Grade 4
SES	Hannah	Harvester	Art Teacher
SES	Maruf	Hasan	Bilingual Tutor
SES	Susan	Hawkins	Instructional Assistant Life Skills
SES	James	Helou	Instructional Assistant - SPED
SES	Suzanne	Herzig	Instructional Assistant
SES	Matthew	Howell	Teacher ESL
SES	Karen	Johnston	Physical Therapist
SES	Diane	Judd	Speech/Language Pathologist
SES	Rachel	Kidder	Library Media Specialist
SES	Katherine	Lorenz	Teacher PK
SES	Susan	Matsui	Teacher Music
SES	Kerry	McGrath	Teacher Grade 4
SES	Kristin	Miller	Grade 5 Teacher
SES	John	Morrin	Special Education Teacher
SES	Cynthia	Nowak	Instructional Assistant
SES	Patrishia	Nulph	Special Education Teacher
SES	Joan	O'Brien	Instructional Assistant
SES	Victoria	Palmer	School Psychologist

SES	Radha	Peesapati	Instructional Assistant
SES	Michelle	Penza	Instructional Assistant 1:1
SES	Keylin	Perez	Bilingual Tutor
SES	Jacqueline	Petrino	Grade 3 Teacher
SES	Savannah	Phillips	Reading Specialist
SES	Marina	Polees	Bilingual Tutor
SES	Shelby	Porrovecchio	Instructional Assistant
SES	Sarah	Powers	OSTP Teacher
SES	Jameson	Prew	Custodian
SES	William	Prunier	Instructional Assistant
SES	Leila	Rollins-Cohen	Principal's Secretary
SES	Courtney	Schumacher	Instructional Assistant 1:1
SES	Erin	Sears	Teacher - PK
SES	Marijo	Sherrill	Teacher Strings
SES	Britney	Skiff	Teacher Grade 2
SES	Calena	Spearing	Teacher SPED
SES	Ramsay	Steward	Special Education Team Leader
SES	Glenn	Sullivan	Physical Education Teacher
SES	Clifford	Thayer	Instructional Assistant
SES	Amie	Trinque	Instructional Assistant
SES	Sarah	Underwood	Teacher K
SES	Nicole	Walsh	Teacher Grade 4
SES	Elizabeth	Walton	Physical Therapist
SES	Rachel	Weaver	OSTP Teacher
SES	Suzanne	Wells	Teacher Grade 1
SES	Leslie	Wickline	Teacher Math Specialist
SES	Molly	Wickline	Instructional Assistant
SES	Lee	Worthley	Teacher Grade 2
SES	Muhammad	Yahman	OSTP Teacher
SES	Lisa	Zadworny	Teacher Grade 3

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## 120 NORTH MAIN STREET COMMITTEE (SANDERSON PLACE)

It has been eight years since we took our first town vote in support of affordable senior housing at 120 North Main Street. At Town Meeting 2014, we approved the use of CPA funds to purchase the property at 120 North Main with the hope of seeing affordable senior housing in Sunderland center -- within walking distance of the Sunderland Public Library, the Town Offices, recreation areas, and public transportation.

For most of 2021 the 120 North Main Street Committee, like you, has watched the project take form, including a beautiful restoration of the village house. The project will be completed late summer (2022).

Project information is available on the town website and can be found here:

[https://www.townofsunderland.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3891f/uploads/sanderson\\_place\\_information.pdf](https://www.townofsunderland.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3891f/uploads/sanderson_place_information.pdf)

For residential interest and waiting list visit here:

<https://www.townofsunderland.us/home/pages/notification-list-residential-interest-120-n-main-street-senior-housing-project>

I want to thank the members of the 120 North Main Street Committee for their continuing involvement. We look forward to the ribbon cutting!

Respectfully Submitted  
Lorin Starr, Chair

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## SELECTBOARD

Phone: 413-665-1442 / Email: [selectmen@townofsunderland.us](mailto:selectmen@townofsunderland.us)

The members of the Sunderland Selectboard would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt thank you to every full and part-time Town employee, department head, volunteer, and members of the various boards and committees, who have continued to provide critical and needed services and have worked tirelessly during this trying period of Covid to make Sunderland, our home, safe and steadily moving forward.

During this past year, while a significant amount of our time and efforts were expended dealing with issues directly and indirectly associated with Covid, our Town's staff and residents continued working on many fronts that were critically important to all of us:

- Adopted the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 120 North Main Street-Sanderson Place Senior Housing Project-voted to approve final plans and welcomed the beginning of its construction.
- Complete streets-North Main St reconstruction and the maintaining of our beautiful tree belt
- Sunderland's approval as an AARP Age-friendly Community

- The Town worked with Mass DOT to extend sidewalks along Route 116 to the North Star School and the Sugarloaf Frostie
- The retirement of debt from the library and public safety building projects.
- The Town was awarded a Local Rapid Recovery Planning technical assistance grant for pandemic recovery.
- Completion of the sidewalk projects on Silver Lane and South Main Street
- Continued with Riverside Park projects
- Updated our Town's housing plan with robust public input through the survey sent to residents and public forum
- Welcomed Christyl Drake-Tremblay to the Selectboard
- Joined the Pioneer Valley Mosquito control group to collect data throughout the Town so that we can respond to concerns about mosquitos with facts and make informed decisions.
- Held our 2nd outside Annual Town Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Updated The Open Space and Recreation Plan
- The Senior Center was moved to a temporary new location and our director resigned. Sue Corey, without missing a beat, filled in to ensure that our seniors continued to be offered much needed services.
- Negotiated with Gracious Greens LLC to open a Cannabis facility along Route 116.
- Received the first installment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
- Received an anonymous donation to cover costs to replace and widen the existing sidewalk along Garage Road from 116 and extend to North Silver.

At this time, we would like to also take a moment to thank Scott Bergeron for his unselfish and dedicated service on the Selectboard these past 18 years.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you during the past year. Many of our successes could not have been achieved without the help and support of all of you. We are eagerly looking forward to 2022 as we continue to move forward together

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Fydenkevez, Chair, David Pierce, Vice Chair, Christyl Drake-Tremblay, Clerk

## SOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Website: [www.SoCEMS.org](http://www.SoCEMS.org)

South County EMS (SoCEMS) is the premier regional EMS service in the state. As a municipal “third-service” that provides only medical-related services, our budget, infrastructure, training focus, and culture is 100% devoted to providing the best emergency medical care possible. In 2021 our department experienced the busiest year-to-date with a 13% increase over 2020, and we expect the requests for response to continue increasing through 2022. To meet these demands, South County EMS is always considering ways to provide better care more efficiently and solidify itself as a public good our citizens can be proud of.

Our agency provides Paramedic level response to Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately by staffing one transporting ALS ambulance 24/7 through a combination of full and per diem staff. For our busiest times we add per diem responders to meet increased anticipated demands for service. Last year SoCEMS responded to 1048 calls for medical emergencies in our primary coverage area and an additional 80 to neighboring communities. Of the patients we treated, 80% required and received Advanced Life Support (ALS) interventions. In addition to the medical related emergencies, SoCEMS also responded to over 72 calls including Fire, Search and Rescue, HAZMAT, and Law Enforcement issues, where we provided both medical support and subject matter expertise. Our full time and per diem staff represent some of the highest and most diversely trained emergency responders in the state.

To address the increasing demands on both our service and our providers, South County will be adjusting our staffing models in 2022. By reallocating existing staff hours, we hope to bolster our department’s ability to adapt and respond to outside forces while also decreasing the likelihood of medical provider burnout which has become all too common in recent years.

Additionally, South County EMS has been working closely with Franklin County and Western MA public safety partners to find solutions to the well-documented EMS resource shortcomings that many areas are experiencing. As a golden model of what can be accomplished when multiple towns come together, South County has provided some valuable insight about what is possible when communities approach common problems with a regional approach. We hope that by working together, citizens throughout the region will one day enjoy the level of robust and outstanding medical care we do here in southern Franklin County.

I must thank our talented and compassionate team of providers who work here at South County EMS. Every day they give back to this community in ways that are not always obvious. Through studying and researching so that they can provide better care, by advocating for EMS and patients on the regional, state, and federal level, and by taking time on a call to provide companionship and prepare a meal for a community member, they truly go above and beyond what is typically expected from our pre-hospital medical providers. The people who wear the South County EMS patch are amongst the finest around.

And as always, I wish to thank the members of our community for your support over the years. Our team of providers were chosen because of their skill, knowledge, compassion, and dedication, and they would not be able to serve the community in the way that they know is right, were it not for the championing many of you do on our behalf.

*Thank you.*

## STATISTICS

Here is the breakdown of the 2021 calendar year stats:

EMS Patient Responses by Type	EMS Patient Responses by Town
Total: 1128	Deerfield: 596
ALS Transports: 656	Sunderland: 274
BLS Transports: 159	Whately: 178
Paramedic Intercepts: 2	Mutual Aid: 80
Refusals: 239	
Other: 72	

We look forward to continuing to provide high-quality and state-of-the-art emergency medical care to our community and supporting public health and education initiatives in 2022.

More information about our department can be found on our website: [www.SoCEMS.org](http://www.SoCEMS.org)

Respectfully,  
Chief Zachary Smith, Paramedic  
South County Emergency Medical Services

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## SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

67 N Main St., South Deerfield, MA 01373

413.665.2141 • 413.665.9508

Email: [scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us](mailto:scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us) / Website: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/senior-center>

Jennifer M Remillard, Director

Susan Corey, Program Coordinator

Jonathan Edwards, Chair Board of Oversight (Whately)

Tom Fydenkevez, Board of Oversight (Sunderland)

Trevor McDaniel, Board of Oversight (Deerfield)

The South County Senior Center (SCSC) provides services to Seniors who reside in Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately. We also welcome seniors from other communities who find value in our programming. Programs are currently being offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Since November 2021, Programming has taken place at Holy Family Parish, Pope John Paul II Hall, located at 29 Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield. 2021 brought challenges to the Program. COVID-19 required a reduction in the number of participants to ensure social distancing; and required the use of an outdoor tent. The use of the tent enabled continuous airflow and social distancing.

In addition to COVID-19 challenges, the Program faced more than 6 months between Directors. Program Coordinator, Susan Corey, together with the support of the three COAs, TRIAD, and other volunteers and community partners, brought continuity during this transitional period.

Ms. Corey ensured continuity of programming, onsite and offsite, including: Tai Chi, Chair Yoga, Exercise Classes with the YMCA, the Brown Bag partnership, Food Distribution with the Franklin County Survival Center partnership, a Thanksgiving Potluck, holiday entertainment, Bingo, and monthly Cribbage Tournaments.

The main source of funding for the South County Senior Center are provided by the Towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. Additional funding was provided in 2021 by grants provided through Title III and Church Street Home Grants; the Fred W. Wells Trust (Health Grant Award for COVID Support); and the YMCA.

Cultural Councils from Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately provided funding in support of various activities including dance programming and musical performances by a variety of local artists.

Community Partnerships with LifePath, TRIAD, MCOA, and other organizations continued to thrive due to the common goal of providing support to the Seniors of our three communities.

There are several areas of priority moving into 2022. These include: to hire an Outreach Coordinator; increase membership and visibility; expand and build new community partnerships; expand and create programs to attract current and new members; evaluate and the Needs Assessments conducted by UMass; and to create and provide a stable, permanent location based upon the data provided from the Needs Assessment, to house the South County Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer M Remillard, MBA,  
Director (beginning 31 January 2022)  
South County Senior Center



## TOWN CLERK

Phone: 413-665-1442 / Email: townclerk@townofsunderland.us

### 2021 Vital Statistics

- **BIRTHS:** Females: 16/ Males: 11 - **TOTAL 27**
- **MARRIAGES:** TOTAL 26

<b>DEATHS</b>			
<u>DATE</u>		<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>
January	9	Dorothy Mogelinski	85
March	3	Lenore Benson	81
	3	Edwin Skribiski	83
April	7	Russell Morrow	46
	13	Elizabeth Burzynski	89
	29	Charles Demers	91
May	11	Mary Ann Brandt	77
	12	John Austin	72
	14	Yvette Cicia	92
	15	Gloria Connelly	68
	26	Geoffrey Arthur	68
June	12	Stanley Mieczkowski	86
	20	Lori LaValley	60
July	25	Gregory Garvey	67
August	18	William Graves	73
September	6	Edward Mogelinski	88
October	11	Alix Hegeler	64
	15	Evelyn Storozuk	90
November	14	Mary Ann Uchneat	79
	19	George Armstrong	72
	21	Russell Montague Lane	93
December	7	Yvette Martinez	52
	16	Joan Olanyk	92

Vitals	\$2,025.00
Dogs	\$3,680.00
<b>Gov't. Regs./Misc.</b>	<b>\$1,523.95</b>
<b>Total Paid to Treasurer</b>	<b>\$7,228.95</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Houle, MMC/CMMC  
Town Clerk

## ELECTION RESULTS

Town Clerk - Phone: 413-665-1442 / Email: [townclerk@townofsunderland.us](mailto:townclerk@townofsunderland.us)

Town of Sunderland  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
1-May-21  
8:00am-1:00pm  
Sunderland Public Library

Votes cast-198

Voters in the Town of Sunderland-2,458

### MODERATOR

For One Year

**Michael A. Wissemann**

**63 South Main St.**

Vote for One

Caucus Nominee 181

**Candidate for Re-election**

BLANKS

17

WRITE-IN

0

TOTAL

198

### SELECTMAN

For Three Years

**Christyl L. Drake-Tremblay**

**4 Valley View Ln**

Vote for One

Nomination Papers 166

BLANKS

29

WRITE-IN

3

TOTAL

198

### ASSESSOR

For Three Years

**Michael R. Skibiski**

**147 North Main St.**

Vote for One

Caucus Nominee 169

**Candidate for Re-election**

BLANKS

29

WRITE-IN

0

TOTAL

198

BOARD OF HEALTH

For Three Years

**Kenneth L. Kushi**

361 Montague Rd.

BLANKS

WRITE-IN

TOTAL

Vote for One

Caucus Nominee

**Candidate for Re-election**

167

31

0

198

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

For Three Years

**Meghan E. Arquin****206 River Rd.****Alison L. Booth Maio****30 Reservoir Rd.****Peter Gagarin****300 North Main St.****Kara A. Gorey****8 Hemlock Dr.**

BLANKS

WRITE IN

TOTAL

Vote for Two

Nomination Papers

Caucus Nominee

Caucus Nominee  
**Candidate for Re-election**

Nomination Papers

95

53

153

49

46

0

396

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TRUSTEE

For Three Years

**Scott A. Bergeron****7 Old Amherst Rd.**

BLANKS

WRITE IN

TOTAL

Vote for One

Caucus Nominee

**Candidate for Re-election**

168

30

0

198

PLANNING BOARD

For Five Years

**Gabrielle E. Kurth****66 Russell St.****election**

BLANKS

Vote for One

Caucus Nominee

**Candidate for Re-**

170

28

WRITE IN	0
TOTAL	198

PLANNING BOARD

Vote for One

For Two Years

**Amanda Lynn Hanley**  
**258 North Main St.**

Caucus Nominee	166
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BLANKS

32

WRITE IN

0

TOTAL

198

SUNDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

For Three Years

Vote for Three

**Hollis Graves**

Caucus Nominee	165
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**28 South Main St.****Candidate for  
Re-election****Emily Caitlin Pettit**

Caucus Nominee	161
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**121 North Main St.****Lorin Starr**

Caucus Nominee	169
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**71 South Main St.****Candidate for  
Re-election**

BLANKS

98

WRITE IN

1

TOTAL

594

Respectfully submitted,  
 Wendy Houle, MMC/CMMC

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**2021 ANNUAL TOWN MOTIONS**  
**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**June 12, 2021**  
**12 SCHOOL STREET (Outside), 4:00PM**

FRANKLIN, SS:

\*\*\*\*\*

Registered Voters in Attendance: 65 Total Registered Voters: 2,445

Meeting called to order at 4:07pm by Moderator, Michael Wissemann.

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Clerk, Wendy Houle read the Constables Return.

Town official introductions.

Selectboard acknowledged Dedication of the Annual Report to the Sunderland Community for going above and beyond during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Selectboard also acknowledged the Community Pathway Committee for all the hard work on the riverfront pathway, known as the Riverside Park, around the town office building. The Moderator acknowledged the passing of Robert Bartos, Stanley Mitchkoski and Victor Zumbruski who contributed to the betterment of the Town of Sunderland.

Motion to dispense of the reading of the motions, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and voted unanimously.

Motion to allow school and town officials that are nonresidents to permission to speak, 2<sup>nd</sup> voted unanimously.

Tellers: Debra Bennett, Natalie Blais, Elizabeth Sillin and Lorin Starr were sworn in as tellers.

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

ARTICLE 1. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to hear the reports of the Selectboard, the Sunderland School Committee and all other Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions.

**Majority Vote (no statutory reference)**

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 2. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of \$17,144.39 from Free Cash to pay certain bills of prior fiscal years, including \$13,000.00 to Scanlon & Associates, \$2,967.39 to Roberts Energy, \$700 to Grybko LLC, and \$477 to Paragus IT.

**\*REQUIRES 4/5ths VOTE MGL c.44, §64**

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 3. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108, to set the salaries and compensation of all its elected officials connected therewith for Fiscal Year 2021.

Assessors: Chairman \$2,907.00 annually Clerk \$2,907.00 annually Member \$2,907.00 annually

Moderator: \$200.00 annually

Planning Board: Chairman \$792.00 annually Clerk \$792.00 annually Members each \$528.00 annually

Town Clerk: \$51,360.00 annually

Selectboard: Chairman \$3,275.00 annually Vice Chairman \$2,850.00 annually Clerk \$2,850.00 annually

**Majority Vote - G.L. c.41, §108**

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 4. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,451,496 appropriate from Fund 318-Comcast PEG Access Fund the sum of \$53,000, appropriate for Fund 610-WWTP Sewer Fund the sum of \$384,047 and appropriate from Free Cash the of \$123,196 for the sum total of \$9,011,739 for Town and general municipal purposes connected therewith for Fiscal Year 2022, all as set forth in a document entitled "Town of Sunderland FY 22 Town Meeting Budget".

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

TOWN OF SUNDERLAND TOWN MEETING BUDGET	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	Change from FY 21 FINAL	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget		
	FINAL	FINAL	FINAL	ATM		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
Personnel Services	180,916	185,380	206,011	213,692		
Elected Officials	63,754	65,621	62,296	73,256		
Expenses	253,972	268,765	281,641	295,717		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>498,642</b>	<b>519,766</b>	<b>549,947</b>	<b>582,665</b>	<b>32,718</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
TOWN BUILDINGS						
Personnel Services	0	0	0	0		
Expenses	171,051	165,601	165,560	170,060		
<b>TOTAL TOWN BUILDINGS</b>	<b>171,051</b>	<b>165,601</b>	<b>165,560</b>	<b>170,060</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
POLICE DEPARTMENT						
Personnel Services	424,476	448,078	466,737	479,178		
Expenses	46,509	45,609	48,909	50,094		
<b>TOTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>470,985</b>	<b>493,687</b>	<b>515,646</b>	<b>529,272</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
FIRE DEPARTMENT						
Personnel Services	52,968	54,027	55,137	62,500		
Expenses	33,000	33,000	30,750	33,000		
Regional EMS	198,893	199,203	182,195	188,056		
<b>TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>284,861</b>	<b>286,230</b>	<b>268,082</b>	<b>283,556</b>	<b>15,474</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
INSPECTORS & OTHER PROTECTION						
Personnel Services	22,242	23,024	23,502	28,440		
Expenses	17,401	17,900	28,182	23,182		
<b>TOTAL INSPECTORS &amp; OTHER PROTECTION</b>	<b>39,643</b>	<b>40,924</b>	<b>51,685</b>	<b>51,622</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT						
Personnel Services	169,535	178,562	189,545	197,396		

Expenses	121,254	121,252	117,254	144,854		
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY</b>	<b>290,789</b>	<b>299,814</b>	<b>306,799</b>	<b>342,250</b>	<b>35,451</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
HEALTH & SANITATION						
Personnel Services	11,954	12,194	12,438	12,687		
Expenses	11,208	11,595	12,588	12,866		
<b>TOTAL HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>	<b>23,162</b>	<b>23,789</b>	<b>25,025</b>	<b>25,552</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
LIBRARY						
Personnel Services	112,994	133,640	147,798	158,375		
Expenses	26,000	26,000	19,921	30,000		
<b>TOTAL LIBRARY</b>	<b>138,994</b>	<b>159,640</b>	<b>167,719</b>	<b>188,375</b>	<b>20,656</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>2,602,832</b>	<b>2,954,946</b>	<b>2,954,946</b>	<b>3,036,322</b>	<b>81,376</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL FRANKLIN CTY TECH ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>170,950</b>	<b>119,047</b>	<b>199,682</b>	<b>153,939</b>	<b>-45,743</b>	<b>- 22.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL FRONTIER ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>1,796,889</b>	<b>1,844,940</b>	<b>1,733,188</b>	<b>1,976,069</b>	<b>242,881</b>	<b>14.0%</b>
<b>OUT OF DISTRICT TUITION &amp; TRANSPORT</b>	<b>46,060</b>	<b>49,930</b>	<b>49,930</b>	<b>36,400</b>	<b>-13,530</b>	<b>- 27.1%</b>
BENEFITS & INSURANCE						
Personnel Services	0	0	0	0		
Expenses	801,384	887,119	949,254	984,042		
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS &amp; INSURANCE</b>	<b>801,384</b>	<b>887,119</b>	<b>949,254</b>	<b>984,042</b>	<b>34,788</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
MISCELLANEOUS & RESERVE FUND						
Personnel Services	8,882	9,149	9,149	9,332		
Expenses	100,755	107,546	108,003	115,944		
<b>TOTAL MISC. &amp; RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>109,637</b>	<b>116,695</b>	<b>117,152</b>	<b>125,276</b>	<b>8,124</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>7,445,879</b>	<b>7,962,128</b>	<b>8,054,615</b>	<b>8,485,401</b>	<b>430,786</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
WWTP						
Personnel Services						
Expenses	343,948	358,118	364,726	384,047		
Sewer Debt Service	30,278	30,374	29,814	0		
<b>TOTAL WWTP BUDGET</b>	<b>374,226</b>	<b>388,492</b>	<b>394,539</b>	<b>384,047</b>	<b>-10,492</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>
DEBT & INTEREST						
Personnel Services	0	0	0	0		
Expenses	220,432	214,282	319,324	142,291		
<b>TOTAL DEBT &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>220,432</b>	<b>214,282</b>	<b>319,324</b>	<b>142,291</b>	<b>- 177,033</b>	<b>- 55.4%</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8,040,537</b>	<b>8,564,902</b>	<b>8,768,479</b>	<b>9,011,739</b>	<b>243,261</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
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ARTICLE 5. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of **\$122,279.82 from the Capital Stabilization Fund** and **\$11,935.00 from the Sewer Reserve Fund** for the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget, specifically for the capital equipment, buildings, facilities and other capital projects, including equipping, site preparation and all other related and incidental expenses, as shown on a document entitled, "FY22 CAPITAL BUDGET BY FUNDING SOURCE" on file with the Town Clerk, and posted on the Town website at [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us), and as may be necessary in connection therewith, to authorize one or more lease purchase agreements for terms of up to or in excess of three years.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0  
 CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

Priority	Department	Purpose	Amount	CIC Vote	Source
VH	HIGHWAY	Truck Lease/Year 5	\$ 27,206.48	5-0	Cap Stab
<i>TOTAL HIGHWAY</i>			<b>\$ 27,206.48</b>		
VH	LIBRARY	HVAC Repairs	\$ 7,800.00	3-0	Cap Stab
<i>TOTAL LIBRARY</i>			<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>		
VH	POLICE	Townwide Radio Replacement	\$ 53,066.34	3-0	Cap Stab
<i>TOTAL POLICE</i>			<b>\$ 53,066.34</b>		
VH	ELEMENTARY	Kitchen Steamer	\$ 24,707.00	3-0	Cap Stab
H	ELEMENTARY	Rim Band Replacement yr 2	\$ 9,500.00	5-0	Cap Stab
<i>TOTAL SCHOOL</i>			<b>\$ 34,207.00</b>		
H	WWTP	Replace Clarifier Gearbox	\$ 8,700.00	3-0	Sewer Res
H	WWTP	Replace RAS Pipe (Male End)	\$ 3,235.00	3-0	Sewer Res
<i>TOTAL WWTP</i>			<b>\$ 11,935.00</b>		
<i>TOTAL RECOMMENDED FROM CAPITAL STABILIZATION</i>			<b>\$ 122,279.82</b>		
<i>TOTAL RECOMMENDED FROM SEWER RESERVE FUND</i>			<b>\$ 11,935.00</b>		



TOTAL	\$
RECOMMENDED	134,214.82

**\*REQUIRES 2/3 vote transfer from stabilization pursuant to G.L. 40, §5B**

ARTICLE 6. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of **\$21,933.66 from Stabilization** to upgrade the emergency radio system.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

**\*REQUIRES 2/3 vote transfer from stabilization pursuant to G.L. 40, §5B**

ARTICLE 7. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of **\$49,163.07 from Free Cash** to fund the accumulated sick and vacation leave buyback for Sunderland Elementary School employees pursuant to the Town By-Laws and/or collective bargaining agreements.

SUBMITTED BY: Sunderland Elementary School Committee  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 8. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED BY A MAJORITY**, to transfer the sum of **\$7,000.00 from Free Cash** to purchase replacement firearms for the Police Department.

SUBMITTED BY: Police Chief  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 9. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to become a member in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, §5A and other applicable sections of said law; and to appropriate **\$3,000.00 from Free Cash** for the membership fee.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 10. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to establish FY2022 fiscal year spending limits for the revolving funds listed in Section 35-6 of the General Bylaws, and to authorize such expenditure limits to remain in place from fiscal year to fiscal year unless revised by Town Meeting prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, as follows:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Wiring Inspector	\$20,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 6,000
Board of Health	\$16,500
Sunderland Public Library Community Room	\$ 15,000
Fire Inspector	\$ 10,000
Highway Shared Equipment	\$23,000

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
 SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 11. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of \$200,000 of which, \$65,000 is from the *CPA Undesignated Budgeted Reserve* and \$135,000 is from the *CPA Unreserved Fund*, as requested by the Sunderland Elementary School. Monies will be used for the complete renovation of the Early Childhood Playground at the school including all incidental and related expenses and that said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Preservation Committee, 7-0  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 3-0-1  
CPC RECOMMENDATION: 6-0

ARTICLE 12. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED BY MAJORITY**, to transfer the sum of \$69,000 from the *CPA Historic Preservation Fund*, as requested by the Town of Sunderland. Monies will be used for the restoration of the foundation with repointing of the Graves Memorial Library for the purpose of historic preservation including all incidental and related expenses and that said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Preservation Committee, 7-0  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0  
CPC RECOMMENDATION: 6-0

ARTICLE 13. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to appropriate the amount of \$26,000 from the *CPA Unreserved Fund* to fund Riverside Park field improvements, as requested by the Town of Sunderland. Monies will be used to design and install an irrigation system for the soccer field and the overlaid outfield from the secondary baseball field, including all incidental and related expenses, contingent on securing a well with sufficient water supply for the irrigation system and that said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Preservation Committee, 7-0  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0  
CPC RECOMMENDATION: 6-0

ARTICLE 14. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the *CPA Fund Balance Reserve* to fund Riverside Park restroom rehabilitation, as requested by the Town of Sunderland. Monies will provide additional funding to the PARC Grant to extend the foundation and make the building ADA compliant including all incidental and related expenses and that said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Preservation Committee, 7-0  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0  
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0  
CPC RECOMMENDATION: 6-0

ARTICLE 15. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to transfer from the **Community Preservation Fund** annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community

Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2022.

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues* for Committee Administrative Expenses	<b>\$ 6,000</b>
Community Preservation Debt Service	<b>\$ 25,300</b>

**Reserves:**

FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	<b>\$ 19,575</b>
FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	<b>\$ 19,575</b>
FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	<b>\$ 19,575</b>
FY 2022 estimated revenues for CPA Undesignated Budgeted Reserve	<b>\$</b>
<b>131,025</b>	

or take any other action thereon.

SUBMITTED BY: Community Preservation Committee, 6-0

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION:

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

CPC RECOMMENDATION: 6-0

ARTICLE 16. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, pursuant to MGL c. 40 Section 58, to impose Municipal Charges Lien on real property located within the Town of Sunderland related to the following town charges:

- a. License, permit, inspection, reinspection, court filing, and court related fees as set forth by each department and amended from time to time;
- b. Dog fees as set forth by Massachusetts General Law or a Town Department and amended from time to time;
- c. Insufficient (bounced) check fees as set forth by each department and amended from time to time; and
- d. Unpaid and non-contested noncriminal disposition charges as set forth by each department and amended from time to time.

By adding such charges to the tax on property to which they relate, in a manner provided by said statute.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Health

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

ARTICLE 17. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED BY MAJORITY**, to adopt the following as a general bylaw:

**A Bylaw Declaring Sunderland to be a Safe Community**

**Purpose:** The citizens of Sunderland would like you to know that no matter where you're from, if you are a resident, or visitor, or are just passing through town, you are welcome here. Sunderland police shall not act as immigration officers and will not honor non-criminal, civil immigration detainer requests. In all interactions with Sunderland law enforcement and town employees, you will be treated with respect. We ask for your cooperation to help us insure the safety and well being of others.

**Definitions:** "Law enforcement official" means Sunderland department, or officer or employee of town department, authorized to enforce criminal statutes, regulations, or local bylaws. "Civil immigration detainer request" means a non-mandatory request issued by an authorized federal immigration officer to a local law enforcement official, to maintain custody of an individual once that person is eligible for release from custody, or to notify the requisition immigration office prior to the release of that individual. "ICE administrative warrant" means a warrant, notice to appear, removal order, or warrant of deportation issued by a federal immigration officer, not a judicial officer, that does not confer detention authority on a local jurisdiction.

**“Safe City Provisions”:** A law enforcement official shall not initiate an investigation or take law enforcement action on the basis of actual or perceived immigration status, including the initiation of a stop, and apprehension, arrest, or any other contact. Victims and witnesses to crimes may be asked their status for the purposes of the US Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (U-VISA).

A law enforcement official shall not detain an individual on the basis of a civil immigration request or an ICE administrative warrant after the individual is eligible for release from custody, unless ICE has a criminal warrant, issued by a judicial officer, for the individual.

To the extent permissible by law, no employee of any Sunderland Town department shall perform the functions of an immigration officer, whether pursuant to 8 U.S.C section 1357(g) or any other law, regulation, or policy, whether formal or informal.

**Effective date:** This Bylaw will become effective upon passage.

**Severability:** if any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this bylaw is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this bylaw.

**Compliance with Federal Law:** Nothing in this bylaw shall prohibit or restrain any law enforcement officer, or any Town employee or agent from sending to or receiving from, and local, state, or federal agency, information regarding citizenship or immigration status, consistent with 8 U.S.C. section 1373.

SUBMITTED BY: Citizens Petition

ARTICLE 18. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to amend §31-15(A) of the Code of Sunderland, Personnel Bylaw, as follows (new text in ***bold italics***):

A regular, full-time employee with one (1) year or more of service will receive two (2) weeks of paid vacation. ***A regular, full-time employee with less than (1) year of service is eligible to take (1) one of the (2) two weeks of paid vacation after six (6) months of service.*** Regular, full-time employees with five (5) years or more of service will receive three (3) weeks of paid vacation. Regular, full-time employees with ten (10) years or more of service will receive four (4) weeks of paid vacation. Regular, full-time employees with twenty (20) years or more of service will receive five (5) weeks of paid vacation. All vacation leave must be approved and scheduled in advance with the department head and/or the Town Administrator.

SUBMITTED BY: Personnel Committee

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 4-0

**Articles 19 through 24, inclusive, are so called Consent Articles**

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION to Consent Articles: 3-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION to Consent Articles: 4-0

ARTICLE 19. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2022, as permitted by G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F.

SUBMITTED BY: Treasurer/Collector

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 20. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, that Town authorize the Selectboard to apply for, accept and expend any grants or donations from State or Federal governments or private agencies, individuals or institutions.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 21. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, accept and expend any sum or sums of money which may be available from the State for Chapter 90 work for road improvement and equipment expense.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard and Highway Superintendent  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 22. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, under the provisions of G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4A to authorize the Selectboard to enter into inter-municipal agreements.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 23. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts for goods and services with duration in excess of three years pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 12 (b).

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

ARTICLE 24. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY**, to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 44, Section 4 and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with G.L. Chapter 44, Section 17.

SUBMITTED BY: Selectboard/Treasurer  
SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDATION: 3-0

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

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## TOWN PARK

Location: 42 Park Road

<http://www.sunderlandfire.com/svfa--town-park-rentals.html>

The Sunderland Town Park is located at the top of Park Road. Built on land donated to the Town by Chester Warner in 1927, the Sunderland Fireman's Association constructed a pavilion on the site shortly after. The Town Park has been the venue for countless community and private events from Town celebrations to weddings and parties. It is also good starting point for outdoor recreation on Mt. Toby. The Sunderland Volunteer Fireman's Association took over management of the Town Park over a decade ago and they have affected many improvements. Most of the work has gone into making the Park a destination for groups and groups will once again enjoy the property in the future. In the short term, a covered barbeque pit provides the perfect location to grill a meal for a family or a solo adventure. Work continues to manage problem trees (replanting new trees is part of the process) and maintain / improve the pavilion structure. The park grounds are open to the public during daylight hours for folks to visit and enjoy the quiet setting.

I wholeheartedly thank the Sunderland Highway Department for helping to maintain the roads, parking areas and manage brushy vegetation in the park.

Rental information and all application documents may be downloaded from the Sunderland Fire Department's website: <http://www.sunderlandfire.com/svfa--town-park-rentals.html> .

You may check on availability by email at: [townpark@sunderlandfire.com](mailto:townpark@sunderlandfire.com) .

Submitted,  
Steven J. Benjamin  
Fire Chief

## TREASURER COLLECTOR

Phone: 413-665-1444 / Email: [treascollector@townofsunderland.us](mailto:treascollector@townofsunderland.us)

### TAX COLLECTOR - JUNE 30, 2021

Year of Tax	Type	Committed & Balanced	Tax Paid	Abate/E xempt	Refunds	Tax Title	SewerW ater Liens	Balance Due
2013	Motor Vehicle	2,324.59	351.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,972.61
2013	CPA	(66.32)	2.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.33	(118.16)
2013	Sewer	1,265.00	1,265.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014	Motor Vehicle	4,545.64	1,013.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,532.51
2014	Personal Prop	17.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.70
2015	Motor Vehicle	5,607.16	1,594.97	207.40	207.40	0.00	0.00	4,012.19
2015	Personal Prop	199.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	199.85
2016	Motor Vehicle	9,220.24	5,965.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,255.21
2016	Real Estate	14,320.61	7,883.96	0.00	0.00	6,436.65	0.00	0.00
2016	CPA	101.98	14.27	0.00	0.00	87.71	0.00	0.00
2016	Liens added to RE	1,368.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,368.94	0.00	0.00
2016	Personal Prop	309.62	271.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.20
2017	Motor Vehicle	81,953.63	77,868.53	3,252.08	3,147.91	0.00	0.00	3,980.93
2017	Personal Prop	522.70	212.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	310.24
2017	Real Estate	51,024.27	42,030.22	0.00	0.00	8,994.05	0.00	(0.00)
2017	CPA	747.66	648.42	0.00	0.00	111.28	0.00	(12.04)
2017	Sewer	12,047.28	10,519.02	0.00	2,487.50	0.00	4,015.76	0.00
2018	Motor Vehicle	406,679.41	399,695.05	4,924.33	3,396.78	0.00	0.00	5,456.81
2018	Personal Prop	119,859.91	119,564.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	295.49
2018	Real Estate	5,128,075.22	5,046,510.30	13,124.25	8,589.52	22,146.68	0.00	54,883.51
2018	CPA	107,632.52	105,810.95	459.75	0.00	254.44	0.00	1,107.38
2018	Sewer	369,404.00	356,247.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,156.66
2018	Sewer Liens	4,015.76	3,442.08	0.00	0.00	573.68	0.00	0.00
2019	Motor Vehicle	408,818.68	387,672.30	5,397.78	7,545.76	0.00	0.00	23,294.36
2019	Personal Prop	124,373.25	123,989.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	383.77
2019	Real Estate	5,456,867.18	5,362,696.57	16,398.78	557.62	0.00	0.00	78,329.45
2019	CPA	116,419.72	114,280.26	555.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,583.55

2019	Sewer	360,915.29	347,296.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,619.22
2019	Sewer Liens	12,319.87	6,381.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,938.23
2020	Motor Vehicle	418,814.13	370,504.93	5,795.50	2,081.46	0.00	0.00	44,595.16
2020	Personal Prop	160,484.23	159,344.88	39.54	39.54	0.00	0.00	1,099.81
				26,927.6				
2020	Real Estate	5,664,531.69	5,480,680.68	3	3,090.00	0.00	0.00	153,833.38
2020	CPA	122,095.79	119,068.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,027.00
2020	Sewer	388,503.04	359,903.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(359,903.16)
2020	Sewer Liens	10,812.81	7,419.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,002.96	3,393.33
2021	Motor Vehicle	441,346.07	346,459.53	1,799.38	3,367.30	0.00	0.00	96,454.46
2021	Personal Prop	177,620.09	176,799.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	821.06
				18,180.1	16,899.5		15,368.0	
2021	Real Estate	5,789,598.48	5,695,264.14	9	2	0.00	0	77,685.67
2021	CPA	125,532.33	123,540.36	440.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,551.31
2021	Sewer	394,545.98	290,291.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	104,254.76
2021	Sewer Liens	15,368.00	15,675.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(307.35)
		26,510,144.0	25,668,178.9	97,503.1	51,410.3	39,973.4	23,436.0	
	TOTALS	0	3	8	1	3	5	341,743.10

### TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT BANK ACCOUNTS - FY2021

BANK	BALANCE 7/1/2020	BALANCE 6/30/2021
<b>PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK - GENERAL</b>		
VENDOR CHECKING	125,410.12	126,725.28
SCHOOL CHECKING	\$0.00	\$0.00
PAYROLL CHECKING	\$0.00	\$0.00
FLEX SPENDING	\$0.00	\$0.00
STUDENT ACTIVITY	29,307.09	31,770.53
<b>PEOPLES BANK - GENERAL FUNDS</b>		
VENDOR CHECKING	1,036,802.04	529,152.96
SCHOOL CHECKING	41,864.38	163.96
PAYROLL CHECKING	17,235.37	3,913.18
300TH ANNIVERSARY	2,006.85	2,011.87
ZBA COMP PERMIT	16,359.25	16,437.37
SCHOOL LUNCH	26,251.56	27,223.61



**EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK**

STABILIZATION	566,503.24	567,591.15
LIBRARY BUILDING TRUST	15,049.92	15,078.83
LIBRARY ENDOWMENT	37,756.35	37,828.86
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION	886,331.62	888,033.72
ARTS LOTTERY - CHECKING	7,167.70	7,171.25
RECREATION REVOLVING FUND	2,237.34	2,238.44

**GREENFIELD CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

GENERAL FUND	291,009.25	671,125.81
GENERAL FUND	199,112.06	292,600.34

**MMDT**

GENERAL FUND	30,633.50	30,690.96
CONSERVATION	52,705.17	52,803.93
CAPITAL STABILIZATION	133,453.78	133,704.03
CEMETERY	136,994.34	137,251.21
SUGARBUSH	15,338.76	15,367.53
MAIN STREET TREE	29,900.76	29,956.90
VETERANS MEMORIAL	15,124.50	15,152.97
LIBRARY	44,225.33	44,308.16

**PEOPLES BANK**

<b>CD</b>	123,600.45	125,199.13
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**UNIBANK**

GENERAL FUNDS	433,680.02	433,924.96
ONLINE TAX COLLECTIONS	929,938.18	1,039,222.15
ONLINE TOWN CLERK		4,628.81

	3,350.94	
ONLINE SCHOOL	94,152.64	97,466.02
CREDIT/DEBIT	1,067.48	1,152.75
ONLINE INSPECTOR	0.00	38,058.84
<b>LPL FINANCIAL - GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$76,574.84</b>	<b>\$76,574.84</b>
<b>DEPOSITS IN TRANSIT</b>	891.84	1,114.93
<b>CHECKS OUTSTANDING</b>	(\$468,874.16)	(\$272,080.10)
<b>ADJUSTMENTS/TRANFERS</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>BARTHOLOMEW - OPEB</b>	127,124.08	197,553.06
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$4,953,162.51</b>	<b>\$5,421,118.24</b>

## TREE WARDEN

Phone: 413-665-1460 / email: [Highway@townofsunderland.us](mailto:Highway@townofsunderland.us)

Tree maintenance is a continuous job that requires year-round monitoring. This year we attended tree warden seminars for the most up to date information on disease and tree care. In 2021 we have continued to maintain the trees along our town way with the help of professional tree crews as we prune and remove dying or dead trees. Trees were planted on North and South Main Street to replace trees removed. We worked closely with Eversource to monitor trees so they would be pruned away from lines before they cause damage. Our elm trees have been treated to prevent Dutch Elm Disease. The Elm Tree at the town hall Library has been cabled and pinned to help with the health of the tree. Several diseased and dying trees have been removed and replaced. We have had several wind storms over the year which has increased our tree expense costs effecting our original tree budget.

Respectfully,  
George Emery  
Tree Warden

## UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS SERVICES DISTRICT

Phone: 413-772-1571 / Address: 294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

**Mission Statement:** To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, 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 \$1793282.18 in Federal and State money per month from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities and sales). Compare this to \$58000 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

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## VILLAGE CENTER COMMITTEE (VCC)

The SVCC was appointed in 2019 as temporary committee (under the direction of the Selectboard) and charged with the following tasks:

Guide a consultant who will conduct a "Village Center Visioning Process" with the goal of:

- Enhancing the character and amenities of the Village Center
- Reviewing and improving pedestrian access and safety
- Reviewing and improving bicycle access and safety

- Reviewing and improving vehicular access and safety
- Reviewing zoning in the Village Center in order to serve the needs of the Village Center enhancement goals

The SVCC is comprised of seven (7) members as follows: two (2) at large, one business representative, and one (1) each from the Selectboard, Planning Board, Historical Commission and Community Pathways Committee.

The impetus for establishing the SVCC was anticipated changes to the intersection of Routes 116 and 47 and the desire for the Town to take a proactive role in understanding and shaping the impact of any changes to the center of town.

While the pandemic has limited the opportunity for funding a visioning project, during 2021 the town did receive a Rapid Recovery Plan grant funded by the state to assess impacts from COVID-19 and develop actionable, project-based recovery plans tailored to the unique economic challenges in downtowns, town centers, and commercial districts. Our project was led by OverUnder (Architecture & Planning) with technical assistance provided by Stantec (transportation), CivicMoxie (Zoning) and Levine Planning Strategies (Economic Development). The project provided a useful framework to help assess the impact of COVID 19 on the local business community and to start to explore strategies for invigorating the town center. Information on this process and access to the final report can be found here: <https://www.townofsunderland.us/village-center-committee/pages/rapid-recovery-plan-and-feedback-survey-sunderland-phase-ii-07262021>

Looking forward to 2022, the VCC will continue to work on coordinating all town center initiatives with particular emphasis on any changes proposed for the intersection of Routes 116 and 47.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lorin Starr, Chair

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## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Phone: 413-665-1442

In what has become an all too familiar refrain, COVID-19 continued to put a damper on business development and economic activity in 2021. Towards the end of the year, the number of Special Permit applications ticked up a bit signaling perhaps that the pandemic maybe loosening its grip and that the next year might be brighter and closer to pre-pandemic levels. While this made for a very slow year for the Zoning Board of Appeals, there were a couple matters that were addressed by the Board:

The only case deliberated by the Zoning Board of Appeals during 2021 occurred under a pandemic lockdown and was therefore conducted virtually via a Zoom meeting. This application was a request to keep chickens in a backyard coop on Hadley Road. Being located on a lot less than five acres, any agricultural use such as cooping chickens, requires a Special Permit under Section 125-II-5(C). The ZBA voted unanimously to grant a Special Permit with stipulations.

A second application was filed later in the year by a non-profit organization to run a small massage business and training program in a commercial business complex on Amherst Road; however, the applicant withdrew their application before the Zoning Board could open a hearing on the case.

A closing footnote to the Senior Affordable Housing Project at 120 North Main Street, now known as “Sanderson Place” – The project, which had been granted a Comprehensive Permit from the ZBA, received in March their Final Approval Letter from the Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development. This approval clears the way for the project to commence construction later in the year towards a completion target of summer/fall 2022.

Lastly, I would like to salute a member of the Board who finished his final year of service on the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2021. Over fifteen years ago, Stephen Schneider joined the ZBA as an Associate Member, and most importantly, as the official liaison from the Planning Board. Stephen’s insight and knowledge of Sunderland Zoning Bylaws was a valuable asset to the Board and he will be sorely missed. Thank you, Steve, for your longtime service on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

Correspondingly, Amanda Hanley joined the Board in the fall of 2021 as an Associate Member and new Planning Board liaison. Welcome to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Amanda!

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven A. Krol,  
Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

### **ACCOUNTANT**

The Town Accountant maintains custody of all town contracts and keeps a detailed record of the town debt, including the reasons for borrowing, the rate of interest when due, and payment provisions (MGL 41, §57). She/he is bound as well to keep a complete set of municipal books~ including each specific appropriation, the amounts and purpose of each expenditure and the receipts from each source of income. The accountant must inform town officers of unexpended balances in their appropriations (MGL 41, §58). Immediately upon the close of the calendar year, she/he must prepare statements detailing the preceding fiscal year's appropriations and expenditures, appropriations for the current fiscal year, and expenditures incurred during its first six months, as well as estimated expenditures for the second six months and estimates for the ensuing fiscal year. By August 1, the accountant or treasurer must furnish the assessors with a written report of the money received other than from taxes, loans, and trust funds for the preceding fiscal years (MGL 41, §54A). A critical function of the town accountant (MGL 41, §56) relates to the payment of the bills and payrolls, which must be examined for the requisite oaths and approvals. Should any claims be deemed fraudulent, unlawful, or excessive, payment authorization may be withheld. In such instances, a statement must be filed with the town treasurer, outlining the reasons for the refusal. Alternatively, if all is in order, the accountant will draw a warrant upon the treasury for payment.

### **APPROPRIATION**

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

### **ASSESSED VALUATION**

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

### **ASSESSORS**

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

### **CHERRY SHEET**

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

**DEPARTMENT HEAD**

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

**EXCLUSIONS**

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

**FY-FISCAL YEAR**

July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Example: FY2023 starts July 1, 2022 and ends June 30, 2023.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**FREE CASH**

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

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

**LEVY CEILING**

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

**LEVY LIMIT**

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

**LOAN INTEREST**

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

**MEDICARE**

Wages of local government employees hired after March 31, 1986, are generally subject to the hospital insurance (Medicare) portion of the social security tax under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which became effective on April 1, 1986. The tax is equal to 1.45% of

the employee's pay. The employer is required to contribute an amount equal to that deducted from the employee's pay (an additional 1.45%).

### **NEW GROWTH**

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

### **OMNIBUS ARTICLE**

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

### **OVERLAY**

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

### **OVERLAY SURPLUS**

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

### **OVERRIDE**

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

### **RESERVE FUND**

The reserve fund is a contingency fund usually created as part of the annual budget appropriations that is used to fund extraordinary and unforeseen expenses. It is disbursed through transfers approved by the finance committee. In general, extraordinary and unforeseen items such as an increased insurance premium or a new police cruiser are acceptable. Salary increases are generally not an acceptable use of this reserve.

### **RESOLUTION AID**

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

### **REVENUE SHARING**

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

### **SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**



School departments have a special status concerning a municipality's budget. Under state law (MGL71, §34), the legislative body of a town (town meeting) shall establish the total appropriation for the support of the public schools but may not limit the authority of the School Committee to determine expenditures within the total appropriation.

### **SELECTBOARD**

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

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

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

### **STABILIZATION**

The stabilization fund may be created pursuant to MGL 40, §5B. Any interest earned shall be added to and become a part of the fund. This fund may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. The fund may be appropriated in a town at the annual town meeting or a special town meeting by a 2/3 vote.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

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

### **TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE**

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

### **TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk certifies town meeting vote, to the treasurer, assessors, and accounting officer, with each appropriation in detail including how each appropriation is to be funded. The Town Clerk certifies all town meeting actions, debt, and overrides to the Department of Revenue. There are several other responsibilities the Town Clerk is required to perform under MGL or services to the community.

### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer is the custodian of all town funds. The position is responsible for the deposit, investment and disbursement of town funds. The Treasurer is empowered by town meeting to issue debt on behalf of the town with the approval of the Selectboard. During the year, the Treasurer must determine the cash needs of the town (i.e., when money will be available to invest and when money will have to be borrowed to meet expenses.) Treasurers should maintain a cash flow budget that is updated and adjusted on a monthly basis. They should review the banking services that are available and competitively seek those that are most cost effective. Investments should be made in

accordance with a written investment policy that is reviewed with the selectmen and the Finance Committee. A strong record keeping system is also important to document performance

### **WARRANT**

There are three types:

1. Treasurer's Warrant which is signed by the Selectboard that authorizes the Treasurer to pay a list of bills (MGL41, §56).
2. Assessors Warrant to Collect which authorizes the Collector to collect the amount of tax that has been committed to the Collector (MGL 59, §55)
3. Town Meeting Warrant. All town meetings must be called by a warrant that states the time and place of the meeting and lists all items of business to be acted upon. The warrant must be posted 7 days before the annual town meeting and 14 days prior to a special town meeting (MGL 39, §10).

**NOTES:**