



**Department of Veteran Services**  
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301  
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401  
[www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

**Christopher Demars, Director**  
**Laura Thorne, Assistant**  
**Stacey Geneczko, Deputy Director**  
**Jeffrey Cochran, VSO**

**UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT**

*Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district*

Member Towns

- Ashfield
- Bernardston
- Buckland
- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield
- Hawley
- Heath
- Leverett
- Leyden
- Monroe
- Montague
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Plainfield
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Sunderland
- Warwick
- Wendell
- Whately

**UPVVSD Advisory Board Meeting**

**Date: Tuesday January 7, 2025**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Location: UPVVSD Office, 294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301**

**Chairperson's Statement** - This meeting is not being recorded by the UPVVSD Advisory Board. If any other persons present are recording this meeting, you must notify the chairperson at this time.

**Call to Order: Chairman Dennis Brennan**

**Roll Call of Members:**

**Prior Meeting Minutes: (January 2024):** Reading of minutes, motion to approve minutes.

**New Business:**

- 2026 FY District Budget
- Board Positions Elections (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)
- Van replacement put off until FY2027
- Town of Leverett Pending Housing Plans and Chapter 115
- Attended EOVS Annual Training

**Old Business:**

- Memorial Flag requests for towns requested, very few responded
- District Towns with no links to Office Website

**Next Meeting:** Proposed October 7, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

**Adjournment:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED**

*\*Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice. Posted in accordance with M.G.L. c 30A § 18-25.*



**UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS’ SERVICES DISTRICT**

*Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district*

October 8, 2024 5:00 PM UPVSD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
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- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

**Chairpersons Statement and Meeting called to order:** 5:00 PM by Chairman Denis Brennan

**Roll Call of Members:** Present - Ashfield, Bernardston, Deerfield, Erving, Greenfield, Monroe, Northfield, Shutesbury and Director of UPVSD Chris Demars

**-Approval of prior meeting Minutes:** (Jan 2024) motion presented by Town of Ashfield, seconded by Town of Shutesbury, vote passed unanimously.

**-New Business:** Memorial Flag requests sent to Town Reps for orders; please have orders in by Dec 1 2024 so we can get 2024.

-FY2024 Budget Credits for a total of \$8,732 for all 26 towns and cities in the district. 56% credit for Greenfield the other 44% will be credited to the towns in the FY2026 budget.

-Chris Demars informed the board of the Hero Act. Change in new benefits for Veterans to include property tax abatements and excise tax abatements

-FY2024 Office Work Statistics discussed (Large increase of work due to Pact Act)

**-Old Business:** District received Recertification from the EOVS to stay a district until July 2026.

-Budget was passed for FY2025 and we have received payment from each town in the district for FY2025.

-Still need to update UPVSD Website on all towns’ websites

**-Next meeting date:** set for January 7, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the UPVSD offices

**-Motion to adjourn:** 1830 by Ashfield, seconded by Shutesbury, meeting adjourned

**District Assessments FY 26**  
**FY24 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District budget less Greenfield portion (56%)**

		Greenfield	District	Total		Retiree Ins.	Total District	Grand Total	District Credit	Final Assessment
		\$181,255.27	\$142,414.86	\$323,670		\$8,327	\$142,414.86	\$150,741.48	\$ 3,630.00	\$147,111.48
	EQV 2022	50%	Population	50%	Total %					
Ashfield	293,407,600	1.8%	1,695	1.8%	3.6%	\$ 320.59	\$ 5,158.05	\$5,478.64	\$ 131.47	\$5,347.17
Bernardston	289,619,100	1.8%	2,102	2.3%	4.0%	\$ 355.99	\$ 5,750.70	\$6,106.69	\$ 146.58	\$5,960.11
Buckland	270,428,900	1.7%	1,816	2.0%	3.6%	\$ 318.87	\$ 5,144.13	\$5,463.01	\$ 131.12	\$5,331.89
Charlemont	155,406,800	0.9%	1,185	1.3%	2.2%	\$ 196.28	\$ 3,173.52	\$3,369.80	\$ 80.89	\$3,288.91
Colrain	203,121,700	1.2%	1,606	1.7%	3.0%	\$ 261.81	\$ 4,235.77	\$4,497.58	\$ 107.97	\$4,389.62
Conway	298,724,500	1.8%	1,761	1.9%	3.7%	\$ 329.65	\$ 5,305.76	\$5,635.41	\$ 135.24	\$5,500.18
Deerfield	869,370,900	5.3%	5,090	5.5%	10.8%	\$ 956.16	\$ 15,387.43	\$16,343.59	\$ 392.21	\$15,951.38
Erving	969,923,800	5.9%	1,665	1.8%	7.7%	\$ 696.78	\$ 10,997.57	\$11,694.35	\$ 280.32	\$11,414.04
Gill	183,855,300	1.1%	1,551	1.7%	2.8%	\$ 245.95	\$ 3,983.61	\$4,229.56	\$ 101.54	\$4,128.02
Hawley	52,571,500	0.3%	353	0.4%	0.7%	\$ 61.99	\$ 999.97	\$1,061.96	\$ 25.49	\$1,036.47
Heath	105,196,700	0.6%	723	0.8%	1.4%	\$ 125.57	\$ 2,026.55	\$2,152.12	\$ 51.65	\$2,100.46
Leverett	338,579,700	2.1%	1,865	2.0%	4.1%	\$ 361.57	\$ 5,812.36	\$6,173.92	\$ 148.15	\$6,025.77
Leyden	104,479,300	0.6%	734	0.8%	1.4%	\$ -	\$ 2,037.21	\$2,037.21	\$ 51.93	\$1,985.29
Monroe	31,522,700	0.2%	118	0.1%	0.3%	\$ 28.53	\$ 455.63	\$484.16	\$ 11.61	\$472.55
Montague	1,034,121,100	6.3%	8,580	9.3%	15.6%	\$ 1,370.14	\$ 22,185.32	\$23,555.46	\$ 565.48	\$22,989.98
New Salem	134,880,400	0.8%	983	1.1%	1.9%	\$ 166.16	\$ 2,684.44	\$2,850.61	\$ 68.42	\$2,782.18
Northfield	612,926,000	3.7%	2,866	3.1%	6.8%	\$ 607.51	\$ 9,737.81	\$10,345.32	\$ 248.21	\$10,097.12
Plainfield	120,158,000	0.7%	633	0.7%	1.4%	\$ 65.08	\$ 2,018.37	\$2,083.44	\$ 51.45	\$2,032.00
Rowe	539,813,700	3.3%	424	0.5%	3.8%	\$ -	\$ 5,348.08	\$5,348.08	\$ 136.32	\$5,211.76
Shelburne	315,346,600	1.9%	1,884	2.0%	4.0%	\$ 350.30	\$ 5,639.44	\$5,989.74	\$ 143.74	\$5,846.00
Shutesbury	258,085,500	1.6%	1,717	1.9%	3.4%	\$ 302.83	\$ 4,884.57	\$5,187.40	\$ 124.50	\$5,062.90
Sunderland	458,245,200	2.8%	3,663	4.0%	6.8%	\$ 594.33	\$ 9,617.19	\$10,211.52	\$ 245.13	\$9,966.39
Warwick	91,765,300	0.6%	780	0.8%	1.4%	\$ 123.30	\$ 1,997.31	\$2,120.61	\$ 50.91	\$2,069.70
Wendell	119,774,300	0.7%	924	1.0%	1.7%	\$ 152.26	\$ 2,462.33	\$2,614.59	\$ 62.76	\$2,551.83
Whately	333,516,600	2.0%	1,607	1.7%	3.8%	\$ 334.95	\$ 5,371.73	\$5,706.68	\$ 136.92	\$5,569.76
Totals:	8,184,841,200	50.0%	46,325	50.0%	100.0%	\$ 8,326.62	\$ 142,414.86	\$150,741.48	\$3,630.00	\$147,111.48

## Estimated Ch. 115 Benefit Payments FY26

	Estimated by July 2025	5%	per month	Estimated Benefits annual
Ashfield	\$ 661.50	\$ 33.08	\$ 694.58	\$ 8,334.90
Bernardston	\$ 330.75	\$ 16.54	\$ 347.29	\$ 4,167.45
Buckland	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 137.50	\$ 2,887.50	\$ 34,650.00
Charlemont	\$ 630.00	\$ 31.50	\$ 661.50	\$ 7,938.00
Colrain	\$ 400.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 5,040.00
Conway	\$ 330.00	\$ 16.50	\$ 346.50	\$ 4,158.00
Deerfield	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 1,995.00	\$ 23,940.00
Erving	\$ 877.89	\$ 43.89	\$ 921.78	\$ 11,061.41
Gill	\$ 330.75	\$ 16.54	\$ 347.29	\$ 4,167.45
Greenfield	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 24,150.00	\$ 289,800.00
Hawley	\$ 315.00	\$ 15.75	\$ 330.75	\$ 3,969.00
Heath	\$ 350.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 4,410.00
Leverett	\$ 375.00	\$ 18.75	\$ 393.75	\$ 4,725.00
Leyden	\$ 900.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 11,340.00
Monroe	\$ 315.00	\$ 15.75	\$ 330.75	\$ 3,969.00
Montague	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 7,875.00	\$ 94,500.00
New Salem	\$ 350.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 4,410.00
Northfield	\$ 367.50	\$ 18.38	\$ 385.88	\$ 4,630.50
Plainfield	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rowe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shelburne	\$ 367.50	\$ 18.38	\$ 385.88	\$ 4,630.50
Shutesbury	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 12,600.00
Sunderland	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 44,100.00
Warwick	\$ 367.50	\$ 18.38	\$ 385.88	\$ 4,630.50
Wendell	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 78.75	\$ 1,653.75	\$ 19,845.00
Whately	\$ 350.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 4,410.00



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**UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT**

*Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district*

**Veterans' Flag Holders / Veterans' Flags**

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
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September 11, 2024

Dear Selectboard/Town Administrator/Veterans' Graves Officer

If your town would like to order gravesite flags for Memorial Day 2025 as required by law, please let us know an approximate count by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. If we enter these on the state benefits website, your town will be reimbursed 75% of the cost. By pooling all the towns into one large shipment that we would distribute to your town halls, we can get the final cost down to around **25¢ each after reimbursement**. This past year we purchased over 91 gross for the district.

Please adhere to the deadline for your requests. This will allow soliciting bids and ensuring there are flags for all towns in district. The Flag cost will go up after Jan 1, 2025.

Although not required by law, many families wish to receive flag holders. We currently sell them at cost (\$16.00 aluminum) to families with proof of veterans' service and death, or to a family to replace a stolen holder. Your town may also order inventory from us if needed. We usually keep around 100 in stock for all the conflicts.

If your community would like to provide these flag holders for veterans' buried in your town's cemeteries free of charge on initial issue, let us know and we will create a invoice with proof of veterans' internment in your town and a signed receipt by the family or funeral home. Again, this is **not** required by law but is a gesture by the town.

Regards,

Chris Demars, Director

UPVWSD Flag Order Sheet for 2025

. Per Flag Onbase

Town	Quantity	Ordered by/tel number
Ashfield	2 Gross	Wayne Farrell 413-628-4678
Bernardston	3 Gross	please automatically order every year
Buckland		
Charlemont		Lynn Hathaway 413-339-5707
Colrain		Anna Lavarreda 413-624-7100
Conway		Don Graham 413 475 2498
Deerfield		Fred Beckta 413-345-8820
Erving		Bryan Smith 413-422-2800 ext 1102
Gill		Merri Bourbeau 413 863-8613
Greenfield	32 Gross	Chris Demars 413-772-1571
Hawley		Tinky 413-339-4747
Heath	72	Hilmna Sumner
Leverett		Joe Raskevitz 413 548 9205
Leyden		Michelle Giarusso (413) 774-4111 Ext. 1
Monroe		Alice 413 424 7603
Montague		
New Salem		Email Town
Northfield	4 Gross	Denis Brennan 413-522-0995
Plainfield		mike - 413 634 5605 new vets officer
Rowe		John 305-439-7760
Shelburne		Teri Nartowicz?
Shutesbury		Al Springer 413-259-1578
Sunderland		Cindi Bennett
Warwick		David Young - 978 544-6315 Back Door Entry code 31
Wendell		Judith Putnam 978-544-7439
Whately	2 Gross	Ray Bilell

**F Drive: Cemetery Flag Folder**

District

7

Greenfield

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**Duties of the Officers**

**Chair:** The chair shall convene regularly scheduled board meetings, preside or arrange for other members of the executive committee to preside at each meeting in the following order: vice-chair, and secretary. Additional duties are listed below.

- Oversee board meetings.
- Work in partnership with the director of the UPVVSD to make sure board resolutions are carried out.
- Call special meetings as necessary.
- Assist the UPVVSD director in preparing agenda for board meetings.
- Assist the UPVVSD in conducting new board member orientation.
- Coordinate director's annual performance evaluation.
- Work with member communities to recruit new board members when needed.
- Act as an alternate spokesperson for the UPVVSD.

**Vice Chair:** The vice chair shall chair committees on special subjects as designated by the board. Other duties are as follows.

- Attend all board meetings.
- Carry out special assignments as requested by the board chair.
- Understand the responsibilities of the board chair and be able to perform these duties in the chair's absence.
- Participate as a vital part of the board leadership.

**Secretary:** The secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained. These duties will be assisted with the help of the UPVVSD staff. Other duties performed by the secretary include the following:

- Attend all board meetings.
- Maintain all board records and ensure their accuracy and safety.
- Review board minutes.
- Assume responsibilities of the chair in the absence of the board chair, and vice chair.