



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Fiscal Year 2025

Annual Town Report

7 Brattleboro Road
Leyden, MA 01301

www.townofleyden.com
413-774-4111



Leyden Massachusetts



Established on March 12, 1784

Incorporated on February 22, 1809

Population 780

United States Senators

Elizbeth A. Warren

Edward J. Markey

Representative in United States Congress

James P. McGovern

Massachusetts Governor

Maura Healy

State Senator

Joanne Comerford

Representative in General Court

Natalie M. Blais

Executive Committee Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

Jay DiPucchio, Chair – Regionally Elected

Jane Peirce, Vice Chair – Regionally Elected

Emily Johnson – Franklin Regional Planning Board Appointee

Virginia Desorgher – Council Appointee

Front cover photo submitted by Devorah Vester

Back cover photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Introduction

Welcome to the Town of Leyden's 2025 Annual Report. In this report you will find information on Leyden's municipal government, social and cultural activities, our regional schools, and county organizations that support the wellbeing and vitality of our town and its citizens. This report covers the 2025 fiscal year (FY'25), which is from July 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2025. The change from a calendar year to a fiscal year was voted on in June of 2024 at the annual town meeting.

Massachusetts requires that towns make available an annual town report before the annual town meeting. The following reports are those that are required to be included: Select Board for the annual or preceding fiscal year, School Committee, Accountant for the preceding fiscal year, and Treasurer for the preceding fiscal year. All other reports of town officials, boards, commissions, councils, and other information regarding individuals and town or county activities is decided by vote or by-law or as the Select Board considers expedient. The contents of this Annual Report continue what has been common practice in Leyden for many years and set by the Select Board to include reports beyond those legally required. However, it is not a comprehensive report because it is voluntary for the other boards, commissions, councils, and organizations to submit. The FY'25 Annual Town Report is useful in providing a recap of town decisions and activities and is an interesting look at the previous year.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the governance, maintenance, educational, safety, and social activities of Leyden, and to those who submitted the reports and the photographs for this report. Our tiny town is unique not only because of its rural beauty and character but also because of all the residents who choose to live here as friends and neighbors.

*Cattle Resting on the
edge of Beaver
Meadow on Old
Greenfield Road.
Photo submitted by
Carolyn Asbury.*



Dedication

We proudly dedicate this Annual Report to Leyden's employees in recognition and appreciation of their essential skills and contributions to sustain Leyden as a livable community with effective services.

Although Leyden is a tiny town, we are not exempt from Massachusetts General Laws and the requirements to maintain a fiscally sound and responsive government. In the past those who volunteered for elected and appointed positions bore much of the responsibility. The expectations of residents and the State have increased over time and without our employees, daily tasks and administrative functions would not be possible to maintain. The team does so with the capabilities and aptitudes they bring to their positions but also continue to advance through training and education. Much of their work is not readily visible, however it is vital, and we rely on them to keep the town running smoothly. THANK YOU for all that you do!

ADMINISTRATION:

Michele Giarusso, Town Coordinator
Paul McClatchy III, Town Clerk
George Stephan, Town Clerk
Janell Howard, Administrative Assistant
Linda Allis, Council on Aging Assistant
Jeff Miller, Building Maintenance and Custodian

FINANCIAL TEAM:

Susan Bobe, Town Treasurer and Tax Collector
Angelica Desroches, Accountant
Alice Wozniak, Assistant Assessor

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Bill Brooks, Superintendent
Arnold (AJ) Egloff, Foreman
Seasonal workers: Paul Zimmerman, Dave Brooks, Erik Johnson

LIBRARY

Karin Parks, Library Director

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Carey Barton, Fire Chief
Corinda Thompson, EMS Coordinator
Caleb Howard
Timothy Howard
Matt Muka
Tina Riddell
Samantha Wood

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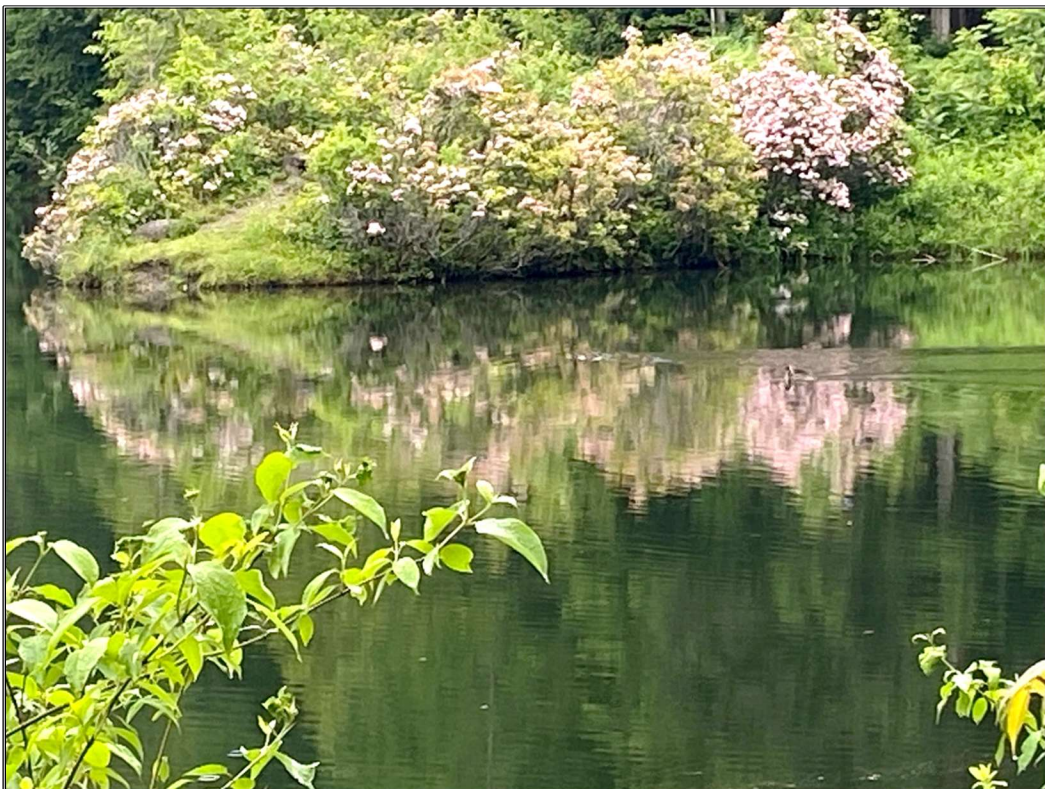
General Government

Select Board

Town Coordinator

Elected Town Officials

Appointed Town Officials



Leyden Glen Reservoir in Summer. Photo submitted by Lisa Limont.

Select Board

The Select Board (SB) began this fiscal year not only with committee appointments but assignments as board members to liaise with Leyden committees and district and regional organizations. Erica Jensen agreed to be the point person for the Building Needs Study Committee, the public safety departments, and committees (police, fire, emergency management, highway), and the SB representative on the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Advisory Board. Jeff Baker agreed to be the liaison for the School Committee, the school district, and the school administration. Katherine DiMatteo is the contact for the remaining committees, councils, and commissions. We set an intention to meet regularly with the other Leyden elected boards to coordinate and share information.

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

At long last, the new Personnel Policies Manual and Financial Policies Manual is completed and available online. In addition, the following policies have been approved: A Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Policy sets forth the rules pertaining to Fire Department equipment owned by the Town of Leyden that can be taken and kept on hand by the employee until the employee leaves service as a town firefighter and the use of personal vehicles to respond to calls is clarified in this policy; and Scheduled Highway Closures Procedures that details who has to be notified and when.

The salary and wage classification and compensation plan was approved as a working document. New requirements from the State are for towns to post salary/wage ranges for all positions based on grade levels in job descriptions. Further work to be undertaken is to bring our job descriptions in line with these requirements for all stipend, salary, and hourly positions.

Other policies that were completed during the year: Complete Streets Policy, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation and transition plan, and ADA Nondiscrimination and Grievance policies.

The Attorney General approved the Curb Cut General Bylaw that was voted on at the Annual Town Meeting in June 2024 with the following change: Remove Section 3 (C) regarding withholding a building permit if a curb cut is not approved by the Highway Superintendent because this provision is preempted by the State Building Code, 780 CMR § 1.00 that regulates when a building permit can be withheld. The authority to approve a building permit is only enforced by the Building Inspector, and curb cuts fall within building codes. However, our bylaw does retain the clause that the Highway Superintendent must approve the driveway design, and the driveway construction shall be completed before any occupancy and use of the premises is permitted.

Leyden applied for and received a Community Compact Cabinet's Efficiency and Regionalization (E&R) grant to explore the ways Leyden and Bernardston can cooperate in town services and management. We contracted with the Collins Center based out of University of Massachusetts, Boston to lead the project. The grant is for 18 months until June 30, 2026. A citizens advisory committee was formed, chaired by Katherine DiMatteo, with an equal number of representatives from Leyden and Bernardston from the Select Boards, the Finance Committees, as well as citizen representatives. Interviews with each town's elected boards, committees, and staff were conducted and a comparison of departments and services was completed. Review of this information will be presented at a Public Forum in July 2025 followed by a survey to be sent to residents of Leyden and Bernardston. Another Public Forum will be held in the Fall to share the survey results and

recommendations from the Collins Center. The advisory committee will consider the recommendations and decide on the next steps.

The Leyden 2023 Town Report has been awarded second place in the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) contest for towns with populations under 5,000. The award letter noted: “Town Reports serve to communicate important information to town residents and promote an understanding of and involvement in local government. The MMA applauds your efforts in making this publication an effective tool for your community.” The award was presented at the MMA Conference on January 24th. Thanks go to Janell Howard, our Administrative Assistant, who organized and completed the design and report contents.

Thanks to all who attended the Annual and Special Town Meetings. We had strong in-person attendance: fifty-nine at the Annual and thirty-two at the Special Town Meetings with three virtual participants. The speaker system was upgraded to improve the sound in the Town Hall. A large TV screen was purchased and set up to allow virtual participation. There were glitches with the system for virtual participation that we will improve for future meetings. This is a step in our efforts to facilitate more participation and make the Town Meetings more accessible to all.

After an extended search, George Stephan accepted the position of Town Clerk as of the beginning of April 2025. Welcome George! The Select Board revised the job description to include some special project work that was done by the Administrative Assistant and expanded the Town Clerk position to nineteen hours. The Administrative Assistant position has been eliminated and administrative support for the Fire and Highway departments, and for some of our committees will no longer be provided.

Grants and additional funding:

The Mass in Motion grant of \$4250.00 for this year funded improvements to Avery Field: handicapped accessible picnic tables; materials and construction of a walking path; and handicapped parking signs as well as other repairs required for ADA compliance. The Leyden Highway Department and the Recreation Committee stretched the grants funds with either matching funds or labor to make these improvements possible. In addition, railings for the Town Hall Kitchen and Town Office steps have been installed.

Additional grants and revenue received is reported in the Town Coordinator Report.

Important issues:

The Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) Agreement was presented to the district towns (Leyden, Bernardston, and Northfield) in April 2025. PVRSD School Committee and the Select Board and Finance Committee members from the district towns have worked separately on revisions to the current District Agreement last approved in 1991. This resulted in two different versions of the District Agreement. It is expected that a joint meeting might resolve differences, and a District Agreement can be brought to the towns for approval in FY26.

In addition, the Six-Town School Regionalization Committee has drafted a District Agreement to be presented to the six towns at a Special Meeting. This project to form a six-town regional district began in 2019 to address how to provide the best educational opportunities within budget limitations and declining enrollment. All six towns must approve the District Agreement in order for the formation of

a new school district. If approved, the 1991 PVR District Agreement could remain or a revised PVR District Agreement could also be voted on and would serve until the new six-town school district was in place.

Two large capital improvement projects are in proposal stages seeking approval from the State for funding. PVRSD proposes expanding the current high school facility to accommodate the Bernardston/Leyden and Northfield Elementary Schools. The Franklin County Technical School proposes expanding its current facility to accommodate increased enrollment and additional technical education curriculum. Both of these projects will entail bonds to pay for the design and construction therefore the towns in these districts will have to approve and pay their share of the costs.

Together these are confusing and overlapping issues but of significant importance for Leyden and our neighboring towns. The challenge is to determine what plans, budgets and capital expenditures align with future school enrollment numbers and quality of education. Public Forums are planned in FY26 so that citizens are informed of the plans and implications and have an opportunity to ask questions prior to any votes brought to the towns.

Plans for FY26:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) evaluated all the town buildings and facilities to complete our American with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation and transition plan which resulted in an extensive list of improvements. The Building Needs Study Committee and the Select Board reviewed the plan and determined which projects are priorities in the short, medium, and long-term depending on structural barriers, importance to accessibility, and cost. We will seek to find grant funding for the costliest of the projects, however some projects may need to be included in a one to three year capital plan for the town buildings.

After the vote at the Annual Town Meeting in 2024 to investigate the aggregation of an electric rate for the town, Colonial Power Group, which facilitated the 14 Franklin County towns' aggregation plan, was approved by the Select Board to move the project forward on Leyden's behalf. The plan for Leyden to offer an aggregation program was submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for approval in May 2025. After approval, the next step is to go out for bid on pricing and terms of service from electric suppliers. Once decided, all households served by an electric utility will be included with an option to opt-out. The program would be flexible, allowing residents to come and go into the rate plan with no fees or penalties to move in and out of the plan. Also, it may be possible for Leyden to join the 14-town aggregation plan.

Thanks:

With great regret, the Select Board accepted the resignation of our town clerk, Paul McClatchy III. Paul brought to the Town Clerk position experience, and professionalism, and his shoes were difficult to fill. Paul kindly gave us six months' notice and then agreed to stay on for three additional months when our initial search for a replacement was not successful. How grateful we are for his willingness and flexibility, including providing another month of training for the new Town Clerk and overseeing the Annual Town Election.

We also accepted, with deep disappointment, Janell Howard's resignation as Administrative Assistant in March 2025. Janell was an invaluable addition to our town's governance. She, with

graciousness and cheer, took on the many varied tasks that the Select Board asked of her and some administrative work from town departments and committees. We will miss her although she has promised to stay active on the Conservation Commission, Emergency Management Committee, and Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee.

Our appreciation and gratitude to Karen O'Neil who served six years on the PVRSD School Committee with dedication and commitment. Congratulations to Stephanie Arroyo who stepped up as a write-in candidate for the school committee to fill that open 4-year term beginning November 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine DiMatteo

Members of the Select Board:

Katherine DiMatteo, Chair June 2024- 2025

Erica Jensen, Chair June 2025-2026

Jeff Baker



Photo submitted by Pam Brown.

Town Coordinator

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress

- Achieved the title Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) on September 25, 2024, through a grant received for online courses from the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The courses run once per year throughout the summer. You must pass a test and meet all the requirements of the online work projects to earn the title for certification. It is highly recommended that all municipalities have at least one person who holds this title for the purchasing and signing of contracts for the entire town. The certification lasts 3 years and then you must take reaccreditation classes.
- The West Leyden Road “bog” design, planning and permitting project got underway with a signed contract with Gill Engineering, an engineering firm that worked on several culvert, bridges and road projects in the past. The town secured leftover money from the 10-mile bridge project from the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). On behalf of the town, I also applied for and received a Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) grant in the fall of 2024. As estimated costs were going up for the surveying and permitting for this project and both grants were surely needed for the engineering firm to do their job to get all designs, plans and permitting. I coordinated with the engineers, vendors, and paid bills from the grants. This project will be finished by June 30, 2026. Next steps are to apply for construction grants for this project through 2026.
- After receiving the designation of “Green Community” in the spring of 2024 I worked in collaboration with the Building Needs Committee to identify ways to reduce our energy costs in town buildings. Our first project was to insulate the town office building, town hall and roof of the highway department. I coordinated with the consultant and vendors to oversee the project and pay the bills from the grant. This was completed in the spring of 2025. We will be continuing to work on further energy saving measures with the remaining money. Once we have exhausted our original designated funds the opportunity is there to apply for more grants for energy saving projects.
- Efficiency and Regionalization grant for shared services with Bernardston. Applied for and received a grant for the cost of hiring the Collins Center as consultants to complete a feasibility study for the towns of Bernardston and Leyden regarding the full range of town obligations and services to determine those that could be shared, up to and including the possibility of a design for a single entity. Leyden is the host town, and I manage all the coordination of the grant, bill paying and reconciliation. This grant is through June 30, 2026.
- Opioid settlement funds-ongoing applications for National Opioid Settlements. Ongoing revenues are received from these settlements in very small amounts. Previous town meeting approved our share to go into a special fund for ongoing education working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to coordinate.
- MIIA risk management grant – This past year we applied to insulate the library basement. Coordinated and completed the installation of Insulation in the basement with the funds received.
- MEMA grant for our Emergency Management department. Applied for and purchased portable GPS mobile radios for use during emergencies.

- Council on Aging grant helped facilitate with the state.
- Cultural Council grant helped facilitate with the state.
- Partial replacement of the roof and gutters on the town office building. Coordinated the installation of roof repair with the vendor.
- Department of Local Services (DLS) financial review- coordinated with a member of DLS to assess our current policies and practices to strengthen our operations. The Select Board and Finance Committee had a lengthy review with the financial team to make sure the new policies reflected the work of each department involved. The financial policies were accepted by the Select Board and are posted on the town website.
- Financial team quarterly meetings-a result of the DLS review was a recommendation that our financial team comprised of myself, the town accountant, town treasurer and tax collector and the assistant assessor make sure we are in compliance with Division of Local Services (DLS) policies, recommendations and deadlines; that tax bills are out on time and taxes are collected on time according to the law. I coordinate these team meetings quarterly, make sure we are all in compliance and discuss any issues that require action. The Financial Team, Select Board and Finance Committee meet yearly and as needed.

Grants or additional funding received

- Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) grant-Received \$142,240 for the West Leyden Road “bog” design, planning and permitting of a box culvert or bridge. Grant ends June 30, 2026.
- Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) grant- \$126,600 received for the West Leyden Road “bog” project. Completed June 30, 2025.
- Green Community Grant -\$126,540 for energy saving measures. Some funds were used in FY25.
- Efficiency and Regionalization Grant -\$75,000 for an 18-month study.
- MIIA Risk Management -\$10,500.
- Opioid funds-ongoing very small amounts (under \$500/year) coming in regularly.
- MEMA EMPG grant-\$2500.
- Office of Inspector General grant for MCPPO course-\$2500.
- Civic Technology and Life Grant \$5,000- Purchased smart TV, owl camera, microphones and speakers for the town hall for better sound and ability for remote access to the annual and special town meetings or any other special event or meeting.
- Woodlands Partnership Grant \$25,000-Purchased a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for the Fire department. This grant was applied for as a vehicle for search and rescue and wildland firefighting equipment. With this vehicle we will also be able to assist other towns through mutual aid.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Giarusso, Town Coordinator

Elected Officials

The following were the elected officials in FY25. All serve terms of three years unless otherwise noted.

Board of Assessors

John Rodgers..... 2025
Robert DePalma..... 2026
Kenneth Spatcher..... 2027

Board of Health

Elizabeth Kuzdeba..... 2025
Jerry Lund 2026
Marcia Miller 2027

Constable

Vanessa Russell..... 2025
Gary Russell..... 2026
Philip Juliani 2027

Library Trustees (3 years term)

Carolyn Asbury..... 2025
Tom Raffensperger 2026
Vanessa Russell..... 2027

Moderator (1 year term)

Jack Golden 2025

Planning Board (5 years term)

James Brodeur 2025
Emily Yazwinski..... 2026
Elizabeth Kidder¹ 2027
Sarah Bartholomew..... 2028
David Curtis 2029

Select Board

Katherine DiMatteo 2025
Erica Jensen..... 2026
Jeffrey Baker..... 2027

Tree Warden (1 year term)

William Brooks..... 2025

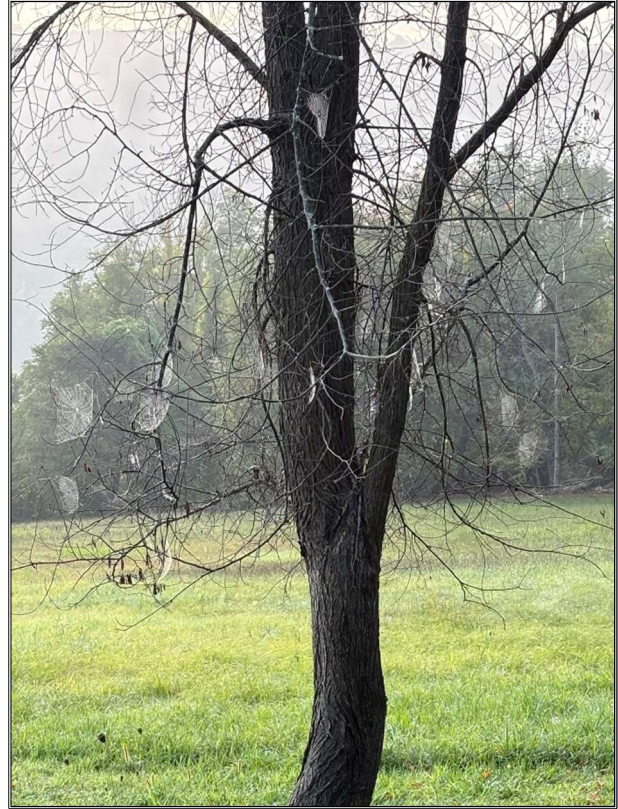


Photo submitted by Hemsley Hughes.

Note 1: Appointed to fill a vacancy until the 2027 Annual Town Election.

Appointed Officials

Unless otherwise noted, all appointments are for the fiscal year, as in 1-year term, starting on July 1st, 2024, and ending on June 30th, 2025.

Accountant (3-year term)

Angelica Desroches 2026

Agricultural Commission (3-year term)

Tom Ashley 2026

Warren Facey, Jr. 2026

Beth Kuzdeba 2027

Carol Kuzdeba 2027

Open seat 2028

Building Needs Study Committee

Ken Medvetz

Richard Parks

David Pomerantz

David Vreeland

Conservation Commission (3-year term)

Donald Sadowsky 2025

Janell Howard 2026

Karen O'Neil 2026

Evan Abramson 2027

Andrea Rasmussen² 2028

Constables

Ginny Rockwood

Michael McGoldrick²

Council On Aging (3-year term)

Chris Maguire 2025

Anne Garvey 2025

Meredith Lein 2025

Amy St. Clair 2026

Becky King 2026

Laura Schlaikjer² 2028

Open seat 2028

Cultural Council (3-year term)

Lewis Becker 2025

Rhonda Wainshilbaum 2025

Pat Williams 2025

Sara Seinberg 2026

Cornelia Reid 2027

Deputy Collector

Arthur Jones

East Hill Cemetery Commission (3-year term)

Andy Baker 2025

Sid Herron 2025

Rob Snedeker 2025

Deborah Bernard 2026

Kayla Bernhard² 2027

Emergency Management Director (EMD)

Jeff Miller

Emergency Management Deputy/Public Information Officer

John Richardson

Fence Viewers

Open Seat

Open Seat

Fire Department

Carey Barton, Fire Chief

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Member

Jeff Baker

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Member

Michele Giarusso

Franklin Regional Planning Board Representatives

Town of Leyden Representative appointed

by Select Board: Katherine DiMatteo

Planning Board Representative appointed

by Planning Board: Open Seat

Franklin Regional Transit Authority Member

Erica Jensen

Alternate: Town Coordinator

**FRCOG Digital Equity Program
Representative**

Katherine DiMatteo

Historical Commission (3-year term)

Amy St. Clair 2025
Vanessa Russell..... 2025
Nannette Rolstad 2026
Gary Russell..... 2026
Linda Allis 2027
Holly Spatcher 2027

**Honorary Members – Historical
Commission – no term expiration**

Warren Facey, Jr.
Fred Feldman, Pound Keeper Emeritus

Inspector of Barns & Animals

Sean Berthiaume

**Leyden Emergency Management
Committee (3-year term)**

Elizabeth Kidder 2026
Anders Ferguson 2027
Janell Howard 2027

**Mass In Motion Advisory Committee (3-
year term)**

Trish Saline 2027
Amy St. Clair 2027
Jerry Lund 2027
Meredith Lein 2027
Karin Parks..... 2027

Municipal Light Plant (MLP) (3-year term)

MLP Board: Select Board
Jack Golden, Manager 2026
John Wallace, Assistant Manager. 2026

MLP Advisory Board

Anders Ferguson
Al Woodhull
Select Board Representative: Erica Jensen

**Open Space and Recreation Committee
(3-year term)**

Robert DePalma 2025
Jim Brodeur 2027
Pam Brown..... 2027
Michael Dobler 2027
Janell Howard..... 2027
Karin Parks 2027
Pat Williams 2027
Alternate: Al Woodhull..... 2027

Planning Board Alternate (5-year term)

Devorah Vester² 2028

Police Department

Bernardston Police Chief James Palmieri
Bernardston Police Officers

Poll Workers

Carolyn Asbury
Lorette Bete
Christine Brodeur
Corey Cusson
Aaron Dulles
Marie Lovley
Joyce Muka
Karen O'Neil
Karin Parks
Ann Pratt
Doug Pratt
Steve Richter
Nanette Rolstad
Sara Seiberg

Recreation Committee Appointments

Ella Muka
Karin Parks
Abbi Pratt
Steve Richter
Gary Russell

**Regional Emergency Planning Committee
(REPC) Representative**

David Pomerantz

**Regionalization and Efficiency Grant
Advisory Committee (18-months term)**

Katherin DiMatteo 2026
Liz Kidder 2026
Ginger Robinson 2026

Registrar of Voters (3 years term)

Pamela Brown..... 2027
Martha Hopewell..... 2025
Al Woodhall 2026

Tax Collector (3-year term)

Susan Bobe 2027

Town Clerk (3-year term)

George Stephan² 2028

Town Counsel

Donna MacNicol

Treasurer (3-year term)

Susan Bobe 2026

Veterans' Agent

Christopher Demars

**Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' District
Representative**

Erik Johnson

Wells Trust Representative (5-year term)

Lois W. Feldman..... 2025

**Woodlands Partnership of Northwest
Mass. Representative (3-year term)**

Elizabeth Kidder 2025

Zoning Board of Appeals (3-year term)

Cecelia Tusinski 2025
Arthur Baker 2026
Jim Brodeur 2026
Robert Reilly..... 2026
Open seat 2025

Moderator Appointments

Finance Committee (3-year term)

Ginger Robinson, Chair 2026
Pam Brown..... 2026
Nate Messer..... 2026
Carolyn Asbury 2027
Paul Hake..... 2027

**Franklin County Technical School
Committee (3-year term)**

Gerald Levine 2026

**Planning Committee for PVRSD (5-year
term) - Representatives from School
Committee**

Michele Giarusso..... 2026
Karen O'Neil..... 2026

Joint Select Board & Moderator Appointments

Police Services Advisory Committee

Select Board Representative: Erica Jensen
Finance Committee Representative: Ginger Robinson
Citizen Representative: Emily Yazwinski (Appointed by the Select Board)
Citizen Representative: Liz Kidder (Appointed by the Moderator)

Contracted Services

Animal Control Officer (3-year contract)

Kyle Dragon 2025

Inspector of Buildings (3-year contract)

FRCOG Inspection Program 2027

Local Inspector of Buildings

Alternate Inspector of Buildings

Inspector of Plumbing/Gas

Inspector of Wiring

Note 2: Appointed to fill a vacancy later during the fiscal year.



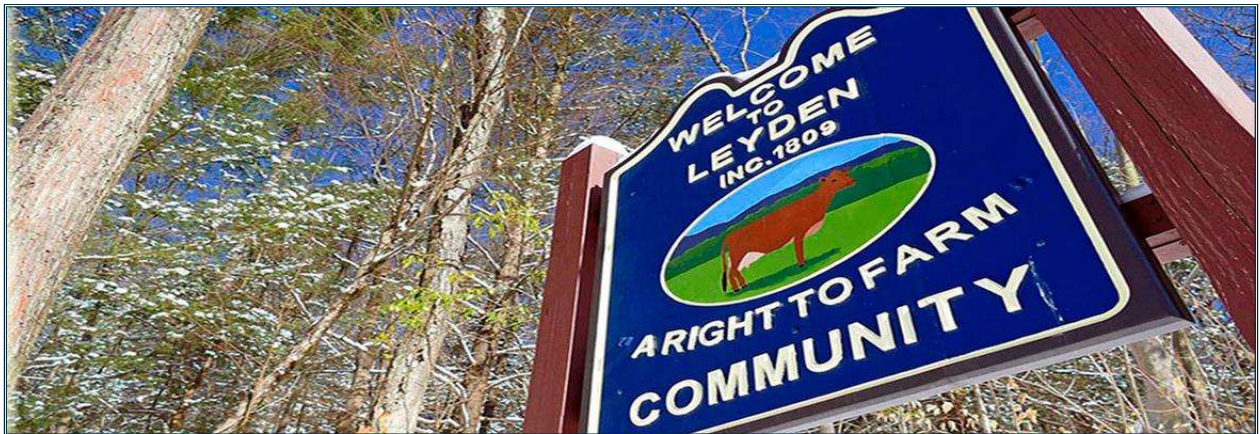
Photo submitted by Pam Brown

Town Records

Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Special Town Meeting Minutes



Taken from Town of Leyden's web page at townofleyden.com.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office serves as a central information point for local government. The office responds to inquiries from the public as well as from other departments, boards, and committees. The Town Clerk is the Chief Election Official and is responsible for compliance with Federal, State and Town laws and bylaws when organizing, overseeing, and certifying elections.

As the Town's recording official, the Town Clerk keeps records of all births, marriages and deaths, all actions of Town Meeting and elections, zoning decisions, and Annual Reports. The Town Clerk also maintains the bylaws, the official town bulletin board, records of oaths of office, appointments and resignations of all Town Officials. The office also issues some state licenses and permits, including marriage licenses, business certificates and renewals, dog licenses, and requests for public documents.

The Town Clerk's Office is the custodian of the official records and documents of the town and is responsible for the maintenance, preservation, and disposition of these records. Additionally, the Town Clerk's Office is also busy certifying nominations and petition papers, providing certified copies of vital records and other documents.

The Town Clerk's Office strives to provide service and assistance to residents and visitors in a timely, courteous and professional manner.

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

This year, although it was supposed to be a relatively slower year since there were no national or state elections, it was nonetheless a busy year. There was a transition from our former clerk Paul McLatchy III to the new clerk. Transitions tend to add a level of distractions from the daily task of running the office along with some level of training and handing off the reigns to the incoming person.

Town Meetings & Election - Two town meetings were held in FY'25; the Annual Meeting which was held on June 2nd and a Special Meeting that preceded it which was also held on June 2nd. The details and minutes of the meetings are included in this year's annual report. In attendance at the annual meeting were 59 residents while at the special meeting there were 32.

The Annual Town Election was held on June 3rd, the next day after the annual meeting and the turnout was typical in comparison to prior elections. Fifty-one (51) residents turned out to vote with one being an early voter.

Census – There were 264 census forms returned this year with several after the second mailing request. It is important to note that anyone who does not return their census form will be removed from the voter roll by June 1st of each calendar year as required under MGL chapter cc, section ss. This also added costs to the town, since the law requires that a card if mailed out to inform them of their removal from the voter list and providing a postage paid card to be reactivated. Aside from the cost of postage it also adds time spent by the clerk away from other regular duties.

Budget expenditures:

The clerk's office budget is primarily spent on the following expenses and related tasks:

- Postage – There are an abundance of forms, letters, and cards that must be mailed out to residents. Mailing of the annual census forms, dog licenses, voter registration correspondence are among the typical types of documents that clerk sends out.
- Elections – Election workers and supplies for the elections.
- Archival – Material used for improving archival data.

Plans for the coming year:

There are several tasks that require attention, organization and a great deal improvements. They are presented in no particular order, but will all require attention and ongoing effort to bring them to order. The list of tasks includes the following areas of concern:

- Strengthening the town's archives and records management.
- Organizing and cataloging vital records as well as improving their long-term storage.
- Creating a light database for tracking details on voted and accepted bylaws. Publishing a document with Town's bylaws for public access.
- Publishing an annual calendar of all required events and activities, including required due dates and laws governing them.

All the above will be worked on in conjunction with daily duties of the office.

Thanks:

Thanks go out to Paul McLatchy III, who ran the Town Clerk's office prior to me getting appointed into the position. He worked tirelessly while maintaining his full-time position as the Town Administrator for the Town of Ashfield and while attending school to further his education. He stayed on during the transition right through the annual town meeting and election.

Thanks to Michele Gisrusso, who has been a great help while starting in this new role and helping as needed as I got to know the town, its residents and the various town departments and leaderships.

A special and personal thank you to my friend and colleague Bridget Rodrigue who has personally volunteered and spent time helping me in my transition as the Leyden Town Clerk. She is the Town Clerk for the Town of Bedford and has travelled a couple of times to Leyden to help. There were many if not numerous email exchanges and phone calls to answer questions and help with various clerk tasks. Bridget has been a Town Clerk for well over 10 years and I met her and volunteered in her office when she clerked for the Town of Ashfield.

Finally, my thanks to the various officials who have welcomed me into my role and have assisted in the various tasks that we mutually collaborated on.

Respectfully submitted,
George Stephan, Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

**Town of Leyden
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Annual Town Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, June 2, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

Moderator: John "Jack" Golden

Select Board: Katherine DiMatteo, Chair, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Town Coordinator and Recorder of Meeting: Michele Giarusso

Counsel: Donna MacNicol, Esq.

The Leyden Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Moderator Golden. Philip Juiliani, Constable delivered the warrant. Moderator Golden continued by reviewing the rules of the meeting. There were 59 people in attendance with 6 guests.

ARTICLE 1-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, a sum of \$2,222,172.80 in accordance with the proposed budget to defray the operating expenses of the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

		FY26 FinCom / SelectBoard Recommend
	DESCRIPTION	
OPERATING BUDGET		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Moderator		
114-5100	Stipend	150.00
114-5300	Expense	30.00
	Subtotal	180.00
Town Operations		
122-5100	Select Board Chair Stipend	2,500.00
122-5110	Select Board Member Stipend	4,000.00
122-5340	Web Site / Internet Access	3,000.00
122-5380	Select Board Computer Account	5,000.00
122-5420	Select Board Equip./ Supplies	3,500.00
122-5210	Diesel Acct	22,000.00
122-5300	Boards / Committees Expense	5,000.00
	Admin. assistant hourly	-
123-5100	Town Coordinator Salary	65,270.20
123-5300	Expense	1,000.00

	Subtotal	111,270.20
Finance Committee		
131-5300	Finance Committee Expense	150.00
132-5780	Reserve Fund	5,000.00
	Subtotal	5,150.00
Town Accountant		
135-5100	Salary	14,868.90
135-5300	Expense	4,900.00
	Subtotal	19,768.90
Assessors		
141-5100	Chair Stipend	3,200.00
141-5110	Member Stipend	4,800.00
141-5120	Assistant Assessor Hourly	12,899.20
141-5300	Expense	8,800.00
	Subtotal	29,699.20
Treasurer		
145-5100	Salary	14,249.36
145-5110	Treasurer's Certification	1,000.00
145-5420	Expense	1,842.00
145-5580	Treas Tax Taking Exp	12,000.00
145-5300	Payroll Expense	2,720.00
	Subtotal	31,811.36
Tax Collector		
146-5100	Salary	14,249.36
146-5300	Expense	8,991.25
146-5580	Tax Lien Expense	2,500.00
	Subtotal	25,740.61
Town Council		
151-5300	Town Counsel Fee & Expense	6,000.00
	Subtotal	6,000.00
Town Clerk		
161-5100	Hourly	25,000.00
	Registrar Stipend	400.00
161-5300	Expense	1,651.20
162-5120	Election Expense	1,845.00
	Subtotal	28,896.20
Planning Board		
175-5100	Chair Stipend	800.00
175-5110	Member Stipend	1,000.00
175-5300	Expense	500.00
	Subtotal	2,300.00
Town Buildings		
192-5240	Building Repairs/Maint.	15,000.00

192-5210	Utilities	41,000.00
192-003	Grounds Maintenance	7,000.00
192-5111	Custodian/Maintenance Hourly	6,039.17
192-011	Elevator Rep & Maint	3,500.00
192-5291	East Hill Cemetery	900.00
	Subtotal	73,439.17
Town Reports		
195-5300	Annual Town Report Printing	750.00
	Subtotal	750.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		335,005.65

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

	Leyden/Bernardston Policing	104,692.07
210-5120	Constable	300.00
	Subtotal	104,992.07

Fire

220-5110	Chief Stipend	5,200.00
	Assistant chief Stipend	1,000.00
	Captain Stipend	500.00
	Department Clerk	0.00
220-5115	Fire employee hourly	25,811.33
220-5300	Expense	29,360.00
	Subtotal	61,871.33

Emergency Medical

	RAVE 911	2,850.00
	EMS Coordinator Stipend	1,000.00
250-5110	EMS Hourly	0.00
250-5300	EMS Expense	
	EMS Oversight/training (community 911)	0.00
	Ambulance	13,000.00
	Subtotal	16,850.00

Emergency Management

	Stipend	1,600.00
	Deputy EMD Stipend	600.00
	Expense	5,500.00
	REPC	150.00
	Subtotal	7,850.00

Animals and Trees

275-5300	Barn & Animal Inspector Stipend	1,500.00
	Animal Control/Kennel	3,372.00

294-5300	Tree Warden	15,000.00
	Subtotal	19,872.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		211,435.40

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Regional School		
301-5320	Operating Budget	894,772.00
301-5710	School committee stipend	900.00
301-5820	Capital PVRSD	3,105.00
	Subtotal PVRSD	898,777.00
Franklin County Technical School		
303-5320	Operating Budget	122,418.00
303-5820	Capital	2,424.13
	Subtotal FACTS	124,842.13
TOTAL EDUCATION		1,023,619.13

PUBLIC WORKS

Highway Department		
	Highway Superintendent Salary	80,705.32
421-5100	Foreperson Salary	65,423.59
	Hourly	22,740.29
421-5300	Expense	6,800.00
421-5430	Maintenance	103,000.00
421-5240	Machinery	56,000.00
423-5300	Winter Maintenance	69,000.00
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		403,669.20

HUMAN SERVICES

Board of Health		
510-5100	Chair Stipend	800.00
510-5110	Member Stipend	1,200.00
	BOH training	1,440.00
510-5300	Expense	1,000.00
519-5650	FRCOG Coop. Public Health Service	4,730.00
	Subtotal BOH	9,170.00
Veteran Services		
544-5770	Veteran Services	1,985.29
545-5770	Veteran 115 Benefit	11,340.00
	Subtotal Veteran	13,325.29
Council on Aging		
541--5300	COA Expense	1,500.00
	COA wages	1,500.00

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES		25,495.29
CULTURE		
Library		
610-5100	Director Salary	20,444.82
610-5110	Custodian hourly	792.75
610-5300	Expense	5,956.56
	Material	6,785.00
	Subtotal	33,979.13
Recreation		
new line	Expense	4,000.00
TOTAL CULTURE		37,979.13
DEBT SERVICE		
752-5925	Notes and Interest	1,000.00
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		1,000.00
INSURANCE		
910-5300	General Insurance	120,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL INSURANCE		120,000.00
REGIONAL		
Mosquito Control District		3,500.00
FRCOG		
850-5676	FRCOG Procurement	1,890.00
241-5580	FRCOG Inspection Service	4,873.00
851-5677	FRCOG Stat/Core Assessment	5,070.00
	FRCOG subtotal	11,833.00
Retirement		
852-5678	Retirement Expense	48,636.00
TOTAL REGIONAL		63,969.00

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET 2,222,172.80

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 2-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the Town will vote by consent articles 3-8.

The moderator explained how the consent vote will be conducted.

Passed by a show of voter cards by (consent*), unanimous

***ARTICLE 3-**

To see if the Town will vote to set the stipend compensation for the elected officials who receive compensation from the Town as provided by M.G.L. c.41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2025, as contained in the budget or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 4-**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 5-**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the report of the Town Officers for the fiscal year 2024 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 6-**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize all Town departments, boards, and committees to apply for any new state or federal grants and authorize the Select Board to accept, approve and to expend such grants. Any grant requiring matching funds will be subject to appropriation at a Town Meeting or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 7-**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Library Incentive Grant, Municipal Equalization Grant, and the Non-Resident Circulation Grant (state aid award) and to transfer those sums to the Robertson Memorial Library account for expenditures or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 8-**

To see if the Town will vote to accept any sum of money that may be granted by the Quintus Allen Trust Fund, and to appropriate such funds for equipment, activities and supplies for the benefit of Leyden children, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Quintus Allen was an original trustee of the Greenfield Savings Bank. Upon his death in 1884, he established a trust fund to be used for education-related expenses in Colrain, Gill, Leyden, and Shelburne. The interest earned by the Trust is distributed to those towns each year.

ARTICLE 9-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Thomas Luck to see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum of money that may be available under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws and authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amount.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 10-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to the Land Acquisition account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 50 yes, 2 no votes

ARTICLE 11-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 to the Conservation Commission knotweed project account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 50 yes, 2 no votes

ARTICLE 12-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to the Audit Fund account to be administered by the Select Board for Town audits.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 13-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to the Audit Fund, to be administered by the Select Board for Town audits.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 51 yes, 1 no vote

ARTICLE 14-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to the Highway Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 15-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to the Fire Development Fund account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 16-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,000 to the Fire Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 17-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to the Police Capital Stabilization account per the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Passed by a show of voter cards 51 yes votes and 1 no vote

ARTICLE 18-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Katherine DiMatteo to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$26,157.36 to the General Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 19-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Town Building Stabilization account \$35,000 to repair the town office building roof.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 20-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the town will vote to adopt the following general bylaw to change the Annual Report publication from an annual calendar year report to a fiscal year report according to M.G.L. c.40, section 49.

Bylaw:

The Selectboard shall cause the annual report to be printed on a fiscal year basis.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 21-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.200A, section 9A. Disposition of abandoned funds by city or town; notice of period during which funds may be claimed; city treasurer authorized to hear claims; appeal; disbursement.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 22-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, section 57, which allows municipalities to deny licenses, permits, renewals or transfers, when the applicant or owner of the property owes municipal taxes or fees and to adopt the following bylaw.

Bylaw:

The Town may deny any application for, or revoke or suspend a building permit, or any local license or permit including renewals and transfers issued by any board, officer, department for any person, corporation or business enterprise, who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges, including amounts assessed under the provisions of section 21D or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges.

(a) The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

(b) The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and the tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license

denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this bylaw shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as the date of issuance of said certificate.

(c) Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the licensing authority to issue a certificate indicating said limitations to the license or permit and the validity of said license shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of said license or permit; provided, however, that the holder be given notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of law.

(d) The Select Board may waive such denial, suspension or revocation if it finds there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of his immediate family, as defined in section 1 of chapter 268A in the business or activity conducted in or on said property.

This section shall not apply to the following licenses and permits:

- open burning; section 13 of chapter 48;
- bicycle permits; section 11A of chapter 85;
- sales of articles for charitable purposes, section 33 of chapter 101;
- children work permits, section 69 of chapter 149;
- clubs, associations dispensing food or beverage licenses, section 21E of chapter 140;
- dog licenses, section 137 of chapter 140;
- fishing, hunting, trapping license, section 12 of chapter 131;
- marriage licenses, section 28 of chapter 207 and
- theatrical events, public exhibition permits, section 181 of chapter 140.

Passed by a show of voter cards 51 yes votes and 2 no votes

ARTICLE 23-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified

Copies of the 2025 Proposed Amendment to the FRCOG Charter were available at the Town Office prior to the Annual Town Meeting and copies were available at the Annual Town Meeting.

The voters allowed Rebekah Boyd representing the FRCOG to explain the article.

Passed by a show of voter cards 52 yes votes and 1 no vote

ARTICLE 24-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the town will vote to amend the general bylaws of the Town of Leyden by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under M.G.L. c.44, section 53E1/2.

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. Purpose. This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by M.G.L. c.44 § 53E1/2.

2. Expenditure Limitations. A department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers).

B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the selectboard and finance committee.

3. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this bylaw shall be credited to the general fund.

4. Procedures and reports. Except as provided in M.G.L. c.44 section 53E1/2 and this bylaw, the laws, bylaws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.

5. Authorized Revolving Funds. The Table establishes:

A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.

B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.

C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.

D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.

E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.

F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and

G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this bylaw.

Revolving Fund	Fees, Charges or Receipts Credited to Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Program or Activity expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions Or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements/Reports/ Fund Balance/	Fiscal Years
Recreation Committee Revolving Account	Fees Collected for Recreation Committee Events	Recreation Committee	Recreation Committee Expenses	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$2025	FY26
Animal Control Officer Revolving Account	Fees Collected for citations, licenses and registration	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$1006	FY26
Fire Safety Inspections Revolving Account	Fees Collected for Safety Inspections by the Fire Department	Fire Chief or Designee	Pay for the Safety Inspection Services	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$725	FY26
Planning Board Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring public hearings, copies of bylaws	Planning Board	Planning Board advertising expenses	\$3,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$1979	FY26
Agricultural Commission Revolving Account	Fees collected for fines or Agricultural Commission events	Agricultural Commission	Agricultural Commission expenses	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$929	FY26
East Hill Cemetery Commission Revolving Account	Fees collected for burial plots or donations	Select Board or Designee	East Hill Cemetery Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$0	FY26
ZBA Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring	ZBA	ZBA Advertising expenses	\$1,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$0	FY26

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

Moderator Golden temporarily stepped down as moderator for Articles 25-27 as he is also the MLP Manager. Nominations were opened for temporary moderator. Katherine DiMatteo was nominated by Elizabeth Kidder and received a second by Sharon Fontaine. With no further nominations, a vote was taken, and Katherine DiMatteo was unanimously elected temporary moderator.

ARTICLE 25-

A motion was made by Tom Luck and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated and approved to operate the Leyden Municipal Light Pant (MLP) Enterprise Fund:

MLP Budget

Expenses	\$141,150
Administration	44,100
ISP	169,900
Total Expense	\$355,150

Revenue

Internet and phone	\$355,100
Total Revenues	\$355,150

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 26-

A motion was made by John Golden and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to move \$88,056 from the Leyden MLP Certified Retained Earnings to pay down broadband debt.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 27-

A motion was made by John Golden and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to move \$35,000 from the Leyden MLP Certified Retained Earnings to the MLP Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

*Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Town Coordinator
June 4, 2025*

Special Town Meeting Minutes

**Town of Leyden
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, June 2, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

Moderator: John “Jack” Golden

Select Board: Katherine DiMatteo, Chair, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Town Coordinator and Recorder of Meeting: Michele Giarusso

Counsel: Donna MacNicol, Esq.

The Leyden Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 5:39pm by Moderator Golden. Philip Juiliani, Constable delivered the warrant. Moderator Golden continued by announcing the new technology that residents can view the meetings remotely but cannot vote. There were 32 people in attendance.

ARTICLE 1-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$21,633.64 to pay prior year’s bills.

Previous Year Vendor Deficits

Colrain Volunteer Ambulance	\$ 2,200.00
United Elevator	175.00
Procom Services	900.00
Verizon	41.33

Previous Year(s) Grant Deficits

Gill Engineering	\$ 8,953.00
Bullet Proof Vest Fund	1,908.00
Fire Dept. Senior Safe Grant	10.18
EMPG Grant	5,087.67

Previous Year(s) Special Article Deficits

CJIS System Upgrade	\$ 548.85
Recreation Committee	769.49
Bernardston Elementary School	1,040.12
Total	<u>\$21,633.64</u>

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

*Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Town Coordinator
June 4, 2025*

Public Safety

Fire Department

Emergency Management Committee

Police Department

Police Services Advisory Committee



Photo submitted by Samantha Wood

Fire Department

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

Here is an update from the Leyden Fire Department during fiscal year 2025.

Vehicle Updates

We have continued to update fleet apparatus. During fiscal year 2025, the fire department acquired two vehicles, Engine 1 and a UTV.

Engine 1 is a 1999 Ford F 550 Engine, with a 7.3-liter diesel, for fast response and knock-down. It has a 5-speed manual transmission, 4x4 drive, and 2-person capacity. It includes a Darley 750 GPM midship single-stage pump, carries 285 gallons of water. Engine 1's discharges include one large diameter, two 1.5" pre connected attack lines, three 2.5" discharges, and two 4.5" intakes.

The UTV is a Polaris Ranger 1000, and 3-person vehicle with both tires and a set of tracks, a small back payload to carry a compact water tank, firefighting, and rescue gear. It can reach more remote locations in rough terrain.

Increase in wildland/brush fires

In the fall of 2024, Massachusetts experienced a 1,200 percent increase in wildfire activity over the previous average. Drought conditions led to red flag warnings across the region. Leyden Fire responded to several brush fires.

On April 23, 2024, we welcomed Massachusetts District 9 Fire Warden Phil Gilmore for an evening of instruction on wildland firefighting, and fire behavior. Gilmore provided an in-depth overview of wildfire attack procedures, communications strategy, and safety. He emphasized that with repeated periods of drought, it is expected that wildfire risks will continue to be a concern, and the fires themselves will be more challenging. Fuels (downed trees, brush, etc.) and soil are exceptionally dry and have been for multiple seasons.

Call Volume

During fiscal year 2025, Leyden Fire Department had 65 calls. Of those calls:

- 54% were medical calls,
- 31% were fire related (structure fires, brush fires, smoke investigations, fire alarms), and
- 15% were other types of calls (motor vehicle accidents, wires down, etc.)

Personnel and Training

We lost several members of the department to them moving out of town, and we gained one new member. In this year we have seen younger members of the department leaving town to pursue new opportunities. They were strong members of the department, and it is hard to see them go, as they are members of our family. We are grateful for their service, and we wish them well.



Late afternoon training in an apple orchard in the spring of 2025, is one perk of serving on Leyden Fire. Here, firefighters are training on pumps and moving water between trucks at the hydrant in West Leyden. From left, Matthew Muka, Samantha Wood, Timothy Howard.



Members of Leyden Fire Department train on tanker shuttle skills. Chief Carey Barton, in the yellow sweatshirt, directs the operation and explains possible scenarios. Management of water resources is a key element of rural firefighting.

Fire department recruiting in a small town is part of our ongoing work.

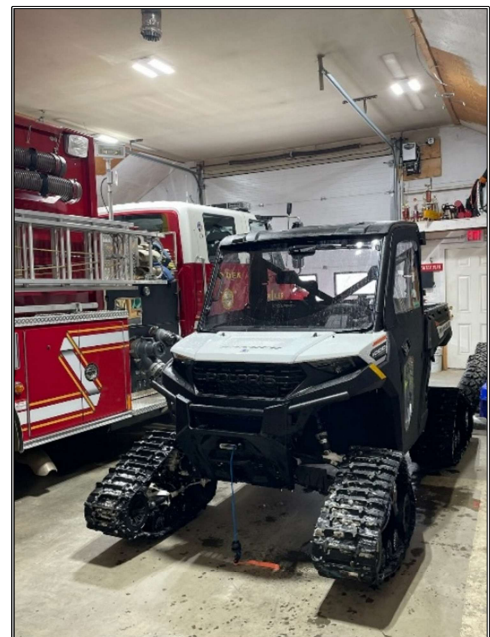
We meet weekly to train and maintain equipment. As firefighters we are always learning and developing as a crew. It is an honor to serve the community in this capacity.

Two members completed the Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Basic 6 Training Program, which included interior search and rescue operations and a day of live structure fire training scenarios.

Regular training throughout the year included multiple pumper training scenarios, hydrants, water shuttle, laying lines, air packs, throwing ladders, medical response, and driver training.

With the latest round of State Aid to Firefighters grants, the department purchased turnout gear for members. Turnout gear must be up to date and fit properly.

We had the pleasure of representing Leyden in parades to celebrate high school sports wins this year. Pioneer Valley Regional School boys' basketball team won the state



The Fire Department's new Polaris 1000 UTV sits parked after training in the snow in February 2025. Vehicles such as this have become more common on rural fire departments for remote access for firefighting and rescue operations.

championship in March 2025, then on May 28, 2025, Pioneer's baseball team won the Western Massachusetts, and on June 14, 2025, they won the state championship. Congratulations to our young athletes!

Respectfully submitted:

Samantha Wood, Firefighter

Department Firefighters:

Carey Barton, Chief

Corrinda Thompson, EMS Coordinator

Matthew Muka

Tina Riddell

Samantha Wood



Leyden Fire acquired Engine 1, a 1999 Ford F550 for fast response and knock down, in 2024.



Members of Leyden Fire Department in 2025 gather for a photo during training. From left, Ernie Royer, Samantha Wood, Caleb Howard, Corrida Thompson, Tina Riddell, and Matthew Muka.

Photos submitted by Samantha Wood.

Emergency Management Committee

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

The Leyden Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meets every 2-3 months reviewing emergency management needs within Leyden. Jeff Miller, our Emergency Management Director (EMD), has continued a review of our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure that it is up-to-date and contains the necessary contact information for regional services in case Leyden is faced with a critical emergency situation.

Jeff serves as our liaison to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), to the Franklin County's MEMA Local Coordinator Nathan Morreau as well as to the FRCOG Emergency Preparedness Program. Liz Kidder serves as Leyden's Representative to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts. She served on its subcommittee overseeing a Public Safety Assessment for the 21 rural towns, 10 of whom have populations under 1,000, that was done by the Collins Center. Liz Kidder and Anders Ferguson attended a regional meeting of emergency management committees that was jointly sponsored by the FRCOG and MEMA. Communication between public safety team members, within towns and between towns, has continued to be a focus and ongoing challenge.

Grants or additional funding received:

Leyden received its annual Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) for \$2500. Those funds were used to purchase Garmin Satellite Communicators for use within our town. These devices enable out mobile devices (telephones and tablets) to communicate using satellites during emergencies by allowing texts to be sent/received in what are currently otherwise communication dead zones during power outages.

Plans for the coming year:

Our LEMC will be increasing outreach to Leyden residents with information on how to respond to crisis situations. Faced with a changing climate and extreme weather conditions, the LEMC and our Public Information Officer (PIO) will be preparing "What to Do If?" information sheets and hold periodic seminars for residents. In addition, the LEMC is planning to further develop our neighborhood captain program.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Kidder, Public Safety Planner

Members of the Committee and Department Representatives:

Jeff Miller, EMD	Chief James Palmeri, Police Department
John Richardson, Assistant EMD & PIO	Chief Carey Barton, Fire Department
Janell Howard, Clerk	Corrinda Thompson, EMS Coordinator
Liz Kidder, Public Safety Planner	Beth Kuzdeba, Board of Health
Anders Ferguson	Linda Allis, Council on Aging
	Marcia Miller, Pet Welfare
	Samantha Wood, Fire Department Clerk
	Ginger Robinson, Finance Committee
	Erica Jensen, Select Board

Police Department



I am pleased to submit my 3rd Annual Report for fiscal year 2025. Since the start of our policing services in July 2022, we have continued to strengthen our relationships with the Leyden community, which has been an invaluable partnership. In the upcoming months the towns will be reviewing our IMA (Inter-Municipal Agreement) and it is my belief, minimal, if any, changes will be needed. I am optimistic there will be many more years of collaboration between our two towns.

Our primary daily duties are patrolling the town throughout the morning, afternoon, and evening hours, to proactively deter crime. While on patrol, we monitor all sorts of activity, from properties for safe keeping to motor vehicle traffic flow and potential violations. We also focus on community policing efforts with residents, businesses, and scheduled events alike. Our most common complaint we receive from the neighborhoods is speeding traffic. As you may have noticed, there are several digital radar signs throughout town, where we've identified the most potential speeding motor vehicles. We also have a mobile radar trailer we set up in other areas of concern.

Our regional co-response program, grant-funded through the Department of Mental Health, has continued throughout 2025, and most recently approved until June 2026. This program partners a behavioral health clinician with a police officer to respond to all varieties of calls. This regional co-response program is shared among the following towns: Erving, Gill, Leverett/Wendell, Northfield and Warwick. The program is scheduled forty hours a week and responsible for all related calls within the listed communities.

Firearm Licensing has been a constant busy duty we see on a weekly basis. The best place to find info on obtaining or renewing your residential firearms license is at "www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-or-renew-a-firearms-license".

Some of our investigations throughout the year were for but not limited to, trespassing, suspicious activities, property complaints, domestic violence, and motor vehicle complaints. Below are some other statistics.

Leyden Statistics (July 2024 through June 2025)

Please note the first number is for fiscal year 2025 while the second number in parenthesis is the number in FY'24. The volume of calls and services rendered has gone up since last fiscal year.

Animal Services: 24 (11)	Assists Citizen/Agency: 29 (13)
Alarms: 12 (8)	Building Checks: 138 (42)
Fraud/Scams: 10 (7)	Medical Emergencies: 27 (10)
Dedicated Patrols: 839 (339)	MV Accidents: 10 (6)
Motor Vehicle Stops: 43 (26)	911 Calls: 10 (6)
Paperwork Services: 37 (0)	Suspicious Activity: 12 (9)
Traffic/Safety Hazards: 23 (13)	Traffic Enforcement: 68 (31)
Miscellaneous Service Calls: 254 (65)	

In Addition:

Please remember to visit the department's website, www.townofbernardston.org Click on Police Department and you will find links that may interest you. You can also *like* us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is for daily warning and alerts, or special events. If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to stop by the station to speak with an officer or email me directly at police@townofbernardston.org.

Respectfully submitted:

James E. Palmeri, Chief of Police

Department Roster:

James E. Palmeri, Chief

Thomas Chabot, Sergeant

Jordan Zukowski, Officer

Joshua Dobosz, Officer

Darren Gale, Officer

Mitchell Waldron, Officer

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY POLICING

Police Services Advisory Committee

The Bernardston Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee meets quarterly at the Bernardston Town Hall with Police Chief James Palmeri. The purpose of the committee is to oversee the implementation of the Bernardston and Leyden Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) for Police Services. After discussions with the Chief, the committee felt that the terms of the IMA were working well for the two towns.

The Advisory Committee will continue to work with the Chief as he implements community policing throughout Leyden. Their services include regular patrolling of Leyden, responding to calls, and providing emergency medical response as needed. When medical emergencies exist, they are often the first to respond to assist both the Fire Department's first responders, the ambulance crew when they arrive and assist the family on-site as needed.

Leyden appreciates the continuing cooperation with the Bernardston advisory committee representatives and the Bernardston Police Department and Chief Palmeri.

Respectfully submitted:
Liz Kidder, Chair

Members of the Committee:

Leyden Appointees

Liz Kidder, Chair, Citizen Representative
Erica Jensen, Select Board
Ginger Robinson, Finance Committee
Emily Yazwinski, Citizen Representative

Bernardston Appointees

Ken Bordewieck, Select Board
Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee
Peter Nai, Citizen Representative

Financial

Board of Assessors

Town Accountant

Town Collector

Town Treasurer



Photo submitted by Pam Brown.

Board Of Assessors

Fiscal Year 2025 started out with the Assessors doing building permit inspections as well as checking on older cyclical inspections that needed to be updated. The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires the Assessors to visit every property once every ten years.

John Rodgers, who had served on the board for 4 terms, did not seek reelection. We would like to thank John for his years of service, common sense and witty humor that always made for meetings filled with laughs. In early June 2025, Erik Johnson was elected to the Board for a 3-year term.

Education is very important in the Assessing field as the laws under which we operate continually change. The Board of Assessors is the only board that the state requires its members to successfully complete a 30-hour course and examination within one year of taking office. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town's tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the office granted 1 partial abatement due to a house fire which translated into \$626.64 tax dollars. Currently, there are no filed Appellate Tax Board cases for 2025. As we inspect properties in town, our property record card accuracy continues to improve, which promotes fair and equitable assessments. We encourage all residents to check the information on their property record cards periodically, especially after any building permit or demolition work has been completed.

The Assessors have our property cards online now which is helpful to residents, appraisers, town departments, attorneys and others since our office has limited office hours.

There are several statutory property tax exemptions for the elderly varying in amounts from \$175 to \$500. Each exemption is based on income guidelines and as economic times become more difficult; our elderly residents are encouraged to contact the Assessors' office to see whether they may qualify. Any information that is provided to qualify for these exemptions is strictly confidential and is not available to the public. Also available are exemptions for the blind and veterans with a service-connected disability.

We want the public to know that assessing is a very complicated field, and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that said, our office is available by phone or appointment for any questions on Mondays from 3:00-7:00PM. Our board meets on Mondays typically at 5:00PM in the Assessor's office as needed. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at 413-774-4111 Ext. 2 or email us at assessors@townofleyden.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Wozniak, MAA & Assistant Assessor

Members of the Commission:

Kenneth Spatcher, Chair
Robert DePalma
John Rodgers

Town Accountant

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups

As of June 30, 2025 - Unaudited

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
<u>ASSETS</u>							
Cash and cash equivalents	464,606.82	242,012.05	96,830.39	212,282.56	790,877.56		1,806,609.38
Investments							0.00
Receivables:							
Personal property taxes	231.67						231.67
Real estate taxes	50,391.16						50,391.16
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	-9,869.47						-9,869.47
Tax liens	78,877.70						78,877.70
Deferred taxes	29,141.94						29,141.94
Motor vehicle excise	24,884.96						24,884.96
Other excises							0.00
User fees							0.00
Utility liens added to taxes							0.00
Departmental							0.00
Special assessments							0.00
Due from other governments							0.00
Other receivables							0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions							0.00
Prepays							0.00
Due to/from other funds							0.00
Working deposit							0.00
Inventory							0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation							0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave							0.00
Total Assets	638,264.78	242,012.05	96,830.39	212,282.56	790,877.56	0.00	1,980,267.34

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:							
Warrants payable							0.00
Accounts payable							0.00
Accrued payroll							0.00
Withholdings	-1,383.74						-1,383.74
Accrued claims payable							0.00
Due to/from other funds							0.00
Due to other governments							0.00
Other liabilities							0.00

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	
Deferred revenue:							
Real and personal property taxes	40,753.36						40,753.36
Tax liens	78,877.70						78,877.70
Deferred taxes	29,141.94						29,141.94
Foreclosures/Possessions							0.00
Motor vehicle excise	24,884.96						24,884.96
Other excises							0.00
User fees							0.00
Utility liens added to taxes							0.00
Departmental							0.00
Special assessments							0.00
Due from other governments							0.00
Other receivables							0.00
Deposits receivable							0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees							0.00
Tailings							0.00
IBNR							0.00
Agency Funds							0.00
Notes payable			662,177.10				662,177.10
Bonds payable							0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability							0.00
Total Liabilities	172,274.22	0.00	662,177.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	834,451.32

Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances							0.00
Reserved for expenditures				88,056.00			88,056.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	173,424.61						173,424.61
Reserved for petty cash							0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit							0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit							0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit							0.00
Reserved for debt service							0.00
Reserved for premiums							0.00
Reserved for working deposit							0.00
Undesignated fund balance	292,565.95	242,012.05	-565,346.71		790,877.56		760,108.85
Unreserved retained earnings				124,226.56			124,226.56
Investment in capital assets							0.00
Total Fund Equity	465,990.56	242,012.05	-565,346.71	212,282.56	790,877.56	0.00	1,145,816.02
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	638,264.78	242,012.05	96,830.39	212,282.56	790,877.56	0.00	1,980,267.34

PROOF BALANCE SHEET IS IN BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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PROOF FUND BALANCE DETAIL				
AGREES TO THE BALANCE SHEET	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROOF RECEIVABLES DETAIL				
AGREES TO THE BALANCE SHEET	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Expenditure**Fiscal Year 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)**

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.
01-114-5100-00000	Moderator-Stipend	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
01-114-5300-00000	Moderator-Expenses	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00
01-122-5100-00000	Selectboard-Chair Stipend	2000.00	-2,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-122-5110-00000	Selectboard-Member Stipend	3000.00	-2,625.00	375.00	87.50
01-122-5111-00000	Administrative Assistant Hourly	14630.43	-13,973.01	657.42	95.51
01-122-5210-00000	Diesel Account	22000.00	-21,478.15	521.85	97.63
01-122-5300-00000	Board/Committee Expense	5000.00	-2,781.58	2,218.42	55.63
01-122-5340-00000	Website/Internet Access	2660.00	-2,660.00	0.00	100.00
01-122-5380-00000	Computer Account	8164.55	-8,164.55	0.00	100.00
01-122-5420-00000	Selectboard Equipment/Supplies	3500.09	-3,500.09	0.00	100.00
01-123-5100-00000	Town Coordinator Salary	63063.00	-63,063.00	0.00	100.00
01-123-5300-00000	Town Coordinator Expense	1175.96	-1,175.96	0.00	100.00
01-131-5300-00000	Finance Committee Expense	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
01-132-5780-00000	Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-135-5100-00000	Town Accountant Salary	13767.50	-13,767.50	0.00	100.00
01-135-5300-00000	Town Accountant Expense	4791.25	-4,356.25	435.00	90.92
01-141-5100-00000	Assessors Chair Salary	3200.00	-3,200.00	0.00	100.00
01-141-5110-00000	Assessors Members Salary	4800.00	-4,800.00	0.00	100.00
01-141-5120-00000	Assistant Assessor Hourly	12514.45	-12,514.45	0.00	100.00
01-141-5300-00000	Assessors Expenses	8748.55	-8,034.29	714.26	91.84
01-145-5100-00000	Treasurers Salary	13767.50	-13,767.50	0.00	100.00
01-145-5110-00000	Treasurer Certification	1000.00	-1,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-145-5300-00000	Treasurers Payroll Exp.	2200.00	-1,718.61	481.39	78.12
01-145-5420-00000	Treasurers Expense	1642.00	-1,414.03	227.97	86.12
01-145-5580-00000	Treasurers Tax Taking Expense	7898.42	-4,344.50	3,553.92	55.00
01-146-5100-00000	Tax Collector Salary	13767.50	-13,767.50	0.00	100.00
01-146-5300-00000	Tax Collector Expense	8869.25	-5,364.89	3,504.36	60.49
01-146-5580-00000	Tax Lien Expense	58.00	0.00	58.00	0.00
01-151-5300-00000	Town Counsel Fee and Expense	12442.00	-12,442.00	0.00	100.00
01-161-5100-00000	Town Clerk Hourly	16224.31	-16,224.31	0.00	100.00
01-161-5120-00000	Registrar Stipend	400.00	-175.58	224.42	43.90
01-161-5300-00000	Town Clerks Expense	1942.00	-1,617.17	324.83	83.27
01-162-5120-00000	Election Expense	5451.00	-4,965.47	485.53	91.09
01-175-5100-00000	Planning Board Chair Salary	800.00	-800.00	0.00	100.00
01-175-5110-00000	Planning Board Member Salary	1000.00	-750.00	250.00	75.00
01-175-5300-00000	Planning Board Expense	717.42	-717.42	0.00	100.00
01-192-5111-00000	Custodian Hourly	769.10	-769.10	0.00	100.00
01-192-5210-00000	Utilities	43650.21	-43,650.21	0.00	100.00
01-192-5240-00000	Building Repairs/Maint.	14365.66	-14,365.66	0.00	100.00
01-192-5291-00000	East Hill Cemet. Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-192-5430-00000	Elevator Repair/Maint	2623.00	-2,623.00	0.00	100.00
01-192-5460-00000	Grounds Maint. Exp.	6001.98	-5,921.00	80.98	98.65
01-195-5300-00000	Town Report Printing	750.00	-485.25	264.75	64.70
01-210-5120-00000	Constables Stipend	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00
01-210-5300-00000	Leyden/Bernardston Policing	99705.98	-99,705.98	0.00	100.00
01-220-5100-00000	Fire Assistant Chief Stipend	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
01-220-5110-00000	Fire Chief Stipend	5200.00	-5,200.00	0.00	100.00
01-220-5111-00000	Captain Stipend	1000.00	-346.76	653.24	34.68

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.
01-220-5115-00000	Fire Employee Hourly	18690.00	-15,713.00	2,977.00	84.07
01-220-5300-00000	Fire Expenses	24760.00	-24,447.74	312.26	98.74
01-241-5580-00000	FRCOG Inspection Svc.	4600.00	-4,600.00	0.00	100.00
01-250-5100-00000	EMS Coordinator Stipend	500.00	-374.98	125.02	75.00
01-250-5110-00000	EMS Hourly	3605.00	-1,907.00	1,698.00	52.90
01-250-5200-00000	EMS Oversight/Training	5000.00	-250.00	4,750.00	5.00
01-250-5300-00000	EMS Expense	2500.00	-688.46	1,811.54	27.54
01-250-5320-00000	EMS Ambulance Expense	15200.00	-10,075.00	5,125.00	66.28
01-250-5400-00000	RAVE 911	2850.00	-2,850.00	0.00	100.00
01-252-5110-00000	EMD Stipend	1600.00	-1,501.15	98.85	93.82
01-252-5210-00000	REPC	150.00	-150.00	0.00	100.00
01-252-5300-00000	EMD Expenses	4700.00	-662.17	4,037.83	14.09
01-275-5300-00000	Animal Inspection Stipend	1000.00	-1,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-292-5300-00000	Animal Control/Kennel	2941.00	0.00	2,941.00	0.00
01-294-5300-00000	Tree Warden	15000.00	-14,941.53	58.47	99.61
01-301-5320-00000	PVRS Operating Budget	890361.00	-890,361.00	0.00	100.00
01-301-5710-00000	PVRS School Comm. Travel	900.00	-450.00	450.00	50.00
01-303-5320-00000	FCTS Operating Assessment	52373.00	-52,373.00	0.00	100.00
01-303-5820-00000	FCTS Capital Assessment	2381.20	-2,381.20	0.00	100.00
01-421-5100-00000	Highway Salaries	162899.35	-158,993.92	3,905.43	97.60
01-421-5240-00000	Highway Machinery	52956.73	-52,407.42	549.31	98.96
01-421-5300-00000	Highway Expenses	6841.33	-4,871.07	1,970.26	71.20
01-421-5430-00000	Highway Maintenance	89659.20	-89,659.20	0.00	100.00
01-423-5300-00000	Winter Maintenance	83384.07	-83,384.07	0.00	100.00
01-510-5100-00000	Bd of Health-Chair Stipend	800.00	-800.00	0.00	100.00
01-510-5110-00000	Bd of Health-Mem. Stipend	1200.00	-500.00	700.00	41.67
01-510-5300-00000	Bd of Health Expenses	1000.00	-746.87	253.13	74.69
01-510-5320-00000	BOH Training Expenses	1440.00	-520.00	920.00	36.11
01-510-5650-00000	FRCOG Health Assess	4605.00	-4,605.00	0.00	100.00
01-510-5676-00000	Mosquito Control District	3025.00	-3,000.00	25.00	99.17
01-541-5300-00000	COA Expenses	3000.00	-1,189.94	1,810.06	39.66
01-544-5770-00000	Veteran Services	2196.93	-2,196.93	0.00	100.00
01-545-5770-00000	Veterans 115 Benefits	9508.59	-9,508.59	0.00	100.00
01-610-5100-00000	Library Director Salary	19471.25	-19,471.25	0.00	100.00
01-610-5110-00000	Library Custodian Hourly	792.75	-792.75	0.00	100.00
01-610-5300-00000	Library Operating Expense	11915.06	-11,915.06	0.00	100.00
01-610-5320-00000	Library Material	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-630-5300-00000	Recreation Expense	4000.00	-3,505.32	494.68	87.63
01-752-5925-00000	Notes and Interest	1000.00	-650.00	350.00	65.00
01-850-5676-00000	FRCOG Procurement	1800.00	-530.00	1,270.00	29.44
01-851-5677-00000	FRCOG Stat/Core Assess.	5099.00	-5,099.00	0.00	100.00
01-852-5678-00000	Franklin Reg. Retirement. Asses.	43786.00	-43,786.00	0.00	100.00
01-910-5300-00000	General Insurances	118545.99	-118,545.99	0.00	100.00
01-996-5971-00000	Free Cash Vote	179116.21	-179,116.21	0.00	100.00
92 Account(s) totaling:		2293544.8	-2240750.59	52794.18	97.7

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Revenue Ledger

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.
01-000-4110-20250	2025 Personal Property	0.00	61,333.57	61,333.57	0.00
01-000-4120-20240	2024 Real Estate Tax	0.00	19,236.30	19,236.30	0.00
01-000-4120-20250	2025 Real Estate	0.00	1,733,957.44	1,733,957.44	0.00
01-000-4140-00000	Local PILOT	0.00	45,789.35	45,789.35	0.00
01-000-4142-00000	Tax Liens Redeemed	0.00	9,243.94	9,243.94	0.00
01-000-4150-20190	2019 Motor Vehicle Tax	0.00	25.63	25.63	0.00
01-000-4150-20200	2020 Motor Vehicle Tax	0.00	51.48	51.48	0.00
01-000-4150-20210	2021 Motor Vehicle Tax	0.00	51.48	51.48	0.00
01-000-4150-20220	MVE 2022	0.00	417.36	417.36	0.00
01-000-4150-20230	2023 MVE Revenues	0.00	3,121.45	3,121.45	0.00
01-000-4150-20240	2024 MVE Revenues	0.00	17,742.47	17,742.47	0.00
01-000-4150-20250	2025 MVE	0.00	98,824.57	98,824.57	0.00
01-000-4170-00000	Penalties and int. taxes	0.00	840.00	840.00	0.00
01-000-4171-00000	Interest on Property Tax	0.00	6,816.03	6,816.03	0.00
01-000-4172-00000	Interest on Motor Veh Ex	0.00	1,252.82	1,252.82	0.00
01-000-4173-00000	Interest on Tax Titles	0.00	1,726.15	1,726.15	0.00
01-000-4270-00000	Other Charges for Service	0.00	3,378.04	3,378.04	0.00
01-000-4320-00000	RMV Marking Fees	0.00	860.00	860.00	0.00
01-000-4360-00000	Tax Collector Fees to Town	0.00	5,850.00	5,850.00	0.00
01-000-4420-00000	Town Hall Rental	0.00	1,275.00	1,275.00	0.00
01-000-4459-00000	Permits - Other	0.00	160.00	160.00	0.00
01-000-4460-00000	Marriage Cert	0.00	106.00	106.00	0.00
01-000-4461-00000	Birth Cert	0.00	9.00	9.00	0.00
01-000-4462-00000	Death Certificate	0.00	724.00	724.00	0.00
01-000-4463-00000	Business Licenses	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
01-000-4611-00000	State Owned Land	0.00	51,408.00	51,408.00	0.00
01-000-4613-00000	Abatements Veterans	0.00	4,224.54	4,224.54	0.00
01-000-4616-00000	Elderly Abatements	0.00	3,912.00	3,912.00	0.00
01-000-4671-00000	Unres. Gen. Govt. Aid	0.00	95,746.00	95,746.00	0.00
01-000-4772-00000	CMVI Fines	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
01-000-4820-00000	Interest on Investments	0.00	21,084.96	21,084.96	0.00
01-000-4841-00000	Sale of Surplus Equipment	0.00	9,726.00	9,726.00	0.00
01-000-4841-01006	Tax Title Costs	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
01-000-4841-01020	Misc. Vendor Reimbursement	0.00	3,611.05	3,611.05	0.00
01-000-4978-00000	Trans.from Stabilization	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00
35 Account(s) totaling:		0	2238264.63	2238264.63	n/a

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Expenditure Ledger Fiscal Year 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 03 - Special Articles			
03-135-5210-03101	Audit Expenses	21000.00	0.00	21,000.00	0.00
03-141-5210-03102	Assessors Reval. Expense	8218.05	0.00	8,218.05	0.00
03-147-5210-03103	Tax Possession Mgmt.	4305.82	0.00	4,305.82	0.00
03-171-5810-03117	Con Com Knotweed Project	10650.00	0.00	10,650.00	0.00
03-192-5810-03104	Building Needs Study	31289.81	0.00	31,289.81	0.00
03-192-5810-03105	Land Acquisition Fund	19562.72	0.00	19,562.72	0.00
03-192-5810-03106	Water Supply	1000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
03-192-5810-03108	Town Hall Stage Curtain Repair	2325.10	0.00	2,325.10	0.00
03-192-5810-03121	Repair Town Office Roof	35000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
03-210-5810-03112	CJIS System Upgrade Art17 FY21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03-220-5210-03114	Fire Pond	5000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
03-220-5810-03110	Fire Dept. Equipment	258.00	0.00	258.00	0.00
03-250-5810-03116	Fire/EMS Equipment and Development	45896.86	-14,241.64	31,655.22	31.03
03-301-5810-03118	Bernardston Elementary Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03-421-5810-03120	Highway Loader Art4/FY25	228000.10	-228,000.00	0.10	100.00
03-510-5810-03115	Mosquito Control District	3000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
03-630-5810-03113	Avery Field Pav Demo/Repl Art11 FY21	149.79	0.00	149.79	0.00
03-630-5820-03119	Recreation Committee	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		415666.25	-242241.64	173424.61	58.28
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 21 - Cultural Council			
21-699-5400-21101	CC Grant Awards Expense	0.00	-7,191.00	-7,191.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	-7191	-7191	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 26 - Revolving Funds			
26-176-5400-26103	Planning Board Revolving-Supplies	0.00	-868.14	-868.14	0.00
26-220-5400-26104	Fire Inspection Revolving-Supplies	0.00	-680.00	-680.00	0.00
26-292-5400-26105	Animal Control Revolving-Supplies	0.00	-3,291.00	-3,291.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	-4839.14	-4839.14	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues			
29-122-5400-29143	ARPA Expenditures	0.00	-68,158.15	-68,158.15	0.00
29-122-5400-29154	MIIA Grant Expenses	0.00	-10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.00
29-122-5700-29156	Opioid Settlement Expenses	0.00	-71.00	-71.00	0.00
29-122-5700-29157	CTCL Expense	0.00	-4,179.34	-4,179.34	0.00
29-122-5700-29159	Green Communities Expense	0.00	-36,819.18	-36,819.18	0.00
29-212-5400-29142	EMPG Grant Expenses	0.00	-2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
29-220-5400-29111	FD Senior Safe Grant	0.00	10.18	10.18	0.00
29-220-5400-29153	Firefighting Safety Equipment Expenses	0.00	-10,500.00	-10,500.00	0.00
29-220-5700-29158	Woodlands Partnership Exp	0.00	-25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.00
29-421-5810-29150	10 Mile Bridge Expenses	0.00	-60,598.83	-60,598.83	0.00
29-422-5400-29147	East Hill Road Grant Expenses	0.00	-50,352.77	-50,352.77	0.00
29-435-5400-29145	Historical Commission Gift Expenses	0.00	-89.22	-89.22	0.00
29-541-5400-29135	COA Grant-Supplies	0.00	-7,853.18	-7,853.18	0.00
29-541-5400-29149	Mass in Motion Grant Expenses	0.00	-1,093.69	-1,093.69	0.00

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.	
29-610-5400-29137	Library State Grant-Supplies	0.00	-2,692.06	-2,692.06	0.00	
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues	0	-279897.24	-279897.24	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 67 - Broadband				
67-191-5100-67101	Broadband Wages	45250.00	-15,160.72	30,089.28	33.50	
67-191-5200-67101	Repairs and Maintenance	136672.00	-964.00	135,708.00	0.71	
67-191-5300-67101	Broadband Whip City Fees	161226.00	-172,557.64	-11,331.64	107.03	
67-191-5320-67101	Middle Mile Access Fee	0.00	-4,230.26	-4,230.26	0.00	
67-191-5330-67101	Pole Rental Fee	0.00	-9,872.95	-9,872.95	0.00	
67-191-5360-67101	Pole Bonding Fee	0.00	-6,000.00	-6,000.00	0.00	
67-191-5380-67101	Insurance	0.00	-6,423.00	-6,423.00	0.00	
67-191-5700-67101	Broadband Electricity and Gas	0.00	-5,492.01	-5,492.01	0.00	
67-752-5925-67101	Loan Payments	79846.13	-79,846.13	0.00	100.00	
67-996-5961-00000	Transfer to Stabilization	35000.00	-35,000.00	0.00	100.00	
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 67 - Broadband	457994.13	-335546.71	122447.42	73.26
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts				
83-192-5700-83103	Town Building Stabilization-Miscellaneous	0.00	-35,000.00	-35,000.00	0.00	
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts	0	-35000	-35000	n/a
48 Account(s) totaling:		873660.38	-904715.73	-31055.35	103.55	

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Revenue Ledger**Fiscal Year 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)**

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 21 - Cultural Council			
21-000-4680-00000	State Cultural Council	0.00	5,866.86	5,866.86	0.00
21-000-4820-00000	rArts Interest	0.00	56.95	56.95	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	5923.81	5923.81	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 23 - Highway Grants			
23-000-4422-00000	Chapter 90 Revenue	0.00	295,830.73	295,830.73	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	295830.73	295830.73	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 26 - Revolving Funds			
26-176-4840-26103	Planning Board Revolving Rev.	0.00	1,848.00	1,848.00	0.00
26-220-4840-26104	Fire Inspection Revolving Rev	0.00	900.00	900.00	0.00
26-292-4840-26105	Animal Control Revolving Rev	0.00	992.00	992.00	0.00
26-450-4840-26108	East Hill Cemetery Rev.	0.00	1.78	1.78	0.00
26-630-4840-26110	Recreation Revolving Rev	0.00	700.00	700.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	4441.78	4441.78	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues			
29-122-4320-29157	CTCL Revenue	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
29-122-4680-29156	Opioid Settlement Revenues	0.00	156.72	156.72	0.00
29-122-4680-29159	Green Communities Revenue	0.00	31,635.00	31,635.00	0.00
29-122-4770-29154	MIIA Grant Revenue	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
29-162-4840-29106		0.00	1,902.96	1,902.96	0.00
29-191-4680-29155	CAF II Revenues	0.00	27,628.14	27,628.14	0.00
29-210-4680-29144	Bullet Proof Vest Revenue	0.00	1,908.00	1,908.00	0.00
29-210-4680-29148	CC Reg and Eff Grant Revenues	0.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00
29-212-4680-29142	EMPG Grant Revenue	0.00	10,087.67	10,087.67	0.00
29-220-4680-29158	Woodlands Partnership Rev	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
29-421-4680-29150	10 Mile Bridge Revenues	0.00	283,672.82	283,672.82	0.00
29-422-4680-29147	East Hill Road Grant Revenues	0.00	33,254.28	33,254.28	0.00
29-435-4820-29145	Historical Commission Gift Revenues	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
29-541-4680-29149	Mass in Motion Grant Revenues	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	0.00
29-541-4840-29135	COA Grant Rev	0.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	0.00
29-541-4840-29136	COA Donations Rev	0.00	1,311.10	1,311.10	0.00
29-610-4840-29137	Library State Grant Rev	0.00	5,495.92	5,495.92	0.00
29-630-4840-29140	Recreation Donations Rev	0.00	130.00	130.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	534907.61	534907.61	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 39 - Capital Projects			
39-000-4970-00000	Transfer from G/F	0.00	49,146.21	49,146.21	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	49146.21	49146.21	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 67 - Broadband			
67-000-4820-00000	Broadband Interest	0.00	814.13	814.13	0.00
67-191-4200-67101	Broadband Ent. Operations-Charges for Services	0.00	344,113.28	344,113.28	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		0	344927.41	344927.41	n/a

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Net Activity	Ending	% Var.	
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 82 - Expendable Trusts				
82-286-4820-82101	Barstow Trust-Interest	0.00	69.52	69.52	0.00	
82-288-4820-82102	Cemetery Trust-Interest	0.00	19.86	19.86	0.00	
82-289-4820-82103	Davenport-Interest	0.00	73.84	73.84	0.00	
82-290-4820-82104	Davenport Poor and School-Interest	0.00	241.75	241.75	0.00	
82-294-4820-82105	Robertson Memorial Trust-Interest	0.00	21.60	21.60	0.00	
82-522-4820-82107	Quintas Allen-Interest	0.00	3,233.66	3,233.66	0.00	
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 82 - Expendable Trusts	0	3660.23	3660.23	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts				
83-000-4820-00000	Stabilization Interest	0.00	8,441.96	8,441.96	0.00	
83-122-4800-83121	Opioid Stabilization Revenues	0.00	55.36	55.36	0.00	
83-141-4800-83101	Assessors Stabilization-Miscellaneous	0.00	749.71	749.71	0.00	
83-141-4800-83118	Stabilization-Miscellaneous	0.00	33,071.09	33,071.09	0.00	
83-191-4800-83167	Broadband Stabilization Revenue	0.00	40,083.50	40,083.50	0.00	
83-192-4800-83103	Town Building Stabilization-Miscellaneous	0.00	4,761.13	4,761.13	0.00	
83-192-4800-83106	Technology Stabilization-Miscellaneous	0.00	20.66	20.66	0.00	
83-210-4800-83120	Police Capital Stab Revenue	0.00	15,596.40	15,596.40	0.00	
83-220-4800-83119	Fire Dept Stabilization Revenue	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	0.00	
83-421-4800-83111	Highway Capital Stabilization Fund-Miscellaneous	0.00	76,105.40	76,105.40	0.00	
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund		Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts	0	225885.21	225885.21	n/a
45 Account(s) totaling:			0	1464722.99	1464722.99	n/a

Respectfully submitted,
 Angelica Desrosiers, Accountant

Town Collector

Report for fiscal year 2025, July 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2025.

REAL ESTATE

2025	Real Estate	\$	1,777,453.13
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(1,734,332.45)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$	(6,639.14)
	Refunds	\$	575.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	37,056.54
2024	Real Estate	\$	29,003.64
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(21,230.60)
	Refunds	\$	-
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$	(4,250.11)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	3,522.93
2023	Real Estate	\$	(57.74)
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	-
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$	-
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	(57.74)
2022	Real Estate	\$	223.17
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	-
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$	-
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	223.17
2021	Real Estate	\$	49.95
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	-
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$	-
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	49.95

PERSONAL PROPERTY

2025	Personal Property	\$	61,333.57
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(61,333.57)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	-

MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAILER EXCISE

2025	Motor Vehicle	\$	121,712.35
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(105,716.36)
	Refunds	\$	6,891.79
	Abatements	\$	(7,077.05)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	<u>15,810.73</u>
2024	Motor Vehicle	\$	10,852.70
	Additional debits	\$	12,691.51
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(20,121.20)
	Refunds	\$	2,368.25
	Abatements	\$	(2,583.53)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	<u>3,207.73</u>
2023	Motor Vehicle	\$	4,507.44
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(3,322.41)
	Refunds	\$	200.96
	Abatements	\$	(200.96)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	<u>1,185.03</u>
2022	Motor Vehicle	\$	1,081.37
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(417.36)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	<u>664.01</u>
2021	Motor Vehicle	\$	610.40
	Payments to Treasurer	\$	(51.48)
	Balance as of June 30, 2025	\$	<u>558.92</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Bobe, Town Collector

Town Treasurer

Report for fiscal year 2025, July 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2025.

<u>Cash Accounts</u>	6/30/2025
Checking Account	24,084.78
Depository Account	840,585.40
Greenfield Coop MM	15,825.86
Tax Collector Accounts	61,795.70

Total Cash Accounts	\$	942,291.74
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<u>Stabilization Accounts</u>	
Stabilization Fund	324,979.69
Bldg Cap Improv Stabilization	101,103.41
Technology Stabilization	-
Assessors Software Stabil	15,919.21
Highway Equipment Capital	7,646.33
Police Stabilization	20,875.79
Opioid Stabilization	896.07
Total Stabilization Accounts	\$ 471,420.50

<u>Trust Accounts</u>	
Barstow Poor	1,481.95
Davenport Books	1,568.65
Davenport Poor & School	5,130.45
Arts Lottery Council	4,751.87
Quintus Allen	21,232.78
Cemetary Care	674.22
Robertson Memorial Library	672.82
Total Trust Accounts	\$ 35,512.74

TOTAL TOWN FUNDS		\$ 1,449,224.98
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<u>MLP - Broadband Accounts</u>	
MLP Broadband Operating	260,785.15
MLP Broadband Stabilization	166,544.99
TOTAL MLP FUNDS	\$ 427,330.14

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Bobe, Town Treasurer

Town Departments

Highway Department
Robertson Memorial Library



Photo submitted by Bill Brooks

Highway Department

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

SUMMER – 2024 came into full swing with no shortage of heavy summer thunderstorms. Years ago, a 3-inch rainstorm happened once a year, whereas this summer it seemed as though every storm that came through, we would get 3+ inches of rain in the span of an hour. Locally heavy rain would dump 3-7 inches in one place and at the other end of town we would get a few sprinkles. This made monitoring radar and checking roads during and after each storm top priority. Keeping culverts and storm drains clear became a daily duty. Our dirt road improvements have begun to bear fruit where we had no road impassable from washouts due to the unusually heavy rain. We still have ways to go but we seem to be moving in the right direction.

We took delivery of our new 2024 John Deere 544P Wheel loader we purchased with highway equipment stabilization money the town had been putting away for several years thanks to the diligence of the Finance Committee and Select Board. This new loader is a direct replacement to our 2005 544J loader, which we bought new all those years ago. It would be hard to find much material whether it be gravel for the dirt roads or sand and salt for the winter snow and ice over the past 20 years that hadn't passed through the bucket of our 544j loader. We are grateful the townspeople continue to invest in quality pieces of equipment that should hopefully last for many years to come.

The highway department started construction on the statutory private way section of Hunt Hill Road, a job that has been long in the works with votes being taken at town meetings and details brokered by the Select Board and conservation commission. We improved and top dressed the lower section of town road at Hunt Hill and then sourced materials and rented a Bulldozer to install and create the statutory private way section, building the roadbed up and installing durable water bars. This was a challenging project due to how steep, narrow and curvy this section of road was. This project was completed on time and within budget. Thanks to Bob Deane excavating for the rental of the Bulldozer between this and our military surplus vibratory roller we were able to install and create this section of roadway most efficiently.

Northern Tree came to town to work on a recently approved vegetation management plan. Trimming and removal of over 400 trees took several weeks with crews going road by road working through a list developed by the Tree Warden and an arborist from Eversource to reduce the number of trees that could impact the delivery of power to the residents of Leyden. A crane was supplied to remove several difficult and large trees around town.

FALL – The fall season is one of our favorite seasons around the highway department. We get to enjoy crisp cool mornings, warm afternoons and beautiful foliage while out doing our prewinter road maintenance. Getting the equipment ready for winter takes center stage, we've worked to get all our truck inspections done in the fall time so there are a few weeks where turning wrenches and swapping tires is the daily activities. We made our rounds to fix up a few of the hardest hit dirt roads from the heavy summer rains. North County Road, Greenfield Road and Bell Road were among some of the top priorities. We continued to haul our own materials into town and as such we topped off our stockpiles of gravel for springtime grading and filled the salt shed for winter. Once the roadside mowing is finished, we take the mower off the tractor and put on the leaf blower. I'm sure many of you have come across our tractor stirring up clouds of dust and leaves on your travels around town. This

chaotic looking job is vital to make sure that the ditches and waterways are free of debris once the leaves come off the trees, so all our drainage continues to work during the winter and spring when it is critical to get that water off the roadway.

Preliminary work on the Bog continued with flow rate estimates and wetland delineations happening along with conversations about the history of road construction with the engineering company and plans for soil-boring samples to be taken in the springtime.

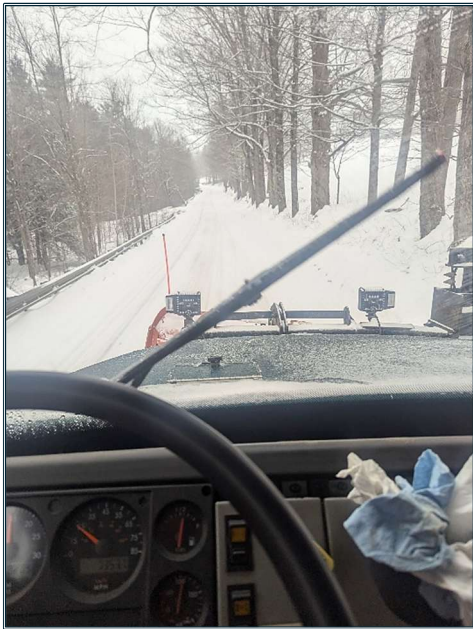


Photo submitted by Bill Brooks

WINTER – The winter started a whole month ahead of schedule this year with our first snow and our first major snowstorm making its way into town for Thanksgiving. Thursday November 28th it started snowing around 8 AM. We had about 2 inches by 10 AM and things picked up from there. The highway department was out in full force trying to keep up with roads plowing, more frequently than normal to accommodate all the travelers trying to get to their Thanksgiving dinners and keeping the roads safe for all the out-of-town visitors. Things started to wind down late afternoon, and we continued to work into the night to get the roads into ship shape for all the people returning home after dinnertime.

Once we made it to actual wintertime, for the first time in my recent memory we had a typical New England winter of old. The dirt roads froze which made plowing a lot easier on the equipment and our storms were mainly snow. We seemed to get into a rhythm, we had a storm every couple of days and

when we weren't plowing snow we were working on the equipment and hauling material to get ready for the next one. Things stayed in this pattern for most of the winter until we made it to Sunday February 16th. During this storm it snowed all day and all night, as night set in conditions got significantly worse and anyone who had traveled out earlier in the day had a difficult time getting home. We had a few calls of cars stranded late into the night and I'd like to remind people that if you plan on traveling after dark during a storm to make sure you are prepared, and your vehicle is equipped to do so as you will most likely encounter difficult traveling conditions.

With the snowy winter and tall snowbanks came a chance to bring out “Hank”, our giant 8-foot diameter snow blower that mounts on the front of our Wheel loader. Powered by its own diesel engine, Hank can throw snow 50+ feet off the edge of the road. This unique piece of equipment allows us to remove snowbanks from the edge of the guardrails and on roads with high banks very efficiently. Seeing Hank throw snow is quite the sight and we always enjoy getting a chance to use this relic from the past to make a necessary and tedious job go quicker to save time and money.

SPRING – As we all know in town, Spring is what we call “mud season”! This year there was lots of frost in the ground from the cold winter, and we were waiting for the mud to come. Reports from other towns of door-deep mud and impassable roads were making the rounds and every day once the sun came up, we were on the hunt for the first open mud hole of the year. Day by day as the snowbanks melted back, we continued to wonder if we were almost through mud season or if it was yet to come.

This year our worst spot in town was on North County Road just before Bree-Z-Knoll farm but it was not bad compared to years past. The frozen ground and lingering snowbanks did cause drainage issues for us though. Heavy spring rain and melting snow stayed trapped in the roadway and all that warm water rushing down the dirt roads developed deep false ditches making some roads narrow and allowing the water to pass by multiple culverts on its downhill trip. Filling in trenches cut in by stormwater runoff was the main activity this spring and Katley Hill, South County Road and Glen Road were some of the worst areas around town.

Spring grading this year helped us to review our roadway improvements from years past. We are constantly on the hunt for just the right product to use on our dirt roads and we are constantly trying to refine our process and become more efficient. We attended a dirt roads maintenance class put on by the FRCOG and Bay State Roads. Several towns from Franklin and Berkshire counties attended and we were able to see that the hills of Leyden have taught us many of the secrets of dirt road maintenance all on their own.

In Addition:

Johnson asphalt paving came to town to fix a section of road near the bog that had started to break up. We hired them to run their paving equipment, and we hauled all our own black top with our own trucks to keep the cost down.

All states came to town to do rubber chip seal on a section of West Leyden Road between George Lamb Road and Bell Road. This project cost \$71,449.00 and was funded by chapter 90.

We have started a test with a patch of knotweed for the conservation commission to see if several mowings over the course of the growing season can help mitigate Japanese knotweed. This test will take place over the spring and summer during the active growing season to see if we can eradicate knotweed by exhausting it through continued mowing. As I'm writing this, we have mowed the test patch 3 times and results look promising. Make sure to pick up the annual report FY'26 to see how things turned out.

Plans for the coming year:

New to the Highway team and starting in July 2025 is Nate Smith, Nate was interested in helping with our mowing and he will be given the reins of roadside mowing to learn all the ins and outs and hidden rocks and stumps around town. Nate knows his way around the workshop and is a competent wrench turner and eager to learn the tricks-of-the-trade in road maintenance. We are happy to bring him on board and I'm sure you'll all see him around town as he works on filling some of the space that Paul is leaving behind.



Photo submitted by Bill Brooks

Thanks:

Paul Zimmerman, who had lived in town for many years and was also on the Select Board in the past and then after retirement came to work part time for the highway department in the spring and fall helping with road grading and keeping our stockpiles full has decided this was his last year working with us here at the highway department.

We would like to thank Paul for all his years of help and his contributions to Leyden from his many decades here in town. Paul helped on several projects over the years and much of our work would have been more difficult without his skilled truck driving abilities and knowledge of the town. Thank you, Paul, for all your hard work.

Big thanks to all the hard work by the Highway department crew, AJ Egloff, Eric Johnson, Paul Zimmerman, and Dave Brooks for all their hard work and devotion to Leyden this past year.

We'd also like to thank all the residents of Leyden for their continued support and patience as they come across us in our various projects around town.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Brooks, Highway Superintendent



Photo submitted by Bill Brooks



Photo submitted by Bill Brooks

Robertson Memorial Library

The Robertson Memorial Library is a crucial resource in our small town, providing free access to a diverse range of materials. With 12 hours of public service each week and appointment options available, the library effectively caters to its patrons' needs by offering delivery services. Its carefully curated collection features 3,661 items, including books for all ages, audiobooks, and films. By prioritizing quality through selections endorsed by reputable sources like Booklist, The New York Times, and Kirkus Reviews, the library ensures that there is something for everyone. This year, 5,023 items were checked out from the library.

In addition to its surprisingly extensive collection housed within its charming building, the Robertson Memorial Library actively fosters community engagement through various initiatives. It serves as a gathering space for residents, bolstered by dedicated trustees and a passionate team of volunteers. The library thrives as a welcoming environment where individuals of all ages can connect, learn, and grow. With a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and relevance, the library continues to evolve in response to the community's changing needs, making it a beloved institution for those seeking knowledge, connection, and entertainment.



Artwork by Richard DiMatteo, photo by Karin Parks.

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

This year, we put in great effort to expand our programming for our patrons. We launched a delightful adult book club where we alternated between a current chart-topper and a classic. We spent most of our time analyzing our collection, weeding, and barcoding in preparation for joining CWMARS. We hosted a successful Summer Reading program for both adults and children. We maintain an excellent relationship with Bernardston Elementary School and often get to spend time presenting some wonderful materials to our local children.

Budget expenditures:

The library's total municipal budget of \$32,179.06 was allocated as follows: 62.97% on salaries, 15.95% on operational costs, and 21.08% on lendable material. Our budget is supplemented by Massachusetts State Aid to Public Libraries, which is given annually to libraries that meet mandated requirements. We typically use state aid to pay for programming and extra material purchases.

Plans for the coming year:

We look forward to fully introducing you to CWMARS in the upcoming year. What does that mean for you? You will now have access to digital materials such as e-books, e-audiobooks, as well as access to catalogs from libraries across the commonwealth. With a click of a button, you can request books to be delivered from other libraries right to ours. Of course, library staff will still be happy to request any material needed.

Thanks:

Thank you to the wonderful community that makes our library so special. We have volunteers who love to help both inside the library and outside. Whether you have sat at the desk, hauled boxes of books, or watered the flowers, each of you creates a page of our wonderful story.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Parks, Library Director

Members of the Trustee:

Tom Raffensperger, Library Trustee Chair
Pat Little, Library Trustee
Vanessa Russell, Library Trustee

Board, Committees and Commissions

Board of Health

Cooperative Public Health Service

Building Needs Study Committee

Conservation Commission

Council on Aging

Cultural Council

Historical Commission

Leyden Zoning Board of Appeals

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Planning Board

Recreation Committee



Taken from Town of Leyden's web page at townofleyden.com.

Board of Health

Key Accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

The Leyden Board of Health services and represents our residents with assistance of the Cooperative Public Health Services (CPHS), the Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) and guidance and regulations from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Elizabeth Kuzdeba is Leyden's representative with the CPHS oversight board.

Highlights of the past year:

- The two Naloxone boxes installed at the Town Offices and the Town Hall were updated to a larger version to increase visibility. Anyone who would like to have Naloxone on hand can access it. It is not locked. You may have a family member on a prescription for pain medication. You do not have to know someone with a substance use disorder to keep this available. It can be part of an emergency kit.
- Opioid Abatement Settlement money is pooled with the CPHS district to provide more services with greater coverage.
- Health Agents and Public Health Nurses work diligently starting in the spring to ready recreational camps for the summer. Leyden is home to Camp Lion Knoll.
- Leyden pays yearly membership to the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). They trap mosquitoes to identify those that could be carriers of West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The Board, with our budget, purchases Tick Keys and Tick Coupons. Between these products, the PVMCD, our public health nurses, and the Massachusetts DPH, we try to keep residents aware of the arboviruses that are affecting our area in real time and how to protect themselves.
- We continue our membership in the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB). This organization provides updated information, education, and legal representation on issues that are present in our state and affect public health.
- In February, Massachusetts passed a law that allows ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units) "by right". This will affect our community mainly with the process of Title V (septic system code) which falls under the responsibility of the Board of Health.
- Fiscal year 2025 started with 2 members. But with the unexpected death of Jerry Lund, Deborah Vester and Elizabeth Kuzdeba were appointed in March to create a full board of 3.

Plans for the coming year:

- Evaluation of current regulations and create or update. Private Wells, Body Art, and Battery Energy Storage Systems are of interest.
- CPR and First Aid classes.
- Update public health information available to the public in the Town Office.
- Get more accessible information on our webpage.

Thanks:

The Board of Health would like to thank the Health Agents and Public Health Nurses of the CPHS. They provide us with support and a level of expertise that would otherwise make this Board very

difficult. Public Health issues and regulations constantly change; these people make it manageable for us.

I would like to thank the members of this board. It is not a popular position, as we learned in the last few years, but a necessary board. Communicating current information to residents is becoming increasingly difficult. Any suggestions from residents are always welcome.

The Board of Health and the town of Leyden lost a valued member of our community with the death of Jerry Lund at the beginning of 2025. Jerry worked tirelessly on numerous boards and committees to improve our small town and services to our town. We express our deepest gratitude to his children for sharing him with us for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Kuzdeba, Chair

Members of the Board:

Elizabeth Kuzdeba, Chair
Marcia Miller
Devorah Vester

Cooperative Public Health Service



The Town, along with the other member towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, is

served by the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS provides professional support to the Leyden Board of Health for all public health issues. The following sections describe activities undertaken by CPHS staff in 2024, in addition to their regular participation in Leyden Board of Health meetings. Leyden's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2024 were Beth Kuzdeba and Marcia Miller. CPHS staff members look forward to working with them, and other members of the Leyden Board of Health and residents to improve the health of the community in the coming year. For more information, see ["frcog.org/project/cooperative-public-health-service"](https://frcog.org/project/cooperative-public-health-service).

The Town's Health Agent Team

Randy Crochier, Kurt Schellenberg, Jasmine Ward and Liz Jacobson-Carroll

- **Improving Food Safety:** For Leyden, reviewed 6 food establishment permit applications (and 8 regional food trucks) and conducted 3 inspections for local organizations, home kitchens, food trucks and/or events. During the nationwide outbreak of listeria stemming from Boar's Head Provision products, performed multiple inspections and assisted district businesses in interpreting and complying with official guidance. Offered two low-cost food safety training classes (ServSafe® and Choke Saver with use of EpiPen® and Narcan®) for food-serving establishment workers throughout the region.
- **Protecting Water Quality** through enforcement of Title 5 (septic system) code: Witnessed 6 system inspections prior to property transfer. Witnessed 3 soil evaluations (perc tests) for new systems. Reviewed 2 system plans and issued 1 permit for septic system construction/repair. Supported the Board of Health in passing septic regulations. Also permitted the drilling of 1 new well.
- **Protecting Children and Visitors:** In Leyden, reviewed applications for 3 short-term rental units. Throughout the region, numerous inspections and site visits were conducted at 16 camps (including 1 in Leyden) serving over 2000 children. Along with public health nurse colleagues, worked to ensure compliance with the updated state code for recreational camps for children. Supported the Board of Health in passing tobacco regulations.
- **Ensuring Housing Safety:** Responded to numerous housing safety complaints throughout the CPHS district, working to resolve dangerous living situations for vulnerable people including older adults, disabled people, children, and veterans. Addressed non-functioning bathroom facilities, lack of heating, hoarding issues, chronic moisture leading to mold, rodent infestation, and the presence of lead paint in houses with children. Worked with residents and owners, Housing Court, and supportive services.

The Town's Public Health Nurses and Health Educator

Lisa White, Meg Ryan and Maureen O'Reilly

- **Vaccine Access:** Organized COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics with state vendors, schools and senior centers in CPHS towns serving 477 individuals with 777 doses of vaccine. Public Health

Nurses gave 286 Flu and 344 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours, and home visits throughout season, including 52 vaccines to Leyden residents.

- **Connections to Healthcare:** Served as a resource for residents and provided monthly drop-in nursing hours at Leyden Town Hall, serving 51 different people in 137 separate contacts. Services included blood pressure, other health screenings, assistance addressing health concerns, and where appropriate, home visits. Made 14 home visits to Leyden residents through the year. Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. 69 boxes were exchanged. Continued certification as Medicare insurance “SHINE” counselor, assisting 2 Leyden residents.
- **Communicable Disease Management/Epidemiology:** Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for reportable disease cases, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required. Of fewer than 10 communicable diseases reported in Leyden in 2024, about 60% were tick-borne, 25% respiratory (flu and COVID-19), and 15% were enteric (gastrointestinal).
- **Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community planning:** Continued to support the regional Age and Dementia Friendly initiative as member of steering committee. Attended Mass-In-Motion workgroup meeting. Provided regional Ageism and Reframing Aging education, attended by Leyden residents.
- **Reducing Impact of Opioids:** Worked with the town to address the devastating impact of opioids in the community by: hosting an opioid listening session to hear how residents impacted by the opioid crisis recommend spending settlement funds; supplying 11 naloxone cabinets in the district including in Leyden, distributing 660 doses of naloxone (Narcan); training 168 Franklin County residents how to reverse an overdose, and supporting the BOH and Select Board to spend Opioid Settlement funds proactively to support those in need.
- **Tick-Borne Disease:** Collaborated with boards of health to provide prevention materials and 3 permethrin shoe-spraying events. Through a district program Leyden residents sought 19 low-cost tick tests, a saving value of \$665. Of the tested ticks, 27% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 6% were positive for the anaplasmosis pathogen.
- **Community Education:** Hosted community CPR and first aid classes which trained 64 district residents.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Prepared for possible mosquito borne disease outbreaks by serving as town’s arbovirus coordinator, monitoring weekly mosquito disease data reports from the state and providing regular updates to the town, as well as hosting a 15-town Mosquito Disease Tabletop exercise. Drafted a CPHS regional emergency communications plan.
- **Public Communication:** Provided a monthly newsletter with updates to pertinent public health topics, CPHS services, events, training, local data, and relevant epidemiological analyses. Provided public health topics for town/COA/library newsletters.

Building Needs Study Committee

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

- Initial vapor barrier sealing was completed on the Town Offices, Town Hall and Department of Public Works (DPW) buildings as part of the first phase of the Green Communities grant to reduce energy costs. Part of the Town Offices' roof was replaced due to age.
- Installed railing on the steps at the Town Hall kitchen entrance and at the Town Offices building main entrance.
- Installed two solar lamps in the Town Offices building parking lot to provide better lighting at night for people to safely walk to their parked vehicles at night.

Budget expenditures:

Awarded grant funds from the Massachusetts Green Communities Division to help with projects at various municipal buildings.

Plans for the coming year:

- Install an ADA compliant ramp and landing deck at the Town Offices building.
- Install an ADA compliant powered door for the Town Offices building main entrance.
- Replace rotted T111-siding at the Town Office building.
- Install exterior installation and replace the siding at the Town Offices, Town Hall, Fire Station, and DPW buildings.
- Install new windows at the Town Offices, Town Hall, Fire Station, and DPW buildings.
- Install exhaust systems to improve air quality at the Fire Station and DPW buildings.
- Have Eversource install additional lighting at the Town Offices building parking lot.
- Install guardrail on the concrete retaining wall at the Town Hall.
- Fix hanger joists on the ADA ramp at Town Hall.
- Identify ongoing ADA needs in Town and proceed to get them taken care of.

Thanks

Thanks, and appreciation goes to Richard Parks, David Pomerantz, David Vreeland for providing the expertise and guidance to get the Request for Proposals (RFP) completed and promptly sent out so that the various building upgrades and improvements may be started and completed. Also, thanks go to Jeff Miller for providing the labor to help minimize the costs and facilitate the work so the contractors can get the work done in a timely and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Medvetz, Chair

Members of the Committee:

Ken Medvetz, Chair
Richard Parks
David Pomerantz
David Vreeland

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission welcomed a new committee member, Andrea Rasmussen. The committee continues to review logging plans, building plans, and conduct site visits as needed. The Highway Department in conjunction with the Conservation Commission is underway on the knotweed issue, working on a small patch of knotweed, experimenting with repeated mowing to see if a favorable decrease in the knotweed is achieved before trying it out on a larger area. The town has approved over \$7,000 over the past two years from the general fund for knotweed mitigation.

Members of the Commission:

Evan Abramson, Chair
Karen O'Neil, Vice Chair
Don Sadowsky, Secretary
Janell Howard, Treasurer
Andrea Rasmussen, member



Wildlife Management Area at the top of Glenn Road. Photo submitted by Lisa Limont.

Council on Aging

Mission Statement: The Leyden Council on Aging (COA) is a senior advocacy group funded by the Town of Leyden and the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Our purpose is to enrich the lives of Leyden residents who are 60 years of age and older by providing educational and recreational opportunities that promote the physical, social, and mental wellness of our residents and by directing seniors and their families to local and state agencies that will address their personal needs.

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

- In the past year, we provided approximately 500 meals through the monthly Community Lunch at the Town Hall. The lunch provides opportunities for residents to socialize as they enjoy a nutritious meal. In addition to the sit-down meal, we offered pick-up meals to go and delivered meals for seniors who were unable to attend the sit-down luncheons. Although the meal pick-up and meal delivery are for seniors only, residents of all ages are welcome to the sit-down meal. We would like the COA to become more involved with intergenerational activities.
- **Foot Clinic for seniors** We provided fifty-two sessions in the bi-monthly Foot Clinic for seniors. The participants paid \$25 dollars with the remaining cost funded through a grant from the Fred W. Wells Foundation.
- Hosted the **Monthly Walk-in Wellness Clinic**. This clinic provides service for residents of all ages. The nurses, from FRCOG, provide vaccinations including influenza and Covid; provide support in learning how to better manage health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD and asthma. Provide support with managing multiple medications and navigating the health care system. Provide blood pressure, blood glucose and other preventative and diagnostic health screenings. There are no fees for these services.
- The COA and the Recreation Committee sponsored an ongoing class, ***Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance***® which met at the Avery Pavilion and the Town Offices.
- Published the updated **Leyden Town Directory**.
- Began work Parks on the **Digital Equity Grant** and GCC's Cyber-Senior Program that will provide classes and one-on-one consultations for seniors needing assistance with technology.
- Restocked the cookware in the Town Hall with funding through the Mass in Motion grant.

Budget expenditures:

Our largest expense was the monthly lunches. Other expenses include publishing the Leyden Directory, providing supplies for the Town Hall kitchen, and purchasing cards and postage for the birthday card program.

Grants or additional funding received:

The Leyden COA receives funding from the town, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the F. W. Wells Trust, and some donations.

Plans for the coming year:

- Continue the Community Lunch, Foot Clinic, and hosting the Walk-In Wellness clinic.
- Expand our relationship with the Bernardston Senior Center
- Autumn Cruise on The Connecticut River. Co-sponsored with the Recreation Committee.

- Continue to offer activities that involve physical activity. (Tai Ji Quan and a walking group)
- Offer workshops and resources on fall prevention.
- Offer a series of workshops and discussions on grief, dying, and death.
- Continue to work on the Digital Equity Grant and Cyber-Seniors.

Thanks:

Thanks to Chris Maguire and Meredith Lein for your hard work and dedication to the COA.

Thanks to Volunteers Deb Collins and Peggy Brown for their efforts and commitment to the Community Lunch.

Additional thanks to Peggy Brown for doing the monthly birthday cards.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Garvey

Members of the Council:

Chris Maguire, Chair
Becky King, Treasurer
Annie Garvey
Meredith Lein
Laura Schlaikjer
Amy St. Clair
Linda Allis, Assistant to the COA

Cultural Council

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

Every year, the Leyden Cultural Council receives grant applications from individuals, groups and organizations from the surrounding area and wider western Massachusetts. Applicants range from artists offering to provide workshops, musical groups, theater troupes, area organizations that support youth, speakers, and others who have designed programs they feel can benefit the community. The Leyden Cultural Council reviews these applications and selects those programs most likely to enrich the cultural lives of residents of Leyden and surrounding communities, giving priority to programs that support the rich community of local artists living in and around Leyden.

Please remember that the Cultural Council can only engage individuals or organizations that apply for grants (we don't write the grants ourselves).

Budget expenditures:

This past year, the Council provided grants to 20 different programs in and around Leyden.

Organization	Program / Event
Antenna Cloud Farm, Inc.	Antenna Cloud Farm Music Festival & Retreat
Charlemont Forum	Summer Speakers Series 2025
Cheli Mennella	Silhouette Shadow Theatre: "A Winter Day" & "Butterfly Dream"
Franklin County Pride, Inc.	Franklin County Pride
Heath Agricultural Society, Inc.	Heath Agricultural Fair Music 2024
Hilltown Families, Inc.	Hilltown Families Suggests
Local Access to Valley Arts	On the Boars '25
Mohawk Trail Concerts, Inc.	Summer Festival 2025
Montague Shakespeare Festival	Montague Shakespeare Festival
Nanette Rolstad	Quilling: beginner to intermediate
New England Sax/Wind Quartet	Leyden Town Potluck Dinner
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	Northfield Summer Pops Concert
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	"Peer Gynt" - 2024 Education Concert
Piti Theatre Company	Youth Troupe
Shea Theater Arts	Shea's Lounge
The Art Garden, Inc.	Winter Hoopla
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	Full Snow Moon Gathering and Homelands Festival

Plans for the coming year:

The Leyden Cultural Council continues to explore avenues to better understand the needs and interests of the community. We encourage feedback, comments and suggestions from any Leyden residents.

The Council is also extremely interested in identifying and encouraging all interested Leyden artists and groups to apply for a grant. Please reach out to any member of the Council for help and guidance on applying for grants or visit the Massachusetts Cultural Council website at MassCulturalCouncil.Org.

We are looking for new members interested in helping select events meaningful to Leyden residents. If interested, please contact CulturalCouncil@TownOfLeyden.Com.

Thanks:

Heartfelt thanks to the members of the Leyden Cultural Council for their hard work and professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Williams, Chair

Members of the Council:

Pat Williams, Chair
Cornelia Reid, Secretary
Lewis Becker, Treasurer
Sara Seinberg
Rhonda Wainshilbaum



Stock photo downloaded from the web.

Historical Commission

This year we expanded the historical display further to include many items still in storage. Organization and proper storage of artifacts have been priority for this year. Unneeded records were sent to storage and papers of no significant historical value were purged.

The Town of Leyden generously provides space and utilities to make the historical display possible. We are open by appointment only from Mid-November – April 1st.

It is important that we embrace our history as a rural farming town to hold on to what makes Leyden special.

Look for special programs next summer as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Our Country.

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

The Leyden Historical Display was open for “Coffee and History” on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in nice weather. We enjoyed the good company and conversation of 97 guests. Special thanks to Linda Allis, Ruth Tuller, and Bill (Mary) Glabach for baking.

Visual displays were presented for Memorial Day, Mother’s Day, and Veterans’ Day during Coffee Hours.

“OPEN” flags were purchased to indicate when the museum is open. They feature the “Leyden Hills are Alive” symbol.

Grants or additional funding received:

The Historical Commission Display is supported by fundraising and donations.

Thanks:

Special thanks to Linda Allis, Ruth Tuller, and Bill (Mary) Glabach for baking goodies for Coffee & History.

Respectfully submitted,
Nannette Rolstad, Chair

Members of the Commission:

Nannette Rolstad, Chair
Linda Allis
Gary Russell
Vanessa Russell
Holly Spatcher
Amy St. Clair

Zoning Board of Appeals

There were no applications for variances or appeals this year, and therefore there were no ZBA meetings scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
James Brodeur, Chair

Members of the Board:

James Brodeur, Chair
Arthur Baker
Robert Reilly
Cecelia Trsinski



Tuesday Bear. Photo submitted by Kevin White.

Planning Board

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

The Leyden Planning Board had a relatively busy year, especially due to the task of developing new Zoning Bylaws pertaining to the new State Affordable Housing Act, which mandated that all municipalities allow “by right” accessory dwelling units, basically small dwelling units, separate from an existing principal dwelling unit, that could be erected on the same building lot, for additional affordable housing availability within Massachusetts.

The Board spent time at every meeting, from August 2024 through July 2025, formulating language to fit into so many different sections and pages of our existing bylaws, to properly accommodate this totally new form of housing, called Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADU’s. This included consultations with Town Counsel, two public hearings, and Town Meeting sessions. The resulting work was finally ready for Special Town Meeting action by Leyden voters upcoming in July 2025.

Also submitted for a vote at the upcoming Special Town Meeting was a bylaw change to accommodate solar battery energy storage systems (BESS) by special permit only.

One of the other tasks for the Planning Board is receiving applications for, and ruling on, Special Permits. This year we dealt with 3 such applications. One for a retreat center on North County Road, which application was ultimately withdrawn due to its proposed status as a non-profit educational facility. Another application was for the renewal of a 3-family dwelling permit for a house on South Schoolhouse Road, and another for an addition to a Brattleboro Road residence to the existing structure already non-conforming to bylaws because of less than required road-front setback. Both of these last Special Permits were granted after required public hearings.

Plans for the coming year:

Future topics of discussion that have been contemplated as time permits are: electro-magnetic radiation resulting from various signal emitting devices around town; marijuana regulations, and subdivision rules and regulation updating.

Respectfully submitted

James Brodeur, Chair

Members of the Board:

James Brodeur, Chair

Sarah Bartholomew, Clerk

Davis Curtis

Elizabeth Kidder

Emily Yazwinski

Devorah Vester, Associate Member

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

In July 2024, the Select Board reinstated an Open Space and Recreation Committee with representatives from many town committees and charged them with updating the Town's 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan establishes goals and objectives to guide the Town in its decisions affecting open space, but it is not a legally binding document. It is not a plan for large-scale acquisitions of land by the Town, but it may recommend protection of specific areas, or their acquisition for public use. It can help preserve our heritage and plan for future need, ensure space for recreation, and safeguard the rural character of Leyden.

The first and most important part of the process of updating the plan is to get input from the citizens of our community. Every household in Leyden received a questionnaire in the mail at the end of February. More than one hundred and forty individuals provided valuable input and ideas that will guide the protection of open space and natural resources and the development of recreational facilities and programs in our town.

Approximately 20 individuals attended a listening session in March which provided valuable direction about the goals and objectives for the plan.

Plans for the coming year:

The committee will share its draft goals and objectives with the community at an open meeting this fall or winter. After incorporating community feedback, the full draft plan will be shared with the community and further revisions will take place.

The result will be a ten-year Open Space and Recreation Plan to guide the community for the next decade.



Both photographs were submitted by Pam Brown.

Thanks:

The Open Space and Recreation Committee is grateful to the Leyden community for their support and for actively helping to create our new ten-year plan. From an incredible response to the survey,

attending the listening session, to citizen volunteers and the Select Board representatives attending our monthly meetings, we are well positioned to create a plan that reflects the values of our town.

The Franklin Regional Council of Government's (FRCOG) Planning Department has also provided technical guidance and support, with Ryan Clary, Leyden resident and FRCOG Senior GIS Specialist updating the many maps which are integral to the plan.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee new plan is directly based on the prior plans that were written by past devoted committee members. Prior to his death this winter, Jerry Lund provided support to our committee and shared past working papers with us. In his past role as chair of the committee, Jerry did substantial work on both the 2004 and 2010 Leyden Open Space and Recreation plans. We are deeply appreciative of Jerry's leadership and commitment which has provided our town with a strong and detailed structure to plan our future.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Brown, Chair

Members of the Committee:

Pamela Brown, Chair

Janell Howard, Clerk

Robert DePalma, Assessor

Karin Parks, Library Director

Jim Brodeur, Planning Board Chair

Al Woodhull, Alternate

Recreation Committee

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

The Leyden Recreation Committee is currently a group of five volunteers who are committed to enriching the community by offering a variety of fun and engaging activities for the residents of Leyden and the surrounding community. We strive to provide programs that can include participants of a wide range of interests and ages.

It is also our responsibility to ensure that the continued and future use of the Avery Field and Recreation Area honors the intentions of the Avery Family that deeded this land to our town and to make improvements accordingly.



*Jeff Baker testing the new path.
Submitted by Jeff Baker.*

Over the last year it has been the goal of the Recreation Committee to make Avery Field and the Pavilion more accessible to everyone. With that in mind several improvements were made following the suggestions from the Leyden ADA Self Evaluation. With assistance from the Leyden Highway Department, two handicap accessible parking spaces were created next to the pavilion, as well as a gently sloping access to the restrooms. Thanks to a grant from Mass in Motion, new benches along with two ADA compliant picnic tables were purchased and installed at the field. A level and off-street walking path, suitable for wheelchairs has been created along the outside edge of the field.

The tennis and basketball court has been leveled, painted, and provided with equipment for the growing sport of Pickleball. A shed for equipment available to the community has been provided by the court. For the summer season, a composting portable toilet has been provided, so that residents using the fields or court will have a sanitary facility to relieve themselves when the pavilion is not open.

Over the year the Recreation Committee collaborated with other town committees to provide programs for the community. Starting in March, the Recreation Committee and the Leyden Council on Aging contracted with the Franklin County YMCA to cosponsor a Tai Ji Quan for better balance class. This class was well attended in the spring and continued for a second session over the summer. In June, in collaboration with the Leyden Cultural Council, a concert was held at the pavilion followed by a community potluck dinner. This event was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Through the year the Recreation Committee hosted several events for children including a “Trunk or Treat” just prior to Halloween. This included prizes for best costumes and for best decorations of participants’ trunks. At Christmas Santa and one of his elves toured Leyden on the back of one of the Town’s fire trucks. Due to the weather not being conducive for a Winter Carnival again we organized an indoor family game day in the Town Offices.



Santa and his elves visiting the children of Leyden in the Fire Truck. Submitted by Karin Parks

Budget expenditures:

The Recreation Committee's budget was spent on several of the above-mentioned improvements to Avery Field and Pavilion. This included repairing the existing tennis court and converting it to a pickleball court. Plus furnishing equipment and a storage shed by the court. Other purchases were made to equip the pavilion with accessories and supplies needed to host events. The purchase of an ADA compliant picnic table was made from the committee's budget as was the rental of the portable toilet. Another expense was the cost of the Tai Ji Quan balance class.

Grants or additional funding received:

The town received a grant from Mass in Motion which was used to purchase one ADA compliant picnic table and six benches for around Avery Field. This grant also allowed for improved handicap accessibility for parking and access to the restrooms at the pavilion. The Leyden Highway Department used this grant to pay for the materials used to construct the walking path along the outside edge of the field to the pickleball court.

Plans for the coming year:

In September in collaboration with the library we will be sponsoring the Heart of Leyden 5K and 0.5K fun run, there will also be an open walk to commemorate Irene Baker who passed this past year. That will all be taking place along with this year's Ready Fest. In October we are joining with the Council on Aging to sponsor a Connecticut Riverboat Cruise. We would also like to collaborate with the Cultural Council to plan another concert and townwide potluck supper.

We recently received twelve pairs of snowshoes and would like to plan a snowshoe event this coming winter; with a little luck the weather will cooperate and provide us with some snow.

We will continue to make improvements at the Avery Field and Pavilion. We are currently waiting to hear about a grant to allow for Wi-Fi service at the pavilion.



New England Wind and Sax Quartet, playing at the Summer Solstice Soirée cosponsored with the Leyden Cultural Council. Submitted by Steve Richter.

The Leyden Recreation Committee continues to seek interesting and enjoyable ways towards providing activities for the residents of Leyden. We welcome input from the community as to what we might plan for future projects.

Thanks:

We would like to thank the Select Board of Leyden for their continued support. We would also like to thank the Highway Department as well as Jeff Miller for assisting with projects and maintenance at the pavilion.

We are thankful for the collaborations that we have had with different departments in Leyden, specifically the Council on Aging, the Cultural Council and the Library.

Respectfully submitted
Steve Richter, Chair

Members of the Committee:

Steve Richter, Chair
Abbi Pratt, Treasurer
Ella Muka, Secretary
Karin Parks
Gary Russell



*October 2024 Trunk or Treat.
Submitted by Karin Parks.*

Education

Pioneer Valley Regional School District Franklin County Technical School



Left to right: Pioneer Valley Regional principal Anne Scanlan-Emigh, Northfield Elementary principal Kristen Schreiber and Bernardston Elementary principal Sarah Burnstein. Photo taken by Superintendent Patricia Kinsella.

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

The school district accomplished many of its goals for the past year, including these accomplishments:

- Selection of new math curriculum at both the elementary and secondary levels.
- Implementation of a new cell phone policy that has increased student engagement and reduced behavioral issues.
- Hire of highly-qualified Director of Teaching & Learning.
- Improvements to facilities and safety, including:
 - Installation of a new batting cage for the softball team.
 - Purchase of new equipment for the PVRs Woodshop.
 - Installation of four new security cameras and swipe cards at all schools.
 - Replacement of interior doors at PVRs.

Budget expenditures and Grants/additional funding received:

Budget expenditures Expenditure reports and detailed assessment information for FY25 are available at the district website: <https://www.pvrsk12.org/administration/finance>.

Plans for the coming year:

The District has once again established an ambitious agenda for the coming year, with

- Development of a five-year strategic plan.
- Increased enrollment via inter-state tuition agreements with Winchester, NH and Vernon, VT and in-state school choice.
- Implementation of new math curriculum in all schools, with related professional development for educators.
- Introduction of a Math Coach at PVRs to support excellence in math instruction.
- Further development of the Environmental Science Career Innovation Pathway at PVRs.
- Completion of third year of the Playful Learning Initiative, promoting age-appropriate, joyful learning strategies in the younger grades.
- Introduction of new courses, including Wilderness Engineering and Stagecraft, at PVRs.

Thanks:

Each member of the School Committee contributes unique talents and efforts to our shared work. With the collaboration with the community and citizens, our district and schools become even stronger.

Thank you to the citizens of Leyden who have been involved and continue to show up and be part of our educational community.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Gerry, Chair
PVRSD School Committee

Members of the Committee:

Melissa Gerry, Chair; Bernardston
Reina Dastous, Vice-Chair; Northfield
Stephanie Arroyo; Leyden
Michele Giarusso; Leyden
Gretchen Kelton; Bernardston
Stephen Martin; Northfield
Melissa Osborne; Northfield

Bernardston Elementary School

I am pleased to present the annual report of Bernardston Elementary School (BES) for the year beginning July 2024 and ending June 2025. Leyden elementary school students attend BES since the closing of Pearl Rhodes Elementary School in Leyden.

Student enrollment over the course of the 2024-2025 school year remained remarkably stable, with the year beginning and ending with 201 students enrolled. In June 2025, we celebrated the achievements of our graduating class of 24 sixth graders in a lovely ceremony featuring a student-created slideshow and musical performance.

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, the district focused on developing strong mathematical teaching practices. All BES classroom teachers participated in a year-long professional development series from Mount Holyoke College, Making Meaning for Operations. The goals of this series included developing ways to engage students to build connections among different mathematical concepts, exploring how math content is situated in the trajectory of learning across grade levels and developing a pedagogy in which student understanding takes center stage in our mathematical instruction. In addition, several BES teachers implemented Bridges Mathematics in their classrooms as part of a curriculum pilot, an outgrowth of the work of the Elementary Mathematics Curriculum Committee. By the close of the 2024-2025 school year, the PVRSD School Committee had approved of this group's proposal to fully implement Bridges Mathematics from kindergarten through grade five. In addition, the School Committee approved the recommendation to implement Reveal Math in grades six through eight.

Another important initiative was the Playful Learning Institute (PLI). This grant funded project, sponsored by MA DESE, focused on designing intentional play experiences and increasing opportunities for authentic assessment. Five BES educators, in grades preschool through third grade, participated in this project, expanding their understanding of play within the curriculum, adding new learning routines to their classrooms and interacting with the PLI coach. One exciting outcome of this project was a collaboration between Grade 3 and Kindergarten in which buddy students collaborated to create, produce and perform original stories.

Among our older students, the arrival of a very special tree generated lots of excitement. Thanks to the work of BES alumni and current Pioneer student, Amy VanDoren, BES became a steward of a sweetgum tree as part of the Artemis Moon Tree Project. During the 2024-2025 school year, BES students and community members assisted in the care of the sweetgum sapling, watering it regularly and monitoring it for pests. PVRSD woodshop students, under the direction of faculty member, Joshua Freund, designed and built a fence and protective shelter for the Moon Tree. In May of 2025, we celebrated the tree's first year in our community with a special celebration featuring local author, scientist and NASA astronaut, Dr. Cady Coleman.

BES staff, students and families continue to work together to build a strong and welcoming school community. Some important experiences have included the BES Open House, the annual Turkey Trot, the Winter and Spring Concerts featuring our student chorus and our student band, Winter Fun Day, BES Field Day, and our Moon Tree Celebration with special guest, Dr. Cady Coleman. Additionally, BES students enjoyed field trips to the Boston Museum of Science, the Connecticut Science Center, the Holyoke Children's Museum, Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield Mountain, the

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts, Historic Deerfield, and the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra. Neighborhood trips included Cushman Park, the Bernardston Senior Center, the Powers Institute, the Cushman Library and the Bernardston Post Office.

Throughout the school year, the BES PTO has been a fantastic partner. The PTO has provided classrooms with enrichment materials, funded field trips, and supported a wide range of activities across the building. They have been an essential part of the Popsicles with the Principal gathering, the Back-to-School Pizza Party, the Turkey Trot, Winter Fun Day, and many teacher appreciation events. The BES PTO has made a strong commitment to funding field trips and on-site enrichment experiences for all grade levels.

The safety of our school community is always a priority. Our collaboration with the local Police and Fire Departments is very strong. In addition to leading us in safety drills on a regular basis, our local police officers support us at arrival and dismissal and our local firefighters lead fire safety experiences for our students. We are also happy to partner with the Massachusetts State Police and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and Bernardston and the Northfield Police and Fire departments for ongoing assessment and routine drills. This positive rapport with the state and local safety and law enforcement officials continues to develop our sense of respect and safety.

On behalf of BES, I'd like to express my gratitude to Superintendent Kinsella, Principal Schrieber, Principal Scanlan-Emigh, the Central Office staff and administration, the School Committee, the PTO, town officials of Bernardston and Leyden, BES faculty, staff, students, families and community members. Thank you for the warm welcome and for placing your trust in me to lead your wonderful school. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration, growth and learning in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Burstein, Principal

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Pioneer is a great place to be a student. Over the course of the 2024-25 school year, we have expanded academic offerings, strengthened school culture, and created meaningful experiences in and out of the classroom. Pioneer is a gem of a school—small and mighty.

One area of growth during 2024-25 has been our new Program of Studies. In November 2024, teachers proposed innovative courses, and we used student interest to determine which of these courses would be offered the following year. That process led directly to several exciting classes now running at PVRs. Mr. Joshua Freund introduced two creative electives: Wilderness Engineering, where students tackle real-world design challenges using natural and recycled materials, and Stagecraft, which trains students in the technical and design aspects of theater production. We also launched a new Journalism class taught by Mr. Killeen, created in response to student requests, giving students hands-on experience with reporting, writing, and publishing.

At the same time, we have continued to refine our school-wide cell phone policy. In the spring of 2025, Dean of Students, Jeremiah Clark, and I interviewed students about their experiences at PVRs. While no students professed exuberant affection for the new policy, students did consistently report that the policy had improved their school experience. They described feeling more connected with peers during class and more engaged socially in the cafeteria and hallways. I would like to thank the School Committee for establishing such a clear policy that supports both learning and the mental health of our students.

Students also had extraordinary opportunities beyond the classroom. During 2024-25, the 7th and 8th grade classes traveled to Broadway to see *The Outsiders*, a book beloved in our middle school curriculum, come to life on stage. For many, it was their first visit to New York City and their first Broadway play.

Finally, I would like to thank the students, families, and teachers of Pioneer. At a time when much of the news about schools focuses on conflict or division, I feel fortunate to work in a school and community where relationships are strong and supportive. Our students are remarkably kind—a reflection of the adults around them. As I begin my second year at Pioneer, I am grateful to Superintendent Patricia Kinsella, Jordan Burns, Taffy Bassett-Fox, Zevey Steinitz, Nancy Parlakulas, Jeremiah Clark, and the entire Staff of PVRs. It's a privilege to be part of such a high-functioning, student-centered team.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Scanlan-Emigh, Principal

Franklin County Technical School

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character.

FY26 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2024-25 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2024 enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2024 the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 591 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	25	Erving	31	Montague	73	Sunderland	9
Buckland	24	Gill	16	New Salem	12	Warwick	5
Colrain	29	Greenfield	135	Northfield	50	Wendell	6
Conway	8	Heath	13	Orange	88	Whately	14
Deerfield	32	Leyden	10	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 143 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2024. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS to receive a high school diploma, and once again, our students successfully met this high academic standard. The state has adjusted its 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, landscaping, and advanced precision machining 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 in capital improvement projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023, FCTS had approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid co-op jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education 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, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15.

Unlike other school districts, which may offer a 45-minute course in a specific trade area, FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry-recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS has received an occupancy permit for its completed new 4,800-square-foot Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The building is located on the FCTS campus. This facility will be used to provide students with real-world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program will include a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Graduating students of the AMT program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. Upon leaving high school, an FAA certification will send our students on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for either a renovation or core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We are currently in the design phase of the project to determine what is feasible for FCTS and its member towns to renovate, build new, or seek other alternatives. The design phase will take a couple of years for completion prior to seeking town approval.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in State grants over the last 7 years. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, Electrical, Landscaping & Horticulture, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2024. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses, with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs. The following lists our many projects conducted in the past few years:

- Home building project on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Funded by a non-profit foundation.
- Storage shed for the Charlemont Federated Church
- Pavilion for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Town of Heath parking lot and office lights retrofitting
- Landscaping design for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Landscaping at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery
- Landscaping at Veteran's Memorial Park in Pelham
- Landscaping at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls
- Tree planting for South Deerfield and Turners Falls
- Wreaths made and hung at the Conway Covered Bridge
- Technology support to the Montague Senior Center
- Website development for the UCC Church in Conway
- Audio and video help for on line church services at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield
- New construction assistance on the new FCTS Hangar and Veterinary buildings
- Culinary presentation to the Northfield Senior Center
- Luncheons for the Montague Housing Authority and the Erving Red Hat Society
- Breakfast Catering for the Chamber of Commerce, School Resource Officer's and Light Up the Fairgrounds
- Repairs to the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls
- Fabrication of an air conditioner cover for the Town of Warwick
- Installed a bench at the French King Bridge in Erving
- Installed brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage
- Repairs to recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair
- Time capsule design and construction for the towns of Deerfield and Northfield
- Blood pressure clinic and nail clinic for the Erving Senior Center.
- Volunteer work at the Arbors Assisted Living and RegalCare facilities in Greenfield
- Holiday meals served at the Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield
- Cosmetology services for Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor Assisted Living, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center
- Volunteer work at the Dakin Humane Society

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

Regional Service Providers

Franklin County Regional Council on
Governments

Franklin County Regional Housing &
Redevelopment Authority

The Fred Wells Trustees

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District



Balloon over Franklin County. Photo by Beth Reynolds.

Franklin County Regional Council on Governments

The full annual report of the Franklin County Regional Council on Governments (FRCOG) can be found online at this link: <https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Annual-Report-regional-reduced-for-web.pdf>.

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

The full annual report of the Franklin County Regional Council on Governments (FRCOG) can be found online at this link or scan the included QR code:

- ✓ <https://townofleyden.com/files/HRA-2024AnnualReport-Oct2023-Sep2024.pdf>



The Fred Wells Trustees

This trust fund was established under the Will of Fred W. Wells. Mr. Wells, a former resident of Greenfield, directed that a portion of income from the fund be used for awarding scholarships in agricultural, mechanical or professional fields. Funds available for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 were \$359,114.57 (inclusive of unused scholarship money from previous years that was reallocated to be granted this year).

Education:

The Trustees received 190 applications and approved 189 of those received. Trustees awarded a total of \$295,487.00. This amount includes two \$1,000.00 scholarships in honor of Ralph and Hilda Haskins. The Trustees worked diligently throughout the year to provide all eligible applicants with an award to assist in their education.

Health:

Health grants awarded totaled \$53,867.00, which was awarded to ten applicants.

Applicant	Amount
Bernardston Senior Center	\$ 1,500.00
Charlemont Council on Aging	\$ 2,000.00
Conway Council on Aging	\$ 1,500.00
Greenfield Council on Aging	\$ 10,000.00
Heath Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Leyden Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Life Path, Inc.	\$ 20,000.00
Northfield Senior Center	\$ 1,500.00
The Care Collaborative	\$ 10,867.00
The Senior Center – West County Consortium	\$ 4,500.00
Total Amount Awarded	\$ 53,867.00

Agriculture:

Agriculture grants awarded totaled \$17,955.00, which were awarded to three applicants.

Applicant	Amount
Franklin County Agricultural Society	\$ 7,620.00
Heath Agricultural Society	\$ 7,860.00
Shelburne Grange Fair	\$ 2,475.00
Total Amount Awarded	\$ 17,955.00

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Feldman, Trustee

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

2024 Calendar Year Annual Report

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

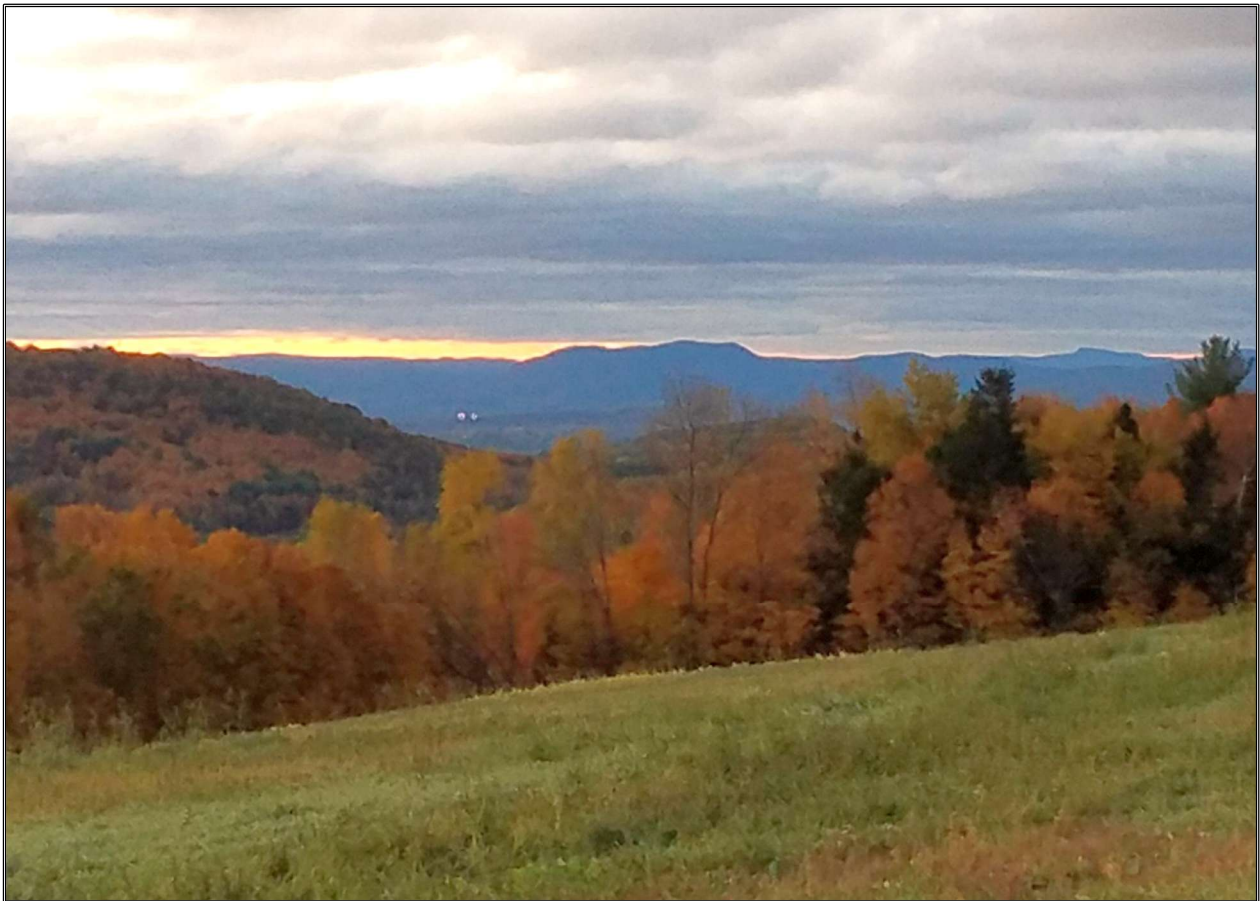
- District now brings in \$2,060,625.34 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY24 of \$54,703.81 a month.
- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- District added three more outreach satellite office hours to be more assessable to the Veterans who live in the out skirts of our District.
- Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control
- We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2026.
- The Office has produced 270 claims and 80 appeals with the VA for Veterans and their Dependents this year. A 150 net increase from last FY. Mostly due to the PACT ACT.

Christopher Demars, Director

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Public Information

Leyden Municipal Directory In Memoriam



View from Breeze Knoll Farm on North County Road. Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury.

Municipal Directory

The Town Offices are located at 7 Brattleboro Road in Leyden. Other municipal services, if not located at the town offices building, will be noted below.

Accountant	413-774-4111 Ext: 1 Accountant@townofleyden.com	Planning Board	PlanBoard@townofleyden.com
Board of Assessors	413-774-4111 Ext: 2 Assessors@townofleyden.com	Pioneer Valley Regional School	413-498-2931 97 F Sumner Turner Road, Northfield, MA
Bernardston Leyden Elementary	413-648-9356 37 School Road, Bernardston, MA	Police Department	256 South Street, PO Box 194, Bernardston, MA - All Emergencies 911 - Police Station (non-emergencies) 413-648-9208 - 24-Hour Dispatch 413-625-8200 - Animal Control / Loose Dogs 413-625-8200
Board of Health	BOH@townofleyden.com	Public Information Officer (PIO)	EmergencyInfo@townofleyden.com
Broadband / Municipal Light Plant (MLP)		Public Safety Advisory Committee	PublicSafety@townofleyden.com
Whip City Fiber Service		Recreation Committee	RecCom@townofleyden.com
- Hook Up & Billing	413-572-0100	Roberston Memorial Library	413-773-9334 Library@townofleyden.com 849 Greenfield Road, Leyden, MA
- Technical Support	413-485-1204	Select Board	SelectBoard@townofleyden.com
- Downed Wires / Storm Damage	413-485-1204	Tax Collector	413-774-4111 Ext: 4 TaxCollector@townofleyden.com
Conservation Commission	Conservation@townofleyden.com	Town Clerk	413-774-4111 Ext: 3 TownClerk@townofleyden.com
Council on Aging	COA@townofleyden.com	Town Coordinator	413-774-4111 Ext: 1 TownCoord@townofleyden.com
Cultural Council	CulturalCouncil@townofleyden.com	Town Treasurer	413-774-4111 Ext: 4 Treasurer@townofleyden.com
Finance Committee	FinCom@townofleyden.com	Zoning Board of Appeals	ZBA@townofleyden.com
Fire Department			
16 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA			
- All Emergencies	911		
- Fire Station (non-emergencies)	413-773-7673		
Franklin County Technical School	413-863-9561 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, MA		
Highway Department			
16 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA			
Highway@townofleyden.com			
Historical Commission	HistComm@townofleyden.com		
Leyden Emergency Management	EmergencyMtg@townofleyden.com		

In Memoriam



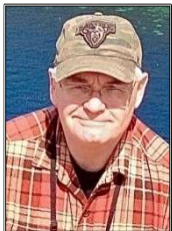
Leo S. Hourihan died Sunday July 7th, 2024, at his home. Leo was a clergyman for the United Church of Christ, receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 1972. He served churches in VT, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. One of his favorite quotes was to the effect that the world is made up of stories, not atoms. He considered it a great privilege to be given access to so many stories, particularly in his ministry, but it was a defining interest throughout his life. His sense of humor was evident always. One of the things former parishioners said they missed the most was the sound of his laughter filling a room.



Jerry S. Lund, Jr. died on Sunday, February 23rd, 2025. Jerry was a decorated Vietnam War veteran, having served in the Navy with an honorable discharge with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. He worked as a building contractor, specializing in fine woodworking. Jerry became deeply involved with public service, holding numerous positions in Leyden Town Government and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Jerry was an advocate for people with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), serving on multiple local, regional and statewide organizations dedicated to prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

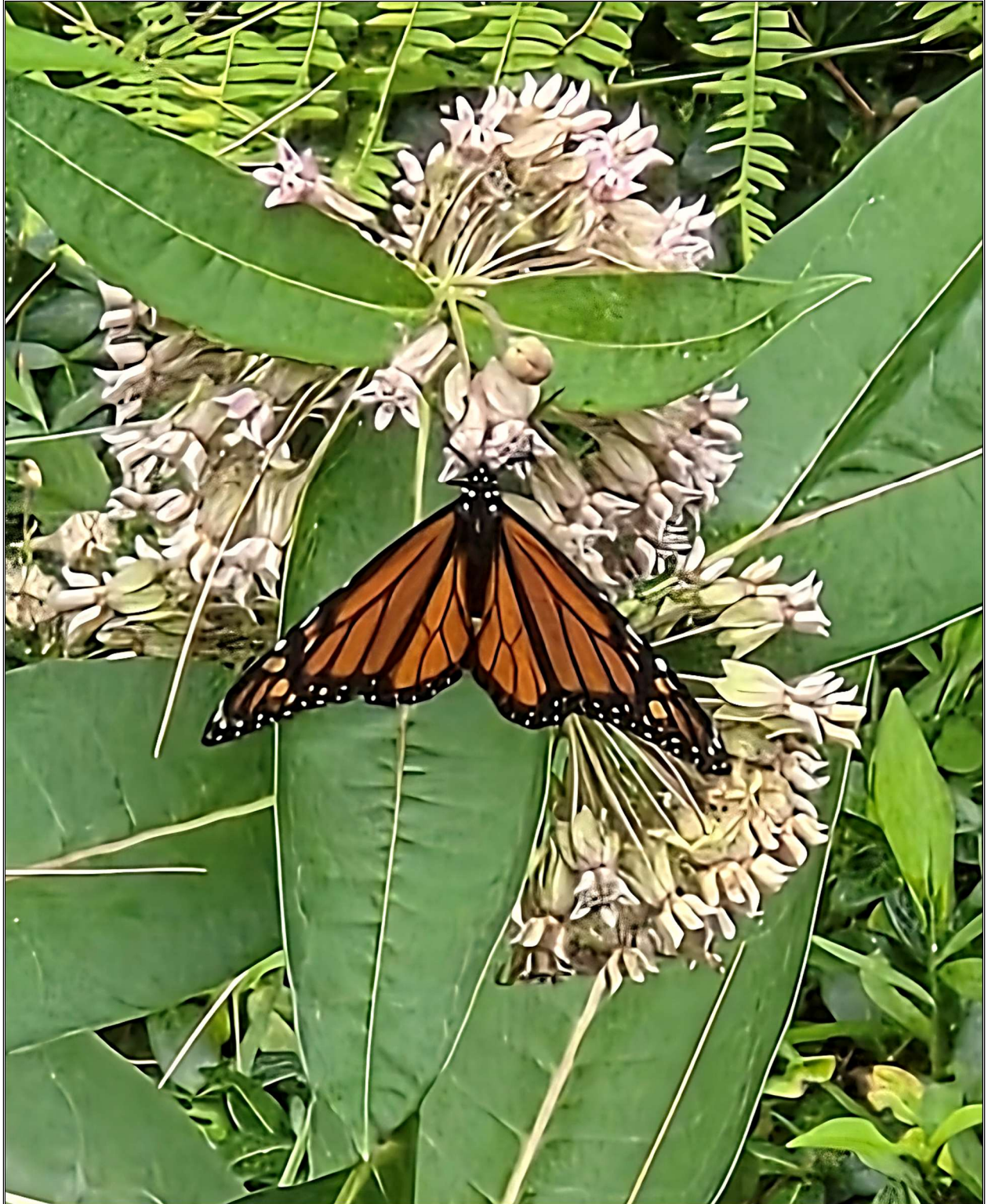


Irene Marion (Barton) Baker, died on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025. She began her career in 1968 as an Information Operator for New England Telephone Company in Greenfield, retiring in 1992. She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers. She was passionate about the Lord and volunteered to preach and hold Bible study at various nursing homes. She loved to dance and fondly remembers dances held at Leyden Town Hall. Irene loved to make homemade doughnuts for the hunters who gathered at her home every deer hunting season.



Paul M. O'Neil, died on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 at home. With his degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine, Paul lived in many parts of the country as he pursued his career in public service, always in a wildlife branch of the U.S. Department of Interior or the U.S.D.A. He began as a research technician for the U.S. Forest Service in Maine, which included caring for and researching the dietary needs of moose using abandoned calves, in order to make recommendations for forest cutting practices. Worked in animal damage control (ADC) in Albany, New York, Assistant Refuge Manager at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, San Diego County for ADC work, and the regional ADC office for Washington, Alaska and Hawaii, until the return home to New England as a grants manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Hadley.

James E. Van Pelt, died on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025. According to online public information, the family has chosen not to publish an obituary or service information for James.



Monarch Butterfly on Milkweed. Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury.