



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT JULY 14, 2026

Town Administrator

- I was able to attend the MassTrails grant ceremony in Clinton Ma.
- The FinCom/CapCom met and approved moving forward with the purchase of the ambulance and dump truck.
- Completing our FY 26 grant reimbursement requests.
- Reminder that the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs will be at the meeting on the 28th, we will hold it virtually to better accommodate everyone since EOEEA will need to be remote.

Assessors

- Entering building permits for new growth.
- Preparing real estate exemption applications for mailing.

Accounting

- On July 6th, large stacks of documents older than FY17 were shredded. A lot of space was freed up in the Accounting Office.
- FY26 ended on June 30th. Processes for closing, including reconciliations and journal entries, are in progress.
- Audit work for FY24 is once again a priority.

Building

- Reporting Period: June 8, 2026 – July 8, 2026

The Building Department continues to process permit applications, conduct inspections, and enforce building and zoning regulations to support safe development and maintain compliance throughout the community.

During this reporting period, the Department issued a total of 75 permits, representing \$2,163,641.79 in estimated construction costs and \$26,275.00 in permit fees collected.

- Permit Activity Summary:

Building Residential: 41 permits issued | Estimated Cost: \$1,765,181.91 | Fees: \$22,035.00
Electrical: 22 permits issued | Estimated Cost: \$346,059.88 | Fees: \$2,800.00
Gas: 6 permits issued | Estimated Cost: \$24,900.00 | Fees: \$560.00
Plumbing: 6 permits issued | Estimated Cost: \$27,500.00 | Fees: \$880.00

Grand Total All Permits:

75 Permits Issued | Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,163,641.79 | Total Fees: \$26,275.00

Conservation Commission

- The Commission is in need of members; two of the last three meetings were cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.
- The Conservation Commission at their 7/6/26 meeting, voted to recommend to the Select Board that Talula Thibault and Perrine Meunier be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Council on Aging

- The Senior Center closed the week of July 6th to organize, clean and to get the floors buffed and polished, funded by the Friends of the Southampton Council on Aging.
- Director Kate DiSanto was a recipient of the Commonwealth Heroines Award at the State House in Boston on June 24th. The nomination for this award came from Senator John Velis and his staff.
- The Council on Aging has a new board member, Ashley Stone, whose appointment began on July 1, 2026. Thank you to Ted Palmer who served as Board Chair and a member for more than three years.

Fire

- The Fire station side entrance door, near the flagpole, was replaced last week. The old door was all rotted and not working properly. The old door was replaced by a local contractor.
- For June we had ninety-five 911 calls. Seventy-one EMS calls and twenty-four Fire related calls
- This month we responded to a structure fire, on Brickyard Rd, caused by improper disposal of smoking materials.

Health

- Continuing legal action regarding the former Connecticut Valley Biological Center. The Health Department is also assisting the present homeowner to navigate repairs, permitting, new septic system installation, and bringing the condemned dwelling into compliance.
- Multiple housing emergency responses, including the Brickyard Road house fire, a service truck striking a County Road home, and a second County Road incident involving a vehicle striking a dwelling. One condemnation order and two correction orders were issued.
- College Highway vehicle hoarding matter – a plan has been submitted for the removal of vehicles.
- Perc tests and Title 5 inspections continue to keep the office busy during the week and on weekends. These inspections depend on contractor and homeowner availability and cannot always be performed during regular office hours. As a result, inspectional services must remain available on a seven-day-a-week basis.
- This is a busy time of year for food permits and inspections at event venues.
- Redrafting the existing well regulation to include updated requirements and parameters.

- Discussion of proposed tobacco regulations regarding the Nicotine-Free Generation initiative.

Highway

- A pond leveling device installed on Miller Ave beaver dam to protect the roadway. I have submitted a MSPCA grant request for funding of the project. UPDATE: MSPCA fully-funded the project.
- Franklin Regional Council Of Govt. bids have come in and I have filled out the opt in/out form for Southampton. UPDATE: Contracts are coming in and are being added to Contracts folder of shared drive as I sign off.
- Contract for Gilbert Rd. culvert replacement design grant signed and sent back to state for their signature – waiting for return of signed contract and Notice to Proceed to begin design.
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant application has been submitted. Due to a number of circumstances, we will not be eligible for as many points (points translate to dollars) next year as program/service costs increase or become infeasible and I am able to devote less time to Recycling Coordinator duties.
- UPDATE: End of fiscal year work completed:
Sections of guardrails replaced on Russellville Rd. near Westfield line.
Street line painting completed on Brickyard Road, Russellville Road, Rattle Hill Road, Glendale Road, Leadmine Road, Cold Spring Road, Whiteloaf Road.
Crack sealing completed on County Road North, Donna Marie Circle, Cook Road, Sophie Circle and Whispering Meadow Lane.
- The Highway crew has been working on mowing, improving Center Cemetery roads, roadside mowing and tuning up gravel roads (Elm, Fomer, Crooked Ledge).
- Overtime has been utilized for clearing trees from roadways.
- Truck T-12 has engine issue and is out of operation, towed to a mechanic 7/7.
- East St. Reconstruction: awaiting contract amendment from VHB.
- Safe Routes To School: nothing new.

Library

- The Youth Summer Reading Program 'Plant A Seed, Read' kicked off with 164 attendees at our registration event with the Batch ice cream truck. The reading incentive program runs through the first week of August and features weekly events, take-and-make crafts, and drop-in activities.
- Adults can be a part of Summer Reading, too. Fill out a ticket for every book you read to be entered into a weekly gift card raffle.
- Coffee Hour for conversation and cooling off goes through the summer Tuesday mornings at 10 AM with free coffee and snacks, everyone welcome.

Police

- *Recent Activity*

- Within the week of 7/1/26-7/8/26, approximately 520 log records were recorded. The Police Department responded to three crashes, one of which involved a vehicle crashing into a residence
- Due to construction on Rt10, the Police Department is making a concerted effort to reduce speed on High Street due to an uptick of traffic.
- Illegal use of e-bikes is drawing the attention of the police department. The police department is in the process of establishing a plan to curb this activity which will involve a strategic action plan involving education, warnings, and subsequent enforcement.
- *Public Outreach*
 - The Police Department collaborated with the Norris PTO on a bike safety initiative which involved rewarding children with a gift card to Sheldon's Ice Cream who exercise proper safety while riding a bike.
 - Comfort Dog Simba and his handler, Officer Hurley, continue to make visits. They recently visited a group home in Town. They went to the Norris School for their last day send-off and continued to visit elderly residents who live alone. Any person or organization who would like to meet or have a visit with the Simba are encouraged to contact the Police Department
- *Administrative Activity*
 - The Police Department continues to work with vendor Central Square for the new State 911 Department grant funded Computer Aided Dispatch and Records System. The current work involves settings and data migration from our current system.

Town Clerk

- Town Clerks office held a shredding event on Monday July 6th, to help clean up the vault downstairs and our office of old records that could be shredded with permission from the state on anything that did not need permission. We had 64 boxes total from assessors' office, town clerk's office and accounting, it was a very successful day.
- The town clerk is away from July 13-16th but her assistant is in the office until 4 every day of that week except Monday the 13th she is here until 3pm. Town Clerk will return on Monday July 20th.
- Lots of 250th Merchandise is still in our office, trying to figure out how to get people to be interested in purchasing.
- We are gearing up for the September election and will be holding Early in person voting at the end of August. We will update the dates for this at the end of July. Mail requests cards from the state will go out around July 11th to registered voters for the September election.
- The town clerk's office has received info from the elections division that back by popular demand, Secretary Galvin has officially decided that from now on, Democratic Primary ballots will be **blue**, and Republican Primary ballots will be **red/pink**.

Treasurer/Collector

- Q1 and Q2 2027 real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed out – increase in bills is 14.75%, which encompasses the 2.5% increase and the \$1.9MM override.
- We recently completed a borrowing for the DPW heating system and the main water work and secured an interest rate of 3.10%.
- Remaining FY 2024 audit requests are being completed and sent to CBIZ.
- Fiscal Year 2026 reconciliations are being completed, with the goal of having all accounts reconciled by mid-September in an effort to expedite tax rate setting and free cash certification.
- Our office is working with our new health, dental and life insurance vendors on our first billings.
- We are verifying all employee pay rates and accruals in preparation for the first payroll of fiscal year 2027.
- We are completing end of school year pay outs and school summer pays.

Water

- **College Highway water main replacement project:**

Contractor is continuing to lay main line pipe. Progress slowed slightly when they hit bedrock in the vicinity of 213-217 College Highway and while crossing College Highway to tie into Maple Street. This required the use of a hydraulic breaker and significantly delayed daily operations. Some good news is they have come into more favorable as they progressed northerly on the project. These re-useable native materials can be re-used as acceptable backfill and are not required to be hauled off-site. This project is expected to continue into the fall of 2026.

- **New Hire:**

Joe Russell started on 7/6/2026. Joe is a fresh new face to the water world who was hired with already having passed both Treatment I and Distribution I licenses exams with the State of Massachusetts and currently is listed with the State of Massachusetts Drinking Water Board as an “Operator in Training” (OIT). Each exam is a 3 hour timed exam that consists of 100 questions including state regulations, drinking water standards and complex math questions.

- **Lead Service Line Inventory:**

Water Dept personnel continue to perform inspections there will be a final push in the fall before the annual unknown letters are required to be mailed out.

- **New Water Withdrawal Permit:**

The SWD would like to take this opportunity to highlight certain key points to this new permit as so the public has a better understanding and how it takes every water user to help meet these new permit restrictions. If these required restrictions are not meet, stronger more stringent restrictions will be required to implemented, resulting in additional costs to end users!)

The Water Dept received a new Water Withdrawal Permit (#9P2-1-06-276.01) on 6/11/2026. The new permit was issued under the Water Management Act (M.G.L s21G). This permit essentially bans ALL NONESSENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER USES between the hours of 9AM and 5 PM 7 days per week. These “Special Conditions” remain in effect annually from May 1 through September 30.

There are nine (9) Special Conditions that **must** be met. (key conditions worth highlighting here include):

Special condition #1: Maximum Authorized Annual Average Withdrawals of 0.360 Million Gallons Per day (MGD) or less.

Special condition #2: Maximum Authorized Daily withdrawal limit to 0.792 MGD from our source well.

Special condition #5: Performance Standard for Residential Gallons Per Capita Day Water Use (RGPCD). This condition requires Southampton meet the Performance Standard for 65 Residential Gallons Per Capita Day (RGPCD). Southampton has been in compliance with the RGPCD Performance Standard since 2021 (**Table 2**). The renewed WMA Permit provides that if Southampton fails to meet this requirement, Southampton will be required to meet RGPCD Functional Equivalence requirements.

Special Condition #6: Performance Standard for Unaccounted for Water (UAW) The renewed WMA Permit requires Southampton to meet the 10% Unaccounted-for Water (UAW) Performance Standard. Southampton’s has meet the UAW and has been at or below the Performance Standard since 2023. The Renewed WMA Permit requires Southampton meet the 10% UAW Performance Standard two out of every three consecutive years. The renewed WMA Permit provides that if Southampton fails to meet the 10% UAW standard, Southampton will be required to meet Functional Equivalence requirements based on the AWWA/IWA Water Audits and Loss Control Programs, Manual of Water Supply Practices.

Special Condition #7: Water Conservation Requirements. The renewed WMA Permit will update the requirements for water conservation requirements to reflect the July 2018 standards outlined in the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission’s Water Conservation Standards.

Special Condition 8: Southampton has been assigned to a U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Gage 01171500 which is located on the Mill River in Northampton MA. Calendar triggered restrictions are in place from May 1 through September 30. Streamflow triggered restrictions are implemented at those times when streamflow falls below designated flow triggers measured at an assigned, web-based, real-time USGS stream gage from May 1st through September 30th. At a minimum, restrictions commence when streamflow falls below the trigger for three consecutive days. Once implemented, the restrictions remain in place until streamflow at the assigned USGS local stream gage meets or exceeds the trigger streamflow for seven consecutive days.

- **Current Distribution System:**

The Southamptton water distribution system continues to grow every year. Approximately 25 new water services have been added to our system since 10/2023. This growth has put our daily average withdrawals volumes right at current permit limits. This continued growth has required the SWD to pursue renewing our water withdrawal volume and SWD is actively working with our engineering firm to renew our withdrawal permit. FY2027 budget has earmarked \$25,000 for this permit renewal.

(Current permit conditions as of 7/8/2026 allow nonessential outdoor water usage all 7 days per week, but only between the hours of 5PM and 9AM, this includes any and all water usage including irrigation).

- **M36 Water Audit:** Southamptton water dept was chosen as one of many municipal water departments for a free water audit. This audit was performed by Tighe & Bond engineers in Westfield. Date provided by SWD as to where every drop of all 133,014,837 million gallons of water we pumped in 2025 went. The goal of this audit was to help our system determine water losses with a goal of identifying efficient water loss control methods and provide helpful benchmarks and targets to assist in selecting system and operations improvements. This report gave a score of our system as to how well we compare to other water systems of similar sizes. It compared key performance indicators, including total loss cost rate, apparent loss cost rate, real loss cost rate and infrastructure leakage index. SWD system had a “high data validity” and scored average compared to other systems our size. Recommendations include the continued already ongoing project of replacing older residential meters and addressing meter inaccuracies at our two source meters that were installed by the lowest bid.

Veterans

- Our Veterans Service Officer will be unavailable for the next several weeks.

Schools

Summer Vacation, 2026!

Good Afternoon and Hello Summer Vacation!

As I reflect on the 2025-2026 School Year, I was thinking of you: students, educators, counselors, administrators, staff, families, and stakeholders. The final bells have rung and the hallways are quiet. I want to take a moment to look back on what has been a remarkable school year. Together, we have learned, grown, faced challenges, and celebrated incredible achievements across all of our classrooms, stages, fields, courts and schools.

- To our students: Thank you for your curiosity, your hard work, and the energy you bring to school every single day. I am immensely proud of everything you have accomplished.
- To the Class of 2026: As you turn the page to your next chapter, remember that you always have a home here in Southampton and at Hampshire Regional!
- To our educators, staff, and administrators: Your dedication, creativity, and unwavering support for our students are the heartbeat of our districts. Thank you for giving your absolute best every day!
- To our families and community members: Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and trust. Education is a truly collaborative effort, and you help us make success possible! Textbooks and programs have closed, and it's time to open up a summer of new experiences. I hope the coming months bring you plenty of sunshine, relaxation, and precious time spent with family and friends. Be safe, have fun, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the fall, recharged and ready for another fantastic year!

Dr. Perrone (Dr. P/Vito)

P.S. Alice Cooper came out with this song in 1972, **School's Out**; it was our anthem the summer of '83 after I graduated HS!

P.P.S. Yes, that was over forty years ago, YIKES!!