



## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT JULY 28, 2026

### **Town Administrator**

- The state budget has been finalized along with the FY 27 cherry sheet/state aid totals.
- Senator Velis continues to push for the \$200,000 earmark for Norris School. It does appear to be moving forward with the funds anticipated to be distributed early in 2027.
- The Finance Committee approved approximately \$130,000 in capital improvements from the new capital improvement budget.
- The Town received another MassTrails grant for FY 27 to continue work on Phase I of the Greenway.
- I will be out August 13th – 19th.

### **Assessors**

- Preparing exemption applications (senior, disabled veteran & blind) for mailing
- Finishing building permits data collection for new growth

### **Accounting**

- Reconciliations for FY26, mainly cash activity, are being worked on.
- Final audit requests and questions for FY24 are a top priority.
- Once final revenue receipts are posted (June 2026 revenue is currently pending), School accounts will be reconciled with the Hampshire Regional office.

### **Building**

- During the past two weeks, the Building Department issued three new home Certificates of Occupancy, fifteen new building permits, and conducted multiple building, electrical, plumbing, and gas inspections throughout the Town.

### **Conservation Commission**

- The Commission is still involved with the Solar Farm project on Pleasant St. but hopes to close the hearing and make a decision in July.
- The Commission is in need of members; two of the last three meetings were cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

### **Council on Aging**

- The Council on Aging recently received approval for a \$25,000 Service Incentive Grant from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging. This will subsidize funding for an ADA accessible patio (9x40 ft.) on the outside of the Senior Center entrance. Remaining funds needed for the project completion will be paid by the FY26 COA Earmark for Capital Improvements and Programming from Senator Velis' Office.

- The COA is actively searching for Senior Center/FRTA Van Drivers to fill needs for van service Monday – Friday through the Senior Center Demand Response and the new Access Program through FRTA/PVTA in Southampton.

## **Fire**

- New Ambulance Update, we are working with the same vendor that received our current front-line ambulance in 2018. We will be working off the spec sheet from our current ambulance with some updates added.
- For June we issued twenty-six permits & completed twenty-four inspections.
- We are currently working with a Fire Engineer with the MA Department of Fire Service on the permit approval process for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), to be located at 160 East St (Bashista's Orchard). The Solar company will need to hire an independent reviewer with expertise in this installation, at their expense.

## **Health**

July 14 – July 22

- Septic Inspections, perc tests, plan reviews and Disposal Construction Works Permits (DCWP): 5 Title V inspections conducted, 4 septic plan reviews, 4 DCWP's issued, 2 perc tests
- 1 Court action relative to receivership initiated
- 5 Temporary food permits issued
- Brickyard Rd. house fire condemnation: property has been sold. New owner working to correct preexisting violations to bring dwelling and property into compliance

## **Highway**

- Greenway: I attended a Comment Resolution Meeting on the Greenway 25% plans on 7/16.
- Highway Truck replacement: Vendor preparing contract – we should have it by end of week (7/24).
- MS4 BMP Demonstration project at Conant Park: waiting on Select Board to sign consultant proposal for finalized design, bidding docs and oversight; and determine funding source for construction. See emails 6/29/26 RE: MCM 5.
- East Street reconstruction: awaiting updated design proposal from consultant as previous contract has been expended.
- Safe Routes To School: nothing new.
- Pomeroy Meadow and Glendale bridges: awaiting input from Town Council (Scott).
- Gilbert culvert: Grant contract sent back to State, awaiting their signature and notice to proceed. consultant proposal for design is under my review.

## **Library**

- Devices from the Connected and Online Technology Grant are available for checkout at the library. This includes Chromebooks, touch-screen tablets, laptops, and headphones. We also have a WiFi hot spot available, too.
- Youth Summer Reading has over 220 registered participants, a record number surpassing previous years. The program runs through Mid-August.

## **Police**

- *Recent Activity*
  - From 7/9/2026 to 7/22/26 approximately 600 log records were recorded. The police department responded to numerous calls for service to include but not limited to several disturbances, several calls involving behavioral health, trespassing, and shoplifting. Criminal charges were issued for domestic violence, operating under the influence, and minors transporting alcohol.
- *Public Outreach*
  - On July 19, 2026, the Department began a social media education campaign on the use of electric bikes.
  - Simba was deployed on several occasions to assist both adults and children in crisis or experiencing behavioral health related issues.
- *Administrative*
  - The FY2025 Edward Byrne JAG grant that was awarded in October of 2025 was closed out with the total reimbursement of \$21,935 to the Town by the State. This funding was used to update the department's internal video monitoring and recording platform for the cell block, interview room, and booking room.

## **Schools**

- Extended School Year Programming in the Five Districts:
- Tutoring service is available at HRHS, W.E. Norris, and A.T. Dunphy
- SPED Program Services are offered at the following schools for the ages listed below:
  - W.E. Norris PreK-6;
  - WES provides PreK programming for its students as well as students from New Hingham;
  - New Hingham offers K-6 programming for its students as well as students from WES
- HRHS- Transition Programming for rising Seventh Graders and Life Skills programming for current HRHS students;
- Joe Punska, Executive Administrative Assistant to Michael and me, will start on 7/13/26. He comes with extensive experience and skills. I anticipate a seamless transition into the role, and I am excited to welcome him to the COT.

- HRHS Advanced Placement Scores:
  - 230 exams total (155 in 2025)
  - Average score of 3.6 (3.4 in 2025)
  - 84% of exams earned a 3 or higher (81% in 2025)
  - 86.2% of students earned a 3 or higher on at least one exam (86.6% in 2025)

#### **Town Clerk**

- Mail in Voting Application Postcards were sent out from the state for the 9/1 primary to registered voters, we are seeing them come back and as of today 7/22 we have 254 returned to us.
- Early in person voting period is August 22-28<sup>th</sup>. A schedule of hours will be put up soon.
- Our population as of 7/22/2026 is 6395 residents, registered voters is 5249.

#### **Treasurer/Collector**

- FY24 audit requests have been completed.
- FY26 Statement of Indebtedness has been completed and updated to the DOR Gateway.
- Working on FY26 cash and receivable reconciliations.

#### **Water**

- College Hwy project: Construction crews are working on laying main line pipe north of East St to Pomeroy Meadow Rd. We are scheduling pressure testing, chlorination and subsequent bacteria tests for the section of main from Clark St to East St.
- Preparing for DEP's Sanitary Survey scheduled for early October.
- Reviewing results of M36 Water Audit recently completed by Tighe & Bond.
- Reviewing quote from Tighe & Bond to complete the additional work needed to complete the Service Line Inventory Project. This work includes a random investigation pool for statistical analyses for the public side and private side, create the random investigation pools needed for both sides, and determine how many additional public side and private side physical inspections are needed to achieve a 95% confidence level in the statistical analyses. Tighe & Bond will also draft a summary of the status of SWD's SLI and will submit a request to MassDEP for approval of the use of statistical analysis for the update of the SLI.
- This work includes projective modeling and loan application paperwork potentially needed for funding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF).
- Completed\submitted a grant application for the Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO). \$50,000 grant to cover partial cost to complete the Service Line Inventory Project. (this will cover partial cost of "potholing" to dig up unknowns to identify service line material)

- Turned on 3 new services this week and took applications for 3 additional new services.
- The SWD is looking to gain access to our meter reading equipment to upgrade the technology at the last 103 service customers with older equipment. The guys are out knocking on doors and posting those properties to help persuade customers to allow access to the water meters so we can wrap this project up. This equipment will allow us to read meters more efficiently and allow us to provide customers with excessive water usage concerns.

### **Veterans**

- The Veterans Agent will hopefully resume regular office hours shortly.