



Annual Report 2023



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

212th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF THE



**TOWN OF
WAKEFIELD**

MASSACHUSETTS

Including the vital statistics for the year
ending December thirty-first

2023

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Cover: Bandstand a/k/a Gazebo in early morning fog.
Photo Credit Jeff Klapes

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

Population 2023 Census: 24,802

2020 Federal Census: 25,944

Councilor, 6th District: Terrence W. Kennedy of Lynnfield

U.S. Representative for Mass. 6th Congressional District: Seth Moulton

Representative 9th Essex District: Donald H. Wong

Representative 32nd Middlesex District: Kate Lipper-Garabedian

Senator, Fifth Middlesex District: Jason Lewis

TOWN OFFICIALS

***Town Council**

Mehreen N. Butt (2026)

Jonathan P. Chines (2025)

Anne P. Danehy (2024)

Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. (2026)

Michael J. McLane (2025)

Julie Smith-Galvin (2024)

Robert E. Vincent II (2025)

****Town Administrator**

Stephen P. Maio

****Executive Secretary**

Sherri A. Dalton

****Animal Inspector**

Beverly Milward/ Kevin Nichols

****Chief of Police**

Steven A. Skory

****Electrical Inspector**

David J. Sardella

****Emergency Management**

Thomas P. Walsh

****Fire Chief**

Michael J. Sullivan

****Inspector of Buildings**

Benjamin DeChristoforo

***Moderator**

William Harbison Carroll (2026)

****Parking Clerk**

Kenneth J. Stache

****Plumbing/Gas Inspector**

Paul J. Donohoe

***Tax Collector**

Kathleen M. Kelly (2024)

****Town Accountant**

Kevin M. Gill

****Town Assessor**

Victor P. Santaniello

***Town Clerk**

Betsy Sheeran (2026)

****Town Counsel**

Thomas A. Mullen

****Town Director of Communications**

Jennifer McDonald

****Town Director of Community and Economic Development**

Erin Kokinda

***Treasurer**

John J. McCarthy, Jr. (2025)

****Veterans Agent**

David Mangan

Town Accountant

John J. McCarthy, Emeritus, January 26, 1991

Town Administrator

Thomas P. Butler, Emeritus, May 31, 2008

****Advisory Board of Public Works**

Elena Proakis-Ellis (2025)

Shane McCarthy (2026)

Christopher Tarr (2024)

****Arts Council**

Lori Dupuis (2024)

Beatrice Flammia (2026)

Sarah Madeleine Tierney Guerin (2024)

Diana Kennedy (2026)

Lindsay Riordan (2025)

Jessica Sutich (2026)

Marlene Veldwisch (2025)

Gaetano Zagami (2025)

***Board of Assessors**

Brian Donegan (2025)

David Ledonne (2026)

Sebastian P. Tine (2024)

***Board of Health**

Laurel Skinder Gourville (2024)

Candace Linehan (2026)

Elaine M. Silva (2025)

***Board of Library Trustees**

Christopher Barrett (2025)

Laura Cutone Godwin (2063)

Paul Gordon (2024)

Aimee Lominac (2024)

Jeffrey Quinn (2025)

Jacqueline A. Natale (2025)

Adam Rodgers (2026)

Scott Staiti (2024)

Susan Wetmore (2026)

****Board of Registrars**

Kathleen M. Beaulieu

Wesley A. Beckett

Barry D. Noyes

Betsy Sheeran, Clerk to the Board of Registrars

****Bylaw Review Committee**

Lucy Fox

Katherine Howitt

Daniel P. Lieber

Timothy Lilley

Joseph Pride

Eric Reid

Ann Santos

Kevin York

****Cable Advisory Committee**

Daniel P. Lieber (2024)

Shane McCarthy (2024)

William Reading (2025)

Eric Reid (2026)

****Capital Planning Committee**

Daniel Calore (2026)

Tracey Cleversey (2026)

Frank Conte (2024)

Samuel Hockenbury (2025)

Franklin C. Leone, Jr. (2024)

Philip Renzi (2025)

David Whitham (2024)

****Commission on Disabilities**

Kristen Bardol (2024)

Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2026)

Lois Jarema Benjamin (2026)

Lorna J. Davidson-Connelly (2025)

Janice Mirabassi (2024)

Paul Paglierani (2026)

Marie Rej (2024)

Judith Tanner (2025)

Paula Thompson (2025)

***Conservation Commission**

Kenneth Alepidis (2026)
Teresa Belmonte (2024)
Julie Giganti-Almeida – Non-voting (2024)
Frank J. Luciani, Jr. (2026)
Haley McHatton Ballou (2025)
Peter Miller (2024)
Robert J. Romano (2024)
Paul F. Wendelgass (2025)

***Constables**

Lisa A. Butler (2026)
Christian K. Lopes (2025)
Kevin J. Lopes (2024)

****Council on Aging**

Julie Brown (2026)
Christina Della Croce (2025)
Maureen Hickey (2024)
Susan Jepson (2025)
Jim Morin (2026)
Sherri Oken (2025)
Joanne Scouler (2024)

****Economic Development Council**

Christopher Barrett (2026)
Rocco Cammarata (2025)
Ali Choucri (2025)
Ann Hadley (2024)
Ally Houghton (2026)
Kimberlee Meserve (2025)
Julianne Orsino (2026)
Nithya Ramakrishnan (2024)
Will Strong (2024)

****Environmental Sustainability Committee**

Joseph Conway – Department of Public Works Representative
Sharon Daly – WMGLD Representative
Melissa Eusden (2024)
Robin Greenberg (2025)
Lillian Guinther (2024)

Amy Leeman – School Committee Representative
Christopher Lewis (2025)
Christina Olivieri (2026)
Julie Smith-Galvin – Town Council Representative
Steffin Spears (2026)
Tiana Veldwisch – (2025)
Eric Cohen – Student Liaison (2024)
Russell Jackson – Student Liaison (2024)
Teagan Norton – Student Liaison (2024)

****Fence Viewing Committee**

Holly Lenhardt (2024)
John Sofia (2025)
Paul Torraca (2026)

****Finance Committee**

Edward Bean (2024)
Joseph Bertrand (2025)
William J. Boodry, Jr. (2024)
Douglas S. Butler (2026)
Stefan Chase (2024)
Brian Cusack (2025)
Aimee Forsythe (2026)
Dennis Hogan (2024)
Tarae Howell (2026)
Evan Kenney (2024)
Donald Ravenelle (2026)
Daniel W. Sherman (2025)
James Sullivan (2025)
Lorri Wheeler (2026)
Ellie Zuccaro (2025)

****Historical Commission**

Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2025)
Nancy L. Bertrand (2026)
Marc DiBella (2024)
Cathlina Drive (2025)
Therese Frazier (2026)
Frank Giangregorio (2024)

***Housing Authority-Re-election in abeyance since 2016**

Joseph Dorney – Gubernatorial Appointee (2027)

Sarah Fowler (2027)

Charles Geier (2026)

Jane Good (2024)

Judith Oder (2028)

****Human Rights Commission**

Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez (2024)

Jillian Dymont (2026)

Jeremy Little (2024)

Sherri Oken (2025)

Jessica Sutich (2026)

Rabbi Greg Hersh – Clergy Council Member (2024)

Vanessa Westlake – Student Representative (2024)

***Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School (4 years)**

Brittany Carisella (2024)

****Permanent Building Committee**

Joseph B. Bertrand (2024)

Jason Cohen (2026)

Erin Demerjian (2025)

Thomas Galvin (2024)

Wayne Hardacker (2024)

John McDonald (2025)

Marc Moccio (2025)

Philip Renzi (2025)

Charles L. Tarbell (2025)

***Planning Board**

James Hogan (2027)

Matthew Lowry (2025)

Theodore H. Noell (2026)

William L. Spaulding (2024)

Kevin York (2028)

****Recreation Commission**

Gerald E. Barrett (2026)

Robert Burnett (2025)

Charles Ciccone (2024)

Christine M. Gargano (2024)
Julie Grillon (2025)
Susan Hickey (2026)
Richard Stevens (2026)
Jeanne Stinson (2025)

Retirement Board

****Sherri A. Dalton**
Kevin Gill, Ex-Officio
***Erin Kokinda (2025)**
***Scott Morrison (2027)**
****Daniel W. Sherman (2026)**

***School Committee**

Eileen Colleran (2025)
Peter Davis (2026)
Kevin Fontanella (2025)
Stephen Ingalls (2024)
Amy Leeman (2024)
Thomas F. Markham, III (2025)
Kevin Piskadlo (2026)

****Sweetser Lecture Advisory Committee**

David Miller
Julie Scott

****Traffic Advisory Committee**

Joseph Anderson – Police Lieutenant
Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. – Resident Representative
Lois Jarema Benjamin – Commission on Disabilities Representative
John Connors – Resident Representative
Joseph Conway – DPW Director
Matt Kealey – VHB Engineer
Stephen P. Maio – Town Administrator
William Renault – Town Engineer

****Veteran Advisory Board**

Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2025)
Paul Cancelliere (2026)
William Curran (2025)
Joseph Dellolio (2024)

Marion Dennehy (2025)
Robert Ettinger (2024)
Dale Findlay (2026)
Christopher Olsen (2026)
Kristi Yentile (2024)
Marc Young (2025)

***Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Commission**

Thomas Boettcher (2025)
Sharon Daly (2025)
Jennifer Kallay (2024)
Elton Prifti (2024)
John J. Warchol (2026)

****Zoning Board of Appeals**

Michael Feeley, Alternate (2024)
David W. Hatfield (2026)
Thomas Lucey, Alternate (2024)
James H. McBain (2025)
Gregory McIntosh, Alternate (2024)
Joseph Pride (2025)
Charles L. Tarbell, Jr. (2024)

*Elected **Appointed

Wakefield Voters Elect:

Board of Assessors
Board of Health
Board of Library Trustees
Constables

Moderator

Municipal Gas & Light Commissioners

Northeast Metropolitan Regional

Vocational School Representative

School Committee

Tax Collector

Town Clerk

Town Council

Town Planning Board

Town Treasurer

Wakefield Housing Authority

Town Council Appoints:

Advisory Board of Public Works

Arts Council

Board of Appeals

Board of Registrars

Cable TV Advisory Committee

Capital Planning Committee

Commission on Disabilities

Conservation Commission

Council on Aging

Election Officers

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Fence Viewing Committee

Historical Commission

Human Rights Commission

Permanent Building Committee

Recreation Commission

Sweetser Lecture Advisory

Town Administrator

Town Counsel

Various Special Committees

Veteran's Advisory Board

Youth Council

Finance Committee is appointed by the Chair of the Town Council, the Town Moderator, and the Chair of the Finance Committee

Town Administrator Appoints:

Dog Officer/Animal Inspector

Emergency Management Director

Fire Chief

Inspector of Buildings

Parking Clerk

Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Police Chief

Town Accountant

Veteran's Service Agent

Wire Inspector

How Voting is Done in Wakefield:

www.wakefield.ma.us

Voter Registration

Local Elections

Town Meeting

Prepared by the Town Clerk and the League of Women Voters of Wakefield

Voter Registration

To register to vote in Wakefield you must be:

- An American citizen native-born or naturalized
- At least 18 years old on the date of the election
- A resident of Wakefield, Massachusetts

When and where to register:

- Online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr
- Monday's through Friday's, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and during any extra hours scheduled by the Board of Registrars see local newspapers and Town's website for times.
- Town Clerk's office, Town Hall, One Lafayette Street, OR in any other city or town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts your registration will be forwarded to Wakefield Town Clerk for inclusion on local voting list.
- You may also request a mail-in registration form.

Deadlines for Registration:

- To vote in state or presidential primaries or state elections, you must register to vote at least 20 days before the election.
- To vote in the local elections, or to vote at Annual Town Meeting, you must register to vote at least 20 days prior to the election.
- To vote at a Special Town Meeting, you must register at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

More about registration:

Registration is permanent unless a voter moves to a new city or town. However, failure to respond to the Annual Census may result in being dropped from the active list of Registered Voters. A voter, moving from one precinct to another with the town, should immediately notify the

Registrars of the changes to assure being able to vote in the new precinct, otherwise s/he must vote in his/her former address.

Registrations are administered by the Board of Registrars which has four members, two from each of the top two political committees in Town. One is the elected Town Clerk who serves as Clerk of the Board. The other three are three citizens, nominated by the appropriate political committee, appointed by the Town Council, and serving for a three-year term.

Local Elections

Polling Place: Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street

Local elections are held annually on the fourth Tuesday in April and are non-partisan. Write-ins are permitted, and absentee voting is allowed.

To become a candidate for local office, a citizen must:

- Be a registered voter in Wakefield, Massachusetts.
- Obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk (one set of papers for each office sought in the election).
- Obtain the signatures of 50 citizens who are registered to vote in Wakefield.
- Submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars 49 days prior to the town election for certification of the signatures.
- File nomination papers with the Town Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the 35th day before the town election. This places the candidate's name officially on the ballot.

To join a political party:

A citizen may choose to declare his/her choice of political affiliation when he/she registers to vote, or may declare his/her party choice when voting in primary elections. If a voter chooses not to declare his/her party, he/she will be listed as an "unenrolled voter" on voting lists.

How to be a delegate to a state or national convention:

Each town political committee has the information on how any party member can be a delegate to a State or National Party Convention.

A party member is eligible to be a delegate to his/her party conventions; delegates are chosen every four years on the presidential primary ballot.

Procedure of Town Meeting

The Moderator, an elected town official, presides at Town Meetings. He/she begins by reading the call for the meeting. Usually a motion is made to waive further reading of the warrant*, with the exception of the constable's return (which the law demands be read), and the motion is carried. Articles in the warrant are taken up in the order as they are printed in the warrant unless otherwise decided by a two-thirds vote.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee are available before voters discuss or act upon an article. For the Annual Town Meeting, these recommendations are available a week to ten days before the meeting in booklet form, called "Annual Appropriations" and may be obtained at the Town Administrator's Office at Town Hall.

The presentation of, and recommendation on, warrant articles at Town Meeting are presented in the following order:

- Presentation by the sponsor of the article, to present his/her case;
- Recommendation (and discussion, if any) of the appropriate Town officer;
- Recommendation of the Finance Committee, if money is involved.

The voters may then debate the question according to rules of parliamentary procedure prescribed by the town by-laws, such as:

- Stand, address the moderator, give name and address clearly, confine remarks to the question under debate and avoid personalities.
- Speak for no more than five minutes at any one time, unless granted permission by the meeting. No voter may speak more than once on any question if other voters desire to be heard, and no voter may speak more than twice on the same question without permission of the meeting.
- Speak not more than two minutes on any one of the following motions:
Motion to adjourn. Motion to lay on the table. Motion to take from the table. Motion to put the previous question. (These motions only are in order when a question is under debate. Total time allowed for debate on each motion is six minutes.)

A two-thirds vote of the assembly is necessary on a motion which requires a bond issue. Reconsideration of a vote may take place only at an adjourned session after written notice to Town Clerk within 24 hours;

two-thirds vote required. The Moderator may request a voter to put his/her motion in writing. Should seven voters doubt the accuracy of the Moderator's count of hands on a motion, tellers are appointed to make the count. The Moderator clarifies motions when they are especially complex.

Conduct at town meeting is further governed by the rules of practice, pertinent to town meetings in "Roberts Rule of Order".

While Town Meeting has no role in deciding whether to hold a Proposition 2½ referendum, it may decide to appropriate money for certain purposes contingent upon the voters' approval of an override or bond exclusion under Proposition 2½. These contingent appropriations may be made from the tax levy, available funds or borrowing under the requirements of state law.

*Town Meeting Warrant – a collection of articles presented by departments, voters, and committees for consideration by voters at an annual or special town meeting.

Annual Report

The Annual Report is comprised of reports from all Town departments, including operating expenses and statistical information. The Annual Report is compiled by the Town Administrator's office, and copies are available free prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

General Government

Reports of:

Town Council

Town Administrator

Assessing Department

Bylaw Review Committee

Cable Advisory Committee

Conservation Commission

Planning Board

Recreation Commission

Wakefield Community Access TV (WCAT)

Zoning Board of Appeals

REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

At the Town Council organizational meeting on May 8, 2023 following the Town Election in April, Jonathan P. Chines was elected Chair and Michael J. McLane was elected Vice-Chair. The Town Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

The powers, duties and responsibilities of the Town Council are enumerated in hundreds of sections of law applying directly to Town Councils. The broadly diversified powers, duties and responsibilities of the Town Council affect the functioning of all Town departments and central coordination is essential to an effective and efficient municipal administration.

The Town continues to function under the Open Town Meeting –Town Council-Town Administrator- Town Charter model. The Charter grants the Town Administrator the responsibility for daily management of the Town's business; provides for the election by the voters of a seven member Town Council, a Town Moderator, a Tax Collector, a Town Clerk, a seven member School Committee, a five member Planning Board and a Housing Authority; provides for strengthened financial procedures; requires a Department of Public Works with an Advisory Board of Public Works; provides flexibility to reorganize Town agencies in the future; and, provides a referendum procedure by which Town Meeting votes on certain Warrant Articles may be reconsidered by the voters in a referendum election.

The necessity for effective liaison and representation between the Town and State government has become increasingly important as locally uncontrollable costs are transferred and made part of the cost of Town government.

The Town Council wishes to thank the many volunteers who work so attentively on a variety of Boards, Committees and Commissions to make Wakefield the Town that it is. Members of the Town Council include Mehreen N. Butt; Jonathan P. Chines; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; Michael J. McLane; Julie Smith-Galvin; and Robert E. Vincent II. Sherri A. Dalton serves as the Town Council Clerk.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Reflecting on 2023, the terms "progress" and "building a bright future" come to mind. We started with a special Town Meeting on Saturday, January 28, to approve the building of the new Wakefield Memorial High School. Close to 1300 people crowded into the existing High School Field House to avail themselves of the purist form of democracy in voting for or against the funding of the new school. After the debate closed, the citizens in attendance voted overwhelmingly to approve the financing of the new school by a tally of 1231 to 42. On March 11, the required local referendum election of the High School passed 3431 to 1433. The results show how this community values the next generation's education as we voted to increase our taxes to fund this significant project voluntarily. Over the remainder of 2023, approvals were obtained from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission, and the ground-breaking ceremony is currently slated for May 17. It is currently anticipated that the first students will occupy the new building in January 2027. We all look forward to the dedication of the new High School.

Perhaps not as grand, but equally crucial to those who need to work on their core, the new outdoor Fitness Court® at Moulton Park opened to the public on January 25. The court was developed through a partnership including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Town of Wakefield, and the National Fitness Campaign. The facility aims to expand free access to high-quality workouts and create equitable access to exercise for communities around the state. Our Recreation Director was instrumental in obtaining the grant for the project, which was further supported by a donation from J.G. MacLellan Concrete Co. Continuing our building and progress theme, the Baptist Church celebrated a ground-breaking ceremony on March 19. I remember it as a freezing and windy day, and we are all pleased to see the daily progress after the devastating fire a few years ago.

Although not building in a conventional sense, at our Annual Town Meeting on May 15, the body unanimously voted to create an Affordable Housing Trust for the Town of Wakefield. The establishment of this instrument provides a vehicle by which the Town can support the building and/or purchasing of affordable housing. We also embarked on other ventures to build trust, acceptance, and bridges with community members. Through grants and Town support, "Pop-Up" pavilions were opened on Main Street across from Galvin School. New businesses, including the "Inspire Café," were allowed a venue to test out their

future brick-and-mortar business models. All certainly enjoyed the area. Other bridges were built as Wakefield once again hosted "Hoopalooza," this excellent basketball tournament that features special teams from all over the area. I and many others enjoyed it, and Wakefield took the gold. At our Regular Town Meeting on November 18, the Town extended the local real estate tax relief option for out-valued seniors. It adopted a "stretchier" energy code, which helps align Wakefield with the state goal of having net zero climate impact by 2050.

The poet Khalil Gibran wrote in his book *The Prophet*, "You work that strained purpose here, I have slightly altered the quote: "You build a brighter future to keep pace with the earth and its soul."

In closing, I wish to thank our Town Council for their strong leadership, the Finance Committee for their guidance, our municipal staff for their dedication, all those who serve on our Town boards and committees, and the Wakefield community who supported us throughout the year. The future we are building together is bright, and I look forward to a productive 2024. Town Administrator's office includes Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator; Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Secretary.

REPORT OF THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Wakefield Assessment Department is to provide fiscal stability by promptly, fairly and equitably determining the valuation of all real and personal property located in the Town of Wakefield. The Assessment Department is obligated under law to assess all property at its full and fair market value as of January 1 of each year for the purpose of taxation. This is accomplished through the maintenance and administration of all property tax data records. In addition, the department also administers motor vehicle excise tax, real, personal and motor vehicle excise tax abatements, and all statutory tax exemptions as allowed by law.

Our staff is comprised of an elected three-person board and three full-time employees. **Board of Assessors:** Sebastian Tine, MMA, Chair; Brian Donegan, Esq. Board Member; David Ledonne, Vice Chair. **Office Staff:** Victor P. Santaniello, MMA, Director of Assessments; Scott Morrison, MAA, Assistant Assessor; Kirsten Evans, Principal Office Assistant.

During the past year, the major activities undertaken by the Assessor's office include:

- Provided online access to our property record database via the internet.
- Conducted a state mandated yearly property revaluation town wide.
- Reviewed and adjusted properties to reflect updated market conditions.
- Completed online listing of assessor maps.
- Maintained and updated all real estate and personal property tax records.
- Implemented Wakefield Senior Discount Program.

Special projects and future goals of the Assessment Department include:

- Manage ongoing state-mandated data recollection effort.
- Continue review and update of valuation neighborhood designations.
- Continue ongoing sales verification questionnaire mailing program.
- Implement new and efficient office policies and procedures as required.
- Maintain supplemental assessment program as required by state law.
- Update existing tax maps.
- Make select state tax forms available via the internet.
- Increase public awareness relative to assessing and exemptions.

Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Rate Summary	
Total amount to be raised	\$131,174,992.61
Total estimated receipts	\$44,505,986
Residential Tax Rate: \$11.73	Commercial Tax Rate: \$22.46
Real Property Valuation	\$6,608,685,072
Personal Property Valuation	\$143,596,280
Total valuation of taxable property	\$6,752,281,352
Total real estate tax	\$83,443,834.16
Total personal property tax	\$3,225,172.45
Tax levy	\$86,669,006.61

Fiscal Year 2023 Recap Summary				
Property Class	Levy Percentage	Valuation by Class	Tax Rates	Levy by Class
Residential	81.3868%	\$6,034,097,729	11.73	\$70,538,602.44
Exempt	-	-	-	-
Open Space	0.0000%			
Commercial	12.5535%	\$484,367,843	22.46	\$10,878,901.75
Exempt	-	-	-	-
Industrial	2.3382%	\$90,219,500	22.46	\$2,026,329.97
SUBTOTAL	96.2785%	\$6,608,685,072	-	\$83,443,834.16
Personal	3.7215%	\$143,596,280	22.46	\$3,225,172.45
TOTAL	100.0000%	\$6,752,281,352	-	\$86,669,006.61

Fiscal Year 2023 Minimum Residential Factor Computation		
Class	Full and Fair Cash Value	Percentage Share
1. Residential	\$6,034,097,729	89.3639%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	\$484,367,843	7.1734%
4. Industrial	\$90,219,500	1.3361%
5. Personal Property	\$143,596,280	2.1266%
TOTALS	\$6,752,281,352	100.0000%
Maximum Share of Levy CIP Classes 3,4&5	1.75 x 10.6361 =	18.6132% Maximum % Share
Minimum Share of Levy for Classes 1 & 2	100% - 19.8994 =	81.3868% Minimum % Share
Minimum Residential Factor (MRF)	.813868 / .893639 =	.910735

Fiscal Year 2023 Assessment/Classification Report					
Property Type	Parcel Count	Class 1 Residential Value	Class 3 Commercial Value	Class 4 Industrial Value	Class 5 Personal Prop. Value
101	6,255	\$4,385,534,000			
102	1,477	\$666,715,700			
Misc.103,109	1	\$630,500			
104	700	\$520,370,300			
105	134	\$106,384,200			
111 - 125	103	\$285,762,100			
130-132,106	261	\$20,244,200			
300 - 393	310		\$453,837,325		
400 - 452	92			\$89,524,450	
Ch.61 Land					
Ch.61A Land					
Ch.61B Land	3		\$629,997		
012 - 043	75	\$48,456,729	\$29,900,521	\$695,050	
501	305				\$7,874,920
502	372				\$24,771,830
503					
504,550-552	4				\$96,465,360
505	6				\$13,226,300
508	4				\$1,257,870
Totals	10,102	\$6,034,097,729	\$484,367,843	\$90,219,500	\$143,596,280
Real & Personal Property Total Value					\$6,752,281,352
Total Value of All Exempt Property (466)					\$414,258,700

Local Expenditures	
Total appropriations	\$127,286,645
Other Local Expenditures	\$1,000,000
Snow and ice deficit / Overlay deficits	\$0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	\$601,494.61
Total state and county charges	\$2,231,463
Total cherry sheet offsets	\$0
Total of appropriations and expenditures	\$131,174,992.61

Estimated Receipts and Available Funds	
State cherry sheet estimates	\$12,477,647
Ma school bldg. auth	\$0.00
Local estimated receipts	\$9,480,370
Enterprise funds	\$17,696,698
Free cash	\$332,500
Other available funds & WMGLD	\$4,245,828
Offset receipts	\$115,000
Total:	\$44,505,986

Statutory Exemptions		
Clause	FY 2022	FY 2023
Hardship 5 - 18	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deferral 5 – 41A	\$69,388.21	\$75,875.63
Elderly 5 – 41	\$63,000	\$65,000
All Veterans & Surviving Spouses 5 – 22(a-f)	\$121,158.17	\$126,364.75
Surviving Spouses 17D	\$2,450	\$2,100
Wakefield Senior Discount	\$269,990 (250)	\$228,086.40 (213)
Blind 5 - 37	\$8,750	\$9,000

Betterments, Special Assessments & Liens			
Category	Total Committed Amounts by Category		
Light Liens	\$11,391.98		
Sewer Liens	\$259,389.27		
Water Liens	\$187,451.08		
Title V Sewer Upgrade	\$0		
Sewer Betterments	\$3,777.63		
Street & Sidewalk Betterments	\$18,801.65		
Water Betterments	\$0.00		
Total Committed	\$480,820.60		
Motor Vehicle Excise (Comm. 1-6)	27,034 Bills		\$4,543,252.31

REPORT OF THE BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Committee is formed consistent with Wakefield Town Charter 7-5(b). There were 12 meetings held in 2023. Topics included reviewing General Town Bylaws, recommending updates presented and passed at Town Meeting on May 15, 2023, including collaborating closely with the Planning Board on Chapter 175 (Street Name Change), and collaborating with Town Council, Town Counsel, and zoning specialist counsel for future proposed updates to bylaws affecting Zoning and Land Use. Four articles were brought by the Committee to Town Meeting in 2023.

Members include: Members: Daniel Lieber, Chair; Ann McGonigle Santos, Vice Chair; Lisa Cutulle; Lucy Fox; Katherine Howitt; Timothy Lilley; Joseph Pride; Eric Reid; Kevin York; Town Council Liaison: Robert Vincent; Town Counsel Support: Thomas Mullen, Esq.; Zoning Counsel Support: Mark Bobrowski, Esq.

REPORT OF THE CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cable Television Licenses are currently issued by the town to Comcast, RCN, and Verizon.

Two committee meetings were held on June 21, 2023 and November 29, 2023. The primary topic was how to ensure public, educational, and governmental services can continue to be provided in a meaningful way long-term and the associated need for constant funding.

No information was received by the Committee from licensed providers. William Reading was recommended as the Cable TV Advisory Committee member for appointment to another Town Committee by the Town Council to specifically explore sustainable funding options for public television funding.

Members: Daniel Lieber, Chair, Shane McCarty, William Reading, Eric Reid.

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Wakefield Conservation Commission (“Commission”) is responsible for the protection and preservation of Wakefield’s natural resources through regulatory review, planning, advocacy, and education. Typically, this is accomplished through the implementation of the Conservation Commission Act (M.G.L. Ch. 40, sec. 8C), and the administration and enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (“Act”) (M.G.L. c 131 § 40), with its corresponding regulations (310 CMR 10.00). In addition to their duties as administrators of the Act, the Commission is responsible for the planning, acquiring, and managing of open space.

In 2023, the Commission conducted thirty (30) public hearings and reviewed twelve (12) Notice of Intent filings. The review of these filings and their associated site visits provided an assessment of potential impacts to wetland values vital to the environment including protection of public and private water supplies, protection of groundwater, flood control, storm damage prevention, pollution prevention, and protection of wildlife habitat. In addition to issuing twelve (12) Orders of Conditions, the Commission reviewed three (3) Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area Delineation, four (4) Determinations of Applicability, issued nine (9) Certificates of Compliance, and two (2) Enforcement Orders. The Commission also reviewed twelve (12) tree removal requests.

All Commission permits focus on stormwater management to ensure that new construction prevents flooding and discharges clean water to the ecosystem. With this, each permit contains a provision to enhance wildlife by requiring landscaping to be installed that provides food and cover for wildlife.

The Commission and the Town at large was the beneficiary this year of an Eagle Scout project. Under the direction of Eagle Scout candidate David Nerden, improvements at the JJ Round Park trails were undertaken. This included trailhead signage, colored trail blazes and GPS mapping. This work will help promote a local option for outdoor recreation.

To end the year, in December the Commission kicked off its new speaker series with a storm water presentation given by representatives from Beals and Thomas. Upcoming talks will include nature-based solutions for climate resilience, biodiversity and vernal pool identification.

Upcoming this Spring, Conservation Agent Elaine Vreeland will present to the Wakefield elementary schools a science unit on wetland ecology. This will take place in May 2024, National Wetlands Month.

Members of the Commission include: Kenneth Alepidis; Teresa Belmonte; Frank J. Luciani, Jr.; Haley McHatton Ballou; Peter Miller; Robert J. Romano; and Paul F. Wendelgass.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

As established under M.G.L. Chapter 41, §81A, the Planning Board consists of an elected five-member body with the powers and duties to carry out the provisions of the subdivision control laws in the Town of Wakefield. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings and public hearings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. In some instances, the Board acts as a special permit granting authority, as defined in the Town's bylaws. The Planning Board is responsible for preparing, adopting, and issuing a Master Plan.

In 2023, the Planning Board continued to host virtual meetings via Zoom. The Planning Board met 23 times in this year, including three meetings in which the Planning Board attended By-law Review Committee meetings.

MBTA Communities Zoning Project/ Future Proposed Multifamily Overlay District

This project continued to be the highest priority of the Planning Board in 2023 because of the time-sensitive deadlines, the complicated nature of the planning and compliance work to meet Commonwealth requirements, the extensive work of the Working Group, and the criticality of full public engagement. The Planning Board and the board-established Working Group have worked the entire year to research and design a Multifamily zoning district and map which will conform with Section 3A mandate.

The Working Group met extensively throughout the year in a fully transparent process, with posted agendas, minutes, and recordings of all meetings. The Planning Board conducted five (5) public forums and Q&A sessions (1/24, 2/28, 10/24, 11/14, 12/12) throughout the year to update the Town and receive feedback. By year end the Working Group and Planning Board have produced a draft MBTA Communities Multifamily Overlay District and map. Formal public hearings and additional review will occur in 2024 with the goal of submission for review and adoption at the Spring 2024 Town Meeting.

Zoning By-Law Review

The Zoning By-Law Review was the Planning Board's second highest priority given the comprehensive nature of the Zoning By-Law recodification. Members Kevin York and Theo Noell were assigned as liaisons to the Wakefield By-Law Review Committee (WCRC) to assist and track the changes. Liaisons and other Planning Board Members

attended WBRC committee meetings and proofed draft sections, advising the WBRC as it continues the recodification work. This work will continue in 2024 and 2025, with a target goal of a submission for approval in the Spring 2025 Town Meeting.

Subdivision Reviews

Planning Board meetings were devoted to reviewing subdivisions under the Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law, M.G.L. Ch. 41, §81M: 197 Nahant Street – approved 7/25/23.

ANR ("Approval Not Required")

Under M.G.L. Ch. 41, §81P, the Planning Board is required to endorse plans for new lots that comply with the Town's zoning bylaws. These plans are known as 81P Plans or "approval not required" (ANR) plans.

In 2023, the Planning Board endorsed: o Adams Street and 122 Chestnut Street, 269 Nahant Street, Butler Avenue Accessors Map 30, Lot T49 and 40 Curtis Street, and 466 Water Street. Please note that the Planning Board re-endorsed the ANR for o Evangelista Way to replace the original 2021 endorsement.

Master Plan 2033

In 2023, the Planning Board continued the Wakefield Master Plan 2033 process under the guidance of Community & Economic Development Director Erin Kokinda. A Master Plan is a strategic framework that guides the Town's future physical and economic development based on the community's vision and goals. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) concluded in its role as the Master Plan consultant, funded through the state's One-Stop Community Planning Grant and MAPC's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). The draft Master Plan document remains under review and additional follow up will continue into the next year.

Revision of Subdivision Rules and Regulations

Throughout the year, the Board continued to edit the Subdivision rules and regulations to make them clearer and more consistent. This effort is ongoing into 2024.

Street Name Changing Procedures

In 2022, the Planning Board reviewed and developed a proposed street name change by-law. In 2023, the Planning Board incorporated a number of edits and comments from the Wakefield By-Law Review Committee. This edited by-law was submitted and approved at the Spring 2023 April Town Meeting (4/25/2023).

Other Zoning By-Law Changes

None for 2023.

Other Notable Activities

The Planning Board appointed member Matthew Lowry to be the board's trustee on the Town Affordable Housing Trust in October.

The Planning Board, from time to time, will review and submit formal letters and questions regarding items before the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Board has opted to send questions and formal comments in a few instances including proposed 40Bs or other developments, and Metro Tech/ o Audubon Road.

Participation in several Community Planning initiatives

Members of the Planning Board continue to participate in the Wakefield's Bike/Pedestrian Plan, the Safe Streets Working Group, and the formed Open Space and Recreation Plan working group.

The Planning Board would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their support and assistance throughout the past year: Susan Auld, Clerk to the Board; Erin Kokinda, Community and Economic Development Director; Jen McDonald, Communications Director; Thomas Mullen, Town Counsel; and William Renault, Town Engineer.

Members of the Board include: Theo Noell, Chair; Jim Hogan, Vice Chair; Matthew Lowry; William L. Spaulding, and Kevin York.

REPORT OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The primary function of the Wakefield Recreation Department is to expand and improve recreational opportunities for Residents of all ages. The Recreation Department strives to provide fun, safe, quality, and affordable, programming for all our participants.

Wakefield Recreation is the central permitting department and scheduler for the use of sports fields, parks, and tennis courts within the Town, as well as oversight and operation of the Americal Civic Center. In May 2023, Wakefield Recreation took over the day to day operation of the Albion Cultural Exchange.

Funds raised by the Department thru field permitting are made available to the Department of Public Works and reinvested for field improvements and maintenance, as well as investing in future Recreation Department programming and departmental needs.

The Wakefield Recreation Department is located on the first floor of the Americal Civic Center. The main responsibilities include Drill Hall (Gym) and Heritage Room (meeting space) scheduling, billing of tenants, serving as tenant liaison for the Town of Wakefield, comprehensive youth and adult programming, field scheduling, oversight of the Wakefield Community Gardens and management of the Albion Cultural Exchange.

In May of 2023, Wakefield Recreation took over the daily oversight and operation of the Albion Cultural Exchange (ACE). ACE continues to be the home for the Arts Collaborative of Wakefield and their art exhibitions. We have expanded the use of the facility to be more inclusive of all forms of art. Wakefield Recreation has offered a variety of programming in the space including Adult Tap Dance, Yoga Classes, and a variety of youth and adult art workshops. The Town of Wakefield has some extremely talented residents who have started Open Mic Storytelling nights and Improv nights. We have also attempted to expand the use of the facility, with the intention of drawing more attention to the space, by hosting Chamber of Commerce Paint Night, Wake-Up Annual Breakfast, and allowing local businesses to host events. We look forward to more use of the space for all arts in 2024.

Wakefield Recreation continues to expand its programming options. In 2023 we offered some new programming to go along with our staple programs Youth Tennis Lessons, SNL Flag Football, Summer Day Programs, Warrior Sports Clinics w/ WMHS HS Coaches, and Pickleball. New programs include SNL Biddy Basketball, Cardio Dance, Youth Field

Hockey League, Home Alone Safety for Kids, and Outdoor Pickleball Classes. Our most successful program was the HRC (Health, Recreation, Cops) Summer Safety Program. This collaborative effort by the Wakefield Health and Humans Services Department, Wakefield Recreation Department, and the Wakefield Police Department was the highlight of Summer 2023 and we look forward to making this an annual tradition.

Wakefield Recreation also continues to be a preferred destination for the ever-growing sport of Pickleball. We offer a variety of lessons indoors and outdoors and provide great facilities in a fun and welcoming environment.

REPORT OF WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION

Mission: Wakefield Community Access Television is your trusted community partner that offers a communication platform for expression, civic engagement, and diverse perspectives not generally available from commercial media.

Vision: WCAT is committed to providing programming that reflects the voice of and for the community of Wakefield. Through its investment in high quality technology, staff, education, visibility, and strong community engagement we provide coverage of government, public, and educational events.

WCAT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the Wakefield community.

2023 was a year of change for Wakefield Community Access Television. Within a few months, WCAT saw significant internal restructuring with new roles and future visions. Production work for town events continued as we saw most in-person events return. In total, physical productions for 2023 consisted of over 250 events. We continue to host non-profit group meetings in our spaces, many being hybrid meetings, including the Wakefield Youth Council and WAAV.

WCAT continues its core work, such as covering staple town events like the Fourth of July Parade, town elections and continued Movies by the Lake which offers residents and locals an enjoyable family outing for four weeks during summer.

WCAT is looking to the future and will be embarking on new initiatives. This includes the integration of new online and social media platforms to further enhance our ability to engage with the community and provide educational opportunities. These will also enable more users to have access to important government and local information through more modern and accessible sources.

Wakefield Community Access Television remains committed to serving the town of Wakefield and its residents. Our team is ready to be an active partner with all town businesses, groups and organizations who are looking to increase their media exposure in both traditional and online platforms.

Members of our Board of Directors include: Ally Houghton, President; Paul Norman, Treasurer; Rob Brogna, Secretary; Brian Fox; Bill Carroll; Tom Stapleton; Deb Colometa; Paula Pustorino; and Kathy Healy. Staff Members include: Ian McDermott, Executive Director; Barbara Worley, Studio Administrator; George Rosatone, Social Media Producer; Dominik Chadwick, Community Outreach Producer; and Sam Huntley, Media Production Specialist.

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Wakefield Zoning Board of Appeals, a quasi-judicial body with five members and three alternates appointed by the Town Council, operates under the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Wakefield and under Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Board has the following powers:

- To hear and decide appeals as a party aggrieved, for review of a decision made by the Building Inspector or other authority.
- To hear and decide applications for certain special permits.
- To hear and decide petitions for variances.
- To hear and make findings allowing the extension, reconstruction or alteration of preexisting nonconforming structures or uses.

The Board deliberated on 63 new Petitions during 2023. The Petitions included requests for Variances, Special Permits, Findings and/or Determinations. Major items before the Board included:

- Petition to replace the Wakefield Water Storage Tank – 8 Sidney Street.
- Petition to construct a new N.E. Metropolitan Regional Vocational School – 100 Hemlock Road.
- Petition for a Fast Food Sushi Restaurant – 117-117A Albion Street.
- Petition for a 16-Unit Garden Style Apartment with mixed use – 460-466 & 472 Main Street.
- Petition for a Fast Food Restaurant, Tasting Boba – 8 Albion Street.
- Petitions for a Daycare Center – 20 DelCarmine Street.
- Petition to construct a new Wakefield Memorial High School – 30-64 Farm Street.
- Petition for a 20-unit mid-rise apartment building with mixed use in the former Santander Bank, 369-371 Main Street.
- Petition for a 124-unit mid-rise apartment building (reduced to 106 units) - 10 Broadway.
- Many Findings and/or Determinations were made to allow the razing and reconstruction of single and two-family dwellings, Wireless communication facilities upgrades, accessory apartments, pools, and many signs for business establishments were also approved.

Items currently before the Board include:

- Petition for a 19-unit mid-rise apartment building and a single-family dwelling, 314, 330, 336 Salem Street
- Petition to construct an addition onto Crystal Warehouse – 3 Melvin Street.

- Petition for a Comprehensive Permit allowing 100 Residential Units (under Chapter 40B) – 0, 119, 127, & 135 Nahant Street.
- Petition for a Comprehensive Permit allowing a 32 unit (now reduced to 26 units) (under Chapter 40B) – 32-32A and 36 Nahant Street.

The following reorganization was done at the Board of Appeals meeting on June 28, 2023. After serving as Chairman since 2014, David W. Hatfield stepped down and Thomas J. Lucey was nominated as Chairman and Joseph Pride as Clerk. Other Board members are Charles L. Tarbell, Jr., James H. McBain, alternate members are Gregory W. McIntosh and Michael L. Feeley and Kasumi Humphries. After serving on the Board for over 21 years Jim McBain retired. Gail Conroy served as the Secretary of the Board.

Protection of Persons and Property

Reports of:

Emergency Management
Fire Alarm & Traffic Signal
Fire Department
Inspectional Services
Police Department

REPORT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) prepares for natural and man-made disasters, serving as the local branch of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Wakefield is a member of a 28 community Mystic Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC). Mystic REPC represents over one million people in the Commonwealth. The Mystic REPC meets six times a year and works to conduct and coordinate emergency exercises and procedures throughout the region. The Town is required by law to belong to an REPC or an LEPC to maintain certification every three years. Jenn McDonald is the Executive Secretary and communication representative of the REPC and I am the treasurer of this committee.

This past year the Mystic REPC was awarded two HMEP (hazardous material/emergency preparedness) grants in the amount of \$25,000. This money is used to bridge the information we have gathered through our 28 communities to keep us current on where these hazardous materials are stored and how they come into our communities.

Wakefield subscribes to Code Red, the emergency notification telephone system that allows town officials to immediately notify residents and businesses by telephone of emergency situations and important community information. We also offer it in three (3) foreign languages as well. There is also a notification of severe weather for those people who want to be alerted to significant changes in the weather pattern, for example a microburst.

An Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) was awarded to the Town of Wakefield in the amount of \$6,500. We are using these funds to provide the Wakefield Fire Department personnel with fire blankets to use on these lithium battery fires in electric cars, trucks, scooters, fork-lifts. These fires are very dangerous not only because of the toxic fumes they emit but the tremendous rate of heat they give off during a fire, these blankets will help the fire department extinguish these fires more quickly and hopefully keep our firefighters safer.

OEM helped develop a low-income heat assistance program with our Health and Human Services Department last year and that program has been continued this year with approval and funding through the Town Council and continued support of the Town Administrator.

OEM has been assisting the School Department with the coordination of

CPR/AED training through Cataldo Ambulance. This year all the school nurses along with other town nurses will be recertified. OEM is also assisting other school staff with this training as well.

OEM has been working with school staff to finalize a crisis response chart to put in all classrooms to assist school personnel during an incident. The flip chart should be in all classrooms sometime in February 2024.

OEM this year along with the Health Department, through grants and additional funding through the Town Administrator, provided nine new AEDS in all public buildings. Lt. Gary Hill the EMS Manager for the Wakefield Fire Department held classes, to familiarize town staff, on the new equipment.

OEM this year coordinated training classes with Cataldo Ambulance, for DPW personnel in the recertification process for CPR/AED.

OEM assists the Town Administrator with events such as the annual carnival, July 4th festivities, and Town Day.

Thomas P. Walsh Jr., Emergency Management Director

REPORT OF FIRE ALARMS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The Fire Alarm and Traffic Signal Department maintains nineteen signalized intersections, twelve fire alarm circuits, and dispatch offices in both fire stations.

In 2023, forty-two calls for traffic signal service were received. These included calls for vehicle detection issues, traffic signals out, intersections in flash mode, and pedestrian buttons not functioning properly. A new traffic controller was installed at Main Street and Pitman Avenue after damage from a severe thunderstorm. The intersection of Main Street and North Avenue also received a new traffic controller after the existing controller failed due to age. Traffic controllers serve as the “brains” of signalized intersections allowing proper functioning of traffic signals. The power supply for the flashing light at Nahant Street and Farm Street was upgraded. Multiple repairs were made at North Avenue and Quannapowitt Parkway to address pedestrian crossing issues, emergency flash mode operation, and vehicle detection issues. A vehicle detection issue at Water Street and Crescent St was repaired.

The municipal fire alarm system created twenty-seven calls for service in 2023 including thirteen open circuits and three fire alarm pedestal knockdowns. In addition to emergency calls, master boxes were installed on new buildings on Salem Street, Water Street, and Hopkins Street. All boxes were tested during the year and thirty fire alarm boxes were painted. Numerous pole changes were completed in 2023 as utility pole upgrades continue in town. New fire cable was installed along Main Street in Greenwood and a new fire alarm street box and pedestal was installed at Common Street and Lafayette Street.

The Greenwood Station’s fire alarm box decoder required replacement after failing due to age.

Randy Hudson, Fire Alarm Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Wakefield Fire Department for calendar year 2023. The department had a busy year dealing with both emergencies and the construction boom taking place around town. The department responded to 4,325 emergency calls during 2023, a decrease of 62 responses over the previous year. This is the second in a row that responses have exceeded 4,300 calls.

The ongoing development in town, especially the construction of numerous large apartment and condominium complexes, has resulted in an increase in emergency responses handled by the department. The department has experienced a steady increase in emergency responses as large residential developments are being occupied. Instances of multiple simultaneous calls or back to back calls are occurring with increasing regularity. This increase in the number of emergency responses will have to be closely monitored in the future. They may warrant further staffing increases or perhaps the addition of a third fire station in the future. Developments that have already been approved or that are presently under consideration will undoubtedly continue to create an increased demand on services provided to the community by this department. The Wakefield Fire Department continues to receive significant financial aid in the form of state and federal grants. These grants have become a vital source of funding to purchase new equipment and training programs for the department. A summary of the financial aid received by the federal and state government can be found in the apparatus and equipment section of this report.

EMERGENCY INCIDENT RESPONSE

During 2023 the Wakefield Fire Department responded to 4,325 emergency incidents, including 3,915 Still Alarms and 410 Box Alarms. Wakefield had no civilian fire deaths in 2023. The department responded to three incidents in 2023 requiring a multiple-alarm response. Firefighters led by Captain John Walsh responded to an alarm activation at 365 Audubon Road on April 20 at approximately 6:06 A.M. Arriving firefighters were informed by plant employees that there was an active fire in the rear of the building near the loading dock. The fire was quickly located in a storage area containing one-ton bales of shredded paper. Captain Walsh, concerned about the heavy fire load in this area, immediately ordered a second alarm for manpower. Engine companies from Melrose, Reading and Stoneham as well as a North Reading Ladder truck responded to the scene. The heavy fire in the area was quickly knocked down, however, the heavy bales were full of hot spots that

needed to be pulled apart and fully extinguished. The bales were pulled outside by plant employees using heavy equipment. The Wakefield DPW sent a large front-end loader to the scene at the request of Chief Sullivan to assist in tearing apart the bales. The remaining fire was extinguished by approximately 10 A.M. A light smoke condition extended throughout the warehouse before finally dissipating. Troopers from the State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene to assist local investigators in determining the cause of the fire. The most likely cause was determined to be a malfunctioning light fixture that reportedly was dropping sparks onto the shredded paper bales. There were no injuries to firefighters or plant employees as a result of the fire and the corrugated-box manufacturing plant resumed operations as soon as the area was cleaned up. The fire gained considerable headway due to the fact that plant employees fought the fire using portable fire extinguishers and plant standpipe hose lines before the fire alarm system activated and notified the fire department. An engine company from Saugus and Woburn engine and a ladder company from Lynnfield covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during the fire. Wakefield's second-multiple alarm fire of 2023 occurred at 340 Main Street at 4:04 P.M. on May 14, Mother's Day. Firefighters under the command of Captain Paul Pronco responded to multiple calls for a building fire and arrived to find heavy smoke conditions pouring from the building. The first alarm companies were scattered around town handling other emergency calls and arrived in piecemeal fashion, making initial fire suppression operations more challenging. The fire originated in an exterior wall between the fire building and the Wakefield Cooperative Bank, quickly extending upward into the second and third floors. Captain Pronco struck a second alarm at 4:10 P.M., summoning firefighters from Reading, Melrose, Stoneham and North Reading to the scene. Hose lines were advanced to all floors of the building, with firefighters reporting both high-heat and zero-visibility conditions. Chief Sullivan ordered a third alarm at 4:24 P.M. as flames extended into concealed wall and floor spaces on the second and third floors. Engine companies from Middleton, Saugus and Woburn responded to the fire along with a Lynnfield tower ladder. Chief Sullivan ordered the building to be evacuated as the rear of the second and third floors began to buckle. Deputy Chief Purcell worked with numerous companies to keep the fire from extending from the rear of the building to Brightview Senior Assisted Living, located approximately 20 feet behind the building. Chief Sullivan ordered a fourth alarm at 4:52 P.M., bringing companies from Malden, Winchester and Wilmington to the fire. The exterior fire attack was successful in knocking down the fire. Crews re-entered the structure and completed extinguishment by 5:30

P.M. The fire caused extensive fire, smoke and water damage throughout the building. Four residents and two businesses were displaced by the fire. Sadly, two pet dogs were killed as a result of the fire. There were no civilians injured during the fire, however, three firefighters were injured, including one member who fell through a partially burned out floor. The presence of many concealed floor and wall spaces allowed the fire to spread undetected for a period of time before its discovery. The proximity of the fire building to the Wakefield Cooperative Bank and Brightview Assisted Living required more firefighters at the scene to protect these properties. Troopers from the State Fire Marshal's Offices responded and assisted local investigators with determining the cause of the fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be an accidental but undetermined, possibly due to an electrical malfunction, originating in an exterior wall near the kitchen in the first-floor restaurant. A Danvers and Lynn engine company and a Burlington tower ladder covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during the fire. Firefighters led by Captain John Walsh responded the department's final multiple alarm fire of the year after responding to a reported structure fire at 462 Main Street at 4:40 A.M. on September 1. They arrived to find smoke pouring from the vacant building and reports of squatters living inside. Firefighters immediately initiated a search of the building while attempting to locate the source of the smoke. Several building entrances were found forced open and it was unknown if anyone was inside the building. Captain Walsh ordered a second alarm, bringing engine companies from Reading, Stoneham and Melrose responded to the fire in addition to a North Reading ladder company. Deputy Purcell arrived and assumed command of the incident, requesting a Lynnfield Ladder truck and a Saugus engine also responded to the fire for additional personnel. The seat of the fire was eventually located in a basement crawl space near the right rear corner of the building, requiring numerous holes to be cut into the floor to gain access to it. Firefighters finally gained control of the fire after approximately four hours. A Woburn and Wilmington engine company and a Malden ladder truck covered Wakefield Fire headquarters during the fire. There were no injuries to civilians, however, three firefighters reported minor injuries as a result of the fire. Troopers from the State Fire Marshal's Office assisted local police and fire investigators in determining the cause of the fire, which officially remains undetermined. The building remains vacant but has been secured and is scheduled for significant redevelopment in the near future. There were several other noteworthy fire incidents that occurred in 2023 that did not require a multiple alarm response. Firefighters under the direction of Captain John Walsh

responded to a reported structure fire at 51 New Salem Street Rear just after 8:30 A.M. on September 26. Firefighters arrived to find a construction trailer fully involved in flames. The fire was quickly knocked down but the trailer was a total loss. The fire was investigated by the State Fire Marshal's office as well as local investigators and was determined to be accidental but undetermined in origin. There were no injuries as a result of the fire. A Reading engine assisted at the scene while a Stoneham engine covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters. Captain Brian Purcell led firefighters at the scene of a fire at 4 Bennett Street on October 17 at 11:24 A.M. Arriving firefighters found smoke pouring from the Verizon Building at that location and quickly determined the location of the fire to be in the basement in the vicinity of an emergency generator. The fire was controlled in a few minutes using portable fire extinguishers. There were no injuries to building occupants or firefighters. The cause of the fire was determined to be a mechanical malfunction in the generator that occurred while routine maintenance was being performed. The building was quickly vented of smoke while Verizon maintenance crews cleaned up the damage. There was no damage to the structure or contents beyond the emergency generator and the building was reoccupied shortly after fire crews left. A Stoneham and Reading engine company covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during this incident.

The department responded to a number of serious motor vehicle crashes during 2023. Wakefield fire crews led by Captain Brian Purcell responded to a two-car motor vehicle accident at North Avenue near Yale Avenue during the early evening of January 4. Paramedics from Lynnfield Fire and Cataldo Ambulance also responded. Sadly, an elderly woman who was driving one of the vehicles did not survive the accident. Firefighters under Captain John Walsh responded to a motor vehicle accident on route 95 southbound near exit 58 at 10:45 on the evening of January 19. A routine car accident with no injuries quickly escalated when a tow truck attempted to remove a Tesla Model S all-electric vehicle from the guard rail that it was hung up on. As the vehicle was removed from the guardrail, the lithium ion battery compartment was damaged, causing a thermal runaway condition to occur inside the compartment. A fire started within the vehicle involving approximately 7,000 lithium ion batteries. The fire gave off a tremendous amount of heat and toxic smoke, requiring a significant amount of water to extinguish. Engine companies from Lynnfield, Melrose, Reading, and Stoneham responded to the scene, setting up a water shuttle operation to the nearest fire hydrant. A Middleton Fire Department water tanker

was also called to the scene for additional water. All together more than 20,000 gallons of water were required to completely extinguish the fire. Personnel from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection as well as a team from the Massachusetts District 2 Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to the scene to assess the incident. The vehicle was eventually towed from the scene once it determined that it was safe to do so. A Saugus engine covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during the fire. The department has applied for funding from the federal government for training specifically regarding this type of electric vehicle fire and will look into purchasing specialized equipment for extinguishing them as more of these fires are sure to happen in the future. Crews led by Captain Paul Pronco responded to a serious motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Water and Farm Streets during the afternoon of October 29. Firefighters arrived to find a vehicle that had apparently drove straight into a large boulder and rock wall on Water Street directly opposite Farm Street. The collision trapped the single female occupant of the vehicle, who was extricated using a hydraulic rescue spreader and transported to Lahey Hospital in Burlington with serious injuries.

Weather played a significant role in the department's responses during 2023. An arctic weather front passed through Wakefield during the weekend of February 3-5 with moderate winds and sub-zero wind chills. The department responded to more than 60 calls for service including 30 calls for burst pipes, flooding water and water-related electrical hazards caused by them. The frigid temperatures challenged both department members and their equipment as they worked to help our citizens affected by it. Relatively little rain and low humidity during the first half of April created tinder dry conditions in the wooded areas around Wakefield. The department responded to reports of a brush fire in the vicinity of Holland Road near Oak Street during the afternoon of April 21. Firefighters found an extensive brush fire on the western side of Holland Road inside a section of the town forest. A Stoneham engine was requested to cover Wakefield Fire Headquarters as all on-duty personnel were occupied fighting the fire. A second brush fire was discovered in a steep wooded area off Crosby Road and the Stoneham engine was dispatched to that fire to work with the Wakefield crews as well as a forestry fire crew from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). A Reading engine was requested to cover Wakefield Fire Headquarters. Altogether a total of 5 acres burned before firefighters pulled out at dusk. Firefighters returned to the end of Crosby Road several times to extinguish flare-ups and lingering hot spots. The

cause of these fires was undetermined and considered suspicious. On May 27 an extensive brush fire occurred off of the end of Sylvan Avenue, requiring a full on-duty response of firefighters to extinguish. A fire crew from Massachusetts DCR returned to Wakefield to assist local firefighters extinguish a fire covering approximately three acres. Firefighters returned the next day to extinguish flare ups and hot spots. The cause of the fire was determined to be a campfire that was not properly extinguished.

The Wakefield Fire Department responded to 44 requests for mutual aid during 2023. Mutual aid responses included fires in Lynnfield, Malden, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Saugus, Stoneham, Winchester and Woburn. One of the more notable mutual aid responses during 2023 occurred during the morning of February 23. Acting Lieutenant Gerald Sancinito, Firefighter Gene Doucette and Firefighter Michael Rowe responded to a 2-alarm fire at 590 Main Street, a single-family residence, in Stoneham. Shortly after their arrival they assisted Stoneham firefighters with the removal of a resident of the home through a rear window with the use of a backboard and ground ladder, where she was treated at a local hospital for follow-up care. Ironically, Lieutenant Sancinito and Firefighter Doucette along with Firefighter John Hurley returned to the same Stoneham residence during the early morning of February 24 when a 2-alarm fire broke out again at that location. Lieutenant Michael Long is a member of the Massachusetts District 2 Hazardous Materials Response Team. This regional hazardous materials response team is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which pays for all the associated training and incident response costs to support the team's activities. Lieutenant Long responded to several incidents during 2023 including the electric car fire on Route 95 that was discussed earlier in this report. The District 2 team was called out to Newburyport after a large explosion occurred at a chemical plant on Opportunity Way on May 5. Lieutenant Long worked with other team members to remove volatile chemicals from the site so that a search for missing employees could take place. Sadly, a male plant employee was killed by the explosion. Captain Paul Pronco and Lieutenant Steven Bivens are members of the Northeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team. The team trains for incidents that could require a technical rescue such as building and trench collapses, high-angle rope and rapid-water rescues. The Northeast Technical Rescue Team is subsidized by funding from the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council, which reimburses the department for a portion of the training and incident response expenses associated with this team. Lieutenant Steven Bivens

responded as part of this technical rescue team on July 17 to Aggregate Industries in Swampscott to assist in the recovery of a deceased construction worker found dangling inside of a pit after an industrial accident. Lieutenant Bivens responded to a second incident in July when the team was called to 1 Nichols Way in Groveland after a vehicle had driven into a building at that location. The team worked with the local Building Inspector to determine if the building that was struck was still structurally sound.

PERSONNEL

As of December 31, 2023, the Wakefield Fire Department consisted of 56 personnel: The Fire Chief, a Deputy Fire Chief, five Captains, including a Captain assigned as a Fire Prevention Officer, 12 Lieutenants, 36 Firefighters, and one civilian Administrative Assistant. The Wakefield Fire Department applied for and received a 2019 SAFER staffing grant worth \$1.1 million, fully funding the salary and benefits of four new firefighters for the department for a period of three years. This SAFER grant is in its final year. The year 2023 brought several personnel changes to the Wakefield Fire Department. Wakefield Firefighters William Curran and Christopher Hagan were appointed to the Department on February 8, filling the two openings left by the retirement of veteran Firefighters Daniel Sullivan and William Carr. Both were quickly enrolled into the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Class 310. They successfully graduated from the Academy on April 28. Firefighter Curran, a veteran of the United States Army, was assigned to Group 1 under Captain Randy Hudson. Firefighter Hagan, A veteran of the United States Marines, was assigned to Group 4 under Captain Paul Pronco. The department's Administrative Assistant, Anne Boodry, retired after serving four years with the department and a total of 27 years with the town. Anne experienced a lot during her relatively short association with the department., including the Covid-19 Pandemic, the line-of-duty death of Lieutenant Robert Ford and the department's expansion from 50 to 55 members. The department wishes Anne a long and healthy retirement along with her husband Bill, her three sons, Billy, Brian and Michael, her daughter-in-law Christine and her beautiful baby grandson Beau. The Department welcomes its new Administrative Assistant Pam Cruciani to the department and wishes her a successful and productive career.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT

The department did not purchase any fire apparatus or other vehicles during 2023. Funding from federal and state agencies continues to serve a vital role in providing the necessary equipment and training that the

department needs to carry out its public-safety mission. The department continued to receive aid from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during 2023. It is presently in the final year of a (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$1.1 million to fully fund the salary and benefits for four additional full-time firefighters for the Town of Wakefield for a period of three years. Four firefighters were hired and sworn in on May 19, 2021 as a result of this SAFER grant. A state Fiscal Year 2023 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for \$11,383 was awarded to the department in January to fund a variety of battery-operated roof saws and rescue tools for the department as well as a new thermal imaging camera to replace an old and worn out unit. This program is part of a five-year grant program being offered to municipal fire departments by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. State funding also pays for the training and response costs associated with the department's participation in the regional hazardous materials and technical rescue response teams. State funding reimburses the department for 100% of the costs of participating with the regional hazardous materials team and a portion of the cost for its participation in the regional technical rescue team. A federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was awarded via the U.S. Department of Homeland Security worth more than \$88,000 to replace the air compressor located at Wakefield Fire Headquarters used to supply the breathing air for the department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Funding for this AFG grant also funded the purchase of uniform jackets to be used during non-fire related calls such as medical aids and lockouts. These jackets are equipped with highly reflective stripping for safety and serve to minimize the time that firefighters are wearing their firefighting protective gear, which despite regular cleaning, still contains carcinogens. The department received \$14,000 in funding from its Capital Outlay Budget to replace 12 lockers for the Greenwood Fire station used to store firefighting protective gear. The new lockers are large enough to accommodate the two sets of protective gear issued to department members. This year's Capital requests include a vehicle to replace the fire prevention car, a fire boat, an ATV and safety equipment to be installed on the department's overhead doors for a combined total of \$250,000. An additional request for more than \$1 million is for the purchase of a new fire engine. The cost of fire apparatus has risen sharply over the last several years as raw materials such as steel and electronic components are difficult to obtain. All the department's pumper engines, fire hose, ground ladders, its aerial ladder and breathing apparatus were inspected, tested and certified during 2023. The air compressor used by the department to refill its breathing apparatus was also inspected. All of the department's semi-automatic

defibrillators received their annual service during 2023.

TRAINING

The department participated in many training programs this year, including programs offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and outside vendors. Department members also completed continuing education requirements for their Emergency Medical Technician certificates. They were all re-certified in CPR techniques as well as the proper use of the department's defibrillators. The department conducted training activities on the following topics during 2022: Practiced water and ice rescue procedures at Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake including the operation of the two fire boats owned by the department; reviewed high-rise firefighting procedures including the use of standpipe systems; conducted training with the department's hydraulic rescue tools including the "Jaws of Life," hydraulic rams, jacks and air bags. This included training with the new battery-operated rescue tools and saws acquired from the FY23 State Fire Equipment Grant; participated in classes pertaining to the treatment of injured police canines (Nero's Law) as well as the proper use of the Lucas automatic chest compression system as part of their Emergency Medical Technician training; practiced aerial ladder-pipe set-up procedures for Ladder truck; reviewed procedures involving the use of the department's multi-gas detectors and responses to carbon monoxide, natural gas and propane-related emergencies; practiced chimney fire procedures and related operations; participated in training on October 23-26 provided from an outside vendor pertaining to emergency vehicle operation and defensive driving. The training included both classroom presentations and a driving course with traffic cones set up to simulate specific driving scenarios; reviewed emergency dispatch and radio procedures; participated in a class conducted by the Department of Fire Services on November 3 regarding the state's blasting regulations as they pertained to the duties and requirements of firefighters working on-site blasting details; took part in training classes sponsored by Cataldo Ambulance as part of the department's Emergency Medical Technician continuing education program; conducted building familiarization tours of new or renovated buildings at 93 Hopkins Street, 581 Salem Street and 259 Water Street; conducted search and rescue drills and firefighting procedures at the Hurd School; all duty shifts participated in a program offered by the Department of Fire Services utilizing a towed trailer to conduct controlled live-fire exercises on site in conjunction with the Reading Fire Department. Wakefield Firefighters William Curran and Christopher Hagan were enrolled in the Massachusetts Firefighting

Academy (MFA) recruit training class #310 on February 8 and successfully completed the ten-week program, graduating on April 28. Captain Paul Pronco and Lieutenant Steven Bivens continue to be active members of the Northeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team, and Lieutenant Michael Long continues to be an active member of the District 2 Hazardous Materials Response Team. All three department members attend regular monthly training pertaining to their specialized teams.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Department continued its practice of conducting in-service inspections of commercial and industrial properties in town during 2023. As a result, 563 business fire inspections were conducted in the community between March and November of 2023 by on-duty firefighters operating on a ready-to-respond basis. An additional 81 quarterly inspections of school buildings, nursing homes, hotels and boarding homes were also conducted by on-duty firefighters. Captain David Shinney, the department's fire prevention officer, conducted 91 inspections related to local and state licensing of restaurants, liquor stores, assembly halls, group homes, day care centers and after-school programs. He completed 248 compliance inspections during 2023 to ensure that any potential violations or hazards previously discovered were corrected. Wakefield continued to experience a construction boom in 2023. Large construction projects are being planned for locations on Broadway, Foundry Street, Hopkins Street, Main Street, North Avenue, Quannapowitt Parkway, Salem Street and Water Street. The Fire Prevention Bureau is closely monitoring construction that is presently under way on a new 30-unit apartment building at 610 Salem Street and a 173-unit apartment complex at 89-95 Hopkins. The department conducted approximately 106 on-site safety inspections of large construction sites during 2023. The Bureau reviewed approximately 78 sets of plans during 2023, including residential additions, new homes and commercial tenant fit-ups in many locations around Wakefield. Fire Prevention Officer Captain David Shinney, as well as Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Purcell, continue to fill a vital role in the Wakefield Fire Department. The department can't function properly without these two administrative positions. The Deputy Fire Chief also serves as the department's executive officer, assuming command of the department in the absence of the Fire Chief. The Deputy coordinates training, develops new policies and procedures and helps to prepare the operating budget. The Deputy also coordinates the maintenance of the department's fire stations, equipment and vehicles. The department

conducted numerous fire station tours during 2023 including numerous boy and girl scout groups, preschools and summer school programs. Additionally, several in-service visits were made by firefighters to various pre-school and kindergarten classes in town. Fire drills were conducted at each school facility. Several Multi-hazard evacuation drills were conducted during the fall of 2023 with more being planned for the spring of 2024.

CONCLUSION

I am grateful to the community and especially the Town Council, Finance Committee and Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio for their ongoing support during the year. As Wakefield enters 2024, my goals are to monitor the town’s ongoing construction projects, provide quality training programs for department members and identify funding resources such as additional grants to assist in the department’s equipment and training needs. I would like to thank all the members of the Wakefield Fire Department, the Wakefield Police Department, all other town boards, committees and departments and the citizens of Wakefield for their continued support and assistance.

2023 Emergency Responses	
Box Alarms	410
Still Alarms	3915
Total Alarms	4325
Medical emergency / motor vehicle accident responses	3167
Alarm malfunctions / accidental alarm investigations	482
Public assistance / public service responses	202
Investigations of hazards, gas & smoke odors	131
Mutual aid responses to other communities	44
Water hazard emergency responses	58
Appliance fires / emergencies	24
Heating system emergency responses	14
Electrical fires / emergency responses	31
Hazardous materials incident responses	20
Carbon Monoxide detector investigations	65
Structure / Building fires	8
Brush & grass fires	36
Motor vehicle fires	9
Rubbish & dumpster fires	2
Malicious false alarms	13

Rescue responses (water rescue, elevator rescue)	19
Mutual aid assistance received by Wakefield	94

MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES

Two Alarms: Box 645, 365 Audubon Road, 6:06 A.M., April 20, 2023

Four Alarms: Box 34, 340 Main Street, 4:05 P.M., May 14, 2023

Two Alarms: Box 3614, 462 Main Street, 4:39 A.M., September 1, 2023

Equipment	2023 Usage
1 ½" Hose	1650 feet
1 ¾" Hose	5,400 feet
2 ½" Hose	3100 feet
3" Hose	700 feet
4" Hose	4,025 feet
Ladders	1,038 feet
Air Masks Used	121 times
Salvage Covers Used	0 times
Smoke Ejectors Used	64 times
Fire Extinguishers Used	21 times
Thermal Cameras Used	79 times
Multi-gas Detectors Used	219 times

Apparatus Responses 2023			
Unit	Boxes	Stills	Total
Engine 1 – 2017 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper	331	1509	1840
Engine 2 – 2021 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper	363	835	1198
Engine 4 – 2000 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper (Reserve)	26	95	121
Engine 5 – 2006 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper (Reserve)	84	381	465
Ladder 1 – 2013 Seagrave 100' Aerial	326	1240	1566
Car 6 – 2011 Chevrolet Silverado Utility Truck	50	170	220
Car 3 – 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Utility Vehicle	373	382	755

ADDITIONAL APPARATUS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT

- Car 1: 2018 Ford Explorer AWD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to the Fire Chief
- Car 2: 2015 Ford Explorer 4WD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to the Deputy Fire Chief
- Car 3: 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to Shift Commander/Captain
- Car 4: 2014 Ford Explorer AWD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to Captain/Fire Prevention Officer
- Car 6: 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Utility Truck
- Marine Units: 1980 13' Boston Whaler and 1995 10' Avon Rubber Rescue Boat
- Marine Unit Trailer: 2004 EZ Loader Trailer
- Hazardous Materials Response Trailer: 2003 Car Mate 14' Cargo Trailer

Fire Prevention Report 2023	
Smoke Detector Certificates Issued	366
Oil Burner Permits Issued	82
Oil Storage Permitted (Gallons)	20,806
Propane Gas Storage Permits Issued	30
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits Issued	12
Sprinkler System Inspection, Test, Service Permits Issued	227
Fire Alarm System Inspection, Test, Service Permits Issued	398
Blasting / Fireworks Permits Issued	6
Fuel Tank Removal Permits Issued	109
In-Service Fire Prevention Inspections Conducted	563
New Fire Protection System Installation Permits Issued	84
Open Air Burning Permits Issued (Jan. – May)	53
Final Fire Alarm Acceptance Tests	80
Fire Prevention Inspections Related to State/Local Licensing	91
Compliance Inspections Conducted by Fire Prevention Officer	248
Cutting/Welding Permits Issued	8
Quarterly Inspections Conducted (Schools, Hotels/Lodging Houses, Nursing Homes)	81
Sets of Construction Plan Reviewed	78
Fire Prevention Complaints Investigated	69
Construction Site Visits	106

REPORT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building Division	
Building Permits Granted	805
Building Inspections Made	1,137
Inspections m/w Fire Prevention Officer	18
Inspection of Fire Jobs	7
Request for Zoning Interpretation	282
Complaints Investigated RE: Zoning Bylaw	152
Notices Posted on Unsafe Buildings	2
Sign Permits Issued	16
Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued	6
Single Family Attached Dwelling Permits Issued	1
Multiple Family Dwelling Permits Issued	3
New Commercial Building Permits Issued	1
Buildings Razed	12
Swimming Pool Permits Issued	11
Solar Permits Issued	19
Solid Fuel Burning Appliance Permits Issued	4
Lodging House Inspections	10
Nursing Home Inspections	1
Hotel Inspections	2
Public School Inspections	10
Day Schools Inspections	8
Certificate of Occupancy Permits Issued	45
Certificate of Inspection Permits Issued	77
Building Permits Fees Collected	\$1,798,912.00

Permit Valuations for the Last Six Years			
2018	\$ 52,792,704.00	2021	\$ 55,206,869.00
2019	\$ 59,349,019.00	2022	\$ 106,420,303.00
2020	\$ 69,665,697.00	2023	\$147,898,569.00

Plumbing Division	
Permits Granted	412
Inspections Made	608
Inspections Approved	598
Meetings w/Pipe Fitters/Plumbers on Job	8
Plumbing Permit Fees Collected	\$50,315.00

Gas Division	
Permits Granted	222
Inspections Made	264
Inspections Approved	262
Meetings w/Pipe Fitters/Plumbers on Job	2
Gas Permit Fees Collected	\$13,195.00

Wire Division	
Wire Permits Granted	589
Residential Wire Permits Granted	478
Commercial & Other Wire Permits Granted	111
Inspections Made	798
Inspections Approved	844
Inspections m/w or Requested by WMGLD	9
Inspections m/w or Requested by Fire Department	5
Inspections m/w Building Inspector	3
Job Meetings with Electricians	36
Inspections of Public Buildings	12
Inspections of Public Schools	4
Inspections of Hotels	1
Temporary Service Permits	24
New Services – Residential	20
New Services – Commercial or Other	23
Service Increases	84
Wire Permit Fees Collected	\$105,053.00

TOTAL PERMIT FEES COLLECTED

\$1,967,475.00

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The completion of the Public Safety Building project highlighted the year 2023. The PSB project was completed by Bond Construction, with new office and working spaces turned over to the police department at the beginning of April. The crown jewel of this project is the redesign of the Public Safety Building lobby. Police Dispatch moved from the second floor of the building to the lobby, allowing visitors and those seeking assistance to be greeted by an Officer 24 hours a day/seven days a week. This was a much-needed improvement over the previous design, which could have been more user-friendly. The addition to the police side of the building, along with the renovation of existing areas, has created the needed space that was previously lacking and will help us maintain our certification with the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The men and women of the Wakefield Police Department would like to thank the members of the Town Council, Town Administrator Stephen Maio, the Public Safety Building Sub-committee, the Permanent Building Committee, WCAT, and all those who supported this project and made it a reality.

Notable Events

In January, our Officers started wearing body-worn cameras. Advancements in technology have improved the tools available to modern policing, and the body-worn camera has become an essential piece of our everyday equipment. On January 27th, Officers responded to Crescent Hill for a report of an individual in the street firing a handgun toward a vehicle parked in a driveway. The 911 caller provided a detailed description of the suspect and the suspect's vehicle as he fled the scene. Minutes later, Officer Haladay, who was working a construction detail on North Avenue, observed a vehicle matching the description given by the witness. Officer Haladay was able to stop the vehicle, take the suspect into custody, and recover the handgun. On February 13th, Officer Doran and K9 Luna responded to an alley on Albion Street for a suspicious package wrapped in tape with exposed wires and batteries. K9 Luna is trained in explosives and firearm detection through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). After clearing people from the area, the K9 team determined the package to be a harmless battery pack. On April 26th, the Wakefield Police Department Honor Guard was invited to present the colors at the first-ever "Salute to Service" game for the Wakefield Memorial High School boys lacrosse program. This special ceremony honored our military veterans, both past

and present. Thanks to Sergeant Burnham, Detective Silva, Officer Rando, and Officer O'Brien for representing our department. In May, Officer Kelley Tobyne and her K9 partner Samy enjoyed driving some of our local students to school in her police cruiser. A ride to school in a police cruiser was auctioned at the annual "Blossoms at the Beebe," and the parents of these lucky students were the highest bidders. Once again, the annual 4th of July Parade and Fireworks were a success, and we thank our officers who represented the Town well while providing a peaceful day and evening for all involved. Lieutenant Joe Anderson was tasked with the security planning for this large-scale event, which requires tremendous coordination and detail. As usual, he did a great job creating a plan that provided a safe environment for the thousands who came out to enjoy the holiday festivities. Our school resource officers (SRO) completed two weeks of RAD-Kids training for dozens of Wakefield youth during August. This is an excellent program that provides educational tools and resources that enhance the ability of children, parents, and families to utilize knowledge, skills, and power to protect themselves from violence and harm. We want to thank Officers Mike Pietrantonio, Kelley Tobyne, Matt Malone, and Shane Pelletier for their hard work during these sessions. In September, Officer Amy Rando set up a table at the Wakefield Farmer's Market to accept donations for members of our community. There were generous donations of clothes and accessories, which will go a long way in helping some of the less fortunate members of our community through the winter months. Several Officers joined over 100 runners in the annual Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV) "Race to End Domestic Violence." Donations, registration fees, and a raffle raised significant money—another great effort by Officer Rando, leading the steps for this important cause. Once again, we had the opportunity to assist the Chamber of Commerce with their annual Santa parade through Town. We want to thank John Smolinsky from the Chamber for all his efforts in planning this great event and Detective Ken Silva, who organizes our Toys for Tots pick-ups and drop-offs. Our citizens were generous again, and we were happy to deliver all donations to their headquarters for disbursement.

Professional Services

During our winter months, our mental health clinician, Jennifer Waczkowski, and our Recovery Coach, Tracey Ascollilo-Rizzo, went above and beyond to assist some of our residents with housing issues. They were able to help with temporary shelter at local hotels for some of those in need. Our unhoused population is an ongoing challenge for our Officers and professional partners as they work diligently to get our needy to accept services.

Detectives

Our Detective Unit spent considerable time in 2023 on cases involving residents being scammed out of money. The scams can take many forms, including contractors, email phishing, computer, and grand-child-in-jail calls. Identify theft was also quite prevalent in 2023. To help prevent potential victimization, Detective Ken Silva visited our local banks and business establishments that allow customers to withdraw or wire large sums of money to talk with them about recognizing someone falling prey to a scam and what they can do to intervene. Since our elderly population is a favorite target of scammers, Detective Silva visited the Wakefield Senior Center to present how to recognize potential scams. In August, our Detective Unit concluded a lengthy narcotics investigation that resulted in two arrests and the seizure of over 60 grams of cocaine. The two subjects taken into custody were charged with Trafficking in Cocaine.

Personnel

Sergeant Michael Ryan retired on June 30th after eleven years with the Wakefield Police Department. Sgt Ryan had previously served with the Suffolk University Police Department, where he held every rank, including Police Chief. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement. Officer DJ Morales was promoted to Sergeant to fill the vacancy created by Sgt. Ryan's retirement. Sgt. Morales has served with the Wakefield Police Department since 2016. He has been a Motorcycle Unit and Mountain Bike Unit member and has served as a Field Training Officer. Officer Cameron McCusker graduated from the Northern Essex Community College Police Academy on August 18th. Officer McCusker completed his field training in November and is assigned to a night shift in the Patrol Division. On September 28th, retired Lieutenant Thomas Campbell passed away. Lt. Campbell joined the Wakefield Police Department on September 1st, 1958, and retired as the Executive Officer on October 2nd, 1992. Even after retirement, Lt. Campbell served the Town for many years by assisting at the voting polls during elections. Officer John Malley and Officer John Grossi graduated from the Lowell Police Academy on October 5th. After completing 12 weeks of training with our certified Field Training Officers, they will be assigned to the night shift in the Patrol Division. On December 19th, retired Detective James Moccia passed away. Detective Moccia started his career with the Wakefield Police Department on March 3rd, 1977, and retired on February 1st, 2009. He was assigned to the Detective Unit on November 2nd, 1987, and served as a Detective until his retirement. Jim was a friend to everyone and well-liked throughout the community.

Moving Forward

We continue to see our community grow with the planning and construction of multiple multi-unit buildings throughout the Town. The increase in population brings new challenges and more demand for our services, but we will continue to work hard to provide our residents with the best services possible. As always, feel free to contact us in a time of need. Our Officers, Clinician, and Recovery Coach are here to serve.

Police Administration includes Steven A. Skory, Chief of Police; Craig Calabrese, Deputy Chief; Scott Reboulet, Lieutenant; Joseph Anderson, Lieutenant.

Health and Welfare

Reports of:

Commission on Disabilities

Council on Aging

Health and Human Services

Housing Authority

Human Rights Commission

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Commission highlights: Twelve COD Meetings, two meetings held in March and October. Hosted a presentation from the North East Metro Technical Vocational School Building Committee on accessibility and special education programs planned for the new vocational school with extensive participation from the public; a recommendation was made to the Zoning Board of Appeals via a formal letter regarding the location of the new school and the mobility challenges that site will present; hosted a presentation from the Wakefield Memorial High School Project Team to review the new school project and its accessibility for all; hosted a meeting with Mass. Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) to understand the supports provide by MRC to individuals with disabilities when seeking employment and how MRC may support employers interested in hiring individuals with disabilities; represented Wakefield as one of four communities who participated and provided input into the Community Health Inclusion Grant as well as attended Statewide Commission on Disability Meetings; staffed a table at Wakefield 101 as well as at the Council on Aging Fair; worked with the Town's ADA Coordinator, Bill Renault, to address accessibility requests brought to the attention of the COD by Wakefield residents (e.g., designation of accessible parking as well as marked parking stalls on Crescent Street); reviewed Zoning for MBTA communities, provided comments and recommendations; hosted the Horsley Group for a presentation on the Open Space and Recreation Plan and provided comments/suggestions to Wakefield's ADA Self-Evaluation; Successfully advocated for a Wheelchair swing which has finally been purchased and will be installed at the Walton School; continue to add pertinent resources and information on upcoming events to the COD/Town of Wakefield website and social media pages.

Members include Kristen Bardol; Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr.; Lois Jarema Benjamin; Lorna J. Davidson-Connelly, Chair; Janice Mirabassi; Paul Paglierani; Marie Rej, Chair; Judith Tanner; and Paula Thompson.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Council on Aging is to advocate, promote and support the social, health and economic needs of the citizens of the community 60 years of age and over. The Council works to achieve these needs through education and outreach.

The year was kicked off by offering new and expanded programming. We strived to offer a variety of programs to include forever learning, health and fitness, cards and games, increased transportation, increased outreach and resource access, food and fun! We continued to expand our in-person exercise class offerings. We began offering a free Tai Chi class sponsored by Mystic Valley Elder Services. We partnered with Healthy Aging Physical Therapy to offer a Walk Fit class, utilizing the Fit Court at Moulton Playground. Our POMS class continued to grow and perform at Senior Center events. Overall, we offered over 15 weekly classes comprising fitness levels of all abilities throughout the year. We strive to ensure there is something available to meet most people's needs. We partnered with The Room to Write to offer weekly writing programs for Seniors and Veterans. Topics ranged from Memoir Writing seminars, critique groups, guest speakers to name a few. We offered an 8-week beginner Spanish class for those looking to learn a new language. We had numerous informational presentations on health care, insurance, scam prevention and estate planning. We continued to provide offerings to enable people to connect with their artistic sides. Our weekly art class and wood carving group continued. We also continued our monthly Mindful Crafting workshops. We were able to highlight the work of all of our artists at an evening Art Show in September! The work of our artists is incredible! WCAT came and filmed the artists so those residents who were not able to attend the show can still check out the artists amazing work! We hosted a representative from Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO) twice a month to help with fuel assistance applications for residents of all ages. Select staff members from the Council on Aging were trained to take Good Neighbor applications for fuel assistance. We partnered with the Health Department to advertise and assist those who qualified for LEO or Good Neighbor with applying for the Wakefield Fuel Assistance program. The in-center assistance was a great new service we plan to carry on in years to come. We were happy to welcome AARP back to assist with preparing free tax return to eligible seniors. Our two dedicated SHINE counselors continue to volunteer their services to the Center. Our Outreach Coordinator met with seniors to assist and answer questions about assisted living, in-home care, Mass Health and many more topics. We

continued our partnership with the Wakefield Youth Council and Youth Action Team to offer the popular Snow Angels program, serving over 30 seniors! We maximized the Senior Tax Work Off program this year, employing 20 Seniors in different jobs across Town Departments. Our transportation program continued to offer rides to appointments and shopping. We offered rides 5 days a week providing more than 1600 rides over the course of the year. One of the highlights of the year for us was our Senior Resource Fair. The event brought in over 20 departments and groups and provided a one-stop location for seniors to learn about benefits available to them in the area. They were even able to get their flu shot while attending! We hope to make this an annual event! We continued to partner with Stoneham Council on Aging to offer a chartered field trip to NH. We also continued to offer field trips on our smaller bus to interesting destinations in the surrounding areas such as Ogunquit, Castle Island, Rockport and Gloucester to name a few. Our Wakefield Veterans Services Officer hosted his monthly Veteran Coffee Socials at the Senior Center. The program was well attended and offered camaraderie and informational presentations to keep veterans informed of services available to them. We continued to work with the COA Board regarding the Town of Wakefield's membership in AARP's Network of Age Friendly States and Communities. We are committed to meeting our age-friendly goals and increase and improve offerings throughout the community. The Annual Saint Patrick's party that had been suspended during Covid was brought back. We hosted 75 people for a luncheon that included entertainment. Throughout the year we offered crafts, cards, new games and bingo to name a few of our activities to gather people together. Eat local events continued offering lunch at the Senior Center brought in from local restaurants. We also were able to partner with Bear Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to offer a Veterans breakfast event in honor of our local Veterans and an evening community supper which were both attended by over 30 people. The very popular Delvena Theater Company returned with funding from the Wakefield Cultural Council. Wakefield Alliance Against Violence hosted a senior safety event for World Elder Abuse Day. Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan was the keynote speaker offering incredible insight to those in attendance. The year concluded with the return of our annual Holiday Party. A hot catered meal was served to the 75 seniors in attendance. We had a DJ who played a variety of music for everyone to enjoy. Many of our seniors were up dancing and one senior showcased her vocal talents performing a karaoke song! Our POMS class also performed garnering a standing ovation! It was a tremendous way to cap off an exciting, event-filled year!

REPORT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Wakefield HHS Department is part of a regional agreement shared with the City of Melrose and the Town of Stoneham. The department consists of shared staff positions and collaborative programming. The Wakefield Board of Health, consisting of three members, meets monthly and as needed. Their role is to set policy, adopt regulations, and enforce local/state laws.

In 2023, the Wakefield HHS Department focused on increasing access to mental health and behavioral health services, equitable access to vaccines, programming for substance use prevention, and building capacity in environmental health protection. Food safety-related education, mental health needs, and tobacco use prevention were identified as priority areas to be addressed. Other Town departments, community partners, and volunteers contributed greatly to the services the HHS department was able to provide.

Public Health Nursing:

The Regional Senior Public Health Nurse and Wakefield Public Health Nurse provided four core functions for the community: Emergency Sheltering Response, Health Promotion and Camps, Vaccinations, and Communicable Disease Monitoring.

- **Emergency Sheltering Response**

As part of a multi-disciplinary team, the Public Health Nurses worked with ten migrant families (32 adults and children) for two weeks, assessing healthcare needs, delivering food, and necessities, and providing support with the help of a Haitian-Creole interpreter.

- **Health Promotion and Camps**

The Public Health Nurses conduct weekly blood pressure and wellness clinics at the McCarthy Senior Center. They disseminate pertinent health information to the community during various events such as Town Day, Farmer's Market, and Festival by the Lake. Additionally, they engage in advocacy campaigns to promote awareness about health issues like colorectal cancer, skin cancer, heart health, and tick-borne diseases. Furthermore, the Public Health Nurses regularly meet with local summer camps on a weekly or biweekly basis from June to early August. During these sessions, they address matters such as childhood vaccinations, emergency medication authorizations, EpiPen training, camper-to-student ratios, facilities for sick children, and health concerns such as

sunscreen application, hydration, and prevention of insect/bee stings and tick bites for over 800 campers.

- **Vaccinations**

In the past year, the Public Health Nurses provided planning and staffing, supply management, and safe transportation for 31 flu clinics, including both public and visits for individuals who are homebound. They were able to provide 1321 Flu vaccines. Dedicated in-office drop-in clinics continued to demonstrate great success, allowing Town employees and the public to have greater access to vaccinations. They also renewed Controlled Substance Use Registration and managed sharps disposal.

- **Communicable Disease**

The Public Health Nurses provided investigation and follow-up services for several State-reportable communicable diseases, including but not limited to Babesiosis, Norovirus, Campylobacteriosis, Giardiasis, Strep A, Strep B, H. Influenza, Hep C, Legionellosis, Salmonellosis, Strep pneumonia, Yersiniosis.

Environmental Health

Our Health Inspectors and administrative staff provide two core functions for the community: Food safety and housing/environmental health.

- **Food Safety**

The Town of Wakefield currently has 125 food permits issued to establishments ranging from schools and nursing homes to restaurants and supermarkets. Food establishments are ranked on a four-level scale of lowest to highest public health risk of food-borne illness (1-4). Establishments such as convenience stores with mostly pre-packaged food would require one annual inspection, whereas restaurants serving an expanded menu may require three annual inspections. Supermarkets, nursing homes, and establishments serving individuals at higher risk of severe consequences due to food-borne illnesses require a minimum of 4 annual inspections.

Types of Food Permits	# of Permits Issued	Revenue
Standard Food Permits	112	\$20,390
Temporary Events	53	\$1,125
Farmer's Market Permits	46	\$1,450
Mobile Food Permits	5	\$750
Ice Cream Vendors	4	\$600
Food Establishment Plan Reviews	7	\$650
--	227	\$24,965

Based on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Risk-Based Inspection Schedule, we are required to complete a minimum of 290 routine inspections. When issues arise during an inspection, the Health Inspector will provide education and resources to the establishment to facilitate improvement in meeting the requirements of 105 CMR 590.00: State sanitary code Chapter X: Minimum sanitation standards for food establishments. Health Inspectors provide re-inspections as needed, depending on the quantity and/or severity of the violations. Education and guidance are the preferred methods of achieving compliance; the Board of Health aids in communicating with establishments when there are concerns. In some instances, when compliance is not achieved after multiple attempts, Health Inspectors may recommend temporary permit suspensions until a plan is put into place that will sufficiently address all concerns. In these cases, establishments are required to hire a Massachusetts Department of Public Health-approved food safety consultant for a designated period to help with more intensive training. Health Inspectors perform plan reviews for new food establishments and pre-operational inspections. Plan reviews include menus, equipment, required certifications, policies, and procedures. This year, we have had 7 pre-operational inspections, reflecting an increase in businesses opening in the Town of Wakefield.

Housing/Environmental Health

Health Inspectors investigated over 155 complaints; housing comprises roughly 40%, while trash and rodents each comprise roughly 10% each. Health Inspectors are tasked with enforcing the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.00: Minimum standards of fitness for human habitation, Chapter II. The percentage of housing complaints

from buildings with 10 or more units increased to 72% this year, coinciding with an increase in multi-unit dwellings and an increased need for services. 21% of the complaints required a higher level of involvement, including cases of hoarding and fires.

Our administrative staff and Health Inspectors issued a total of 676 permits which include permits for: animals, pools, camps, tobacco, funeral, tanning, dumpsters, body art, bodywork, transporters, permanent food, temporary food, mobile food, ice cream vendors, lodgings, septic, wells, and Farmer's Markets. We collected a total of \$72,475 in revenue.

Wakefield, Melrose, Malden, Medford, Stoneham, & Winchester participate in the Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant (\$561,000 annually). The environmental health-focused grant provides funding for food and housing inspection training, technical assistance, and supplies to promote a strong environmental health program.

Human Services and Grants

Our team of Human Services providers are grouped into two major service areas: grants for health and wellness and social services coordination.

- **Grants for Health and Wellness**

The Town of Wakefield and Wake-Up Coalition completed its tenth and final year with the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) funding (\$125,000 per for 10 years, from October 2013 to September 2023). The coalition continues to operate with active participation from key sectors throughout the community including police, schools, business owners, parents, health care professionals, media, faith community, concerned residents, and youth. Wake-Up collaborates across the region as part of the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition implementing regional strategies at the local level.

Melrose, Wakefield, and Stoneham HHS are collaborating on the STOP School Violence Grant, hosted by the City of Melrose (\$1,000,000 for 3 years). Partnering with all three school districts, the grant provides funding for one full-time Adjustment Counselor at WMHS for three years, professional development for WPS staff, and responsive classroom training for elementary classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. We have helped implement violence prevention activities for middle and high school students, including the expansion of Peer-to-Peer Violence Prevention managed by the Wakefield HHS and Wakefield Alliance Against Violence.

Melrose and Wakefield HHS collaborated on the fourth year of the MelroseWakefield Tufts Healthcare grant (\$13,000). The goals that we have worked towards include supporting new immigrant residents by connecting them to local, inclusive services that directly impact social determinants of health, including but not limited to housing, education, food, clothing, legal services, employment, and primary & behavioral health needs. Improve community connections for English Learning new residents. We provide training and networking luncheons for social service providers.

Wakefield participates in the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition, including Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham & Winchester. The Regional Substance Use Prevention Grant provides \$200,000 to help fund initiatives such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and other regional prevention strategies.

We continue to apply for grants that support community health and wellness. We prioritize opportunities to collaborate with other Town departments and community partners.

- **Social Services Coordination**

Our Social Services Manager has been able to serve over 150 households. We continue to partner with the Wakefield Food Pantry to reach those in the community in need. Our goal is to provide as many access points as possible for individuals and families in need to be able to access crucial social services, including but not limited to employment services, food security, immigration support, winter clothing, transportation, heating assistance, MassHealth, Medicare, senior services, behavioral health services, and rental assistance. Our Social Services Manager has also completed the training required to become a MassHealth navigator, able to better serve our residents looking to sign up for or access MassHealth. Our Social Service Coordinator successfully worked with Wakefield Gas and Light to screen and process payments for residents, providing heating assistance for the second year in a row.

Tobacco Control

The Regional Tobacco Prevention Program is in year four of a ten-year DPH-funded grant. The grant supports a full-time Program Coordinator who is responsible for tobacco prevention in Wakefield, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, Reading, and Winchester. Activities conducted in Wakefield this past fiscal year include:

- **Retailer Education**

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program

(MTCP), our program coordinator worked closely with all tobacco retailers to understand State regulations and expectations.

- Enforcement
- Retail store inspections were completed in 100% of all retail establishments that sell tobacco/nicotine products (a total of 23 stores). Violations included minor ones which resulted in educational warnings as well as more serious violations such as hidden stock of banned products.
- Two compliance checks were completed in all 23 stores. All violations resulted in fines and additional surveillance.
- Pricing Surveys were completed in 100% of the stores. One establishment was selling cigarettes significantly below state minimum prices. Reports of egregious differences were made to DOR (Department of Revenue).

- Community Education and Awareness:

The program coordinator was able to interact with and present to individuals and groups. Numerous updates were provided to the Board of Health and Wake-Up Coalition as well as to other regional Boards and Substance Use Prevention coalitions.

- Policy:

The focus of this year was on updating local regulations to close the gap in tobacco license transfer between businesses and the implementation of Nicotine-Free Generation, a progressive policy focused on youth prevention that utilizes a birth date restriction to slowly phase out the population eligible to purchase nicotine products over time. The tobacco license loophole was presented to the Board of Health which voted in favor of closing. The Nicotine-Free Generation policy was considered by the Board of Health at a public hearing and is awaiting the decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling on the Town of Brookline lawsuit.

- Other activities:

The Program Coordinator is an active participant in both the MA CALS (Massachusetts Collaboration for Action and Leadership) and MVPHC Shared Services grant-funded program; mentors one new Tobacco Control Coordinator in a neighboring community; volunteered for several public health-related activities such as Vaccination Clinics; and updated various community groups on the new state tobacco law as well as enforcement results and new product trends.

Anthony Chui serves as Health Director.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wakefield Housing Authority (WHA) was chartered in 1963 to provide housing for low-income elders, families, and the disabled. The WHA programs are regulated and funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) or by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

WHA housing programs are described on our website along with application instructions. Applicants and interested parties are encouraged to visit our website or telephone the WHA office located in the basement of the Lincoln School House at 26 Crescent Street (781) 245-7328. The WHA website is www.wakefieldhousing.org.

The most recent audit of the Authority's finances (FY'23) is near completion and will be made available to the public on our website. The WHA has an annual plan for our state programs that can be viewed using the link on our website.

The Authority is grateful for capital funding from EOHLC to renovate our units on Elm Street. The units have new roofs, new siding, insulation and many other repairs and upgrades. The WHA is excited to see the upgrading of fire alarm panels and replacement of hallway electrical panels at Harts Hill this summer funded by an ARPA award. The WHA replaced the flooring at Crystal View Apartments this past year with HUD capital funds as well.

WHA staff work collaboratively with the Wakefield community to service our residents. The lack of low-income housing options in the state has created long waiting lists for our programs. The WHA works hard to assist the public, applicants and our participants every day.

The WHA office and maintenance staff are committed to providing the Wakefield community with excellent service. Administrative staff includes; Maureen Hickey, Executive Director, Christine Walsh, Housing Manager, Mary Lou Roche, Finance Manager, Stephanie Gallo, Director of Leased Housing, Jessica Rivera, Leased Housing Specialist, Frances Marshall, Administrative and Maintenance Assistant, Beth Greenberg, Tenant Services Coordinator and Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. Joseph Ventura, Maintenance Supervisor, Jack McTighe, Mark Drees and James Cresta maintain the properties.

The WHA is thankful for the expertise and support of EOHLC, HUD, the Wakefield Police Department, the Wakefield Fire Department, the Wakefield Senior Center, the Town Hall, the Board of Health and Mystic Valley Elder Services.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at Crystal View Apartments Community Room at 101 Broadway. The WHA additionally has a remote option to our meetings.

Members of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners include: Sarah Fowler, Chairman; Jane Good, Vice Chairman; Charles Geier, Asst. Treasurer; Joseph Dorney, Member.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Wakefield Human Rights Commission presents programs and events, and creates posts on its Facebook page, to foster a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity. We provide information about cultural practices and national commemorations such as Indigenous People's Day and Hispanic Heritage month. In addition, we participate in the Farmer's Market, Wakefield 101, and other Town wide events.

We are actively building a network of allies both within and outside of Wakefield who share our mission to promote the civil and human rights of all people. As is timely and appropriate, we share these resources to members of our community who need support.

In 2023, we have presented the following: May 27, 2023 – Asian Pacific American Heritage Commemoration at the Americal Civic Center. This event, attended by over 150 people, featured a full afternoon of non-stop performances and instruction: dramatic Lion Dances; lively **Bollywood dancing**; a haunting performance on an Oud, a classic Arabic instrument; an enchanting Chinese Ribbon Dance; an exciting demonstration of Chinese yo-yo; a spirited demonstration of Thai Martial arts; and graceful Tibetan dancing. Exhibits and interactive crafts opportunities included origami, calligraphy, and Arabic writing. Participants could get a henna tattoo from an accomplished artist, drink a cup of boba tea, and explore Asia and the Pacific Islands through a large map display. June 1, 2023 - Pride Month Commemoration on the steps of the Americal Civic Center. The event featured raising the Pride Progress Flag; an invocation by Reverend Brett Johnson from the Emmanuel Episcopal Church; guest speakers Senator Jason Lewis and Wakefield Town Councilor Jonathan Chines; poet James Brogna from the Galvin Middle School; and singers Ben Blackstone and Vanessa Schukis who led a sing-a long. June 15, 2023 - Juneteenth Commemoration on the steps of the Americal Civic Center. The event featured the Juneteenth flag raising, performed by special guests from the Lynn English High School Junior ROTC. Attendees enjoyed music from singer Tanya Crowell, poetry from Terry Carter, and reflections from speakers State Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian and HRC Commissioner Nicole Jacob. November 6, 2023 - Virtual Program. "Racial Equity after the Supreme Court's Affirmative Action Decision" presented for the HRC by Allison Scharfstein, Education Fellow at the Legal Defense Fund.

Maintenance

Reports of:

Public Works Department and Divisions

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of eleven (12) divisions and is responsible for maintaining the town's infrastructure and facilities associated with Public Ways, Parks and Public Grounds, Town Cemeteries, The Water Distribution System, Water Treatment, Sewer Collection System, Public Shade Trees, Town Buildings, Weights and Measures, Town Vehicles and Town Drainage System. Additionally, the department provides services, such as: refuse collection and disposal, recycling and yard waste collection, street sweeping, snow & ice removal and support services to other town departments and civic events. The goal of The Department of Public Works is to provide efficient, effective and economical services to the citizens of Wakefield. Even amidst the ongoing present inflationary pressures and unpredictable supply chain. The Department of Public Works is looking forward to another busy and productive year and wished the Town a safe and healthy 2024.

For details of division accomplishments, I refer you to the divisional reports. Also, I would like to thank the following supervisors for their support during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report: Ann Waitt Business Manager; William Renault, P.E., Town Engineer; Christopher Hunt, Field Operations Manager; Christopher Pierce, Buildings Manager; Lou Perriello, Highway Supervisor; Andrew Shankhour, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor; Dennis P. Fazio, Forestry / Parks & Cemetery Supervisor; Steve Fitzpatrick, Water / Sewer Supervisor. Joseph Conway, Director.

DPW - ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division participates in and manages many Town infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects. Engineering staff perform a full range of engineering services including technical reviews, survey, design, digital system mapping, data management, cost estimating, project bidding and construction management. The Division provides technical support to all Town Departments, Divisions and Boards and serves as a technical advisor/reviewer to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Division also reviews and oversees all construction activities within the Town's Public Rights of Ways. The Division procures and manages the services of engineering consultants for Town projects when the level of effort exceeds Division staff availability, or where a particular expertise is required. The following are the Division's Accomplishments in 2023: **Road & Sidewalk Projects:** The Engineering Division performed oversight for the reconstruction of 1.99 miles of mill and overlay treatment on

Albion Street (Broadway to Stoneham town line), Lowell Street (Dexters Lane to Salem St), Cordis Street (Pleasant St to Vernon St), Wave Ave (Pleasant St to Vernon St), Montrose Ave (Salem St to National Grid access road), Pearl St, Bryant St, Park St, and Byron Ave (Albion Street to Jordan Ave). In addition, the Division performed construction oversight for the reconstruction of 0.71 miles of reclaim treatment on Salem Street (Sullivan Park to #378 Salem St) and Broadway (#188 Broadway to Lake St).

Sidewalk and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Projects: The Engineering Division performed oversight for 1.74 miles of sidewalk replacement and 1.68 Miles of new sidewalk construction and installation of 119 ADA compliant curb in 2023. Improvements were completed on Cordis Street, Wave Ave, Lowell Street, Montrose Ave, Pearl Street, Bryant Street, Park Street, Byron Ave, Albion Street, Salem Street, Richardson Street, Water Street, New Salem Street, Fitch Court, Broadway, North Ave and Myrtle Ave.

Drainage Projects: The Engineering Division provided oversight for the reconstruction of 0.34 miles of drainage pipe and installation of 58 drainage structures on Lowell Street, Montrose Ave, Salem Street, Richardson St, North Ave and Broadway.

NPDES MS4 Program: The Engineering Division completed the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 Permit Year 5 annual reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency. Major permit accomplishments within 2023 included: Site plan and stormwater review for 8 new projects and environmental monitoring review for 6 ongoing projects meeting NPDES and or Stormwater Bylaw thresholds. Continued wet weather and dry-weather outfall testing for 66 high priority catchments. Also continued Phase II of GIS system including connectivity and catchment accuracy updates.

Water Projects: The Division completed oversight for the installation of 1.54 miles linear feet of water main replacement. Mains were replaced on Salem Street (Wharton Park to Nablus Way), Houston Street, Eaton Street (Pleasant Street to Crescent Street), White Circle, Hopkins Street (Brook Street to 62/64 Hopkins) and Bay State Road (Lynnfield Town Line to Indian Lane). Portions of water mains were replaced at the intersections of Vernon Street at Aborn Ave and Broadway at Sylvan Ave. In addition to the pipe installation 65 gate valves, 107 water services and 14 hydrants were replaced. DPW continued the advancement of a water service mapping project in 2023, obtaining a state grant to fund the remaining mapping work. Grant work will

commence in calendar year 2024. Once completed the data will be used by DPW staff for utility mark outs and to meet regulatory compliance.

Sewer Projects: DPW's Inflow/Infiltration Program identifies areas where clean groundwater or drainage is discharged to the sewer system requiring treatment. Removal of I/I lowers the Town's MWRA assessment, as the clean water will not be included in the sewer arriving at MWRA's Deer Island Treatment Plant. Sewer consultant Weston and Sampson competed design and bidding of 1.30 miles of sewer lining support the I/I program. The lining work will commence in Spring 2024.

Miscellaneous Engineering Projects: Right-of-Way Permitting: The Division performed application review and field inspection for 307 right-of-way and utility permits. Right-of-way and utility permits are required for any project completed by any private contractor that will disturb to Town's right of way including: paving/patching, water/sewer extensions and/or connections and drainage work.

Building Department/ZBA/Planning Board Permit Support: The Division performed 16 building permit reviews in 2023. The Division also, performed 15 site plan reviews and 20 standard application reviews for the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2023. Lastly, the Division completed the review of 1 definitive subdivision in 2023.

BUILDINGS DIVISION

The Building Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 46 buildings which include school and town buildings. The inventory of buildings includes major facilities such as Town Hall, Public Works, Senior Center, all Schools and the Public Safety Building. The Division is also responsible for minor facilities such as storage buildings and field bathroom buildings. During the year work orders are processed through the DPW's work order system and consist of various types of work which include: electrical repairs and upgrades, HVAC preventative maintenance and repairs, HVAC filter replacement, carpentry, roofs and window repair, and other facility repairs and improvements. Other work that is accomplished by the division includes custodial services at the town hall, public works facilities, public safety, senior center, Landrigan field buildings and park facilities. The Building Division is also responsible for clearing snow and applying Ice melt to all entryways, emergency exits, walkways and sidewalks at the following locations: Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Safety Building, Americal Civic Center, Hurd School. During the year the vast majority work is accomplished by division employees and a small

percentage is out sourced. Some of the Major Projects undertaken in calendar year 2023 include, but are not limited to: Town Hall – installed new rubber roof on north section of roof, expanded storage shed in parking lot, 5 Common Street – replaced 10 windows, Americal Civic Center – repointed exterior brick throughout exterior of the property, replaced skylight on main floor, 9 Albion Street – replaced rubber roof.

FORESTRY & PARKS DIVISION

The Forestry Division is responsible for the planting, pruning, spraying and removal of public shade trees on public property throughout the Town. Extensive work is done seasonally around Lake Quannapowitt. The Park Division is responsible for the proper maintenance of the upper and lower commons, all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and many roadside areas, including twenty-two (22) islands. This division maintains over one hundred (100) acres of parks and recreational land under the Public Works jurisdiction. This division is responsible for all rubbish removal at all parks, school fields and downtown areas. Major emphasis is placed on athletic fields through an aggressive aeration and seeding program. This division is also responsible for cleaning and grooming the Town's four synthetic fields and is involved in the setup and cleaning for major festivals that occur in the Town, and athletic games at Town and school fields. Forestry Division - 94 tree maintenance requests completed; 83 shade trees removed; 178 shade trees planted; 45 stumps ground. Park & Forestry Division - Winter snow plowing including sidewalk plowing; 19 School Sand barrels; Cleaning and refurbishing filter berm on Lake Quannapowitt; Monitoring water level on Lake Quannapowitt; Maintenance on all 13 playgrounds; Daily maintenance on all (13) Town ball fields; Set up and cleanup for all major school athletic events; 23.32 miles of field line painting; Seasonal roadside mowing; 115 tons of trash removed from public parks. Major Projects and Storms - Maintained the Wakefield Dog Park; Tree City USA Award – 22nd year; thirteenth year Town wide tree spraying via spraying budget; Provide Christmas tree pickup and recycling of debris; Tree wrapping with lights in down town area for year-round decorations; Oversee the Town wide goose control program; Seasonal banners in downtown area.

CEMETERY DIVISION

The Cemetery Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Forest Glade Cemetery on Lowell Street and the Old Church Street Cemetery on Church Street. The seasonal tasks of lawn and tree trimming, as well as planting have grown each year. Newer expansion sections "Q," and "R" are presently in use and the Master Plan for the

Property is in final stages of development. This division maintains all property and installs all foundations, government plaques, markers, and government stones. Upcoming Projects – Online web viewer for cemetery records and grave locations to be released this year.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance of 115 miles of roadway. Included with the roadway maintenance are the drainage systems, sidewalks, catch basin cleaning and repair, traffic and street signs, street sweeping, leave and brush pickup, the collection of rubbish, recycling, and C.R. T's, propane gas tank disposal, School parking lot's maintenance, stripping crosswalks, center lines and parking areas, also the operation of the Nahant St. brush and leaf drop off center. This Division is also responsible for the sanding and salting and snow removal of all town roadways, all Public Schools, Public Parking areas, Public Safety Building, Town Hall, and Senior Center. **Traffic Markings:** 4" Single and Double Centerline, 87,800 LF; 4" Edge line, 146,998 LF; 12" Crosswalk and Stop lines, 40,114 LF; 4" Parking lines, 22,840 LF; Crosswalk centers, 13,930 LF; Directional arrows & 8' only, 88 EA; Railroad crossings, 8 EA; 8' School, 36 EA; 6' Traffic circles, EA. **Traffic and Street Signs:** Work Orders for repair, 133; complete digital inventory of assets in field performed, **Road/Sidewalk Installation and Repair:** Potholes and patching (asphalt)- 320 tons placed by hand; Potholes filled 1001; Asphalt Sidewalks repaired or replaced- 41 locations; Concrete Sidewalks repaired or replaced- 20 locations, **Refuse and Recycling:** Recycling Collected- 2127 tons; Refuse Collected- 6729 tons; Cardboard Collection (Nahant Street Container) – 18 tons; Composting Starter Kits- 66 delivered from grant funding. **Winter Program:** All Public Buildings, Parking Lots and Schools were plowed, salted, and sanded along with 115 miles of roadways; Approximately 50 sand barrels are placed throughout Town on hills and intersections to use for added safety; Total equipment dispatched during a plowing event- 40 Town, 30 Hired Contractors; Winter potholes and trenches are filled and maintained as needed throughout the season; Snow Fall Total for Fiscal Year 2023 – 24 inches.

FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Fleet Maintenance Division Is Responsible for The Repair and Maintenance of All vehicles From the Following Divisions: 143 D.P.W pieces of equipment; 35 Police Dept. Vehicles; 5 Fire Dept. vehicles; 6 School Dept. Vehicles; Council of Aging Vans; 2 IT Dept. The Division provides maintenance on a scheduled daily basis. All minor repairs and most major repairs are done in house. Fleet Maintenance responsibilities also include writing the specifications to cover the needs for each division purchasing vehicles. Also responsible for providing all

Departments including the Gas and Light, School, Police and Fire Departments with both Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel Fuel.

WATER DIVISION

The Town of Wakefield used approximately 733 million gallons of water in CY 2023. This water is supplied by two sources, namely the MWRA and the Wakefield Broadway Treatment Facility utilizing Crystal Lake as the source water supply. The Water Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Broadway Water Treatment Plant, the Linden Street Pumping Station, the Montclare Ave. Booster Station, the Sidney Street Booster Station, and the Sidney Street Water Storage Standpipe. The Division is also commissioned with the maintenance and repair of the entire distribution system, the monitoring of all water quality testing and reporting as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). **Water Distribution System:** The Town's distribution system consists of approximately 110 miles of water main piping. This system requires constant maintenance to ensure proper operation, reduce system interruptions, provide sufficient water for fire protection, and ensure water quality. Examples of Distribution system maintenance include but are not limited to; repairs to water main breaks, replacement of older mains, water main flushing, leak detection, replacement / repair of gate and curb boxes, Dig Safe mark-outs, gate valve box locating-marking-clean out, gate valve exercising, water main shut downs, pipeline disinfecting and testing, fire hydrant replacements, repairs and winterizing, inspections to new installations and repairs by contractors, maintenance of pressure reducing valves, water booster stations, and inspection and maintenance of the Sidney Street water storage standpipe. **Broadway Water Treatment Plant:** The Department operates the Broadway Water Treatment Plant. The treatment plant draws its source water from Crystal Lake. The water treatment process includes; Intake screens, Fluoridation, Slow Sand Filtration, Disinfection, and pH adjustment. The plant is operated by departmental staff licensed as State Certified Treatment Plant Operators. **Water Quality:** The Department performs weekly bacteriological sampling at 11 sites strategically located throughout the system to provide a representative overview of the entire system. This sampling is conducted to monitor against the presence of pathogenic bacteriological contamination. This sampling also provides proof of proper disinfection, and confirms the presence of a distribution system disinfectant residual. The Department is constantly testing the water quality to ensure safe drinking water and to protect against contamination, this is achieved through various field-testing

procedures and the completion of all water quality testing as scheduled and mandated by the DEP. **Cross Connection Control:** The Department continually maintains an active Cross Connection Control Program. This program consists of regular testing of existing backflow devices to ensure proper protection from backflow and back-siphonage of contaminants into the drinking water system. The program also conducts surveys of facilities throughout the Town in order to identify and protect against potential new sources of contamination. **Water Meters:** The Department reads approximately 9000 water meters per billing quarter (36,000 per year); along with multiple additional meter readings for new accounts, change of ownerships, repairs, replacements, etc. Throughout the year multiple new meters are installed to service new accounts, while older meters are constantly being replaced to upgrade the system. Examples of additional maintenance on water meters includes replacing frozen or damaged meters, repairing leaks, repairs-replacement-rewiring of outside registers and transmitters. **Snow and Ice:** Both the Water and Sewer Departments participate in all town snow and ice removal operations. All Department personnel and equipment are involved in clearing snow and ice during storm events. **Emergency Service:** For emergency service please call the Wakefield Water / Sewer Division, 24 Hour Emergency Telephone #781-246-6318.

SEWER DIVISION

The Sewer Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the entire wastewater collection system. **Collection System Infrastructure:** The collection system is comprised of an estimated 95 miles of sewer main and approximately 8500 sewer service laterals. The collection system mains, manholes, structures, covers, etc., require constant maintenance to ensure proper operation, reduce service interruptions, and to prevent back-ups, surcharging and overflows. Examples of some routine required maintenance performed on the system include; main flushing and jetting to reduce the buildup of grease and settled debris leading to main blockages, root cutting and treatment to clear and prevent the reoccurrence of root intrusion, repair and rehabilitation of manholes, covers, and structures, Dig safe mark-outs for excavations, pipe repairs and or replacement of broken mains, inspections of new sewer mains, service installations, and repairs by contractors. **Pumping / Lift Stations:** There are nine (9) Pumping / Lift Stations utilized in the waste water collection system: Farm Street Station, West Park Drive Station, Plaza Road Station, Findlay Street Station, Audubon Road Station, Bay State Road Station, Lakeview Ave Station, Main St @ Central St Station, and the Spaulding Street Station.

These stations collect wastewater from low-lying areas and discharge to points in the collection system at higher elevations allowing the flow to continue by gravity. These stations require constant maintenance of pumps, compressors, tanks, controls, and alarms to ensure proper operation, uninterrupted service, and prevent system back-ups and overflows. **Inflow and Infiltration (I&I):** The Department is constantly working in conjunction with the engineering division and the town's consulting engineers to identify and remove extraneous flows into the collection system (I&I). A few examples of "Inflow" sources include; roof leaders tied into the collection system, basement sump pumps discharging to the homes sewer service, other drainage systems tied directly to the sewage collection system. Examples of "Infiltration" sources include: broken or cracked sewer mains and services, loose or missing sewer covers and caps, and other defects in system piping and components that allow groundwater and or rainwater to enter the system. These flows enter the collection mains and can exhaust the system's capacity resulting in sewage surcharging, overflows, and back-ups. The additional flows due to Inflow & Infiltration significantly add to the equipment maintenance, utility and manpower costs associated with operating the system. Identifying and removing flows from Inflow & Infiltration sources reduces the annual metered volume of wastewater discharged from the Town of Wakefield into the MWRA system. This can result in significant reductions to the Town's MWRA annual waste water assessment. The Town is continuing the process of installing a control and data collection system on multiple sewer stations that will enable data from these sewage stations to be collected and analyzed by the town. This information will greatly enhance the town's ability to identify sewage flow volume and discharge patterns that identify inflow and infiltration sources.

Emergency Service: For emergency service please call the Wakefield Water / Sewer Division, 24 Hour Emergency Telephone #781-246-6318.

Education

Reports of:

Lucius Beebe Memorial Library

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School

Wakefield Public Schools

REPORT OF THE LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In 2023, Lucius Beebe Memorial Library continued the year-long celebration of its 100th anniversary with a variety of events and programs. The festivities culminated in a day-long open house on April 15, for which each Wakefield household received an invitation. The day featured a scavenger hunt, speeches from state and local representatives, and the presentation of a certificate from the State House.

The library experienced many updates this year, including new main floor carpeting and a roof replacement. Through its work with KultureCity, Beebe Library became sensory-inclusive certified. The library started work on its next five-year strategic plan, due to the state in October 2024. Library Director Catherine McDonald began her term as Vice President of the NOBLE Executive Board, to be followed by a term as President.

For the first time in four years, the annual Blossom at the Beebe was held on April 29. The event, themed around the library's centennial anniversary, was a sell-out event that raised approximately \$25,000 for the library. Friends of Beebe Library once again held their annual June book sale at the Hurd School, as well as book events at the Farmers' Market. Finally, the Board thanks Maureen Wood, who retired this year, for her dedication and years of service to the library. We thank the Town of Wakefield for its continued support.

Members of the Board included: Laura Cutone Godwin, Secretary; Jeffrey Quinn, Chair; Chris Barrett; Paul Gordon; Aimee Lominac; Jacqueline Natale; Adam Rodgers; Scott Staiti; and Susan Wetmore.

Report of the Library Director

The library's 100th Anniversary year ended with an Open House that included remarks by state and local dignitaries, special displays of archival items, a scavenger hunt, and giveaways. It was a time to reaffirm the library's mission and value to the community. Traditional programs and events held this year included Plaza Jazz, BeebeCon, Summer At The Library, WCAT Beebe Book Buzz, Wakefield 101 at the Americal Civic Center, and WMHS Art Dept. Halloween Pumpkins on the Plaza. Blossoms returned with a sold-out 100th Anniversary Gala, raising funds for the library and Chamber of Commerce. Wakefield Alliance Against Violence held its annual White Ribbon event on the library plaza.

New Services

Kulture City Certification was awarded to Beebe Library with staff trained to provide accessibility and acceptance to patrons with sensory needs.

Ecards granting immediate access to Beebe's online resources became available to residents who do not have a library card. Zoom Equipment was installed in the Trustees Room.

Grants

Patrons enjoyed an extended season of Plaza Jazz thanks in part to a grant from the Mass Cultural Council. A Wakefield Arts Council grant contributed to the creation of a brochure (available 2024) featuring art works displayed in the library. The library received an \$8,500 federal Library Services and Technology Act grant for its project *Memory-Keeping: Preserving and Sharing Wakefield's History* to organize and safeguard special collections and to introduce patrons to personal archiving.

Personnel Changes

Resigned: Circulation Assistants Samantha Cramer, Kerri Roberts, Maureen Wood, and Deborah Massa; Reference Librarians Kathryn Walton and Erin Dagenais (FT); and Custodians Stephen Thompson and Robert Lancto. Hired: Circulation Assistants Lauren Poole, Elizabeth Fantozzi, and Deborah Massa; Reference Librarians Erin Dagenais (PT) and Catherine Riordan. Pages: Nicholas Kattar, Cooper Schroder, Russell Whalen, and Juliana Spaulding resigned; Sarah Guerin, Miriam Malfroy-Camine, James Cerulle, Sean Marra, and Clara Guzman were hired. Founding NOBLE Executive Director Ron Gagnon retired after 35 years of service. Kathy Lussier is the new Executive Director.

Building Improvements

Beebe Library is grateful for the funding for major improvements in 2023: carpeting of the first floor and replacement of the roof of the 1922 building. With masonry work, updated interior signs, reframing of a Beebe portrait, and two replaced appliances, the building remains fresh and welcoming.

Library Statistics

A note on Holdings: In addition to physical print and media items, Beebe Library holds or provides access to digital items for download and streaming. Licenses purchased primarily for Wakefield patrons are counted as Overdrive Holdings. The library's electronic access to content via Hoopla and Kanopy, in addition to Overdrive, is counted in circulation.

Holdings	
Physical print & other media	92,415
Digital downloads & streaming: Overdrive	126,184
Total Holdings	218,599
Circulation	
Physical print & other media	279,997
Digital downloads & streaming	68,745
Total Annual Circulation	348,742
Interlibrary Loans to Wakefield	23,542
Interlibrary Loans from Wakefield	21,326
Total cardholders	12,482
Services	
Annual Building Visits	158,115
Daily Average	479
Reference Transactions	13,693
Digital Media Lab Uses	111
Patron Meeting Room Uses	108
Adult Programs	185
Adult Program Participants	2522
Youth Programs	373
Youth Program Participants	8420
Email newsletter subscriptions	4581
Social media followers	4804

REPORT OF THE NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administration

Superintendent-Director, David DiBarri

Principal-Deputy Director, Carla Scuzzarella

District School Committee

Deborah P. Davis – Woburn, Chair

Judith M. Dymont - North Reading, Vice-Chair

Peter A. Rossetti, Jr. – Saugus, Secretary

Ward Hamilton – Melrose, Treasurer

Robert S. McCarthy – Reading, Associate Treasurer

Michael T. Wall – Chelsea, Committee Member

Anthony L. Caggiano – Revere, Committee Member

James J. Holland – Malden, Committee Member

Brittany A. Carisella – Wakefield, Committee Member

Larry Means – Stoneham, Committee Member

Brant Snyder – Winchester, Committee Member

Robert O'Dwyer – Winthrop, Committee Member

Outstanding Student Award

Kenneth Ibarra Suarez from Saugus a student in the Electrical program was chosen as Northeast's nominee at the State Awards Dinner for Outstanding Vocational Technical Students. The event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association.

***National Technical Honor Society**

The Northeast Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society held its annual Induction Ceremony in April. At the ceremony, 38 Juniors were inducted. There is a total of 38 Technical Honor Society members for the 2021-2022 school year.

***National Honor Society**

The Annual Induction Ceremony to the Northeast Chapter of the National Honor Society "Artisans" was held in April. At the ceremony 27 Juniors and 11 sophomores were inducted for the 2021-2022 school year bringing the total membership to 45.

Scholarship Committee

The Northeast Awards and Scholarship Committee and PAC board presented awards and scholarships to 30 deserving students at the annual Senior Recognition Night. A total of \$51,900.00 was presented to Northeast students who will be working in their vocational fields, entering trade

apprentice programs, or going on to one, two, or four-year programs at accredited colleges, universities, and trade schools. These awards and scholarships provide the students opportunities to purchase tools and equipment, and assist in offsetting the expense of attending institutions of higher education.

School Wide Professional Development 21-22

The goal of professional development is to:

- Ensure that staff members are following current regulations enacted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- Guarantee that all staff members are knowledgeable of legislation impacting the educational process of the commonwealth.
- Make staff members aware of the most recent trends and strategies in the district's mission of improving student achievement.
- Ensure implementation of effective ESL teaching strategies in a vocational high school
- Correct the negatively affected academic growth during the pandemic, (as identified by our year end assessments) by developing trimester curriculum mapping, applicable pacing guides, lesson plans, common assessments, utilizing SEI techniques and other teaching strategies to align current curriculums with the appropriate MA. Curriculum Frameworks for each course offered at Northeast. The expectation is we will begin this process in September of 2022 and complete the process by the end of school year 2022/2023.

2022 SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM:

The Summer Transition and Enrichment Program at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School is a two-week program that ran from July 8th until July, 19th. The program was an introduction to Career-Technical Education, as well as an introduction to High School English and Math courses, with a focus on MCAS preparation. This program is for our incoming Freshmen who are part of our graduating class of 2026. We had 228 students partake in this program, and the students participated in the following shops: Cosmetology, HVAC, Drafting and Design, Auto technology, Auto Body and Collision, Business Technology, Culinary Arts, Design and Visual Communications, Electrical, and Plumbing. The students had the opportunity to explore four different shops over the two-week period. This program is funded by federal Title 1 and Carl D. Perkins Grants. These services, as well as the program itself are run at no cost for the students or parents/guardians. Transportation is provided.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Northeast Student Services staff offers support and counseling to all students through individual and group counseling, specialized workshops and presentations, health services, and mediation services. All Northeast counselors are certified as School Adjustment Counselors and are qualified to handle a wide range of student issues. Two School Adjustment Counselors are bilingual (Spanish-speaking). The Career Counselor provides career awareness and career development services to all students. The Career Counselor and School Adjustment Counselors provide specialized support to students enrolled in non-traditional vocational areas. Two School Nurses provide health services. Support counseling groups are established each year based on student needs. Counseling groups for social skills development, anxiety management, non-traditional support, and English Language Learner support groups have been offered in the past. The School Adjustment Counselors provide individual counseling support and crisis intervention to all students as needed. They will provide support to homeless students, assessing their special needs and coordinating with the Homeless Liaison (Administrator of Student Services). They also are responsible for developing and monitoring Section 504 Accommodation Plans in conjunction with the Administrator of Student Services. School Adjustment Counselors collaborate with school personnel, family members, doctors, psychiatrists, outside therapists, social workers, police, court personnel, and others. The School Adjustment Counselors work to connect students and families with community based mental health services as needed. Elliot Community Human Services of Lynn serves as our crisis intervention linkage for emergency mental health services in the community. The Bilingual School Adjustment Counselors provides native language support (Spanish) as needed to limited English proficient students and families across all grades. They provide specific support to the English Language Education program at Northeast, but support other Northeast Latino students and families as needed. Translation services (oral and written) and interpreting services are often required for parent communication throughout the building, and as needed, the counselor coordinates with all departments to assist. Referrals are made to a Native Language Psychologist for testing for Special Education evaluation. Coordinator for translation in other home languages is done on an as needed basis. Post graduate career counseling process is emphasized by all school counselors starting in grade 9. The Career Center is the focal area for a well-planned four-year career development program that prepares all Northeast students for their individually chosen career paths. The curriculum focuses on career assessment; career information and requirements; employability and entrepreneurial skills; interviewing skills;

portfolios; and resume preparation. By providing assessments to evaluate skills, interests, and work values, the Career Counselor works with the School Adjustment Counselors to assist freshmen in their vocational selection process and upper-class students with linkages to post-secondary education and employment opportunities. The Career and Adjustment Counselors provide directed support to those students who are enrolled in career areas that are considered non-traditional for their gender. Students have the opportunity to participate in support groups, specialized presentations, and field trips that prepare them to understand the benefits of non-traditional choices, to manage challenges in each occupation and to understand the required post-secondary linkages to achieve their goals. The School Nurses have coordinated support services for pregnant and parenting teens with outside providers affiliated with local hospitals. In addition, they provide support to students with chronic medical conditions, coordinating with parents, doctors, nurses, etc. The School Nurses work closely with the School Adjustment Counselors to coordinate assistance when mental health needs arise. They also work closely with the Deans when emergency medical evaluations are required. The Social Emotional Support Counselor at Northeast works collaboratively with the Administration, Guidance, and Teaching Staff to ascertain high risk needs areas for students and coordinate comprehensive intervention and prevention services utilizing internal and external resources. The SESC collaborated with outside Public Health agencies and utilized best practices in prevention services. The SESC Served as a liaison for Northeast Metro Tech on Public Health community teams to bring resources to our school. The IPC focused on the following areas during the school year: substance abuse, vaping, bullying prevention, conflict resolution, mental health and social emotional learning throughout the curriculum. The Diversity Equity Inclusion Coordinator implemented diversity, equality and inclusion strategies throughout the district. The DEI Coordinator led initiatives with staff, students, and families. The DEI goal of cultivating an inclusive culture that centers on respect, transparent communication, and the social-emotional needs of our stakeholders. In addition to the support provided by the counseling staff, the Special Education Department offers a TEAM meeting process that promotes monitoring of student progress and educational support. Each Special Education student is assigned a Liaison who is a teacher in the Special Education Department who oversees progress in relation to the Individual Education Program, communicating with parents, teachers, and counselors to help all students achieve success. The Northeast Mentoring Program is a freshmen transition program that matches junior and senior mentors with small groups of freshmen students. The Northeast Mentors present the Freshmen Orientation day for freshmen

and then meet with their groups throughout the year to offer support and to deliver positive lessons that promote a positive school climate. The mentors are trained in a leadership climate by the student services staff, developing a core of approximately 90 peer leaders from 11th and 12th grades. The After-School Help Program is one of educational assistance provided to students having difficulty with one or more academic subjects by academic and vocational teachers. This free assistance is offered every Wednesday in the library from 2:45-3:25. Water and snacks are provided as well as free transportation home. Special school-wide workshops and presentations are offered through the year for different groups of students. Each year, all freshmen participate in group workshops focusing on identifying the signs of depression and gender equity issues. Large group assemblies and presentations have been offered focusing on goal setting and acts of kindness, substance abuse, teen dating issues, tolerance, character building, and others. On a larger scale, the student service emphasis is on communication – communication with students and with parents. Mid-term progress reports are sent to parents each trimester and report cards are sent home three times per year. E-mail communication is welcomed and progress update meetings are held as needed. Parents and guardians are asked to be involved with all course scheduling activities. Post-graduate planning information is shared through career assessment and planning activities. Career Plans are sent home annually for parent review. Language development is communicated for Limited-English proficient students through assessment data and parent meetings. It is our goal to service all students equitably while attending specifically to those who have specific life challenges.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Community Education Program is a broad base collaborative community initiative assisting learners of all kinds complete their education and achieve economic self-sufficiency through empowerment skills, health care, support services and meaningful employment. Our vision is to deliver educational experience in a positive environment that will enable Northeast to reach new heights together with our lifelong learning community. The focus of the Community Education Program is to offer programs that meet the demands of our learning populations. In doing this, we give people the opportunity to improve employment skills, fulfill lifelong goals, or enrich their lives with social activities. With the most qualified instructors, and state of the art labs Northeast strives to maintain the highest standards of education. Emphasis is on our new technology, upgrades such as brochure modification, new state of the art web site construction, and the introduction of new programs in the medical field, new culinary classes,

2022 GRADUATES

The 2021-22 school year represents the Fifty second class to matriculate at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School. Northeast graduated 312 students. Breakdown of graduates' status after graduation is as follows:

Attending 4-year college: 100

Attending 2-year college: 65

Apprentice school: 2

Employed: 100

Entering Military Service: 1

Other: 44

SPECIAL NEEDS ENROLLMENT

Special Needs enrollment for the 2021-22 school year continued to represent approximately one-quarter share of the total school enrollment with students. The 303 Special Needs students represent 25% of the school population. Additionally, 123 students were eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Annual Organizational Meeting of the District School Committee on January 13, 2022 the following members were elected as Officers of the Northeast District School Committee:

Chair: Deborah P. Davis, Woburn

Vice Chair: Judith M. Dymont, North Reading

Secretary: Peter A. Rossetti, Jr., Saugus

Treasurer: Ward Hamilton, Melrose

Associate Treasurer: Robert McCarthy, Reading

CONCLUSION

As Northeast celebrates its fifty second year of career/technical excellence with its twelve-member communities, the district continues to offer students the finest career technical education with which to build a successful career. The District supports curriculum in both academic and career technical classrooms with the latest equipment and technology. Evidence of our commitment is reflected in the State's grade 9 – 12 Dropout rate reports which indicates Northeast significantly lower at 0.2% versus the State rate of 1.5%. Recent graduate follow- up data indicates that 97.3% of students from the Class of 2022 were positively placed in relevant post-secondary areas (*Source: MA DESE CVTE PerkinsV-Post secondary placement*). In fact, Northeast currently employs 32 alumni at the school, including the Superintendent-Director. Alumni's stories of success and their readiness and willingness to help their alma mater by recruiting graduates for cooperative education experiences or employment is proof of their

dedication to Northeast. Testimonials as to the success of our graduates continue to be received which makes us proud to have contributed in some small way to their accomplishments. The Northeast Class of 2022, did not take the MCAS Exam due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The most recent group of sophomores taking the test in the spring of 2022, saw a 95% passing rate in ELA, a 93% passing rate in mathematics, and an 88% passing rate in Science. Northeast continues to offer school day MCAS Enrichment Classes and after school enrichment programs for those students in need of additional preparation for the MCAS. Northeast also offers a well-attended Summer Transition Program for incoming freshmen and as a Saturday Exploratory Trade Program for students on the school waitlist, and for High School students from our feeder communities. The Career Center facilitates student access to technology to further learn business aspects of their industries, develop career plans, resumes, and comprehensive portfolios, and prepare college and other post-secondary documents with the assistance of our faculty including Career and Adjustment Counselors. Northeast continues to provide students the finest career technical education with which to build a positive and productive post-secondary experience, be it college or career, offering experiences with the latest equipment and technology in both the career technical and academic programs. Once again, I am proud to have represented Wakefield as a member of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational District School Committee. I will continue to serve as the guardian of funds allocated from the community to this educational institution, assist in, and provide counsel to the school in maintaining the highest standards of educational excellence possible. Northeast School Committee Wakefield Representative Brittany Carisella.

REPORT OF WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wakefield is a great community and a highly desirable place to raise a family. Part of this attraction is the remarkable work that is done daily by the faculty and staff of the Wakefield Public Schools (WPS). Our schools, alongside the athletics, music, and extracurricular programs are among the very best in the State.

Guided by the WPS vision, mission, and instructional strategy, our work is aligned to foster a nurturing educational environment. Our vision is to cultivate students who emerge as confident, lifelong learners, who embody respect and compassion in their communities. Our mission is dedicated to equipping students for success in college, career, and community by providing a rich and challenging curriculum, high quality instruction, and educational experiences that meet their individual needs and interests. In our daily practice, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ignite a passion for learning among our students, laying the foundation for the continuous growth and development.

Students within the Wakefield Public Schools continue to achieve remarkable progress academically, socially and emotionally. Our MCAS scores consistently meet or exceed state averages. Across the board, our schools have demonstrated significant advancements in both state and national assessments. Notably, this past year, Walton Elementary School earned the prestigious title of a “School of Distinction,” recognizing its high achievement and growth scores. Despite these accomplishments, we acknowledge the growing and complex needs of our students, particularly in Special Education, Social Emotional Learning, Multilingual Education and the development of executive functioning skills across all levels. The demand for student support services is not only increasing in volume, but also in intensity, underscoring the importance of our continued dedication to meeting the diverse needs of our student population.

While the number of students requiring out-of-district placements has remained consistent over the past three years, we have witnessed a significant increase in the overall needs of our student population. This growing complexity has compelled us to develop and expand our in-district programs, ensuring that we can provide comprehensive support and meet the diverse needs of all students within our community. Our commitment to enhancing these programs reflects our dedication to offering tailored educational experiences that cater to the evolving demands of our students.

In Wakefield, we are experiencing a notable rise in the number of Multilingual Learners and families new to the United States. A decade ago, our district served approximately 20 ML students; today, that number has surged to well over 108, reflecting the growing diversity within our community. What is striking is that the number of economically disadvantaged students has gone from 9.7% or 328 students, to 17.2% or 568 students in the same time period.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress in ensuring that our students are working on common, standards-aligned curricula. Notably, we have adopted a new literacy curriculum from EL (Expeditionary Learning) and supplemented this with other programs (Heggarty and Foundations) that are specifically targeting our students' development of foundational literacy skills. This marks a significant shift toward enhancing literacy experiences that adhere to the Science of Reading and Writing. We received a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to accelerate this adoption. The successful implementation of this change would not have been possible without the extraordinary work of our elementary school teachers, who have worked tirelessly under the expert guidance and coaching provided by our Humanities Coordinator and Coach. At our secondary level, we have spent a significant time following our ELA Curriculum Review, securing curriculum guides for equitable learning across grade levels and classes. Additionally, we have invested in a common approach to writing (5-12) by training all of our English and Social Studies Teachers in the EMPOWER Writing Program.

The Town has demonstrated its strong support by backing the construction of a new high school. The WMHS construction project continues to move ahead swiftly, with construction starting in the spring of 2024. This new facility represents the last component in securing the updated NEASC Accreditation.

WPS has excelled in recruiting and retaining a skilled and dedicated workforce, including faculty, staff, counselors, school and district leaders. In the challenging post-COVID landscape, where the dynamics of hiring, retaining, and developing staff have shifted significantly, our success stands out even more. Today, personnel have more options than ever before, making it increasingly difficult to secure highly educated personnel with the skills and dispositions of a professional educator. We are pleased to report that WPS has the highest retention rate in the Middlesex League. Which is a testament to the support of the Town and our amazing families that send their children to school daily.

We have done well, yet it is crucial that we maintain a close collaborative relationship with the Town to effectively manage increased costs related to labor, safety protocols (including building and cyber safety), as well as long-term forecasting on preparing facilities for the changes in enrollment and climate.

We are grateful to serve Wakefield students and families, as well as the Wakefield community. We want to thank the School Committee, Town Council, the Finance Committee and especially our faculty, staff, students and families for their ongoing support.

Report of the School Committee – Inspire the Love of Learning

The Wakefield School Committee consists of seven voting members elected to staggered three-year terms. At the Wakefield School Committee meeting on May 23, 2023, following the Town Election in April, the School Committee officially welcomed new member Pete Davis, congratulating him on his election, and congratulated returning School Committee member Kevin Piskadlo on his reelection. At the reorganization meeting on June 6, 2023, the Committee voted to appoint Amy Leeman to serve as Chair and Stephen Ingalls to serve as Vice-Chair.

The School Committee regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, with one meeting in the months of July and December. This schedule is subject to change.

The School Committee retains the exclusive authority to hire, contract with, evaluate, and terminate a superintendent; review and approve a budget for education in the district; establish and periodically review educational goals and policies for the schools in the district. The school committee generally lacks the authority to get involved in individual student or employee matters.

The vision of the Wakefield Public Schools is to graduate students who are confident, lifelong learners who are respectful and caring members of their community. Our mission is to prepare students for college, career, and community by providing rich and challenging curriculum, high quality instruction, and educational experiences that meet their individual needs and interests.

The year was met with much optimism because we had so many positive experiences and accomplishment upon which to reflect from previous years. Those accomplishments span the disciplines of academics,

athletics, performing arts and citizenship and thus span the spectrum of skills, perspectives and passions.

A few highlights from this year:

- A special election was held on March 11, 2023 for residents to vote on the Wakefield Memorial High School building project. The project passed.
- The 5/2/2023 meeting was held at the Metco office in Roxbury, MA which included a guided tour of the new Metco office and dinner with Metco families.
- At the 7/18/2023 meeting the School Committee voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to move forward with a new WMHS Warrior Logo.
- Wakefield High School Class of 2023 graduation was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023.
- The School Committee annual retreat was held on August 22, 2023.
- Contract negotiations with WEA were held throughout the year with a tentative agreement reached on February 10, 2024.

Members of the School Committee include Eileen Colleran; Pete Davis; Kevin Fontanella; Stephen Ingalls; Amy Leeman; Tom Markham; and Kevin Piskadlo. Judy Boutiette serves as the School Committee Secretary.

The members of the School Committee, the WPS administration, teachers and staff are passionate about and dedicated to providing the optimal scholastic experience to students and their families. The School Committee recognizes that the Wakefield Public Schools benefits from the successful and efficient operation of all Town departments: Police, Fire, Health & Humans Services and Public Works to name just a few and would like to thank all Town departments, all community volunteers, as well as WCAT for their continued support and collaboration.

REPORT OF THE WAKEFIELD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET

2022-2023 Expenditures	
Personnel	\$39,291,312
Contractual	\$4,500,129
Materials	\$2,904,111
Sundry	\$27,601
Special Ed Tuitions	\$2,205,44
Total	\$48,928,597
Capital	\$580,000
Transportation	\$115,000

Grants

262 - Early Childhood - \$39,165

240 - Federal Special Education Entitlement - \$966,208

317 - METCO - \$507,369

140 - Title IIA Teacher Quality - \$50,189

305 - Title I - \$125,395

237 - Coordinated Family & Community Engagement - \$185,540

Circuit Breaker Special Education Reimbursement - \$1,685,246

The year saw 10 staff members retire from the system. We are indebted to those professionals for their years of service to not only the Wakefield Public Schools, but to the many students who passed through the doors. Retirees were Catherine Buckley, Deborah Caton, David Connell, Paul Matteo, Florence Martin, Christine Sacco, Pamela Van Beaver, Susan Worden.

REPORT OF THE WAKEFIELD SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Special Education department provides or arranges for the provision of services stipulated in students' Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The goal of the department is to ensure a continuum of services and differentiated placements available to meet the needs of students with disabilities who qualify for an IEP.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Special Education Department has prioritized the continued development of in-district programs to support students' needs. For example, students in the Integrated Care & Learning Program (ICLP) and the STRIVE Program transitioned from elementary school to middle school, so these two programs expanded to that level for the first time. Additionally, students in the Language-Based

Program will transition to the high school next academic year, so the Special Education Department is actively planning for the expansion of the Language-Based program to support these students in the high school setting.

The Special Education department continues to prioritize highly differentiated professional development opportunities for special education faculty in order to ensure we are best supporting students' unique needs. As part of this professional development we have contracted with various outside consultants to help with the development of our in-district programs. This collaboration and professional development will only improve the positive programming and services for students already established by Wakefield Public Schools.

REPORT OF WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WAKEFIELD ACADEMY

Wakefield Academy currently serves 899 students in our WPS system. Our programming consists of academic support, social-emotional support as well as physical activities such as games and age-appropriate social play. We are staffed by a variety of personnel including teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, students (college and high school), and former school employees. Each instructor brings a variety of experiences to the academy and helps us deliver the best programming possible.

Wakefield Academy currently has a before and after school program at our four Elementary schools and Doyle ECC. Additionally, we have an after-school program at our Galvin Middle School.

In addition to our daily programming, we also offer enrichment opportunities for all Wakefield Public School (WPS) Pre-K to grade 8 students which have a participation rate of 700+ students. These activities include teacher-led clubs, as well as, Pedro's Judo, Kidcasso Art, Kids' Test Kitchen, Sports Zone 101, Wicked Cool Science, Chess Hero, Hip Kids, Build Wave, Junior Designer, Pottery, and CodeWiz. These activities have brought an additional 250+ non-Wakefield Academy students into our Wakefield Academy enrichment programming. We have received tremendous support for our new enrichment offerings this year and will continue seeking new partners throughout the spring to add to our summer and fall 2024 programs. WA has also partnered with WPS teachers to offer a Math Boost program for 147 grade one and grade two students. This program provides afterschool math support 2x per week for six weeks using our WPS math curriculum for our students who need a boost in their math skills.

We hold February, April, and WoW (Warriors of Wakefield) summer camp programs. Our February and April camps are offered for students in grades Pre-K to grade 4. Our WoW summer is offered to Pre-K and rising Grade K to Grade 5 and academic camps are offered to rising grades 1st to Grade 6. Additionally, we have our summer enrichment program which is open to grades K-8. Our vacation camps offer social activities, programs, and presentations to engage all of our students. The WoW Summer program includes structured academic, and social activities as well as presentations for our Pre-K through rising 5th-grade students. All of these programs are offered outside of the extended school year program and are available to all WPS students within the grade parameters listed above. All programs strive to enrich the educational experience provided by our schools. Additional information can be obtained by visiting our website.

REPORT OF THE WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

The Facilities Department is responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of nearly 1.5 million square feet of public-school buildings and responds to thousands of calls for service each year. Below are some highlights of the work completed in 2023:

District:

- The Facilities pickup truck has been replaced.

Wakefield Memorial High School:

- Many roof patches have been installed to discontinue roof leaks inside the building
- Repairs have been completed on two boilers that went down early in the 2023 heating season.
- The compressor that supplies air conditioning to the library has been replaced.
- Planning for the new Wakefield Memorial High School has continued, construction will begin in March of 2024.

Galvin:

- Bleachers in the gym have received significant maintenance.
- Motors have been replaced in both boilers.
- Many failed recessed lighting units have been replaced.
- Significant door repairs have been completed.
- A new pressure reducing valve has been installed in the domestic water service.
- All stairway railings have been repainted
- 2 new snowblowers have replaced existing units that were carried over from the old Galvin.

Woodville:

- A new highly maneuverable floor machine has been added to the fleet.
- The gym floor has been completely refinished.
- The playground has been completely replaced.

Dolbeare:

- A new sidewalk snow plow has been purchased.
- A variable frequency drive has been replaced in the HVAC system.
- Two additional entry doors have been upgraded with badge readers.

Greenwood:

- Plumbing upgrades have been performed to reduce instances of blockages.

Walton:

- A new playground has been constructed along with major upgrades in the outdoor play space.
- Door locks in the gym area have been upgraded to increase functionality.
- Two paint projects have been completed in the hallways outside the gym.

Doyle:

- A new 6-foot fence has been installed in the front play area.
- Significant upgrades have been completed in the fire suppression system.

REPORT OF THE WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Project #1 Developed a new district technology strategic plan available on our district website at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzxIjKfwqkaLV0NGcGRDOGlqQ0E/view?resourcekey=0-XXpNtLkqxWfOps4edj2JdQ>

Project #2 Completed a comprehensive cybersecurity and risk assessment to evaluate the security of internal systems, policies and procedures, third-party vendors, and external cybersecurity threats.

Project #3 Recognizing the increasing need to access technical support with shorter wait times, the Technology Department developed an internal Helpdesk system. The Helpdesk has greatly improved service offering the community several new ways to access support via, email, texting, phone calls, and an online form.

Project #4 Completed an estimated 3400 technology support tickets ranging from password resets to the installation of complete lab rebuilds and Powerschool SIS support with everything in between for the staff of WPS as well as the community. This value was determined via reports from our helpdesk system as well as a count of emails outside of the ticketing system and does not represent projects, emergencies, or walk-ins.

Project #5 Designed and launched the distribution of a monthly newsletter to aid our staff in understanding more about the operations of technology and to develop an improved communication system for our customers.

Project #6 Migrated to a new iPad management system in support of Special Education. The new system allows for more flexibility in distributing and managing applications and improves the reliability of these critical systems for students.

Project #7 Upgraded student devices in grade 8 classrooms at the Galvin Middle School continuing to ensure students have up-to-date devices at all times.

REPORT OF THE WAKEFIELD GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The Wakefield Memorial High School guidance department assisted 224 students in graduating in June of 2023. They reached their post-secondary goal in various forms, 86% went on to four-year colleges, 7% to two-year colleges, 5% joined the workforce, and 2% went to trade school, prep school or joined our armed forces. Two hundred twenty-one WMHS students took 407 Advanced Placement exams in 22 subject areas. Fifty-two percent of the students received a grade of three or better, which is worthy of college credits from the colleges they plan to attend.

The dropout rate for the school year 2022-2023 was 1.1%. The entire staff and faculty work diligently to assist the guidance staff in developing successful four-year plans for all our students. Counselors attend special education and 504 team meetings, consult frequently with staff and administration, comprise the majority of intervention and crisis teams, and act as the primary contact with families and community support agencies.

Mattering Movement:

During the 2nd semester, we will be introducing some resources to Advisory lessons and faculty meetings that are part of a pilot program.

“The Mattering Movement” provides schools and families with resources and tools to help parents, students, and teachers untangle self-worth from achievement and to discover mattering. It’s a research-backed mindset and a skill set that can be learned, focusing on how we treat ourselves and how we treat each other. The Mattering Movement provides actionable steps to create environments that foster mattering right at home, in classrooms, and in wider communities. Research shows that at the root of the mental health struggles of our kids – the pressure, anxiety, depression, and loneliness they feel – is an unmet need to “matter” - that we are valued for who we are at our core, and that we can add meaningful value to the lives of others.

If you want to learn more about The Mattering Movement, you can access the website here: <https://www.thematteringmovement.com/>. The work is inspired by Jennifer Wallace’s book, *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic and What We Can Do About It*. We will have several copies in the office for folks to borrow if you are interested in reading more.

During the spring of 2024, WMHS will be administering the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral To Treatment) screening to all 9th graders. SBIRT is intended to identify substance use risk behaviors and to improve health, safety, resilience and success in students. SBIRT screening requires a structured, 1:1 conversation between a trained school professional and a student to build trusting relationships around education, behavior and support related to substance use.

- Screening quickly assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of treatment.
- Brief intervention focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- Referral to treatment provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.

Also, during the spring of 2024, WMHS will conduct S.O.S. (Signs of Suicide) screening for all 11th graders. The program is a depression awareness and suicide prevention training that encourages students to seek help if they are concerned about themselves or a friend. The SOS Program is the only youth suicide prevention program that has demonstrated an improvement in students’ knowledge and adaptive attitudes about suicide risk and depression, as well as a reduction in actual suicide attempts. Listed on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, the SOS Program has shown a reduction in self-reported

suicide attempts by 40-64% in randomized control studies (Aseltine et al., 2007; Schilling et al., 2016). Our goals in participating in this program are straightforward:

- To help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression
- To provide students training in how to identify serious depression and potential suicide risk in themselves or others
- To impress upon youth that they can help themselves or others by talking to a trusted adult about their concerns
- To teach students who they can turn to at school for help, if they need it

The school has continued with monthly extended HR periods with a focus on a pilot program called The Mattering Movement. “The Mattering Movement” provides schools and families with resources and tools to help parents, students, and teachers untangle self-worth from achievement and to discover mattering. It’s a research-backed mindset and a skill set that can be learned, focusing on how we treat ourselves and how we treat each other. The Mattering Movement provides actionable steps to create environments that foster mattering right at home, in classrooms, and in wider communities. Research shows that at the root of the mental health struggles of our kids – the pressure, anxiety, depression, and loneliness they feel – is an unmet need to “matter” - that we are valued for who we are at our core, and that we can add meaningful value to the lives of others.

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The Wakefield Memorial High School and the Galvin Middle School staff are working as a team to enhance the transition from 8th to 9th grade for all students. WMHS conducted in-person tours for 8th graders in November. WMHS hosted an 8th Grade Parent Information Night in December. The presentation included department leaders describing what each department offers, guidance and schedule-related information, as well as advice provided by current WMHS students.

In order to address the increasing need for supporting students' mental health and their social/emotional wellbeing, WMHS added a third position of Adjustment Counselor for the 2022-2023 school year through grant funding. The grant covers this position through June, 2025. The purpose of the adjustment counselor position is to provide one-on-one counseling targeting a specific social/emotional goal. Students are referred to the adjustment counselor through our Intervention Process. The goal is to provide six to eight weeks of counseling, but this time frame can be extended if recommended by the adjustment counselor. In addition to one-on-one counseling, the adjustment counselor holds group sessions targeting specific mental health and social/emotional needs. As we near the end of the second year having this position, it is clear that the addition of the adjustment counselors has had a significant impact on our students' mental health needs. Feedback from both students and staff regarding this additional level of support has been overwhelmingly positive.

WMHS launched a redesigned BRIDGE program based on the BRYT (Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition) model created by the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health. The BRIDGE program is short term intervention designed to help students return to school who have a prolonged absence. This could include a mental health hospitalization, medical reasons, school avoidance or other circumstances. For those students who have been out of school, re-entry can be overwhelming. The BRIDGE Program seeks to help students re-integrate back into school while providing academic support, clinical support, family support and care coordination. The program uses a multi-tiered system of support which includes academic, social emotional learning and mental health interventions. While the program is designed for students who have a prolonged absence, it can also serve students who regularly attend school and have significant social/emotional issues causing difficulty attending class.

The Guidance Office also acts as the Registrar's Office of the school and by March 1, 2024, thirty-nine new students entered Wakefield Memorial High School. The guidance staff plays an instrumental role in acclimating a large population of new students into the wonderful culture of Wakefield High.

Students in the class of 2023 submitted on average 6 college applications each resulting in the guidance office processing 1,416 initial transcript requests. Students in the class of 2023 attend 85 different schools of higher education.

Class of 2023 Graduates

Jack Ahearne
David Amyouny
Maria Arangio
Paige Arkinstall
Anthony Arria
Jessica Auffrey
Samuel Bangston
Matthew Barbera
Drew Barrett
Gavin Bayers
Molly Berinato
Jaden Blake
Noah Bonassera
Joseph Boudreau
Kylie Boyle
Bridget Breda
Fintan Brennan
Isabella Brichem
Dylan Buccelli
Isabelle Buckley
Benjamin Burdetsky
Lindsay Burke
Sadie Burrow
Paige Butland
Emma Callahan
Justin Carino
Ryan Carroll
Ashley Carter
Brian Casey
Chloe Caswell
Justin Chea
Eric Chen
Adjhany Cherisme
Nicholas Chiros
Joseph Colliton
Marcus Conte
Sophia Cook
Amanda Courtright
Jonathan Courtright
Olsen Cullen
John Curran
Maxwell Cusack
Hannah Daellenbach
Kaiquy DaHora
Enrico Davi Viterbo
Domenic DeAngelis
Meghan DeCourcy
Robert DeFeo
Eryck Matheus DeFranca
Christian Delgado
Nathan Delgado
Jonathan DiFrenna

Ian Dixon
Sean Doherty
Amiya Driggers
Aleander Driscoll
Lily Duval
Matthew Elwell
Bryan Fabbri
Nicholas Faulkner
Emma Fitzgerald
Abbey Fitzpatrick
Mia Forti
Derek Fricia
Nathan Gerawork
Kiera Germeil
Timothy Gordon
Carless Graham
Sebastian Grantham
Thomas Gover
Caroline Guanci
Ava Gustafson
Robert Hagopian
Samuel Halprin
Marissa Hayes
Anaya Hernandez
Daniel Herrick
Charlotte Hill
Haris Hodzic
Sean Hogan
Christa Imbriano
Ania Jacob
Devon Jellison
Kaiden Johnson
Leith Jones
Katherine Jurczak
Vincent Kaddaras
Bernado Kamie
Emma Kane
Lucas Kehoe
Rachel Kent
Mary Kerrigan
Anisa Koni
Charles Kowal
Sofia Laboy
Benjamin Lamarre
Aimee Lee
Colby Lee
Arianna Licciardi
Spencer Little
David Lococo
Sydney Lombardi
Maxwell MacDonald
Paige MacGibbon

Charlotte Magee
 Sofia Marey Seguel
 Ethan Margolis
 Thomas Markham
 Gabriella Marques-Moran
 Austin Marshall
 Samantha Marshall
 James Martine
 Rachelle Martone
 Mona McCall
 Matthew McCoy
 Nicholas McDonough
 William McTygue
 Abigail Eve Medur
 Summer Miisky
 Gabriella Minasian
 Caden Monro
 Sydney Moon
 Molly Morris
 Vivian Motti
 Sara Nemec
 Madison Nett
 Matthew O'Connor
 Sonel Ortolaza Santos
 Nicholas Paci
 William Pacy
 Jessica Pan
 Ria Patel
 Pater Pietryka
 John Porter
 Sara Pudvah
 Mazin Ragheb
 Jordan Raimo
 Mark Rainville
 John Regan
 Owen Riddell
 William Riley
 Nadeem Rizk
 Caroline Roberts
 Sabrina Rogers
 Elizabeth Roos
 Nicole Roos
 David Root
 Alexander Ross
 Jenna Rossi
 Charlotte Rossicone
 Sophia Rossicone
 Michael Rossino
 LizMarie Ruiz
 Andrew Russell
 Dante Russo
 Cyrus Ryan
 Valeria Sabov

Ryan Sallee
 Angel Salvo
 Freddy Sanchez
 Jennfer Sanchez
 Nicholas Santilli
 Alex Santos
 Zachary Sartori
 Emma Scalzo
 Sophia Scalzo
 Nora Scanlon
 Giuliana Scharaffa
 Andrew Schermerhorn
 Ian Schermerhorn
 Samuel Schools
 Cooper Schroder
 Isabella Schwartzberg
 Jillian Schwartzberg
 Grace Seabury
 Sophie Seidman
 Sydney Sellers
 Kailyn Shepherd
 Emma Shinney
 Marika Shively
 Chloe Silva
 Jeniellen Silva Silva
 Luca Simion
 William Simpson
 Ojas Singhvi
 Daniella Sinnott
 Lily Smith
 Lucas Smith
 Andreas Sofronas
 Anthony Sorrentino
 Gino Sorrentino
 Cameron Souza
 Kaylee Souza
 Jake Sowyrda
 Dalton Spillane
 Robert Stack
 Carestin Stewart
 Benjamin Stratton
 Kira Strauss
 Dakota Streeter
 John Summers
 Megan Taggart
 Katherine Taylor
 Jaianny Teixeira
 Logan Theriault
 Aidan Timmins
 Nicholas Townshend
 Ryan Tracy
 Christopher Vacca
 Taylor Vater

Ava Vaughn
Emily Vicente
Grace Wallace
Olivia Warren
James Wastaferro
Ian Wieneke
Michael Wilkinson
Javin Willis
Finnegan Wilson
Jackson Wyatt
Jessica Yianacopolus
Hannah Zall
Vienna Zhou
Trevor Zupan

REPORT OF MUNICIPAL GAS AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GAS AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Our One Hundred Twenty Seventh Annual Report of the Municipal Gas and Light Department covers the fiscal period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

The total electric sales of the Department totaled 160,352,700 kWh compared to 162,122,970 kWh the prior year. This slight decrease was primarily attributable to seasonal weather differences. The peak month for electric usage was August with 18,027,075 kWh of energy consumed. The highest single day usage was August 9, 2022 with 744,508 kWh sold. The winter peak month was January with 14,045,840 kWh consumed. The highest winter single day usage occurred on January 12, 2023 with a consumption of 500,756 kWh sold.

The department continued to connect several large new customer projects and continued to construct infrastructure to provide redundancy between the Beebe Substation and the Wallace Substation. The Department continues to upgrade its overhead and underground distribution infrastructure to improve system reliability and has completed its multi-year plan to retire most of its older 4,160 volt system and replace it with a 13,800 volt system which is more reliable and better equipped for future expansion. The Department efficiently and effectively responded to the various weather events with minimal impact on the infrastructure and continued to invest in system improvements. The Department, in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Vocational School and the Wakefield High School received Town and State approval for the construction of an Energy Park on Hemlock Road. The park will provide emergency battery back up, solar and electric vehicle infrastructure for both schools. Vegetation Management remains a priority to continue to improve system reliability.

Total gas sales of the Department were 557,052 MCF were sold compared to 595,923 MCF in the prior year. This is a small decrease from the prior year is attributable to a milder than normal winter. February was the peak month for gas usage with 100,159 MCF consumed that month.

The Department continued to manage its gas supply from the Kinder Morgan pipeline and National Grid. The Department continues to replace old steel and cast iron gas mains with modern plastic gas mains, which will ensure a safe and reliable gas distribution system. Completed major gas main upgrades include the sections on Cordis,

Central, Dillaway and Updall Streets and surrounding side streets. The Department received a major federal grant to replace mains and services on Water Street and the surrounding side streets near the downtown area. This project will retire all remaining cast iron on the system.

The Department has continued to improve its website and continues to improve its customer service options. The Department's energy conservation program that combines energy audits with rebates for the installation of weatherization material and the purchase of energy efficient appliances continues to be popular. Several modifications and enhancements were made to the program to encourage the reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Over seven hundred customers received \$373,452 in conservation rebates and incentives including incentives for the department's solar rebate program.

Members of the Commission include: John Warchol – Chair; Elton Prifti- Secretary; Thomas Boettcher; Sharon Daly; Jennifer Kallay; Peter Dion is the General Manager.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING JANUARY 28, 2023

The Special Town Meeting, held at the Wakefield Memorial High School, 60 Farm Street, in Wakefield on Saturday, the 28th day of January 2023, at nine o'clock in the morning, was called to order by Moderator William Harbison Carroll at 9:30 a.m. There were 1325 registered voters in attendance. Moderator Carroll accepted the Return of Service from Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran.

Article

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to the pay costs of constructing a new Wakefield Memorial High School, including expansion of Landrigan Field parking lot and which may include relocation of Hemlock Road with new intersection, to be located on the site of the existing Wakefield Memorial High School at 60 Farm Street and nearby in Wakefield, Massachusetts replacing the existing Wakefield Memorial High School, including the payment of all costs related to designing the new school project, equipping and furnishing the school, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto (the "Project"), which new school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA"); and to determine if said appropriation shall be expended under the direction of the Wakefield Permanent Building committee; to determine if said appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; to determine if the Town shall acknowledge that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town and that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and fourteen hundredths percent (53.14%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; to determine if the amount of any borrowing authorized for the project shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in and received pursuant to the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA; to determine whether the appropriation and any borrowing authorized for the project shall be contingent upon the Town's passage of a ballot question to exempt the principal and interest payments on such borrowing from the tax limitations of G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½); or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Council

Town Council Chair Mehreen N. Butt moved that the Town hereby appropriates Two Hundred Seventy-Three Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred Three Dollars (\$273,250,903) to pay costs of constructing a new Wakefield Memorial High School including expansion of Landrigan Field parking lot and which may include relocation of Hemlock Road with new intersection, to be located on the site of and replacing the existing Wakefield Memorial High School at 60 Farm Street and nearby in Wakefield, Massachusetts replacing the existing Wakefield Memorial High School, including the payment of all costs related to designing the new school project, equipping and furnishing the school, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto (the "Project"), which new school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Wakefield Permanent Building Committee; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1) or G.L. c.70B, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and fourteen hundredths percent (53.14%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; that the amount of the borrowing authorized by this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in and received pursuant to the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA; provided, however, that the appropriation and authorization to borrow pursuant to this vote shall be contingent upon the Town's passage of a ballot question to exempt the principal and interest payments on such borrowing from the tax limitations of G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½). The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This article required a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed.

At 11:45 a.m. Town Council Chair Mehreen N. Butt moved to dissolve the Special Town Meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION MARCH 11, 2023

The Special Town Election, held at the Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street, in Wakefield on Saturday, the 11th day of March 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. then and there for the inhabitants of the Town of Wakefield qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to bring on their votes on one ballot for the following question:

Shall the Town of Wakefield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to construct a new Wakefield Memorial High School, including site improvements, expansion of Landrigan Field parking lot and which may include relocation of Hemlock Road with new intersection, to be located on the site of and replacing the existing Wakefield Memorial High School at 60 Farm Street and nearby, including the payment of all costs related to designing the new school project, equipping and furnishing the school, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

Votes: 4,864; Yes: 3,431; No: 1,433

Annual Town Election April 26, 2023								
	PRECINCT 1	PRECINCT 2	PRECINCT 3	PRECINCT 4	PRECINCT 5	PRECINCT 6	PRECINCT 7	TOTAL
Registered voters	2616	2716	2905	2819	2914	2772	2745	19487
Voters	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
TOWN COUNCIL								
Mehreen N. Butt	142	152	229	213	208	234	236	1414
Edward F. Dombrowski, Jr.	231	217	292	267	274	303	356	1940
Christopher J. Carino	95	94	125	113	115	125	163	830
Total number of write-ins	2	6	0	4	2	0	3	17
Times Blank Voted	110	91	130	91	93	108	150	773
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
TOWN CLERK								
Betsy Sheeran	230	223	309	271	286	310	344	1973
Total number of write-ins	0	1	1	1	1	1	6	11
Times Blank Voted	60	56	78	72	59	74	104	503
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
TOWN MODERATOR								
William Harbison Carroll	190	192	264	236	244	273	300	1699
Total number of write-ins	1	3	1	3	6	0	4	18
Times Blank Voted	99	85	123	105	96	112	150	770
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
SCHOOL COMMITTEE								
Kevin Scott Piskadlo	147	181	264	234	236	274	290	1626
Peter S. Davis	196	196	276	246	245	269	308	1736
Alexandra Langes								
Makarewicz	133	94	129	111	102	113	158	840
Total number of write-ins	2	5	1	3	2	3	3	19
Times Blank Voted	102	84	106	94	107	111	149	753
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
David A. Ledonne	202	188	269	235	247	264	296	1701
Total number of write-ins	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	7
Times Blank Voted	88	90	119	106	98	120	158	779
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONER								
John J. Warchol	188	188	268	237	245	273	297	1696
Total number of write-ins	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	6
Times Blank Voted	102	91	119	107	101	109	156	785
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
BOARD OF HEALTH								
Candace Linehan	190	185	270	238	244	263	291	1681
Total number of write-ins	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
Times Blank Voted	100	95	118	105	102	121	160	801
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
PLANNING BOARD								
Kevin York	191	185	264	237	236	265	286	1664
Total number of write-ins	0	3	4	1	3	2	2	15
Times Blank Voted	99	92	120	106	107	118	166	808
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
LIBRARY TRUSTEES								
Laura Cutone Godwin	178	191	272	232	243	270	285	1671
Adam Rodgers	182	189	273	235	242	272	285	1678
Susan M. Wetmore	200	194	276	238	252	265	292	1717
Total number of write-ins	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Times Blank Voted	310	265	343	327	300	347	499	2391
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487
CONSTABLE								
Lisa Ann Butler	151	151	208	182	188	210	239	1329
Peter Vitale	109	86	116	109	107	114	149	790
Total number of write-ins	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	4
Times Blank Voted	30	41	64	52	51	61	65	364
Total Ballots	290	280	388	344	346	385	454	2487

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 15, 2023

The Annual Town Meeting, held at the Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street, in Wakefield on Monday, the 15th day of May 2023, at seven o'clock in the evening, was called to order by Moderator William Harbison Carroll at 7:00 p.m. There were one hundred six (106) registered voters in attendance. Moderator Carroll accepted the Return of Service from Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran. Town Clerk Sheeran led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Carroll recognized Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio who made the following motion:

That the Town vote to take Consent Agenda Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 out of order. The motion was seconded. This motion required a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to approve the following Articles as part of a Consent Agenda: Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The effective motions of each individual article will be as stated in the Recommendation Book. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. The motion required a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 1

To determine how much money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for General Government, Protection of Persons and Property, Human Services, Public Works, Public Service Enterprises, Education, Unclassified, Benefits & Administration and Light Department specifying what appropriation shall be taken from the receipts of a department; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate from tax levy or transfer from available funds the sums of money as detailed in the following recommendations for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 the grand total amounting to \$121,491,121.00 The motions will provide for the breakdown of this amount and the sources thereof in the various classifications as described in the Recommendation Book to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed.

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for Capital Outlay; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Capital Outlay Committee

Franklin Leone, Chair of the Capital Outlay Committee, moved that the Town will raise and appropriate from tax levy the amount of \$2,239,875.00 and transfer the amount of \$477,000. From the sewer retained earnings account to the sewer department capital outlay account and the sum of \$667,000. From the water retained earnings account to the water department capital outlay account to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Capital Projects/Debt Service Fund, also known as the Debt Service Fund; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy to the Capital Projects Fund, also known as the Debt Service Fund, the sum of \$4,337,400. To carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed. Consent Agenda.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such sum of the balance of the operating fund of the Municipal Gas and Light Department as of June 30, 2022 as the Board of Light Commissioners may vote in computing the tax rate for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Municipal Light Commissioners

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such sum of \$960,015. From the operating fund of the Municipal Gas and Light Department in computing the tax rate for fiscal period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance

Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed. Consent Agenda.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds including the excess and deficiency account a sum of money to supplement the appropriations of all budgets for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023; or to see what the town will do about it.

Town Council

This article was postponed indefinitely.

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to indemnify certain police officers and firefighters of the Town for medical, surgical and hospitalization expenses as a result of injuries received by the officers/firefighters in the performance of their duties, as provided for under Section 100, Chapter 41 of Massachusetts General Laws in such amount and to such extent as may be recommended by the Town Council; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$65,000. To carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed. Consent Agenda.

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to accept, or take by eminent domain proceedings, conveyances or easements from time to time, giving the Town the right to construct and maintain drains, sewers, water lines, retaining walls and streets and to raise and appropriate a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purpose of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Department of Public Works Director Joseph Conway moved that the Town appropriate from tax levy the sum of \$1.00 to carry out the purpose of the Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed. Consent Agenda.

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the collection, disposal, recycling and

composting of refuse; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Department of Public Works Director Conway moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy the sum of \$2,370,747. To carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from tax levy or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to pay for the services of School Department employees and/or independent contractors to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for certain special education costs and expenses incurred by the Town; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000. To carry out the purpose of this Article. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed. Consent Agenda.

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Wakefield Division for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purposes of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

This Article was postponed indefinitely.

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Police Superior Officers Association for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purposes of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

The Article was postponed indefinitely.

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Firefighter's Union Local 1478 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purposes of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

The Article was postponed indefinitely.

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to apply for, receive and expend without further appropriation a grant from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority for the purpose of funding the Town's infiltration/inflow removal program, and further to appropriate a sufficient sum of money to fund the Town's portion of the costs of the program, and to determine whether to raise this appropriation by borrowing or otherwise; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Department of Public Works Director Conway moved that the Town vote to authorize the Town Council to apply for, receive and expend a grant/loan from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority in the amount of \$1,310,000. of which seventy-five percent (75%) or \$982,500. Represents the grant portion and twenty-five percent (25%) or \$327,500. Represents the loan portion to the Town by the said Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, for use by the Town for the Town's Infiltration/inflow removal program and further, that the Town authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, to issue bonds or notes of to the Town to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, payable over ten (10) years from the sewer enterprise fund to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to: 1. Accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §SSC, to establish a trust to be known as the Wakefield Affordable Housing Trust Fund, whose purpose shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of housing that is affordable in the Town of Wakefield

for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households; and 2. Insert a new chapter in the General Bylaws of the Town, to be numbered as Chapter 70 and entitled "Affordable Housing Trust," as follows: § 70-1. Purpose. Pursuant to the authority of G.L. c. 44, § SSC, there is hereby created a local municipal affordable housing trust to be known as the Wakefield Affordable Housing Trust, hereinafter the "Trust," whose purpose shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of housing that is affordable in the Town of Wakefield for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households. § 70-2. Membership. There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Wakefield Affordable Housing Trust, hereinafter the "Board of Trustees," consisting of nine (9) voting members. The voting members shall be appointed by the Town Council and shall include a member of the Town Council, a member of the Planning Board, a member of the Council on Aging, a member of the Housing Authority, a member of the Finance Committee, a member of the Commission on Disabilities, and three other members, each of whom, to the extent possible, shall have a background or interest in affordable housing, finance, law (including land use and zoning law), real estate, and/or real estate development. § 70-3. Term. The Town Council shall appoint the Trustees for a term of two years, except that three of the initial trustee appointments shall be for a term of one year, provided that said Trustees may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Town Council. Any member of the Board of Trustees who at the time of his or her appointment as such was a member of another public body which is required by § 70-2, above, to be represented on the Board of Trustees (i.e., the Town Council, Planning Board, Council on Aging, Housing Authority, Finance Committee or Commission on Disabilities) shall be deemed to have vacated his or her position on the Board of Trustees upon ceasing to serve as a member of such other public body. Vacancies shall be filled by the Town Council for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed by the Town Council for cause after the opportunity of a hearing. § 70-4. Declaration of Trust. The Town Council is hereby authorized to execute a Declaration of Trust and Certificate of Trust for the Wakefield Affordable Housing Trust to be recorded with the Middlesex Registry of Deeds and filed with the Middlesex Registry District of the Land Court. § 70-5. General Duties. The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in G.L. c. 44, § SSC, except that any exercise of the powers described in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) and (k), below, shall require a two-third (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees and prior approval of the Town Council: a. To accept and receive real property, personal property or money, by gift,

grant, contribution, devise or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including but not limited to money, grants of funds or other property tendered to the Trust in connection with any by-law or any general or special law or any other source; b. To purchase and retain real or personal property, including without restriction investments that yield a high rate of income or no income; c. To sell, lease, exchange, transfer, or convey any personal, mixed, or real property at public auction or by private contract for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise, and to make such contracts and enter into such undertaking relative to Trust property as the Board of Trustees deems advisable notwithstanding the length of any such lease or contract; d. To execute, acknowledge, and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, pledges, leases, covenants, contracts, promissory notes, releases, grant agreements, and other instruments sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper, or incident to any transaction in which the Board of Trustees engages for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Trust; e. To employ advisors, consultants, and agents, including, but not limited to accountants, appraisers, and lawyers as the Board of Trustees deems necessary; f. To pay reasonable compensation and expenses to all advisors, consultants, and agents and to apportion such compensation between income and principal as the Board of Trustees deems advisable; g. To apportion receipts and charges between incomes and principal as the Board of Trustees deems advisable, to amortize premiums and establish sinking funds for such purpose, and to create reserves for depreciation, depletion or otherwise; h. To participate in any reorganization, recapitalization, merger, or similar transactions; and to give proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution to vote any securities or certificates of interest; and to consent to any contract, lease, mortgage, purchase or sale of property, by or between any corporation and any other corporation or person; i. To deposit any security with any protective reorganization committee, and to delegate to such committee such powers and authority with relation thereto as the Board of Trustees may deem proper and to pay, out of Trust property, such portion of expenses and compensation of such committee as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary and appropriate; j. To carry property for accounting purposes other than acquisition date values; k. To borrow money on such terms and conditions and from such sources as the Board of Trustees deems advisable, to mortgage and pledge Trust assets as collateral; any debt incurred by the Board of Trustees shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Wakefield and all documents related to any debt shall contain a statement that the holder of any such debt shall

have no recourse against the Town of Wakefield with an acknowledgement of said statement by the holder; l. To make distributions or divisions of principal in kind; m. To comprise, attribute, defend, enforce, release, settle, or otherwise adjust claims in favor of or against the Trust, including claims for taxes, and to accept any property, either in total or partial satisfaction of any indebtedness or other obligation, and subject to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § SSC, to continue to hold the same for such period of time as the Board of Trustees may deem appropriate; n. To manage or improve real property; o. To abandon any property which the Board of Trustees determines not to be worth retaining; p. To hold all or part of the Trust property uninvested for such purposes and for such time as the Board of Trustees may deem appropriate; q. To make recommendations on proposals to Town Meeting, subject to approval by the Town Council, when such proposals create or support affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households; and r. To extend the time for payment of any obligation to the Trust. § 70-6. Discharges and Releases. Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary, the Chair of the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized to execute and deliver discharges and releases of mortgages held by the Trust without a specific authorizing vote of the Board of Trustees provided that sufficient proof has been made to him or her that all underlying obligations have been paid in full without any amount remaining owed to the Trust, and any person may rely upon the Chair's notarized signature on such a discharge or release. § 70-7. Custodian of funds. The Town of Wakefield Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Trust. Any income or proceeds received from the investment of funds shall be credited to and become part of the fund. The Board of Trustees shall provide for an annual audit of the books and records of the Trust. Such audit shall be performed by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices and may be part of the Town's annual financial audit. Upon receipt of the audit by the Board of Trustees, a copy shall be provided forthwith to the Town Council; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to: 1. Accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44 section SSC, to establish a trust to be known as the Wakefield Affordable Housing Trust Fund, whose purpose shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of housing that is affordable in the Town of Wakefield for the benefit of low-and moderate-income households; and 2.adopt a new chapter in the General Bylaws of the Town, to be numbered as Chapter 70 and entitled "Affordable Housing

Trust," as set forth in this Article. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 1 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Interpretation and Penalties", by revising: a. § 1-4, entitled "Licenses and permits", as follows: "When in a bylaw anything is prohibited from being done without the license or permission of a certain officer, ~~officers or board, or public body~~, such officer, ~~officers or board or public body~~ shall have the power to license or permit such thing to be done."; b. § 1-5, entitled "Word usage", by: i. striking subsections A and C and re-lettering the remaining subsections; ii. revising current subsection D to read as follows: "The word 'person' shall mean and include natural persons and other legal entities, unless the context clearly requires otherwise."; iii. adding to the end of current subsection E: "and vice versa"; and iv. revising current subsection F as follows: "Words importing ~~the masculine~~ any gender may apply to ~~the feminine~~ any and all genders."; c. § 1-8, entitled "Refusal to comply with order", by replacing "board or town officers" with "public body"; and d. § 1-10, entitled "Disposition of fines and penalties", by replacing "board" with "public body"; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Bylaw Review Committee

Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, moved that the Town amend the General Bylaws as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 9 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Boards, Committees and Commissions", by revising: a. § 9-6, entitled "Vacancies", by deleting "; and if any member absents himself from five consecutive meetings, the member may be dropped and the vacancy filled"; b. § 9-11, entitled "Procedures and reports", by deleting the words "to include" from the first sentence and replacing them with ", including"; c. § 9-14, entitled "Membership; terms", by deleting from subsection D thereof the words "Board or"; d. § 9-15, entitled "Notice to be posted and published prior to appointment or reappointment", by adding at the end of subsection A.2, "and posted such notice on the Town's website for a period of at least two weeks prior to such appointment"; e. § 9-23, entitled "Location and Posting of Meetings", by adding at the end of the first sentence: ", or shall be conducted remotely, by electronic means, in accordance with applicable law"; and

f. § 9-24, entitled “Minutes of Meetings”, by i. adding after the first occurrence of the word “Chair” the words “(or his or her designee)” and after the second such occurrence the words “(or designee)”; and ii. striking the final sentence and replacing it with: “If a multiple member body has a website, all minutes and draft minutes required to be sent to the Town Clerk shall also be posted to that website no later than one week after transmittal to the Town Clerk, provided that nothing herein shall require any multiple member body to create a website.”; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Bylaw Review Committee

Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town will amend the General Bylaws as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 4 of the General Bylaws, entitled “Appropriations”, and Chapter 5 of the General Bylaws, entitled “Revolving Funds”, by revising: a. § 4-1, entitled “Disposition of appropriations not expended”, by replacing the words “financial year” with “fiscal year (i.e., July 1 to June 30)”; b. § 5-1, entitled “Purpose”, § 5-2, entitled “Expenditure limitations”, § 5-4, entitled “Procedures and reports”, and § 5-5, entitled “Authorized revolving funds”, by replacing the words “board, committee” wherever they appear with the words “public body”; and c. § 5-5, entitled “Authorized revolving funds”, by deleting the column in the table in subsection D thereof entitled “Maximum Expenditure”; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Bylaw Review Committee

Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town amend the General Bylaws as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 21, Article I of the General Bylaws, entitled “Surplus Supplies”, by deleting from § 21-1, entitled “Disposition”, the word “Councilors” and replacing it with the word “Council”; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Bylaw Review Committee

Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, moved that the Town vote amend the General Bylaws as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a new Article V of Chapter 175 of the General Bylaws, to be entitled "Street Names and Numbers," and to include within it the following: "**§ 175-11. Street Name Changes.** "Any person proposing to change the name of an existing street shall follow the procedures set forth in this Bylaw, which applies to all ways within the Town (whether public or private) that are open to use by the public or approved by the Planning Board through the Subdivision of Land process. This Bylaw shall be construed and applied consistently with the applicable Massachusetts statutory procedure for street naming as set forth in G.L. c. 85, §§ 3, 3A & 3B, including the appellate rights set forth in the said §3. "**a. Eligible Streets and Names.** No street shall be renamed if it has been initially named, or if its name has been changed, within the preceding twenty-five (25) years. Proposed names must not be identical, or confusingly similar, to that of any existing way in Town. No proposed street name shall be used to honor any living person or any business entity. "**b. Application Process.** The proponent of a street name change shall file a written application with the Town Clerk, together with a minimum filing fee of \$800. The fee shall be adjusted by the Town Clerk to reflect the anticipated cost of notification of the owners and residents of, and businesses located on, properties affected by the proposed change. The filing fee shall not apply to any change proposed by a public body of the Town. The application need not follow any particular format, but shall at a minimum (i) identify the existing way that is proposed to be renamed; (ii) state the proposed new street name; (iii) explain the rationale of the change; and (iv) be signed by the proponent, whose name and address must be clearly legible. The Town Clerk shall, within ten (10) days after receipt of the application and any applicable fee, forward a copy to the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Town Engineer, and Town Assessor's Office. The Town Assessor's Office shall assemble and send to the Town Clerk a list of the names and addresses of all persons known to own or reside at, and all businesses known to be located on, properties abutting the way in question. The Town Clerk shall forward the list together with the application to the Planning Board for a public hearing. "**c. Public Hearing.** The Planning Board shall conduct a public hearing on the application for a street name change within sixty (60) days after receiving the application and the list of abutting owners, residents and businesses from the Town Clerk. The Planning Board shall give notice of such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation published in the Town once in each of two successive weeks, the last publication to be at least two days before the hearing, and by mailing notice to all owners, residents and

businesses on the list forwarded by the Town Clerk at least one week before the hearing. Notice of the hearing shall also be posted on multifamily properties and on the Town's website, and shall be sent to the Fire Department, Police Department, Town Engineer, Zoning Board of Appeals, Municipal Gas and Light Department, Public Works Director, Board of Assessors, Historical Commission and Postmaster. If the actual cost of notice exceeds the fee previously paid, the Town Clerk shall demand payment of the difference in advance before the Planning Board commences any mailing with respect to proposals not made by public bodies of the Town. Prior to the public hearing, the Fire Chief, Police Chief and Town Engineer shall each give his or her written report and recommendation to the Planning Board with respect to the proposed name change. The Planning Board shall vote on whether to recommend the proposed name change to the Town Council within thirty (30) days after the opening of the public hearing and shall forward its recommendation to the Town Council forthwith following such vote. **"d. Action by Town Council.** The Town Council shall promptly review and act on the recommendation by the Planning Board with respect to the proposed street name change. If the Town Council declines to make the name change, it shall so inform the applicant and the Town Clerk. If the Town Council approves the name change, in addition to notifying the applicant and the Town Clerk, it shall request payment from the applicant to cover the cost of changing and installing all applicable signage, and sending notice of the change by mail to all persons residing on the affected street or owning property thereon, and all businesses located there. No action shall be taken on the name change until such payment is received. Any street name change approved by the Town Council shall become effective on a date to be set by the Town Council, such date to be not less than one hundred twenty (120) days and not more than three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the vote by the Town Council. **"e. Appeal Rights.** Any person aggrieved by a street name change effected hereunder is advised of his appellate rights under G.L. c. 85, § 3, which permits an appeal to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation by petition of at least twenty-five (25) inhabitants of the Town within thirty (30) days following such change."; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Planning Board

William Spaulding, Planning Board member, moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by adopting a new Article V of Chapter 175 of the General Bylaws to be entitled "Street Names and Numbers" which shall read as set forth in this Article. The motion was seconded. This

Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

At 9:20 p.m. a motion was made by Town Council Chair Jonathan Chines to dissolve Town Meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR TOWN MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2023

The Regular Town Meeting was held at the Galvin Middle School Auditorium, 525 Main Street, in Wakefield on Saturday, the 18th day of November 2023 at eight o'clock in the morning.

A motion was moved to appoint Town Counsel Thomas A. Mullen, as temporary Town Moderator. The motion was seconded. The vote was unanimous. Temporary Moderator Mullen called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Temporary Moderator Mullen accepted the Return of Service from Town Clerk Sheeran. Town Clerk Sheeran led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were one hundred forty-seven (147) registered voters in attendance.

Article 1

To see if the Town will hear and accept a report of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to accept a report of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such free cash as may be in the Treasury or any part thereof in computing the tax rate for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2024; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved the Town authorize the Board of Assessors to use \$1,517,037.00 in Free Cash in computing the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2024. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Firefighters Union Local 1478 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purpose of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to implement a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Firefighters Union, Local 1478 International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town supplement the Fire Personal Services Account in the amount from Free Cash in the amount of \$250,000.00. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Wakefield Division for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purposes of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to implement a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wakefield and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Wakefield Division for the period of to carry out the purposes of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to implement a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wakefield and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, Wakefield Division for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town supplement the Police Personal Services Account by the transfer from

Free Cash in the amount of \$185,000.00. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to implement collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Police Superior Officers' Association for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purpose of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town vote to implement a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wakefield and the Wakefield Police Superior Officer's Association for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to provide therefor that the Town supplement the Police Personal Services Account by the transfer from Free Cash in the amount of \$90,000.00. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed.

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L. c. 59, § 5C ½, which provides for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, § 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and to provide that the additional exemption shall be up to one hundred percent (100%) of the personal exemption, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2024; or to see what the Town will do about it.

Town Council

Town Administrator Maio moved that the Town accept G.L. c.59 Section SC ½, which provides for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under G.L. c.59 Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and provide an additional exemption up to one hundred percent (100%) of the personal exemption, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.

VOTE: Motion passed.

Article 7

To see if the Town will amend the General Bylaws by voting to rescind Chapter 180 thereof, entitled “Stretch Energy Code,” and to replace it with a new Chapter 180 entitled “Specialized Energy Code,” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23, including Appendices RC and CC, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, and also including all future editions, amendments, or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2024, which new Chapter 180 shall provide as follows: **Chapter 180 Specialized Energy Code §180-1**

Definitions. International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the Massachusetts State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR. **Specialized Energy Code** – Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code adds residential and commercial appendices to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch energy code and further reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code, with the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector no later than 2050. **Stretch Energy Code** - Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code. **§180-2 Purpose.** The purpose of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, also referred to as the Specialized Energy Code, is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings. **§180-3 Applicability.** This energy code applies to residential and commercial buildings. **§180-4 Specialized Energy Code.** The Specialized

commercial buildings. **§180-4 Specialized Energy Code.** The Specialized Energy Code, as codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, and also including any future editions, amendments, or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Wakefield General Bylaws, Chapter 180. **§ 180-5 Enforcement.** This chapter and, by its incorporation herein, the Specialized Energy Code, 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, is enforceable by the Town of Wakefield's Building Inspector. **§ 180-6 Effective date.** This chapter and, by its incorporation herein, the Specialized Energy Code, 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, shall take effect in the Town of Wakefield with an effective date of July 1, 2024, subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 32; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Environmental Sustainability Committee

A motion was made that the Town vote to rescind Chapter 180 of the General Bylaw, entitled "Stretch Energy Code," and replace it with a new Chapter 180 entitled "Specialized Energy Code," for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23, including Appendices RC and CC, and also including all future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2024, as set forth in the Warrant. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

At 10:42 a.m. a motion was made to dissolve the Regular Town Meeting. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births: 299

Deaths: 333

Marriages: 128

Finance

Reports of:

Retirement Board

Town Accountant

Treasurer's Office

REPORT OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD

Summary of activity for the year ending December 31, 2023

Investment Schedule	
PRIT Cash Fund	\$62,001.28
PRIT Capital Fund	\$167,469,152.63
Cash-Checking Account	\$535,338.53
Cash-Payroll Account	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable	\$81,039.89
Accounts Payable	<u>(\$4,685.83)</u>
Total	\$168,142,846.50

Pension and Annuity Payments	
Pension Accumulation Fund	\$10,819,801.79
Annuity Reserve Fund	<u>\$2,272,424.71</u>
Total Payments	\$13,092,226.50

Number of Retirees and Beneficiaries by Type	
Superannuation	285
Accidental Disability	29
Ordinary Disability	4
Accidental Death	8
Surviving Spouses	<u>45</u>
Total	371

Members of the Board include: Sherri A. Dalton; Kevin Gill; Erin Kokinda; Scott Morrison and Daniel W. Sherman. Cathy Cheek serves as the Executive Director and Clerk.

REPORTS OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Statement of Assets & Liabilities; Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances; Statement of Appropriation & Expenditure by Department; Statement of Indebtedness.

The combines Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Changes in Fund Balances, Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures by department, and the Statement of Indebtedness are presented on the following pages. The Town's General Fund is used to account for the basic operating activities such as Administration, Public Safety, Public Works, Education, Human Services, Culture and Recreation. The Non-major Governmental Funds are used to account for financial resources allocated by law, contract or designated to a specific purpose.

The accounting firm of Powers & Sullivan, Certified Public Accountants, currently audits the Town's annual financial statements, the complete financial statements and the auditors' report are available from the Town Accountant and are on file in the Accounting office. Copies of all financial reports and ledgers are available upon request during normal business hours.

Kevin M. Gill, Town Accountant

General Fund – Intergovernmental Breakdown	
Medicaid Reimbursement	(253,675.00)
Abatements – Veterans	(23,293.00)
Abatements – Blind	(114,931.00)
Abatements – Elderly	(32,128.00)
Charter Schools	(270,862.00)
Chapter 70	(7,843,960.00)
Construction of School Project	-
Veterans Benefits	-
Unrestricted General Aid	(3,902,531.00)
State Owned Land	(48,906.00)
Other State Revenue	-
Homeless Transportation	-
FEMA Reimbursement	-
Receipt of Prior Period	(7.00)
Retiree Health CH32B	-
Intergovernmental Total	(12,490,293.00)

Governmental Funds Balance Sheet June 30, 2023					
	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$18,278,373	\$12,937,843	\$9,502,363	\$9,699,700	\$50,418,279
Investments	0	0	0	3,441,174	3,441,174
Receivables, Net of Uncollectibles:	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate and Pers. Prop. Taxes	1,498,303	0	0	0	1,498,303
Tax Liens	1,006,796	0	0	0	1,006,796
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	572,519	0	0	0	572,519
Departmental And Other	92,291	0	0	0	92,291
Intergovernmental Other	0	1,418,027	751,581	1,569,557	3,739,165
Tax Foreclosures	414,446	0	0	0	414,446
Total Assets	21,862,728	14,355,870	10,253,944	14,710,431	61,182,973
Liabilities					
Warrants Payable	\$1,057,003	\$1,305,082	\$267,311	\$124,957	\$2,754,353
Accrued Payroll	1,271,566	0	12,705	66,976	1,351,247
Other Liabilities	898,691	0	0	0	898,691
Unearned Revenue	0	0	5,790,100	0	5,790,100
Notes Payable	0	14,244,620	0	0	14,244,620
Total Liabilities	3,227,260	15,110,273	6,070,116	191,933	25,039,011
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unavailable Revenue	3,392,645	0	0	1,327,750	4,720,395
Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	0	0	0	2,666,075	2,666,075
Restricted	0	2,778,489	4,183,828	10,524,672	17,486,990
Committed	2,098,406	0	0	0	2,098,406
Assigned	970,134	0	0	0	970,134
Unassigned	12,174,283	(3,972,321)	0	0	8,201,962
Total Fund Balances	15,242,823	(1,193,321)	4,183,828	13,190,747	31,423,567
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances					
	\$21,862,728	\$14,355,870	\$10,253,944	\$14,710,430	\$61,182,973

Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Year Ended June 30, 2023					
	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues					
Real Estate and Pers. Prop. Taxes, Net of Tax Refunds	\$86,350,104	0	0	0	\$86,350,104
Tax Liens and Foreclosures	253,451	0	0	0	253,451
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	4,306,086	0	0	0	4,306,086
Hotel/Motel Tax	1,039,232	0	0	0	1,039,232
Penalties and Int. on Taxes	354,069	0	0	0	354,069
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	948,369	0	0	0	948,369
Intergovernmental – Teachers Retirement	8,054,230	0	0	0	8,054,230
Intergovernmental	12,490,293	1,846,531	3,581,169	7,053,110	24,971,103
Departmental and Other	2,465,234	0	1,142,458	4,664,059	8,271,751
Contributions & Donations	0	0	142,631	114,334	256,965
Investment Income	725,489	0	31,011	391,488	1,147,988
Total Revenues	116,986,557	1,846,531	4,897,269	12,222,991	135,953,348
Liabilities					
Current					
General Government	2,704,368	57,074	1,070,877	154,880	3,987,199
Public Safety	14,048,049	8,344,470	797,103	696,334	23,885,956
Education	51,120,152	4,706,552	302,291	9,253,420	65,382,415
Public Works	10,990,378	1,067,140	1,179,860	344,269	13,581,647
Health and Human Serv	730,880	0	283,293	0	1,014,173
Culture and Recreation	2,037,576	0	720,245	0	2,757,821
Pension Benefits	6,055,256	0	0	0	6,055,256
Pension Benefits Teachers Retirement	8,054,230	0	0	0	8,054,230
Property and Liability Insurance	460,569	0	0	0	460,569
Employee Benefits	13,233,402	0	0	0	13,233,402
State and County Charges	2,043,146	0	0	0	2,043,146
Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0
Principal	272,626	0	0	2,700,631	2,973,257
Interest	46,679	0	0	2,012,953	2,059,632
Total Expenditures	111,797,311	14,614,665	4,353,669	15,162,487	145,928,132
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	5,189,246	(12,768,134)	543,600	(2,939,496)	(9,974,784)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Issuance of Bonds	0	10,330,000	0	0	10,330,000
Premium From Issuance of Bonds	0	670,000	0	0	670,000
Cap. Purchase Financing	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	272,945	0	0	5,133,698	5,406,643
Transfers Out	(5,133,698)	0	(52,500)	(220,445)	(5,406,643)

	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(4,860,753)	11,000,000	(52,500)	4,913,253	11,000,000
Net Change in Fund Balances	328,493	(1,768,134)	491,100	1,973,757	1,025,216
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year (as Revised)	14,914,330	574,302	3,692,728	11,216,991	30,398,351
Fund Balances at End of Year	15,242,823	(1,193,832)	4,183,828	13,190,748	31,423,567

Town of Wakefield Report of Appropriated Funds, Expenditures, and Balances, Fiscal 2023

General Government					
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Disposition of Balance Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Town Council Department					
Personal Services (includes Town Planner)	444,521.00	444,042.29	478.71	478.71	
Purchase of Services	66,731.00	65,170.94	1,560.06	1,560.06	
Materials and Supplies	2,600.00	2,369.85	230.15	230.15	
Sundry Charges	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	517,352.00	515,083.08	2,268.92	2,268.92	0.00
Accounting Department					
Personal Services	337,034	336,353.53	680.47	680.47	
Purchase of Services	101,101.00	86,257.59	14,843.41	2,843.41	12,000.00
Materials and Supplies	3,050.00	2,736.74	313.26	313.26	
Sundry Charges	210.00	115.00	95.00	95.00	
Total	441,395.00	425,462.86	15,932.14	3,932.14	12,000.00
Information Technology					
Personal Services	205,257.00	179,756.23	25,500.77	25,500.77	
Purchase of Services	164,451.00	143,592.30	20,858.70	20,407.53	451.17
Materials and Supplies	5,150.00	4,327.78	822.22	822.22	
Sundry Charges	6,848.00	5,178.84	1,669.16	1,669.16	
Total	381,706.00	332,855.15	48,850.85	48,399.68	451.17
Capital Outlay	9,702.00	7,712.43	1,989.57	1,989.57	
Total	391,408.00	340,567.58	50,840.42	50,389.25	451.17
Treasurer's Department					
Salary of Treasurer	71,351.00	71,350.50	0.50	0.50	
Personal Services	135,926.00	135,925.27	0.73	0.73	
Purchase of Services	4,550.00	3,169.54	1,380.46	1,380.46	
Materials and Supplies	1,500.00	1,326.99	173.01	173.01	
Sundry Charges	90.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	
Tax Titles	13,000.00	4,115.42	8,884.58	8,884.58	
Bank Charges	7,500.00	4,029.90	3,470.10	3,470.10	
Total	233,917.00	220,007.62	13,909.38	13,909.38	0.00
Legal Department					
Personal Services	124,037.00	124,037.00	0.00	0.00	
Purchase of Services	60,000.00	15,433.50	44,566.50	44,566.50	
Materials and Supplies	6,200.00	6,199.62	0.38	0.38	
Sundry Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sub Total	190,237.00	145,670.12	44,566.88	44,566.88	0.00
Legal Damages	4,560.00	2,179.33	2,380.67	2,380.67	
Total	194,797.00	147,849.45	46,947.55	46,947.55	0.00

	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Disposition of Balance Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Collector's Department					
Salary of Collector	109,821.00	109,821.00	0.00	0.00	
Personal Services	79,621.00	72,398.28	7,222.72	7,222.72	
Purchase of Services	44,750.00	44,505.73	244.27	244.27	
Materials and Supplies	2,300.00	1,932.84	367.16	367.16	
Sundry Charges	140.00	100.00	40.00	40.00	
Total	236,632.00	228,757.85	7,874.15	7,874.15	0.00
Assessors' Department					
Personal Services	221,298.00	212,617.11	8,680.89	8,680.89	
Purchase of Services	29,450.00	23,161.12	6,288.88	6,288.88	
Materials and Supplies	1,950.00	1,941.49	8.51	8.51	
Sundry Charges	750.00	740.00	10.00	10.00	
Total	253,448.00	238,459.72	14,988.28	14,988.28	0.00
Town Clerk's Department					
Salary of Town Clerk	95,026.00	95,025.54	0.46	0.46	
Personal Services	127,965.00	127,960.57	4.43	4.43	
Purchase of Services	22,465.00	22,456.70	8.30	8.30	
Materials and Supplies	2,200.00	2,099.27	100.73	100.73	
Sundry Charges	290.00	40.00	250.00	250.00	
Total	247,946.00	247,582.08	363.92	363.92	0.00
Election / Registration					
Personal Services	17,100.00	12,317.50	4,782.50	4,782.50	
Purchase of Services	19,100.00	19,055.03	44.97	44.97	
Material and Supplies	1,500.00	1,470.73	29.27	29.27	
Total	37,700.00	32,843.26	4,856.74	4,856.74	0.00
Election Expense					
Personal Services	19,875.00	18,337.50	1,537.50	1,537.50	
Purchase of Services	18,900.00	13,836.32	5,063.68	5,063.68	
Total	38,775.00	32,173.82	6,601.18	6,601.18	0.00
Finance Committee					
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Purchase of Services	2,960.00	2,342.62	617.38	617.38	
Materials and Supplies	700.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Sundry Charges	3,400.00	3,400.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	7,060.00	6,092.62	967.38	967.38	0.00

	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 202	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Conservation Commission					
Personal Services	45,710.00	45,708.81	1.19	1.19	
Purchase of Services	1,950.00	1,412.78	537.22	537.22	
Material and Supplies	1,000.00	999.26	7.74	7.74	
Sundry Charges	725.00	710.00	15.00	15.00	
Total	49,385.00	48,830.85	561.15	561.15	0.00
Less: Wetland Filing Fees	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	44,885.00	44,323.85	561.15	561.15	0.00
Planning Board					
Personal Services	4,800.00	3,600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Purchase of Services	2,625.00	1,877.51	747.49	747.51	
Materials and Supplies	5,100.00	1,262.04	3,837.96	3,837.96	
Sundry Charges	450.00	0.00	450.00	450.00	
Total	12,975.00	6,739.55	6,235.45	6,235.47	0.00
Board of Appeals					
Purchase of Services	27,800.00	27,463.71	336.29	336.29	
Total	27,800.00	27,463.71	336.29	336.29	0.00
Total General Government	2,690,590.00	2,517,907.05	172,682.95	160,231.78	12,451.17

Protection of Persons & Property					
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Disposition of Balance
					Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Police Department					
Personal Services	6,217,186.00	6,215,998.68	1,187.32	1,187.32	
Purchase of Services	326,507.00	314,383.34	12,123.66	12,123.66	
Materials and Supplies	166,800.00	166,790.75	9.25	9.25	
Sundry Charges	13,000.00	12,969.00	31.00	31.00	
Total	6,723,493.00	6,710,141.77	13,351.23	13,351.23	0.00
Capital Outlay:	261,051.00	248,594.57	12,456.43	12,456.43	
Total	6,984,544.00	6,958,736.34	25,807.66	25,807.66	0.00
Fire Department					
Personal Services	6,054,032.00	6,054,031.67	0.33	0.33	
Purchase of Services	121,700.00	120,057.73	1,642.27	1,642.27	
Materials and Supplies	148,600.00	146,910.56	1,689.44	1,689.44	
Sundry Charges	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	6,327,332.00	6,323,999.96	3,332.04	3,332.04	
Capital Outlay:					
Total	6,327,332.00	6,323,999.96	3,332.04	3,332.04	0.00

Protection of Persons & Property					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Fire Alarm / Traffic Signals					
Personal Services	43,700.00	43,700.00	0.00	0.00	
Purchase of Services	7,500.00	7,484.74	15.26	15.26	
Materials and Supplies	15,500.00	15,499.88	0.12	0.12	
Total	66,700.00	66,684.62	15.38	15.38	0.00
Emergency Management					
Personal Services	55,851.00	55,851.00	0.00	0.00	
Purchase of Services	30,000.00	25,581.28	4,418.72	418.72	4,000.00
Materials and Supplies	3,000.00	1,692.60	1,307.40	507.40	800.00
Total	88,851.00	83,124.88	5,726.12	926.12	4,800.00
Building Department					
Personal Services	416,578.00	413,976.53	2,601.47	2,601.47	
Purchase of Services	14,650.00	14,147.52	502.48	502.48	
Materials and Supplies	7,050.00	5,771.86	1,278.14	1,278.14	
Sundry Charges	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	438,778.00	434,395.91	4,382.09	4,382.09	0.00
Animal Inspector					
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Purchase of Services	38,700.00	35,554.60	3,145.40	3,145.40	
Materials and Supplies	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
Sundry Charges	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total	40,600.00	35,554.60	5,045.40	5,045.40	0.00
Parking Clerk					
Personal Services	11,382.00	11,050.00	332.00	332.00	
Purchase of Services	1,000.00	418.57	581.43	581.43	
Materials and Supplies	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
Total	12,782.00	11,468.57	1,313.43	1313.43	0.00
Total Protection Persons & Property	13,959,587.00	13,913,964.88	45,622.12	40,822.12	4,800.00

Human Services					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Council on Aging					
Personal Services	222,825.00	206,330.85	16,494.15	16,494.15	
Purchase of Services	5,600.00	2,639.07	2,960.93	2,960.93	
Materials and Supplies	12,600.00	9,652.74	2,947.26	2,947.26	
Mystic Valley Elder Services	6,275.00	6,275.00	0.00	0.00	
Capital Outlay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	247,300.00	224,897.66	22,402.34	22,402.34	0.00

Health Department					
Personal Services	186,148.00	149,498.42	36,649.58	36,649.58	
Purchase of Services	140,829.00	135,856.61	4,972.39	4,972.39	
Materials and Supplies	2,516.00	2,439.23	76.77	76.77	
Sundry Charges	1,250.00	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	
EMARC	16,000.00	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	
Mental Outpatient Clinic	6,400.00	0.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	
E. Middlesex Mosquito	29,933.00	29,933.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	383,076.00	317,727.26	65,348.74	65,348.74	0.00
Recreation					
Personal Services	119,599.00	119,599.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	119,599.00	119,599.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Veterans' Department					
Personal Services	21,943.00	21,942.96	0.04	0.04	
Recipients	170,000.00	95,526.78	74,473.22	74,473.22	
Purchase of Services	56,677.00	55,959.65	717.35	717.35	
Materials and Supplies	600.00	425.39	174.61	174.61	
Memorial Day	2,500.00	425.00	2,075.00	2,075.00	
Veterans Day	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total	253,220.00	174,279.78	78,940.22	78,940.22	0.00
Total Human Services	1,003,195.00	836,503.70	166,691.30	166,691.30	0.00

Public Works Department					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Personal Services					
Personal Services Breakdown:	4,246,345.00	4,016,487.60	138,135.40	138,135.40	
Administration	207,092.00	207,092.00	0.00	0.00	
Engineering	326,600.00	324,785.65	1,814.35	1,814.35	
Fleet Maintenance	389,230.00	368,940.18	20,289.82	20,289.82	
Buildings	821,296.00	821,296.00	0.00	0.00	
Forestry and Parks	972,141.00	923,083.36	49,057.64	49,057.64	
Cemetery	335,196.00	268,222.41	66,973.59	66,973.59	
Highway	1,194,790.00	1,194,790.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	4,246,345.00	4,108,209.60	138,135.40	138,135.40	0.00
Less					
Perpetual Care Income	43,721.00	43,721.00	0.00		
Park Trust Funds Avail.	1.00	1.00	0.00		
To Be Appropriated From Sale of Lots Funds	48,000.00	48,000.00	0.00		
Total	4,154,623.00	4,016,487.60	138,135.40	138,135.40	0.00
Purchase of Services					
Purchased Service Breakdown:	1,762,180.00	1,481,842.41	280,337.59	1,957.63	
Administration	26,600.00	26,600.00	0.00	0.00	

Public Works Department					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Engineering	187,000.00	26,320.04	160,679.96	0.00	160,679.96
Fleet Maintenance	96,700.00	96,673.83	26.17	26.17	
Buildings	878,380.00	847,678.57	30,701.43	1.43	30,700.00
Forestry and Parks	203,250.00	201,935.02	1,314.98	1,314.98	
Cemetery	17,700.00	17,700.00	0.00	0.00	
Highway	352,550.00	264,934.95	87,615.05	615.05	87,000.00
Total	1,762,180.00	1,481,842.41	280,337.59	1,957.63	278,379.96
Materials and Supplies					
Material & Supplies Breakdown:	721,480.00	683,380.56	38,099.44	32,631.69	
Administration	8,600.00	5,878.64	2,721.36	2,721.36	
Engineering	8,800.00	8,132.62	667.38	667.38	
Fleet Maintenance	270,430.00	270,430.00	0.00	0.00	
Buildings	126,100.00	125,770.45	329.55	329.55	
Forestry and Parks	131,850.00	119,840.38	12,009.62	6,541.87	5,467.75
Cemetery	24,500.00	18,386.58	6,113.42	6,113.42	
Highway	151,200.00	134,941.89	16,258.11	16,258.11	
Total	721,480.00	683,380.56	38,099.44	32,631.69	5,467.75
Sundry Charges					
Sundry Charges Breakdown:	4,125.00	2,540.00	1,585.00	1,585.00	
Administration	1,000.00	850.00	150.00	150.00	
Engineering	1,800.00	980.00	820.00	820.00	
Fleet Maintenance	325.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	
Buildings	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	
Forestry and Parks	300.00	135.00	165.00	165.00	
Cemetery	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
Highway	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	
Total	4,125.00	2,540.00	1,585.00	1,585.00	0.00
Capital Outlay					
Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Engineering	136,500.00	29,540.52	106,959.48	0.00	106,959.48
Fleet Maintenance	865,875.00	750,875.00	115,000.00	0.00	115,000.00
Buildings	440,872.00	233,401.84	207,470.16	0.00	207,470.16
Forestry and Parks	260,000.00	160,667.85	99,332.15	0.00	99,332.15
Cemetery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Highway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	1,703,247.00	1,174,485.21	528,761.79	0.00	528,761.79
Total Public Works	8,345,655.00	7,358,735.78	986,919.22	174,309.72	812,609.50
Snow and Ice:	850,000.00	702,797.55	147,202.45	147,202.45	0.00

Public Works Enterprise					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Water Division					
Personal Services	1,404,175.00	1,355,503.64	48,671.36	48,671.36	
Purchase of Services	503,175.00	455,620.09	47,554.91	54.91	47,500.00
Materials and Supplies	247,500.00	247,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Sundry Charges	1,430.00	50.00	1,380.00	1,380.00	
Professional Medical Services	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00	0.00	
Contributory Retirement Pensions	227,586.00	227,586.00	0.00	0.00	
Group Insurance	450,471.00	415,485.59	34,985.41	34,985.41	
Workers' Compensation Ins	8,259.00	8,259.00	0.00	0.00	
General Insurance	25,245.00	25,245.00	0.00	0.00	
MWRA Water Assessment	2,627,209.00	2,623,975.82	3,233.18	3,233.18	
Admin Expense (P.S.)	75,212.00	75,212.00	0.00	0.00	
Capital Outlay	875,000.00	541,202.00	333,798.00	1,798.00	332,000.00
Maturing Debt	612,691.00	573,945.50	38,745.50	38,745.50	
Medicare	20,291.00	20,291.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	7,079,494.00	6,571,125.64	508,368.36	128,868.36	379,500.00
Sewer Division					
Personal Services	1,008,135.00	857,359.09	150,775.91	150,775.91	
Purchase of Services	407,582.00	396,356.79	11,225.21	11,225.21	
Materials and Supplies	87,100.00	68,166.30	18,933.70	18,933.70	
Sundry Charges	1,200.00	75.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	
MWRA Sewer Assessment	6,900,194.00	6,848,039.00	52,155.00	52,155.00	
Workers' Compensation	8,848.00	8,848.00	0.00	0.00	
General Insurance	14,720.00	14,720.00	0.00	0.00	
Professional Medical Services	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00	0.00	
Contributory Retirement Pensions	184,200.00	184,200.00	0.00	0.00	
Group Insurance	312,013.00	287,780.82	24,232.18	24,232.18	
Admin Expense (P.S.)	75,212.00	75,212.00	0.00	0.00	
Capital Outlay	862,000.00	149,671.91	712,328.09	1,472.09	710,856.00
Maturing Debt	133,664.00	133,664.00	0.00	0.00	
Medicare	14,581.00	15,581.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	10,010,699.00	9,039,923.91	970,775.09	259,919.09	710,856.00

Education					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
School Department					
Personal Services	39,514,244.00	39,394,433.51	119,810.49	119,810.49	
Purchase of Services	6,223,661.00	5,291,427.77	932,233.23	871,382.23	60,851.00
Materials and Supplies	1,959,372.00	2,174,151.41	-214,779.41	-590,712.03	375,932.62
Sundry Charges	24,800.00	27,579.52	-2,779.52	-2,779.52	
School Capital	75,000.00	39,072.06	35,927.94	10,927.94	25,000.00
Total	47,797,077.00	46,926,664.27	870,412.73	408,629.11	461,783.62
Less: Offset Receipts Bus Fees	115,000.00	115,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Tax Levy	47,682,077.00	46,811,664.27	870,412.73	408,629.11	461,783.62
Library Department					
Person Services	1,385,623.00	1,371,634.66	13,988.34	13,988.34	
Purchase of Services	267,174.00	265,944.80	1,229.20	1,229.20	
Materials and Supplies	224,300.00	224,300.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	1,877,097.00	1,861,879.46	15,217.54	15,217.54	0.00
Less: Library Trust Fund Income	61,721.00	61,721.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,815,376.00	1,800,158.46	15,217.54	15,217.54	0.00
Capital Outlay	51,000.00	51,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,866,376.00	1,851,158.46	15,217.54	15,217.54	
NE Met. Reg. Voc.	2,163,315.00	2,163,314.20	0.80	0.80	0.00
Total Education	51,711,768.00	50,826,136.93	885,631.07	423,847.45	461,783.62
Unclassified					
Street Lights	188,131.00	188,131.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Historical Commission	2,000.00	1,820.00	180.00	180.00	0.00
General Insurance	459,166.00	459,164.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
Medicare	874,280.00	874,280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unemployment Insurance	75,000.00	54,937.73	20,062.27	20,062.27	0.00
Reserve Fund	400,000.00	235,370.00	164,630.00	164,630.00	0.00
Cable TV Public Access Enterprise	606,505.00	606,505.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Unclassified	2,605,082.00	2,420,207.73	184,874.27	184,874.27	0.00
Benefits & Administration					
Personal Services	201,964.00	201,963.05	0.95	0.95	
Professional Medical	8,350.00	8,252.70	97.30	97.30	
Workers' Compensation	436,500.00	430,135.00	6,365.00	6,365.00	
Retirement System					
Pension Accumulation Fund	6,050,189.00	6,049,998.88	190.12	190.12	
Non-Contributory Pension Fund	37,590.00	5,257.29	32,332.71	32,332.71	

					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2023
Assessments, Non-Contributory	0.00	0.00			
Veterans Pension Fund					
Total Benefits & Admin.	6,734,593.00	6,695,606.92	38,986.08	38,986.08	0.00
Contributory Group Health and Life Insurance					
Town & School Appropriation	12,748,921.00	11,641,663.39	1,107,257.61	1,107,257.61	
Total Group Insurance	12,748,921.00	11,641,663.39	1,107,257.61	1,107,257.61	0.00

Town of Wakefield Fiscal Year 2023 Summary					
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Balance	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered
General Government	2,690,590.00	2,517,907.05	172,682.95	160,231.78	12,451.17
Protection of Persons & Property	13,959,587.00	13,913,964.88	45,622.12	40,822.12	4,800.00
Human Services	1,003,195.00	836,503.70	166,691.30	166,691.30	0.00
Public Works Dept.	8,345,655.00	7,358,735.78	986,919.22	174,309.72	812,609.50
Education	51,711,768.00	50,826,136.93	885,631.07	423,847.45	461,783.62
Unclassified	2,605,082.00	2,420,207.73	184,874.27	184,874.27	0.00
Benefits & Administration	6,734,593.00	6,695,606.92	38,986.08	38,986.08	0.00
Group Insurance	12,748,921.00	11,641,663.39	1,107,257.61	1,107,257.61	0.00
Total	99,799,391.00	96,210,726.38	3,588,664.62	2,297,020.33	1,291,644.29
Snow and Ice	850,000.00	702,797.55	147,202.45	147,202.45	0.00
Enterprise Funds				Balance	Encumbered
Water Enterprise Fund	7,079,494.00	6,571,125.64	508,368.36	128,868.36	379,500.00
Sewer Enterprise Fund	10,010,699.00	9,039,923.91	970,775.09	259,919.09	710,856.00

Article Summary Fiscal 2023					
Department	Meeting Ref.	Description	Appropriation Fiscal 2023	Expenditure Fiscal 2023	Balance Fiscal 2023
	11/19/2022	Free Cash to Reduce Tax Rate	3,300,000.00	3,300,000.00	0.00
Interfund	5/28/2022	Capital Projects/Debt Service Fund	4,133,698.00	4,133,698.00	0.00
DPW	5/28/2022	Eminent Domain Proceed	1.00	0.00	1.00
	5/28/2022	Trash Disposal/Recycling	2,292,046.00	2,022,136.93	269,909.07
	5/28/2022	Codification Zoning Bylaws	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
		Total:	9,775,745.00	9,455,834.93	319,910.07

Reserve Fund Transfer Analysis Fiscal 2023			
Available Fiscal 2023			\$400,000.00
Voted June 29, 2023			
Board of Appeals	Expense	10,500.00	
Conservation	Salaries	12,250.00	
Fire Department	Salaries	52,380.00	
Fire Alarm	Salaries	2,160.00	
Insurance Premiums	Expense	1,405.00	
Legal	Expense	7,785.00	
Medicare	Expense	28,500.00	
Vocational Schools	Expense	85,235.00	
Professional Medical	Expense	6,500.00	
Town Clerk	Salaries	17,070.00	
Treasurer	Salaries	11,585.00	
		Total Request	235,370.00
		Remaining Balance	164,630.00

Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Service					
Bureau of Account ~ Automated Statement of Indebtedness					
City/Town/District of: Wakefield			Fiscal Year 2023		
Long Term Debt Inside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2022	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2023	Interest Paid in FY2023
Building A	2,420,000	9,430,000	105,000	11,745,000	281,688
Dept. I Equipment B	1,676,700	-	185,000	1,491,700	72,391
School Buildings C	6,355,000	-	180,000	6,175,000	225,969
School – All Other D	-	-	-	-	-
Sewer E	766,917	-	114,850	652,067	-
Solid Waste F	-	-	-	-	-
Other Inside G	8,812,850	900,000	868,000	8,844,850	327,461
SUB – TOTAL Inside	20,031,467	10,330,000	1,452,850	28,908,617	907,509
Long Term Debt Outside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2022	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2023	Interest Paid in FY2023
Airport	-	-	-	-	-
Gas/Electric Utility	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital	-	-	-	-	-
School Buildings 1	30,973,450	-	1,360,000	29,613,450	1,096,385
Sewer 2	-	-	-	-	-
Solid Waste 3	-	-	-	-	-
Water 4	3,744,250	4,785,000	509,500	8,019,750	134,951
Other Outside 5	28,157	-	4,934	23,223	-
SUB – TOTAL Outside	34,745,857	4,785,000	1,874,434	37,656,423	1,231,336
TOTAL Long-Term Debt	54,777,324	15,115,000	3,327,284	66,565,040	2,138,845
Short Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 2022	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	Outstanding June 30, 2023	Interest Paid in FY2023
RANs – Revenue Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
BANs – Bond Anticipation:					
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
School Buildings	139,620	8,139,620	139,620	8,139,620	1,392
Sewer	-	-	-	-	-
Water	-	-	-	-	-
Other BANs	2,065,000	6,105,000	2,065,000	6,105,000	10,296
SANs – State Grant Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
FANs – Federal Grant Anticipation	-	-	-	-	-
Other Short-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL Short-Term Debt	2,204,620	14,244,620	2,204,620	14,244,620	11,689
GRAND TOTAL All Debt	56,981,944	29,359,620	5,531,904	80,809,660	2,150,534

REPORT OF THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Trust Funds as of December 31, 2023, in the hands of the treasurer, are as follows:

Trust Funds	
Old Cemetery Trust Funds	\$1,124,758.25
Library Trust Funds	\$143,430.00
Park Trust Funds	\$21,472.00
School Trust Funds	\$9,000.00
Various Trust Funds	\$28,030.00

During the Fiscal Year 7/01/2024 – 6/30/2025 the following loans will fall due:

	Principal	Interest
MWRA Water Bond	\$237,625.00	\$0.00
MWRA Sewer Bond	\$64,010.25	\$0.00
MWPAT Bond	\$2,310.00	\$0.00
Galvin Middle School Feasibility Study	\$20,000.00	\$1925.00
Athletic Fields	\$435,000.00	\$48,462.50
Galvin Middle School	\$1,465,000.00	\$991,597.52
Fire Truck	\$80,000.00	\$10,750.00
Fire Ladder	\$45,000.00	\$21,291.26
Walton School	\$140,000.00	\$194,737.50
Public Drainage System	\$20,000.00	\$27,723.76
MWRA Water	\$154,875.00	\$0.00
MWRA Sewer	\$32,000.00	\$0.00
Fire Pumper Truck	\$70,000.00	\$21,350.00
Roads Phase 1	\$175,000.00	\$61,525.00
Drainage	\$40,000.00	\$21,900.00
New Salem Drainage	\$20,000.00	\$12,300.00
Public Safety Design	\$80,000.00	\$49,200.00
Water Mains	\$85,000.00	\$52,162.50
MWRA Sewer	\$51,589.75	\$0.00
Public Works Repair	\$25,000.00	\$12,125.00
Roads Phase 2	\$225,000.00	\$62,825.00
Greenwood School Roof	\$25,000.00	\$12,125.00
	Principal	Interest
Water Mains	\$15,000.00	\$5,675
Public Safety (I)	\$305,000.00	\$326,875.00

Public Safety (II)	\$75,000.00	\$78,825.00
Drainage	\$45,000.00	\$39,375.00
Harts Hill Water Tank	\$90,000.00	\$123,200.00

We are pleased to report that the interest and dividends earned from 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 are as follows:

Revenue: \$2,516,986.08

Trust Funds: \$31,622.20

Council on Aging Form of Bequest

I hereby give and bequeath to the Friends of the Council on Aging, Wakefield, Mass., the sum of \$_____ dollars to have and to hold, to be used for the unrestricted purposes of the said Council.

.....

Library Form of Bequest

I hereby give and bequeath to the Trustees of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, Wakefield, Mass., the sum of \$_____ dollars to have and to hold, to be used for the unrestricted purposes of the said library.

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emergencies like boil-water notices, evacuation
announcements, and parking bans.



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move out of town.