



# Town of Swansea 2022 Annual Report

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## Town of Swansea General Information

Settled 1667

Incorporated 1785

Swansea was established on October 30, 1667, when Pastor John Myles, Captain Thomas Willett and their neighbors petitioned the Court at Plymouth to establish a town. The fourth town founded in Bristol County, Swansea originally extended from the boundaries of Taunton and Rehoboth to Mount Hope Bay. The area was reduced three times, first by the incorporation of Barrington as a town in 1717, then by the annexation of Warren by the state of Rhode Island in 1747, and finally by the incorporation of Somerset as a separate town in 1790. The first state census taken in 1765 showed Swansea's population to be 1,840. The 2020 Federal Census showed a population of 17,144.

AREA - 22.12 sq. miles

ELEVATION - 42' above MSL

2022 ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS – 15,990

REGISTERED VOTERS – 12,453

2020 FEDERAL CENSUS – 17,144

**OFFICES:**

Selectmen	508-678-2981
Town Clerk	508-678-2981
Town Accountant	508-678-2981
Tax Collector	508-678-2981
Board of Assessors	508-678-2981
Council on Aging	508-676-1831
Library	508-674-9609
Planning Board	508-674-5731
Conservation Commission	508-674-5731

**DEPARTMENTS:**

Police Department	508-674-8464
Fire Department	508-672-4305
Highway Department	508-678-5615
Building Department	508-674-5731
Board of Health	508-674-5731
Animal Control	508-679-6446
Town Nurse	508-674-5731
School Department	508-675-1195
Veterans	508-567-6226

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION is the second Monday in the month of April

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING is the third Monday in the month of May

**VOTING PRECINCTS AND LOCATIONS:**

Precinct 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are located at the Joseph Case Sr. High School, 70 School Street.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION:** Applicant must have reached their 18th birthday, be an American citizen and a resident of Swansea and have registered to vote prior to the election deadline.

## Board of Registrars Report

The Board of Registrars were involved in the following Elections and Town Meetings which took place in Swansea during the year of 2022.

Meetings held this year. All elections were held in the auditorium of the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA:

**Annual Town Meeting**.....05/16/2022.....Attendees: 160  
**Special Town Meeting**.....05/16/2022.....Attendees: 114  
**Special Town Meeting**.....10/27/2022.....Attendees: 445

Elections held this year. All elections were held in the gymnasium at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA:

**Annual Town Election**.....04/11/2022.....Voter total: 1,141  
**State Primary**.....09/06/2022.....Voter total: 2,592  
**State Election**.....11/08/2022.....Voter total: 6,952

\*\*Early Voting was offered as “In-person” and “Vote-by-Mail” for the State Primary & Election.

### State Primary

Early in-person was held from 08/27/2022 through 09/02/2022 with 128 voters voting early.  
Vote-by-mail was utilized by 2,102 voters.  
Election Day turnout was 362 voters.

### State Election

Early in-person was held 10/22/2022 through 11/04/2022 with 546 voters voting early.  
Vote-by-mail was utilized by 3,215 voters.  
Election Day turnout was 3,191 voters.

On June 22, 2022, Governor Baker signed the Votes Act, making it a permanent law regarding elections. The Votes Act now mandates, regulates and puts forth new procedures and datelines for voting. These new changes are part of an ever-changing scenario for future elections, for which the Board of Registrars have embraced and implemented in order to meet the needs of Swansea voters.

**Board of Registrar Members:** Jean R. Bolton (D) - 2024  
Jacquelyne Bates (R) - 2025  
Theodora Gabriel (R) - 2026  
Diane Pelland – Clerk - 2024

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Pelland  
Board of Registrars Clerk

## Elected Town Officials

### SELECTMEN

Steven H. Kitchin	term expires 2023
Christopher R. Carreiro	term expires 2024
Robert C. Medeiros	term expires 2025

### TOWN CLERK

Diane Pelland term expires 2024

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Elizabeth B. Leonardo term expires 2025

ASSESSORS OF TAXES

Timothy F. Cabral Sr. term expires 2023

Wayne W. Gray term expires 2024

Patrick J. Travis term expires 2025

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Sonya M. Barbosa term expires 2023

Thomas M. Rodrigues, Jr. term expires 2023

Eric C. Graham term expires 2024

James J. Carvalho term expires 2024

Alanna B. Solitro term expires 2025

DIMAN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jeffrey J. Begin term expires 2024

MODERATOR

Paul C. Burke term expires 2023

TREE WARDEN

Wayne Dias term expires 2023

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Angela R. Dolan term expires 2023

Maureen E. Pacheco term expires 2023

Judite Carey term expires 2024

Kimberly L. Libby term expires 2024

Susan T. McMullen term expires 2025

Sarah K. Hunicke term expires 2025

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Edward Hill term expires 2023

Matthew Beane term expires 2024

Robert F. Silveira term expires 2025

CONSTABLES

Jonathan K. Furtado term expires 2025

Robert K. Furtado term expires 2025

Randy J. Lebeau term expires 2025

----- term expires 2025

----- term expires 2025

----- term expires 2025

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ronald R. Silvia term expires 2024

Matthew Beane term expires 2025

Carlos Silva term expires 2027

PLANNING BOARD

Scott Adams term expires 2023

Steve Bogle term expires 2023

Timothy F. Cabral, Sr. term expires 2025

Jonathan Carreiro	term expires 2026
Paul Waple	term expires 2027

PARK COMMISSION

Robert Wilson	term expires 2023
Stephen Purdy	term expires 2024
Gilbert Almeida	term expires 2025
Jeffrey J. Wood	term expires 2026
Paul Waple	term expires 2027

## Town Clerk

### YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

VITAL STATISTICS:

79	Births recorded
222	Birth-Certified Copies Issued
60	Marriage Intentions
60	Marriages recorded
286	Marriage-Certified Copies Issued
198	Deaths recorded
851	Death-Certified Copies Issued
82	Burial/removal permits issued

DOG LICENSES:

1,511	Dog licenses – neutered
243	Dog licenses – Unneutered
27	Late fees
7	Dog Fines issued by Animal Control Officer
8	Kennel licenses

SHELLFISH PERMITS:

2	14-Day Non-resident Family Shellfish Permit
4	Duplicate Permits
15	Non-resident Taxpayer Shellfish Permits
29	Non-resident Shellfish Permits
175	Resident Family Shellfish Permits
197	Senior Citizen Resident Shellfish Permits
11	Shellfish Fisherman’s Commercial Licenses
9	Veteran’s Shellfish Permit
34	Shellfish Gauges

MISCELLANEOUS:

79	Certified Copies of any Records
111	DBA Business Certificates & Changes/Withdrawals
17	Gas Storage Registration
0	Pole Location - Certified
197	Public Records Requests
1	Raffle permits issued
1	Records Correction
0	Solicitation Permit
1	Business Closing Permit
6	Street List
2	Town Flags
2	Returned Check
36	Zoning appeals received and forwarded to Board of Appeals

CENSUS FORMS MAILED: 7,496

FEES TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN: \$ 109,517.75

The Town Clerk would like to recognize her office staff, Celine E. Brown and Stephanie A. Suplido, for exhibiting professionalism and courteousness in serving the residents of the Town of Swansea throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Pelland  
Swansea Town Clerk

## Town Meetings

### Annual Town Meeting- May 16, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Swansea, MA on Monday, May 16, 2022, was held in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts and the By-Laws of the Town of Swansea, with the rules of the meeting further governed by Town Meeting Time and Robert's Rules of Order, the Warrant and the Advisory & Finance Board recommendations duly posted, a quorum present, and all procedural requirements being met.

#### 7:30 PM

Town Moderator Paul Burke called the Annual Town Meeting to order at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA with a quorum being present. At the opening of the meeting, there were 147 voters present.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant. - **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and followed by a Moment of Silence led by BOS Chairman Steven Kitchin.

Mr. Burke announced additional guests since the Special Town Meeting: Donald Dibiasio (360 Harborview, Somerset, MA), Ariana & Everlie Longtin (24 Lincoln Avenue, Swansea), Dr. Ferreira (Diman Superintendent), Karl Hezzler (195 Odgen Street, Fall River, MA), Deborah Kenney (571 Florence Street, Fall River, MA), Kevin Serpa (Swansea Veterans Agent).

Mr. Burke explained the ballots (Blue colored, numbered 1-5), the Town budget book and the rules of the meeting.

**ARTICLE 1 VOTED:** That the Town vote to hear the report of the Advisory & Finance Committee.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2 VOTED:** That the Town vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers and all Town Committees, and that the reading of such reports be waived.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3 VOTED:** Motion made by the Town Moderator, and in accordance with Article II of the General Bylaws, Section 7-4, that the Town vote to confirm the appointments of the following individuals to the Advisory and Finance Committee,

to the year 2023:

Richard Finlaw, 97 Barneyville Road  
James Clarkin, 1560 Gardner Neck Road

And to the year: 2024:

Sarah P. Carlson, 1205 Gardner Neck Road  
Douglas Fiore, 291 Warhurst Avenue  
Christopher Howard, 757 Stevens Road  
Mark Brooks, 151 Pearse Road  
Michele Paul, 1 Susan Drive

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4 VOTED:** That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all Town Officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 as follows:

Selectmen: Chairman	\$ 5,000.00
Vice Chairman	\$ 5,000.00
Clerk	\$ 5,000.00
Town Clerk:	\$ 78,500.00
Treasurer/Collector:	\$ 93,287.00
Assessors: Chairman	\$ 2,000.00
Vice Chairman	\$ 1,000.00
Clerk	\$ 1,000.00
Moderator:	\$ 500.00
Tree Warden:	\$ 500.00

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.  
Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 5 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray the charges of the Town Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 based on the Advisory and Finance Committee recommendations for the line item numbers 1 through 107 inclusive in the May 16, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Budget Book and that said sums be raised by direct taxation. (SEE BELOW)

NO.	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	TOTAL BUDGET
	<b># 114 Moderator</b>		<b>\$ 550.00</b>
1	Salary	500.00	
2	Expense	50.00	
	<b># 122 Selectmen</b>		<b>\$ 415,197.00</b>
3	Salaries (Selectmen)	15,000.00	
4	Salaries	355,197.00	
5	Expense	45,000.00	
6	Equipment	0.00	
	<b>#123 Public Buildings &amp; Properties Main.</b>		<b>\$ 444,038.00</b>
7	Salary	53,738.00	
8	Expense	390,300.00	
	<b>#131 Advisory &amp; Finance Committee</b>		<b>\$ 5,200.00</b>
9	Salary	0.00	
10	Expense	5,200.00	
	<b>#132 Reserve Fund</b>		<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>
11	Reserve Fund	100,000.00	
	<b>#135 Accountant</b>		<b>\$ 217,042.00</b>
12	Salaries	177,367.00	
13	Expense	39,675.00	
	<b>#141 Tax Assessors</b>		<b>\$ 272,159.00</b>
14	Salaries (Elected)	4,000.00	
15	Salary	96,900.00	
16	Clerical Salaries	82,867.00	
17	Other Salaries	0.00	
18	Expense	88,392.00	
	<b>#145 Treasurer/Collector</b>		<b>\$ 231,263.00</b>
19	Salary	93,287.00	
20	Clerical Salaries	98,776.00	
21	Expense	39,200.00	

	<b>#151 Legal &amp; Risk Management Services</b>		<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>
22	Expense	150,000.00	
	<b>#155 Management Information Systems</b>		<b>\$ 130,639.00</b>
23	Expense	130,639.00	
	<b>#161 Town Clerk</b>		<b>\$ 187,378.00</b>
24	Salary	78,500.00	
25	Clerical Salaries	93,978.00	
26	Equipment	0.00	
27	Expense	14,900.00	
	<b>#162 Election Expense</b>		<b>\$ 68,550.00</b>
28	Expense	68,550.00	
	<b>#163 Registrar of Voters</b>		<b>\$ 10,898.00</b>
29	Salaries	1,698.00	
30	Expense	9,200.00	
	<b>#171 Conservation Commission</b>		<b>\$ 130,099.00</b>
31	Salary (Agent)	74,907.00	
32	Clerical Salary	45,860.00	
33	Expense	9,332.00	
	<b>#175 Planning Board</b>		<b>\$ 138,989.00</b>
34	Salary	92,337.00	
35	Clerical Salary	33,644.00	
36	Expense	13,008.00	
	<b>#176 Zoning Board</b>		<b>\$ 8,500.00</b>
37	Salaries	0.00	
38	Expense	8,500.00	
	<b>#177 Water Aquifer</b>		<b>\$ 410.00</b>
39	Expense	410.00	
	<b>#192 Beach Expense</b>		<b>\$ 35,065.00</b>
40	Expense	35,065.00	
	<b>#193 Waterfront – Public Buildings &amp; Properties Maintenance</b>		<b>\$ 30,456.00</b>
41	Expense	30,456.00	
	<b>#195 Printing Town Report</b>		<b>\$ 1,650.00</b>
42	Expense	1,650.00	
	<b>#210 Police Department</b>		<b>\$ 4,828,550.00</b>
43	Salaries	4,329,018.00	
44	Expense	405,049.00	
45	Equipment	91,983.00	
46	Special Investigations	1,500.00	
47	Travel Expenses	1,000.00	
	<b>#220 Fire Department</b>		<b>\$ 983,612.00</b>
48	Salaries	710,712.00	
49	Expense	252,900.00	
50	Equipment	20,000.00	
51	Out-of-State Expenses	0.00	
	<b>#241 Building Department</b>		<b>\$ 234,573.00</b>
52	Salary (Dept. Head)	61,200.00	
53	Clerical Salary	49,473.00	
54	Salaries (Other)	95,000.00	
55	Expense	28,400.00	
56	Equipment/Clothing Allowance	500.00	
	<b>#244 Sealer of Weights</b>		<b>\$ 7,300.00</b>
57	Salary	6,800.00	
58	Expense	500.00	

	<b>#291 Emergency Management</b>		<b>\$ 20,150.00</b>
59	Salary	2,000.00	
60	Expense	18,150.00	
61	Equipment	0.00	
	<b>#300 Swansea School Department</b>		<b>\$ 24,310,407.00</b>
62	Salaries & Wages	19,421,881.00	
63	Maintenance & Expense	4,653,526.00	
64	Equipment & Outlay	235,000.00	
	<b>#390 Bristol County Agricultural School Assessment</b>		<b>\$ 149,446.00</b>
65	Expense	52,228.00	
66	Debt Expense	97,218.00	
	<b>#390 Diman Regional School Assessment</b>		<b>\$ 1,554,290.00</b>
67	Expense	1,554,290.00	
	<b>#422 Highway Department</b>		<b>\$ 1,551,620.00</b>
68	Salaries & Wages	942,770.00	
69	Operating Expense	368,850.00	
70	Snow Removal	150,000.00	
71	Street Lighting	90,000.00	
	<b>#425 Wastewater Management Plan</b>		<b>\$ 500.00</b>
72	Expense	500.00	
	<b>#429 Tree Warden</b>		<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
73	Salary	500.00	
74	Expense	49,500.00	
	<b>#491 Cemeteries Records Clerk</b>		<b>\$ 1,716.00</b>
75	Salary	1,516.00	
76	Expense	200.00	
	<b>#493 Care of Soldiers Graves</b>		<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
77	Equipment	2,000.00	
	<b>#510-512 Board of Health</b>		<b>\$ 391,384.00</b>
78	Salaries & Wages	345,694.00	
79	Expense	45,690.00	
	<b>#541 Council on Aging</b>		<b>\$ 257,244.00</b>
80	Salaries	197,331.00	
81	Expense	59,913.00	
	<b>#543 Veterans</b>		<b>\$ 416,014.00</b>
82	Salaries	123,032.00	
83	Expense	8,000.00	
84	Benefits	284,982.00	
	<b>#610 Libraries</b>		<b>\$ 419,637.00</b>
85	Head Librarian	84,844.00	
86	Salaries	221,429.00	
87	Expense	113,364.00	
	<b>#630 Recreation Commission</b>		<b>\$ 27,675.00</b>
88	Expense	27,675.00	
	<b>#650 Park Commission</b>		<b>\$ 148,316.00</b>
89	Salary & Longevity	59,620.00	
90	Salary Parks Assistant	48,381.00	
91	Equipment (clothing allowance)	650.00	
92	Expense	39,665.00	
	<b>#680 Special Events</b>		<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>
93	Expense	7,800.00	

	<b>#691 Historical Commission</b>		<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
94	Expense	5,000.00	
	<b>#699 Arts Council</b>		<b>\$ 340.00</b>
95	Expense	340.00	
	<b>#710 / 751 Notes &amp; Interest – Long Term</b>		<b>\$ 715,974.00</b>
96	Fire/School Renovation	0.00	
97	Police/Community Center	384,000.00	
98	CPA Land Purchase – Medeiros Farm	91,625.00	
99	WPAT/CWMP	20,199.00	
100	Multi-Purpose Loan of 2016	136,120.00	
101	Waterfront	84,030.00	
	<b>#752 Notes &amp; Interest - Short Term</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
102	Interest, Short-term	10,000.00	
103	Principle, Short-term	0.00	
104	Borrowing Costs	0.00	
	<b>#900 Bristol County Ret. Fund/Pension</b>		<b>\$ 2,595,837.00</b>
105	Expense	2,595,837.00	
	<b>#913 Unemployment Compensation Fund</b>		<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
106	Expense	20,000.00	
	<b>#951 Soil Commission</b>		<b>\$ 5,030.00</b>
107	Expense	5,030.00	
<b>Total of Article 5 – Budget for FY’23 \$ 41,292,498.00</b>			

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
Heather Wilson, 68 Cypress Drive  
Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop  
Melissa Affonso, 234 Cummings Road

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a Majority.**

**ARTICLE 6 VOTED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and to enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth and/or the County for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads, bikeways and waterways.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 7 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,946,992.00 to pay the expense of meeting the insurance needs of the Town of Swansea and its employees and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 abstention.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 8 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$47,000.00 to meet the expense of the annual audit and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 9 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum \$10,000.00 to meet the Town's expenses for Tax Title purposes and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 10 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,350.00 to complete an actuarial report as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Standard Number 45 and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 11 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 to meet the expense of providing for the cyclical revaluation, certification, and other consulting services of all real and personal property located within the Town of Swansea and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 12 VOTED:** That the Town vote to establish a Police Details Revolving Fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, sec. 53E ½ to be used for all costs and expenses associated with maintenance, repair and acquisition of police department vehicles and vehicle equipment, by amending the Revolving Fund Table in § 20-11 of the Town General Bylaws, by adding a new row with the following information:

In the column entitled “Revolving Fund”: Police Details;

In the column entitled “Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund”: Chief of Police;

In the column entitled “Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund”: All fees received for police details;

In the column entitled “Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund”:

Maintenance, repair and acquisition of police department vehicles and vehicle equipment and scheduling software;

In the column entitled “Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund”:

Cap of \$75,000.00;

In the column entitled “Other Requirements/Reports”: Report supplied to the Board of Selectmen for each expenditure; and

In the column entitled “Fiscal Year”: FY2023 and subsequent years.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 abstention.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 13 VOTED:** That the Town vote to set the maximum spending limits for FY2023, pursuant to § 20-8C of the General Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for the Town’s revolving funds as follows:

Social Day Care Program Revolving Fund:	\$ 158,000.00
Fire Alarm Inspections Revolving Fund:	\$ 50,000.00
Boat Ramp Revolving Fund:	\$ 12,000.00
Shellfish Revolving Fund:	\$ 40,000.00
Police Details Revolving Fund:	\$ 75,000.00

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 14 VOTED:** That the Town vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ to appropriate the sum of \$1,426,550.00 from the General Fund, Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Receipts Account of which \$111,050.00 be transferred from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to meet the expenses of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Account.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 15 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate, or reserve for later appropriation, monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, or available funds, for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, and the funding of reserves and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year.

Appropriations for Community Preservation Administrative

Expenses	\$	23,237.28
Community Housing Reserve	\$	46,475.76
Historic Resources Reserve	\$	46,475.76

Open Space Reserve	\$	46,475.76
Payment of Debt Service on Medeiros Farm Open Space Purchase	\$	91,625.00
FY 22-23 Annual Budgeted Reserve	\$	210,456.04

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 16 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$109,500.00, to be expended from the Historic Preservation Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, for the restoration of the Martin House stone barn, located at 2118 G.A.R. Highway.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 17 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00, to be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to the Conservation Commission, for a comprehensive site plan for active and passive recreational use at Medeiros Farm, 1100 Bark Street.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop  
**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 opposed.**  
**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 18 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$125,000.00, to be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to the Swansea Historical Society, for restoration of interior and exterior walls at the Luther Museum, 160 Old Warren Road, Map 61, Lot 138.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 abstention.**  
**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 19 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$53,000.00, to be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to the Conservation Commission to subsidize the costs of the Wildlands Trust in monitoring four separate conservation restrictions that the Wildlands Trust holds over Town-owned land, specifically on Barneyville Road, Map 11 Lot 16; Northern section of Village Park, Hortonville Road Map 16, Lot 34; Wilson Curtis Land, Stevens Road, Map 8 Lot 5; and Raymond Wood/Herbert Baker Farm, Wood Street, Map 15 Lot 13.

Speaking on article: Kevin Beauregard, 108 Hidden Woods Place  
**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 opposed.**  
**Motion carried by a majority.**

8:00 PM – Mr. Burke announced that there were 160 voters present.

**ARTICLE 20 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$500,000.00, of which \$400,000.00 shall be transferred from certified free cash and \$100,000.00 be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to the Park Commission for the purchase and installation of recreational playground equipment at Swansea Veterans Memorial Park, Milford Road.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
**A&F Recommendation: approval by 10 in favor, 3 opposed.**  
**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 21 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$2,035,000.00 to the Conservation Commission for the purpose of purchasing a conservation restriction on the real property, consisting of 190 acres more or less of riverfront land, that has an address of 299 Market Street, and which is shown as Lot 1 on Assessor's Map 11, in order to ensure that said land shall remain available to the public for conservation and recreation purposes.

And further, to clarify that said transfer shall be distributed as follows:

\$535,000.00 to be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund; and \$1,500,000.00 to be expended from certified free cash.

And further, to clarify that only so much of said maximum of \$1,500,000.00 may actually be transferred from Free Cash as is equaled by the total amount that the Conservation Commission first receives, or otherwise secures by contract for receipt or reimbursement, from any federal, state or other local sources of funding, including, without limitation, from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, but exclusive of the Community Preservation Fund transfer that is concurrently authorized by the approval of this Article.

And further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into, execute, submit and file any and all applications, agreements and instruments on behalf of the Town that are necessary or expedient in order to effectuate both the receipt of any such grants, reimbursement or other funds from any such federal, state or local source, and the purchase of said conservation restriction.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 12 in favor, 1 opposed.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 22 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$155,000.00 to be expended by the Police Chief to meet the expense of purchasing three (3) police cruisers with equipment, including radios and that said sum be raised from direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 23 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to additionally fund account #01-122-59-52101 (Special Town Meeting of 11/18/19- Article 13) to be expended to continue work related to opening access to the waterways throughout the town and that sum be raised by direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 24 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from certified free cash to resurface and/or replace the stairs at the Police Station.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 8 in favor, 2 opposed.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 25 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from certified free cash for scanning and archiving documents for various Town departments.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 26 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to conduct a wage comparison and salary survey, and said sum be raised from direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion is defeated by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 27 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 to purchase a pickup truck with plow to replace an emergency vehicle at the Fire Department, and that said sum be raised from direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 28 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$65,000.00 to purchase a pickup truck with plow and related accessories for the Highway Department, and said sum be raised from direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Jay Robinson, 205 Hortonville Road

**A&F Recommendation: approval by Unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 29 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$120,000.00 to purchase a F600 dump truck with plow and related accessories for the Highway Department, and that sum be raised from direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 30 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$65,000.00 from certified free cash to purchase a 3-ton asphalt hot box and related accessories for the Highway Department.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 31 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to replace the fence in Field #2 at the Swansea Memorial Park, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Ellen Viveiros, 48 Laurel Avenue

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 32 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000.00 for the continued funding of reserve accounts, by adding \$200,000.00 to the Stabilization Fund and by adding \$200,000.00 to the Capital Stabilization Fund, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 33 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 34 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Length of Service Awards Program for the Firefighters of Swansea, and said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 11 in favor, 1 opposed.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 35 VOTED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, convey or otherwise dispose of Map 12, Lot 29 Kispert Court consisting of 0.39 acres and Map 80, Lot 59 Taft Avenue, consisting of 0.64 acres.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

Mr. Burke stated this article requires a 2/3's vote due to disposal of land. Mr. Burke stated he would try a voice vote first; if he could not make a determination, it would go to a ballot vote.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 11 in favor, 1 abstention.**

**Motion carried by a 2/3's majority.**

**ARTICLE 36 VOTED:** That the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by deleting § 7-27 in its entirety and replace it with the following:

**§ 7-27 Establishment.**

A Soil Conservation Board is hereby established in the Town of Swansea for the purpose of exercising the powers and duties of such Boards under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21(17), as well as Chapter 150 of these General Bylaws.

Appointment. The members of the Soil Conservation Board shall consist of two members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, both of which must be residents of the Town, one member of the Planning Board, one member of the Board of Health, and one member of the Conservation Commission. Whenever any of these multi-member bodies lacks a required representative on the Soil Conservation Board, it shall appoint said representative by a majority vote of said multi-member body at any meeting of the same at which a quorum is present. If a member of the Soil Conservation Board ceases to be a member, for whatever reason, of the multi-member body that appointed him to the Soil Conservation Board, then he concurrently shall cease to be a member of the Soil Conservation Board.

Conflicts of interest. No person who engages in commercial activities relating to the importation, manufacturing, processing, removal or disturbance of earth minerals and soils shall be eligible to serve on the Soil Conservation Board.

Removal. The appointment of a representative to the Soil Conservation Board may be revoked in the same manner that said appointment was made.

Other appointments. The Soil Conservation Board may appoint a secretary and an inspector, neither of whom shall be a member of said Board. The inspector shall carry out such duties as may be assigned to him by the Soil Conservation Board or Chapter 150 of these General Bylaws, or as may be provided by statute.

Rulemaking. To the extent that it is expressly authorized by Chapter 150 of these General Bylaws, the Soil Conservation Board may promulgate Rules and Regulations in order to supplement the provisions of said Chapter.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 37 VOTED:** That the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by deleting Chapter 150 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

**CHAPTER 150**

**EARTH AND SOIL REMOVAL**

**§ 150-1 Authority.**

This Chapter is promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21(17).

**§ 150-2 Purpose.**

No more than sixty (60) cubic yards of earth minerals or soils may be removed during any given calendar year from any parcel of land within the Town that is not in public use, except in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

**Exceptions.** This Chapter shall not apply to the removal of any quantity of earth minerals or soils when any of the following apply:

As provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21(17), when such removal is reasonably necessary in the course of operating pursuant to: A building permit that has been issued by the Building Department for a single-family home; A Title 5 subsurface sewage disposal construction permit that has been issued by the Board of Health; or an enforcement order issued by the Conservation Commission or Board of Health requiring removal.

These exceptions shall apply only for the improvements that are shown on the plans that have been approved by the Building Department, Conservation Commission, or Board of Health. Removal of earth minerals or soils prior to, or in anticipation of, receiving such approval shall still be subject to the requirements of this Chapter.

When such removal is undertaken as part of, and in accordance with, customary agricultural practices on established agricultural land, including, but not limited to, soil manipulation by harrowing or plowing; stone removal from harrowed or plowed fields; the harvesting of root crops; and nursery or orchard stock cultivation or removal; provided, however, that this exception shall not apply to the digging of ponds or cranberry bogs, or to any other alteration of the land in anticipation of its conversion to agricultural use.

When such removal is reasonably necessary in order to complete any environmental remediation that is required by, and conducted in accordance with, the provisions of 310 CMR 40.00. Inapplicability of volume minimum. The Sixty (60) cubic yards per calendar year allowance shall not apply to the removal of improperly disturbed earth minerals or soils. The removal of any quantity of the same shall be subject to the requirements of this Chapter.

**§ 150-3 Definitions.**

As used in this Chapter, the terms below shall have the following definitions:

**APPLICANT**

Shall mean the person, corporation or other legal entity, including any agent of the same, that files an initial application or renewal application with the Board for a permit or determination of exemption pursuant to this Chapter.

**BOARD**

Shall mean the Soil Conservation Board of the Town, as provided in Chapter 7, Article VIII, § 7-27 of these General Bylaws.

**DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION**

Shall mean the written authorization of the Board to remove disturbed earth minerals or soils without the requirement of a permit.

**DISTURBED EARTH MINERALS OR SOILS**

Shall mean earth minerals or soils that have been removed from one location and are thereafter mechanically or artificially deposited in non-natural piles at another location, regardless of whether those different locations exist on the same parcel of land, and regardless of whether the earth minerals or soils have been manufactured or processed into other earth minerals, soils or soil aggregate product.

**EARTH MINERALS OR SOILS**

Shall include soil, loam, sand, gravel, clay, silt, stone, stonewalls, rocks, boulders, bedrock, and any other minerals or soils that are normally found in or on the surface of the earth. This definition shall exclude composted yard waste, stumps, brush and other organic by-products or products, including the stockpiling of the same, as well as asphalt, brick, concrete and other non-natural by-products or products.

**IMPROPERLY DISTURBED EARTH MINERALS OR SOILS**

Shall mean disturbed earth minerals or soils that were originally removed from land within the Town in violation of: 1) this Chapter, or any prior iteration of the same, however codified; 2) any provision of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town; 3) any other statute, by-law, rule or regulation governing such removal; or 4) the terms of any permit or other written allowance that was issued by the Town, including by the Board, for said removal.

**INSPECTOR**

Shall mean the individual or individuals who are appointed by that Board pursuant to § 7-27D of these General Bylaws.

**NATIVE EARTH MINERALS OR SOILS**

Shall mean earth minerals or soils that: 1) are naturally occurring; 2) have been intentionally reintegrated into the native geologic landscape; or 3) have otherwise been reintegrated into the native geologic landscape as determined by § 150-5D (1).

**OPERATOR**

Shall mean an applicant that has been granted a permit or determination of exemption by the Board pursuant to this Chapter.

**PROJECT PARCEL**

Shall mean the parcel at which removal occurs, whether or not in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter or the terms or conditions of a permit or determination of exemption that is issued pursuant to the same.

**PERMIT**

Shall mean the written authorization of the Board to remove either native earth minerals or soils, or improperly disturbed earth minerals or soils.

**REMOVAL AREA**

Shall mean the specific portion of a project parcel at which removal occurs, whether or not in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter or the terms or conditions of a permit or determination of exemption that is issued pursuant to the same.

**REMOVE(D) AND/OR REMOVAL**

Shall mean the activity of excavating, moving, blasting, stripping or digging earth minerals or soils on a property.

**TOWN**

Shall mean the Town of Swansea, Massachusetts.

Any terms that have not been defined specifically herein shall have their normal English meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise.

**§ 150-4 Permits.**

The removal of more than sixty (60) cubic yards of native earth minerals or soils in any given calendar year, or of any quantity of improperly disturbed earth minerals or soils, from land that is not in public use in the Town shall require a permit from the Board.

Limitations on issuance of permit. No permit shall be issued by the Board if it determines that the requested removal will endanger the general health or safety of the public. Furthermore, no permit shall be issued by the Board until and unless the applicant either obtains from the Swansea Zoning Enforcement Officer a finding and statement that the requested removal will not violate the Zoning By-Laws of the Town, or otherwise obtains zoning relief to allow said removal from the Zoning Board of Appeals pursuant to Chapter 40A and said Zoning By-Laws. Finally, no permit shall be issued by the Board until and unless the applicant provides the Board with the performance guarantee that is required by § 150-8.

Initial application for a permit. The initial application for a permit shall include the following:

A completed application form and filing fee, as established by the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

A form showing resource area delineation of the proposed project parcel(s). The contents of this form must have been previously approved for such purposes both pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40) and its associated regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and pursuant to the Town's Wetlands Bylaw (Chapter 256 of the General Bylaws).

A scaled site plan, which has been prepared by a registered land surveyor or professional engineer that is licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that shows: a) the proposed project parcel(s); b) the proposed and existing contours of the land of each such parcel, at intervals of not more than two (2) feet; c) the boundary lines for each such parcel; d) the Assessor's map and lot information for all lots for which information is provided pursuant to Paragraph (4) below; e) all wetlands that are within one hundred (100) feet, all dwellings that are within two

hundred (200) feet, and all road layouts that are within three hundred (300) feet of the proposed removal area(s); and f) satisfaction of the setback and grading requirements of § 150-7.

The names of owners, addresses, and Assessor's map and lot information for all lots that are within one hundred (100) feet – including across any street, body of water or municipal boundary – of the proposed project parcel(s), as taken from the most recent tax list that has been certified by the Board of Assessors. The name and business address of the owner(s) of the project parcel(s) also shall be provided, if different than the applicant. The quantity of earth minerals or soils that the applicant is requesting authorization to remove, as shown on the submitted scaled plan, and which must be calculated by a professional engineer or registered land surveyor that has been licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Hearing notice. After receipt of an initial application for a permit, the Inspector shall confirm that it is complete and satisfies the requirements of § 150-4B, and shall thereafter provide the applicant with the time, date and location of the public hearing for said application. The applicant then shall provide written notice of this hearing to all of the abutters whose information was provided pursuant to § 150-4B (4). This notice shall list the time, date and location of the hearing, shall reference the reason for the hearing, shall provide the applicant's contact information, and shall have attached to it the completed application. The applicant is responsible for mailing this notice to all abutters by certified mail at least ten (10) days in advance of the public hearing. If, at or before the scheduled hearing, the applicant fails to provide the Board with the timely certified mail confirmation of the receipt or attempted delivery of all such required notices, then the hearing shall be rescheduled, with the applicant again responsible for providing notice of the same pursuant to this Subsection.

Permit expiration. A permit issued under this Chapter shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance, or upon completion of the removal of earth minerals or soils that was authorized thereby, whichever occurs sooner.

Permit Renewal. Permits may be renewed annually; provided, that the failure to obtain the renewal of a permit prior to the completion of all authorized removal activities shall require the operator to undertake the restoration of the removal areas in accordance with § 150-10A. The Board shall establish through its rules and regulations the procedures for submitting a permit renewal application, the form of said application, the filing fee for said application, and any documentation that should accompany this submission; provided, that any change in the location or scope of the removal area(s), the quantity or type of earth minerals or soils to be removed, the final grade of the removal area, the operator of the removal operation, or any other substantive change to the removal operation, shall require the submission of a new initial permit application pursuant to §§ 150-4B and 150-4C. The operator may submit a permit renewal application for the original removal project concurrently with the submission of a new initial permit application for said substantive change. The Board will act first upon the new initial permit application, and if and only if that application is denied, the Board thereafter will act upon the permit renewal application.

Completed permit renewal applications, including the renewal fee, should be received thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the permit. The Inspector shall confirm that a permit renewal application is complete and satisfies the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Board, and shall thereafter provide the applicant with the time, date and location of the public hearing for said application. The Board will then take action upon the permit renewal application at its next meeting. If the completed permit renewal application is received by this deadline, then the current permit shall be valid until the Board meets to take action upon the renewal application, notwithstanding the standard annual expiration date that is provided in Subsection 150-4D. If the completed permit renewal application is not received by this thirty (30) day deadline, then the current permit shall be subject to said annual expiration date; provided, that a permit renewal application, rather than a new initial application, may still be submitted up to six (6) months after the expiration of the permit; further provided, that all soil removal operations must be suspended after said expiration until such time as a renewal permit has been issued.

As provided in § 150-8C, the performance guarantee that was required for the approval of the initial permit application must remain valid in order for the permit to be renewed.

#### **§ 150-5 Determinations of Exemption.**

No permit shall be required for the removal of disturbed earth minerals or soils; provided, that if the disturbed earth minerals or soils have been stored in a manner that failed to ensure their proper separation from the surrounding

native earth minerals or soils, then a determination of exemption from the permitting requirement nonetheless shall be required from the Board prior to the removal of more than sixty (60) cubic yards of said disturbed earth minerals or soils in any given calendar year. The existence of the lack of proper separation shall be determined at the discretion of the Board, but shall include, without limitation, the failure to utilize concrete, tarping or other non-natural materials as a barrier between the disturbed and native earth minerals or soils.

Application procedures for determination of exemption. The Board shall establish through its rules and regulations, the procedures for submitting an application for a determination of exemption for a project parcel or parcels, including any renewal of the same, the form of said application, and the filing fee for said application.

Soil evaluator. The applicant for a determination of exemption must retain the services of a soil evaluator who has been licensed in accordance with 310 CMR 15.000, in order to determine the limits of the disturbed earth minerals or soils. The Board will not act on an application for a determination of exemption until a soil evaluation has been performed by said licensed soil evaluator, in the presence of the Inspector, and to the maximum depth to which the proposed removal of the disturbed earth minerals or imported soils will occur.

Site plans. At the discretion of the Board, plans showing the proposed removal site that have been prepared by a registered land surveyor or professional engineer shall accompany the determination of exemption application.

Limitations on issuance of determination of exemption.

No determination of exemption shall be granted in instances where the disturbed earth minerals or soils have become reintegrated into the native geologic landscape through the passage of time, as indicated by the presence of established woody vegetative growth over the originally artificial piles in a density of not less than one (1) woody plant per thousand (1000) square feet of surface area of disturbed earth minerals or soils; provided, that no such woody plant shall be included in this determination unless the stem of the same has a diameter of at least three (3) inches at a height of four (4) feet from the surface of the disturbed earth minerals or soils. Such integrated piles shall be considered to have reverted to the status of native earth minerals or soils, just as if they had been intentionally incorporated into the geologic landscape, thereby requiring a permit in order to remove more than sixty (60) cubic yards of the same in any given calendar year.

Irrespective of whether proper separation exists, the removal of any quantity of improperly disturbed earth minerals or soils shall require a permit, as provided in §§ 150-2B and 150-4.

Expiration of determinations of exemption. A determination of exemption expires upon removal of the disturbed earth minerals or imported soils that have been specified by the Board in said determination, or within one (1) year of the date of the issuance of said determination, whichever occurs sooner.

#### **§ 150-6 Restrictions on the Use of Permits and Determinations of Exemption.**

The issuance of any permit or determination of exemption is subject to the following restrictions:

Conditions. The Board may, in its discretion, impose such conditions on a permit or determination of exemption as it believes are necessary or prudent in order to protect the general health and safety of the public, prevent nuisances, protect native earth minerals or soils, protect native vegetation, and ensure compliance with the terms of said permit or determination of exemption and all of the Town's rules and regulations, General Bylaws, including this Chapter, and Zoning Bylaw. The Board may alter, delete or add new conditions to a permit or determination of exemption upon the submission of a renewal application.

No substitution for other Town approval. The issuance of a permit or determination of exemption by the Board shall not be construed as, or otherwise substitute for, the authorization, under any statute, regulation or other by-law, of any other local board, commission or officer, including, without limitation, the Building Commissioner, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Conservation Commission or Historical Commission.

No authorization for use of land. The issuance of a permit or determination of exemption by the Board shall not constitute, or be construed as constituting, any affirmation by the Board in general, or the Town in particular, that the applicant is the owner of the project parcel(s) for which said permit or determination of exemption was issued, or has an easement interest or the permission of said owner to operate on said parcel(s) in accordance with said permit or determination of exemption. Such ownership, easement interest or permission is a prerequisite to the lawful use of any such permit or determination of exemption under this Chapter. By accepting a permit or determination of exemption, the applicant concurrently accepts these restrictions and agrees to indemnify the Town and its boards, commissions, committees, officers, employees, officials, agents and attorney against any claims that are brought against them by the owner of said parcel(s), including with respect to trespass, in response to any removal activities that are conducted pursuant to said permit or determination of exemption.

Non-transferability. Permits and determinations of exemption are not transferable, even to successors in interest to the operator.

#### **§ 150-7 Requirements for Permitted Removals.**

In order to obtain a permit pursuant to § 150-4, any proposed removal of earth minerals or soils must satisfy the following requirements: Minimum setbacks. The removal project must satisfy the following minimum setbacks from the removal area(s), as shown on the scaled site plan that was submitted with the initial permit application:

One hundred and fifty (150) feet from all dwellings and commercial structures that are intended for occupation, and that are not in common ownership with the project parcel(s);

One hundred (100) feet from all improved public ways and improved private ways that are available for use by the public; and twenty-five (25) feet from all property boundaries with parcels that are not in common ownership with the project parcel(s).

Grading.

The removal project must satisfy the following grading requirements for the removal area(s) after the completion of removal activities pursuant to the permit, as shown on the scaled site plan that was submitted with the initial permit application:

(1) Grading within seventy-five (75) feet of a property boundary with a parcel that is not in common ownership with the project parcel(s) must be no steeper than three (3) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical slope;

(2) Grading within one hundred and fifty (150) feet of an improved public way, or an improved private way that is available for use by the public, must be no steeper than three (3) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical slope; and

(3) All other grading must be no steeper than two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical slope, unless the applicant utilizes either stone reinforced slopes or terraced grading with retaining walls. Such methods must be designed by a professional engineer that has been licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

The grading provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to bedrock that protrudes from the ground surface, pond banks that are below the high-water level, or any aspects of cranberry bog construction.

#### **§ 150-8 Performance Guarantee.**

In order to receive a permit for the removal of earth minerals and soils, the applicant shall provide a performance guarantee, whether in the form of a bond, a deposit of money, a letter of credit from a lending institution, or some other form of security that is approved in advance by the Board. The Board shall be listed on said performance guarantee as a party to be notified in the event of any change in the status of the same.

Calculating performance guarantee. Such performance guarantee shall be calculated by the Board as follows:

The amount of the performance guarantee for a project shall be based upon the permitted removal area(s), with said area being rounded to the nearest one half (1/2) of an acre; and

The amount per acre shall be established by the Board on a case-by-case basis, based upon the impact of the removal activities upon the project parcel, the extent of restoration work that will be needed at the conclusion of removal activities in order to meet the restoration requirements of § 150-10A, and the mitigation of any safety hazards that may arise during such restoration.

**B. Release of performance guarantee.**

Performance guarantees can only be released upon completion of restoration as required by § 150-10A, as determined by a majority vote of the Board at any meeting at which a quorum is present; provided, that when stone reinforced slopes or retaining walls were utilized in constructing the grading of the removal area, any such release additionally shall first require that a professional engineer that has been licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts certify in writing that said slope or wall construction has met the minimum designs standards that were approved for such construction by the Board in issuing the permit.

Any request by the operator for the release of the performance guarantee must be in writing along with supporting documentation; provided, that an operator may request a partial release of the performance guarantee in response to the completion of removal activities at, and subsequent restoration of, only a portion of the removal area(s). In the situation of a partial release, the operator must submit an as-built plan of the removal area(s) that will remain open in order to demonstrate that the remaining performance guarantee amount is adequate to cover the remaining restoration costs.

Continued validity of performance guarantee. For a permit to be valid, a performance guarantee must be provided in the amount that is specified in the permit, must be given in the name of the applicant and made payable to “the Town of Swansea Soil Conservation Board”, and must remain valid for twelve (12) months after the conclusion of the term of said permit, including any renewal terms, unless a longer period is required pursuant to Subsection 150-10A.

**§ 150-9 Inspections.**

The Inspector shall inspect any removal area(s) that are subject to a permit or determination of exemption not less than two (2) times per calendar year. No prior notice of such inspections needs to be given; provided, that such inspection shall take place only during business hours. An inspection fee, in an amount to be set by the Board’s rules and regulations, shall be collected annually. In the case of removal operations that are subject to a permit, said fee shall be collected until such time as restoration of the removal area(s) has been completed in accordance with § 150-10A and the performance guarantee has been released, as provided in § 150-8B. In the case of removal operations that are subject to a determination of exemption, said fee shall be collected for so long as said determination is renewed. In applying for, and accepting, a permit or determination of exemption pursuant to this Chapter, the applicant concurrently accepts and agrees to the requirements of this Section.

**§ 150-10 Operational Performance Standards.**

The removal of earth minerals or soils shall be subject to the following performance standards:

**A. Restoration of removal areas.**

Within six (6) months of the removal of all of the earth minerals or soils that are specified in a permit, or prior to completion of said removal once six (6) months have elapsed since said permit has expired without filing a renewal application, or upon the denial by the Board of a renewal application where said denial occurred after said six (6) months had elapsed, or immediately upon an order from the Board to cease and desist any removal of earth minerals or soils that is either unpermitted or in violation of the terms of an issued permit, the operator shall be obligated to commence the restoration of the project parcel(s). Such restoration shall be completed within twelve (12) months of the conclusion of the expiration of the last valid permit that was issued to the operator for the project parcel(s); provided, that if restoration is required as a result of a cease and desist order, then such restoration shall be completed within twelve (12) months of the issuance of said order; further provided, that this restoration period may be extended by the Board in its sole discretion, and then only if the operator submits documentation that the timeframe during which the required performance guarantee is valid has been extended to coincide with the length of the requested extension of the restoration period. Restoration of the project parcel(s) shall be considered complete upon the return of the removal area(s) to a functional use that will not create nuisance conditions, whether

on the project parcel or another parcel, through exposed earth minerals or soils. Furthermore, whenever the Board concludes, whether before or after removal, that it is necessary in order to secure exposed excavated slopes, such restoration shall include the covering of such slopes with soil that is capable of supporting plant growth, and that is applied with a perennial ground cover seed. Restoration additionally shall include the planting of trees or shrubs for such slope stabilization purposes only if the Board so states in conditioning the permit pursuant to § 150-6A. The seeded area will not be considered to be in a restored state until such time that established plant growth covers the majority of the seeded surface area, with at least one growing season having elapsed.

This Subsection shall not apply to removal operations that are subject to a determination of exemption.

B. Daily securing of removal areas. Excavated faces shall be knocked down and sloped at the end of each day to the extent that it is necessary in order to prevent dangerous conditions that may arise due to collapsing soils from overhangs, vertical banks or straight faces.

**§ 150-11 Enforcement and Revocation.**

Fines. Every violation of this Chapter, and every violation of the terms and conditions of any permit or determination of exemption that is issued pursuant to the same, shall be subject to \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$200 for any subsequent offense, or such other fines as may be specified in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21(17), as it may be amended from time to time. Each day during any portion of which such violation is allowed to continue shall be considered a separate offense. All such fines shall be subject to the non-criminal disposition procedures as provided in § 48-9 of these General Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D, and all such fines shall be remitted to the General Fund of the Town.

Judicial relief. The Board may seek the enforcement of this Chapter, and of the terms and conditions of any permit or determination of exemption that is issued pursuant to the same, through the issuance of injunctive or other equitable relief by the Superior Court.

Suspension or Revocation. Failure of an operator to abide by the provisions of this Chapter, or the conditions on a permit or determination of exemption that is issued pursuant to the same, shall subject said permit or determination of exemption to suspension or revocation by the Board after a hearing. The operator shall be notified of said hearing in writing by certified mail at least five (5) business days in advance of the same.

**§ 150-12 Severability.**

The provisions of this Chapter are severable. If any court of competent jurisdiction determines that any such provision is in violation of the laws, constitutions or regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States of America, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 38 VOTED:** That the Town vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by deleting from Chapter 64 SELECTMEN the following: § 64-3 Claims against Town; § 64-4 Appearance before committees; and § 64-5 Notice of regular meetings.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 10 in favor, 2 opposed.**

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 39 VOTED:** That the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23D for all types of adjudicatory hearings that are held by the boards, committees and commissions of the Town.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 40 VOTED:** That the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64L, Section 2 relative to establishing a meals tax of 0.75%.

Speaking on article: Heather Wilson, 68 Cypress Drive

Michael Callaghan, 50 Locust Street  
Chad Rose, 57 Kayleigh Court  
Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop  
Robbie Alford, 22 Weaver Street

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 8 in favor, 4 opposed.  
Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 41 VOTED:** That the Town vote to approve the borrowing of up to \$293,479,760.00 by the Greater Fall River Vocational School District School Committee, with the Town to be responsible for, and to be assessed by said District for reimbursement of such percentage of the debt service for said borrowing amount as is provided in the District Agreement, and with the purpose of said borrowing being to pay the costs of designing, engineering, constructing and equipping the new District high school and related athletic facilities located at 251 Stonehaven Road in Fall River, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, said amount to be expended at the direction of Greater Fall River Vocational School District School Committee; provided, that the District has been approved for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority in an estimated amount of up to \$148,671,938.00, that said grant shall be disbursed as a reimbursement against said approved borrowing amount, and that said grant, in its final disbursed amount, shall offset accordingly by said percentage the debt service for which the Town shall be responsible and assessed.

A presentation was given on this article by Gregory Joynt, Kaestel Boos Associates, Inc., the architect representing Diman.

Speaking on article: Dr. Ferreira, Diman School Superintendent  
Steven Kitchin, 545 Old Fall River Road  
Dan Boyer, 94 Pamela Drive  
Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop  
Jeffrey Begin, 120 Old Fall River Road  
Heather Wilson, 68 Cypress Drive

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 8 in favor, 4 opposed.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**Citizens Petition:** Mr. Burke explained that because he signed the Citizens Petition, would turn over the meeting to the Acting Town Moderator Carl Sawejko for this article.

Town Hall Building Committee

**ARTICLE 42 VOTED:**

**Motion** by Paul Burke, 15 Mattapoissett Avenue to see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the purpose to Reestablish the Town Hall Building Committee. That said Committee be comprised of: One member of the Board of Selectmen, One Member of the School Committee, One member of the Planning Board, Two members of the Advisory & Finance Board, and that said members be appointed by the Chair of the Advisory and Finance Committee, The Town Moderator and Five registered Voters.

The purpose of the Committee is to review the past documents produced by the previous Town Hall Building Committee and to consider any new options that may present itself for a Town Hall including but not limited to the use of the present Joseph Case Jr. High School located at 195 Main Street when replaced by a new middle school, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation. A second was received.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by 5 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention.**

Discussion ensued. Mr. Burke amended his motion to “raise and appropriate \$250,000.00”.  
A second was received to the amendment. Discussion again ensued regarding the amendment.  
Mr. Burke again amended his motion by striking the words “not to exceed”. A second was received.

Speaking on the amendment: Angela Dolan, 17 Windfall Drive

Mr. Sawejko called for a vote on the amendment: All in favor of the amendment – motion carried by a majority.

Mr. Burke continued to explain why this Citizens Petition was presented to the Town. Following Mr. Burke's presentation, Attorney Savastano stated that this article as written was not legal, and it exceeds the Town Meeting's authority and explained why. Mr. Burke read a legal opinion he received from Attorney Arthur Frank, in regards to Article 42 – Town Hall Building Committee.

At this time, a Motion was made by Derek Heim, 85 Nike Site Road to indefinitely postpone Article 42. A second was received. Discussion ensued.

Speaking on article:       John Robidoux, Swansea School Superintendent  
                                  Steven Kitchin, 545 Old Fall River Road  
                                  Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

Mr. Sawejko called for a vote on the motion to indefinitely postpone Article 42. Melissa Affonso, 234 Cummings Road asked how can we get rid of the former Selectmen's motion to indefinitely postpone. Mr. Sawejko stated if she did not want to indefinitely postpone, she would have to vote NO. Following two voice votes, it would not be determined. This vote went to a ballot vote. Ballot #1 was used.

10:07 PM – Ballots are cast.

10:17 PM – Ballots are counted, resulting in: YES - 69  
                  NO - 45

**Article 42 is indefinitely postponed.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 10:17 PM.

Adjournment.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Pelland  
Town Clerk

### Special Town Meeting- May 16, 2022

The Special Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Swansea, MA on May 16, 2022, was held in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts and the By-Laws of the Town of Swansea, with the rules of the meeting further governed by Town Meeting Time and Robert's Rules of Order, the Warrant and the Advisory & Finance Board recommendations duly posted, a quorum present, and all procedural requirements being met.

The meeting held at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA was called to order by the Moderator Paul C. Burke at 7:06 PM. At the opening of the meeting, there were 114 voters present.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and followed by a Moment of Silence led by BOS Chairman Steven Kitchin.

Mr. Burke announced the guests: Mallory Aronstein (Town Administrator), Luce Cabral (Swansea Cable TV), Tim Alix and Alan Minkus (Collier Project Leader), Celine Brown (Assistant Town Clerk), Stephanie Suplido (Sr. Clerk, Town Clerk's Office), Gregory Joynt (Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.), Paul Trenholm (Somerset PD), Anthony Savastano (Swansea Town Counsel), John Santos (Swansea Building Commissioner), Randi Arruda (Swansea School Department), Tracy Jo Anderson (Swansea Town Accountant), Eileen Dyer (Swansea Library Director), Zackary Seabury (Swansea Board of Health Agent), Sheila Scaduto (Swansea Principal Assessor), John Hansen (Swansea Town Planner), John Robidoux (Swansea Superintendent of Schools), Donald Dibiasio (360 Harborview, Somerset, MA), Ariana & Everlie Longtin (24 Lincoln Avenue, Swansea), Elvio Ferreira (Diman Superintendent), Karl Hezler (195 Odgen Street, Fall River, MA), Deborah Kenney (571 Florence Street, Fall River, MA), Kevin

Serpa (Swansea Veterans Agent). Mr. Burke also announced the Assistant Moderator for this evening would be Carl Sawejko.

Mr. Burke explained the process of town meeting, the ballots to be used, the warrant, and the budget book.

Moderator Burke stated should there would be a ballot vote, the ballot collector/counters were: Anita McGee, Ann Costa, Albert Costa, Nicole Cantin and Sharon Furtado.

**ARTICLE 1 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$551.48 to pay an old bill regarding electricity for street lights to Allied Account Services, and said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Recommended by A&F Committee, 9 in favor 1 opposed

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$30,000 to build a parking area at Sandy Beach, and said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue  
Michael Callahan, 50 Locust Street

Recommended by A&F Committee, 12 in favor, 1 opposed

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 3 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$125,000 for the purposes of repairing and resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts at 90 Milford Road and related purchases, and said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

Recommended by A&F Committee Unanimously

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4 VOTED:** That the Town vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$6500 for the purchase of a Kubota Tractor Field Maintenance Attachment, and said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

Recommended by A&F Committee Unanimously

**Motion carried by a majority.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Pelland, Town Clerk

### Special Town Meeting- October 24, 2022

The Special Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Swansea, MA on Monday, October 24, 2022, was held in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts and the By-Laws of the Town of Swansea, with the rules of the meeting further governed by Town Meeting Time and Robert's Rules of Order, the Warrant and the Advisory & Finance Board recommendations duly posted, a quorum present, and all procedural requirements being met.

#### 7:10 PM

Town Moderator Paul Burke called the Special Town Meeting to order at the Joseph Case High School auditorium, 70 School Street, with a quorum being present. At the opening of the meeting, there were 304 voters present as of 7:01pm.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant. - **Motion carried Unanimously.**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Carreiro and was followed by a Moment of Silence led by Mr. Kitchin regarding the upcoming Veteran's Day, for all those who have given their lives or served our country so that we

could all be here this evening practicing the best form of democracy at this Town Meeting; a Moment of Silence for their service and sacrifice.

Moderator Burke explained the rules and procedures for Town Meeting and the warrant/motions to be used; ballots to be used for this meeting are tan colored and numbered 1-10.

Mr. Burke announced the ballot counters:

Susan Hajder, Sharon Furtado, Nicole Cantin, Sandra Howarth and Kathleen LeBlanc

Mr. Burke announced the guests:

Mallory Aronstein, Swansea Town Administrator  
Tracy Jo Anderson, Swansea Town Accountant  
Caroline Niehoff, Swansea Cable Access  
Eileen Dyer, Swansea Library Director  
Celine Brown & Stephanie Suplido, Swansea Town Clerk's Office  
Alessandra Ambrosio, 25 Bluff Avenue  
Karen Lomas, Swansea Planning Department  
Scott Olobri, Swansea Highway Department  
William Anderson, Swansea Highway Director  
Atty. Anthony Savastano, Swansea Town Counsel  
John Robidoux, Swansea School Superintendent  
Liz White, Swansea School Department  
Clark Lamboy, Stevens Home-Admissions and Quality Assurance Director  
Chase Howard, 275 Bettencourt Lane  
Taylor MacDonald, Pomroy Associates  
John Hansen, Swansea Town Planner  
Alexandra Nicolosi, Swansea Board of Health  
John Santos, Swansea Building Inspector  
Kylie, Ashlyn & Cullen Pineau, 92 Stoney Hill Road, Swansea, MA  
Stewart Roberts, 24 Dane Street, Cambridge, MA  
Matthew Harbour, 474 Ocean Grove Avenue, Swansea, MA  
Patrick Mooney, Swansea Police Department  
Jessica Quintanilha, 1299 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA  
Mya Ferreira, 29 Delmage Road, Swansea, MA

7: 17PM - Update: 420 voters present.

**ARTICLE 1 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$85.00 to pay an old bill of the Park Commission for payment to the minutes clerk, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.

No discussion - article requires a 9/1 O's vote.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$9,050.00 to fund a full-time clerical position in the Planning Department, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$108,030.48 to further fund the Bristol County Agricultural High School assessment, with \$37,818.00 of said sum to be attributed to Expenses Account #01-390-52-5631, and \$70,212.48 of said sum to be attributed to Debt Expense Account #01-390-56-5631, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

A&F Recommendation: approval by 9 in favor, 3 opposed.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Length of Service Awards Program for the Firefighters of Swansea, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.  
A&F Recommendation: approval by 6 in favor. 4 opposed.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 5 VOTED:** That the Town vote to expand the purpose for which the Swansea Historical Society may expend the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Reserves monies previously authorized for the restoration of the interior and exterior walls of the Luther Museum by the approval of Article 18 of the Spring 2022 Annual Town Meeting held on

May 16, 2022 (Account No. 28-170-59-51193), by allowing said monies additionally to be expended for rehabilitation of wood-destroying insect damage and prevention of any such damage in the future, including for all ancillary activities and improvements that are necessary to support the same.

A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 6 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$52,000.00 to purchase and equip a utility vehicle for the Animal Control Officer, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

A&F Recommendation: approval by 8 in favor. 2 opposed.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 7 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$200,000.00 for the purposes of hiring an Owners Project Manager and a designer for renovating an existing building or designing a new municipal complex building that will combine offices in the Town Hall, Town Hall Annex and Council on Aging facilities, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

A&F Recommendation: approval by 11 in favor. 1 opposed.

Discussion on article.

1. Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop.

Moderator Burke called for a voice vote. Mr. Burke stated the ayes have it by a majority. Several voters challenged the Moderator's call. The article went to ballot vote. Ballot #1 was used for Article 7; a YES vote was in favor of the article; a NO vote was against the article. The article requires a simple majority to pass.

7:32PM - Update: 433 voters present.

Ballot Count: YES - 295 NO- 120. **Motion passes by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 8 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$10,000.00 for the purposes of purchasing and installing a backup video server for the Police Department, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.  
A&F Recommendation: approval by 9 in favor, 1 abstention.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 9 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$300,000.00 for the purposes of purchasing and equipping radios for the Police and Fire Departments, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

A&F Recommendation: approval by 9 in favor, 1 abstention.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 10 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$500,000.00 for the purposes of installing and constructing of various safety and security measures at each of the schools, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

A&F Recommendation: approval by 11 favor, 1 opposed.

Discussion on article:

1. Kim Waters, 25 Bluff A venue
2. Ellen Viveiros, 48 Laurel A venue
3. Gregory Andree, 107 Eisenhower Road
4. Kristin Pettey, 72 Cedar Avenue
5. Thomas Medeiros, 88 Alsada Road- requested an amendment to the article.
6. Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

Moderator requested a copy of Mr. Medeiros's motion with the correct wording to the article. Moderator Burke accepted one copy of the amendment. Mr. Burke explained how the amendment would be handled by Town Meeting. Amendment by Mr. Medeiros: Mr. Moderator, I make a motion to amend Article 10, and that said sum, \$500,000.00 be transferred from certified free cash. Second was received. Discussion: Mr. Medeiros stated we have free cash, why tax the taxpayer. Ms. Guertin asked if the amendment passes, will there be enough money left for the library project. Ms. Aronstein stated there will be enough left. No further discussion on the amendment. Moderator Burke stated a simple majority is needed to pass the amendment. Voice vote - amendment passes by a majority at 8:05pm.

Moderator Burke continued with the amended article, using certified free cash (rather than direct taxation), and called for discussion on the article as amended.

Discussion on article:

1. Kim Waters, 25 Bluff Avenue

Moderator Burke called for a vote on the article as amended. **Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 11 VOTED:** That the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by adopting a new Chapter 194, Nuisance Houses, as follows:

### **Chapter 194 Nuisance Houses**

#### **§ 194-1 Definitions.**

**A.** As used in this article of the General By-Laws, the terms below shall have the following definitions:

#### **ALCOHOL**

Ethyl alcohol, hydrated oxide of ethyl, or spirits of wine, from whatever source or by whatever process produced.

#### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE**

Liquid, including malt beverage, intended for human consumption as a beverage that contains 0.5% or more of Alcohol by volume at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### **GATHERING**

A party, crowd, or event, where a group of persons assemble for a social occasion or activity.

#### **PREMISES**

A residence or other private property, place, or location, including any commercial or business property.

#### **PROPERTY OWNER**

The legal owner of record as listed in the tax assessors' records, or, if known, the owner of record identified in the Registry of Deeds.

#### **PUBLIC NUISANCE**

A Gathering of persons on any Premises in a manner which constitutes a violation of law or creates a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property in a significant segment of a neighborhood. Unlawful conduct includes excessive noise, excessive pedestrian and vehicular traffic, obstruction of public streets by crowds or vehicles, illegal parking, public urination, the service of Alcohol to Underage Persons, fights, disturbances of the peace, and littering.

## RESPONSE COSTS

The costs associated with responses by law enforcement, fire, and other emergency response providers to a Gathering as set forth in a schedule of costs established by the Town Administrator.

## UNDERAGE PERSON

Any person under 21 years of age.

**B.** Any terms that have not been defined specifically herein shall have their normal English meanings unless the context indicates otherwise.

### **§ 194-2 Consumption of Alcohol by Underage Persons Prohibited in Public Place, Place Open to Public, or Place Not Open to Public.**

Except as permitted by the law of the Commonwealth, it shall be unlawful for an Underage Person to:

- A.** consume an Alcoholic Beverage at a public place or a place open to the public; or
- B.** consume an Alcoholic Beverage at a place not open to the public, unless supervised by a parent or legal guardian.

### **§ 194-3 Hosting, Permitting, or Allowing a Public Nuisance or Party, Gathering, or Event Where Underage Persons Consuming Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited.**

**A.** It shall be the duty of a person having control of any Premises who knowingly hosts, permits, or allows a Gathering to take all reasonable steps to prevent the consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by an Underage Person. Reasonable steps include controlling access to Alcoholic Beverages, controlling the quantity of Alcoholic Beverages, verifying the age of persons attending the Gathering by inspecting driver's licenses or other government-issued identification cards to ensure that Underage Persons do not consume Alcoholic Beverages, and supervising the activities of Underage Persons.

**B.** A Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance may be abated by all reasonable means including an order by the police requiring the Gathering to be disbanded and by citation or arrest under any applicable provision of local or Commonwealth law.

**C.** It is unlawful for a person having control of any Premises to knowingly host, permit, or allow a Gathering to take place at the Premises where at least one Underage Person consumes an alcoholic beverage, provided that the person having control of the Premises either knows or should have known that an Underage Person has consumed an alcoholic beverage, but has failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent the consumption of an alcoholic beverage by the Underage Person.

**D.** This section shall not apply to conduct involving the use of Alcoholic Beverages that occurs exclusively between an Underage Person and a parent or legal guardian as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 34.

**E.** This section shall not apply to any Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission licensee at any Premises regulated by the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

### **§ 194-4 Mailing of Notice to Property Owner.**

Notice of response by police or other local officials to a Gathering shall be mailed by the Police Department to any Property Owner and - as applicable - the rental housing manager or management organization, advising them that the third response on the same Premises within a one-year period, as measured from the date of the first notice, will result in liability of the owner or rental housing manager or management organization for all penalties associated with the response as more particularly described below.

### **§ 194-5 Persons Liable for a First and Second Response to a Gathering Constituting a Public Nuisance.**

If the police department is required to respond to a Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance on the Premises, the following persons shall be jointly and severally liable for penalties as set forth in this bylaw. Response Costs shall also be assessed.

- A.** The person or persons residing at, or otherwise in control of, the property where the Gathering took place.
- B.** The person or persons who organized or sponsored the Gathering.

C. Persons attending the Gathering who engage in activity resulting in a Public Nuisance.

**§ 194-6 Persons Liable for a Third and Subsequent Response to a Gathering Constituting a Public Nuisance.**

If the police department is required to respond to a Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance on the Premises more than twice in any one-year period, as measured from the date of the first response, the following persons shall be jointly and severally liable for penalties as set forth in this by law. Response Costs shall also be assessed.

A. Any person who owns or manages the property where the Gathering constituting the Public Nuisance took place, provided that notice of the first and second responses has been mailed to the owner or manager of the property as set forth herein and the Gathering occurs at least 14 days after the mailing the second notice. The owner of the property shall not be held responsible for a violation and penalties if the owner is actively trying to evict a tenant from the property. The one-year time period for violations for a property shall pertain to only those residents occupying the property who have had the prior violation(s). New residents shall start a new one-year time cycle should the new residents violate the bylaw.

B. Any persons residing on or otherwise in control of the property where the Gathering took place.

C. Any persons who organized or sponsored the Gathering.

D. Any persons attending the Gathering who engaged in any activity resulting in the Public Nuisance.

**§ 194-6 Enforcement**

A. The Town shall additionally seek administrative costs and Response Costs associated with enforcement of Sections 194-2 and 194-3, through all remedies or procedures provided by the law of the Commonwealth or local law.

B. The provisions of this Chapter 194 shall not limit the authority of police officers to make arrests for any criminal offense arising out of conduct regulated by said Chapter, nor shall those sections limit the Town's or the Commonwealth's authority to initiate and prosecute a criminal offense arising out of the same circumstances necessitating the application of said Chapter.

C. This Bylaw shall be enforced by the Chief of Police, the Health Director, the Building Commissioner and their authorized designees. For all purposes other than the granting of permits under this By-law, designees of the Chief of Police shall include any Swansea Police Officer.

D. A fine of \$300 shall be imposed for each violation of the provisions of this Chapter, which fine shall be enforced through the noncriminal method of disposition as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D. Each incident and each day of a continuing violation shall be considered a separate violation.

A&P Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 12 VOTED:** That the Town vote to amend Chapter 7 of the General Bylaws by adding a new Article XI, Sewer Commission, as follows:

ARTICLE XI - Sewer Commission

§ 7-35 Establishment; membership and terms.

There is hereby established in the Town of Swansea a Sewer Commission, which shall be an elected body consisting of three members. The initial members thereof shall be elected as follows: the member who receives the third highest vote total shall serve for one year, the member who receives the second highest vote total shall serve for two years and the member who receives the highest vote total shall serve for three years. Thereafter, members of the Sewer Commission shall be elected to terms of three years each, with the term of one member expiring in each year.

The members of the Commission shall,

after each election, elect one of their members to act as chairperson of the Commission for the ensuing year. No member of the Commission shall hold any other elected Town Office.

§ 7-36 Powers and Duties.

The Sewer Commission shall have the power and duty to design, construct, maintain, operate, repair and improve public sewer infrastructure; to implement and oversee the sewer connection permitting process, the use of the public sewer infrastructure by the public, and the billing and payment process for such usage; and to undertake inspections and compliance oversight to prevent misuse of the public sewer infrastructure; and shall have such other powers and duties that are provided by law for sewer commissions and sewer commissioners, including, without limitation, under Massachusetts General

Laws, Chapter 41, Section 65, and Chapter 83.

§ 7-37 Plans and Records.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 83, Section 2, it is hereby determined that all plans and records relating to drains and sewers, and the associated charges and assessments therefor, shall be held in the office of the Sewer Commission.

§ 7-38 Regulations.

The Sewer Commission may make such regulations as it deems to be prudent for effectuating, enforcing and implementing its powers and duties as provided in this Article XI, and for such other purposes as are provided by statute, including without limitation, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 83, Section 10.

§ 7-39 Monopoly of Authority.

Any sewer line or drain that is laid within any public or private way that is open for public travel, or that is intended for public travel upon completion of said way, shall be a common sewer. No such common sewer may be connected to the existing public sewer infrastructure of the Town without the authorization of the Sewer Commission.

§ 7-40 Enforcement.

Each violation of either this Article XI or the regulations of the Sewer Commission shall be punishable by a fine of \$300. All such fines shall be subject to the noncriminal disposition method, and shall be enforceable by the Sewer Commission, its agents and any police officer. Each day of a continuing violation shall be a separate offense. Nothing herein shall preclude the Sewer Commission from seeking judicial relief, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 83. Nothing herein shall preclude the Sewer Commission from including in its regulations the maximum civil penalties as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 83, Section 10, or from thereafter seeking to impose such civil penalties as part of any such judicial relief.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

Discussion on article:

1. Jeffrey Higgins, 1816 G.A.R. Highway
2. Michael Callahan, 50 Locust Street
3. William Anderson, Swansea Highway Director/Town Engineer
4. Jim Furtado, 204 Stevens Road
5. Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop
6. Gary Munroe, 7 Brook Road
7. Brian Bell, 91 Sycamore Street

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 13 VOTED:** That the Town vote to delete the entirety of Article VI (§§7-22 through 7-24) of Chapter 7 of the General Bylaws; And further, to delete the language of both §7-25 of the General Bylaws excepting only the title, and replace it with the following:

The Park Commission shall be responsible for the following:

**A.** To acquire land for, supervise, maintain, regulate, lay out and improve public parks in the Town, and with all of the powers and duties as provided under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Sections 1-9.

**B.** To acquire, lease and maintain land and buildings for public playgrounds and recreation centers, and to conduct and promote recreation, play, sports and physical education in the Town, and with all of the powers and duties as provided under

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 14.

And further, to delete the language of §7-26 of the General Bylaws, excepting only the title, and replace it with the following: The commission shall consist of five members each of whom shall be elected for the term of five years. The

term of one member shall expire in each year. The elimination of the Recreation Commission and the transfer of its powers and duties to the Park Commission in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 14, shall not alter the then-existing membership of the Park Commission, which members shall retain their existing terms.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

No discussion on article.

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 14 VOTED:** That the Town vote to have its elected Treasurer/Collector position become an appointed Treasurer/Collector; and to have the Board of Selectmen to place on the Annual Town Election Ballot, a question to

see if the residents of the Town of Swansea will vote to have its elected Treasurer/Collector become an appointed Treasurer/Collector in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 18.

**A&F Recommendation: approval by unanimous vote.**

Discussion on article:

1. Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

**Motion carried by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 15 VOTED:** That the Town vote to appropriate a total sum of \$19,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the library expansion and renovation project as previously approved by the adoption of Article 21 of the Spring 2017 Annual Town Meeting held on May 15, 2017, and that \$15,000,000.00 of said sum be transferred from certified free cash and that the Treasurer be authorized, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$4,000,000.00 of said sum pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; And further, to clarify that the spending of said sum of money shall not be contingent upon the Board of Selectmen and/or the Library Building Committee and/or the Trustees of the Swansea Library first applying for, accepting or expending a particular minimum threshold monetary value of state grants or other state funds, so long as any monetary value of state grants or other state funds already has been received as previously authorized by the adoption of Article 20 of the Spring 2017 Annual Town Meeting, held on May 15, 2017. At this time, a presentation was given by Mr. Jim Devol, Chairman of the Library Building Planning Committee.

**A&F Recommendation: approval 7 in favor, 5 opposed.**

Discussion on article:

1. Paul Formisano, 53 Tallawanda Road

2. Dennis Audet, 3 Cheryl Drive

3. Angela Dolan, 17 Windfall Drive

4. Sarah Reid, 89 Elm Street

5. Helen Busher, 27 Clancy Street

6. Sarah Hunicke, 206 Pearse Road

7. Matthew Kielec, 120 Kayleigh Court

8. Elizabeth Smith, 59 Main Street

9. Lisa Pergolla, 104 Puffer Avenue

10. Ellen Viveiros, 48 Laurel Avenue

11. Eileen Dyer, Swansea Library Director

Discussion ended - Moderator Burke stated this will be a ballot vote because this is a borrowing article; a borrowing article requires a 2/3's majority to pass. Ballot #6 was used for Article #15.

8:35PM - Update: 445 voters present.

Moderator Burke stated that 424 votes were cast. Ballot Count: YES -297 NO- 127.

**Motion passes by a 2/3's majority.**

**ARTICLE 16: CITIZEN PETITION** -Moderator Burke stated Article 16 was a Citizen's Petition. The Planning Board took no action on this petition therefore, Town Meeting cannot take any action.

**9:43 PM**

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Special Town Meeting.

**Motion carried Unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pelland

Town Clerk

## Elections

Annual Town Election - April 11, 2022

The Annual Town Election was held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School St., Swansea, MA with five polling places. Polls opened at 12noon and closed at 8PM. 1,141 voters checked-in.  
The following are the results of the election.

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Precinct 5	TOTAL
	219	267	209	201	245	1141

**SELECTMAN - THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR ONE)**

ROBERT C. MEDEIROS	103	116	116	126	135	596
JAMES J. PELLETIER	113	147	93	75	109	537
WRITE-INS	0	1	0	0	0	1
BLANKS	3	3	0	0	1	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**TREASURER/COLLECTOR - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE**

ELIZABETH B. LEONARDO	173	204	165	164	187	893
WRITE-INS	1	0	1	0	2	4
BLANKS	45	63	43	37	56	244
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**ASSESSOR OF TAXES - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE**

PATRICK J. TRAVIS	165	195	150	155	176	841
WRITE-INS	1	0	2	1	0	4
BLANKS	53	72	57	45	69	296
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE**

ALANNA B. SOLITRO	159	191	160	157	167	834
WRITE-INS	1	0	0	1	2	4
BLANKS	59	76	49	43	76	303
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR TWO**

SUSAN T. McMULLEN	151	181	134	138	157	761
SARAH K. HUNICKE	132	153	122	136	141	684
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	155	200	162	128	192	837
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2282</b>

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE**

ROBERT F. SILVEIRA	145	174	151	140	165	775
WRITE-INS	0	1	1	0	0	2
BLANKS	74	92	57	61	80	364
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Precinct 5	TOTAL
	219	267	209	201	245	1141
<b>CONSTABLE - THREE YEARS - VOTE FOR SIX</b>						
JONATHAN K. FURTADO	147	185	151	142	155	780
ROBERT K. FURTADO	145	182	159	144	152	782
SUSAN E. TAVEIRA	5	0	0	0	0	5
JAMES D. HALL	2	0	0	0	0	2
RANDY J. LEBEAU	0	0	0	0	2	2
WRITE-INS	5	1	4	11	2	23
BLANKS	1010	1234	940	909	1159	5252
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>1206</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>6846</b>
<b>HOUSING AUTHORITY - FIVE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE</b>						
CARLOS SILVA	13	1	0	0	1	15
WRITE-INS	5	13	15	9	11	53
BLANKS	201	253	194	192	233	1073
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>
<b>PLANNING BOARD - FIVE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE</b>						
PAUL WAPLE	22	26	10	2	15	75
CARLOS SILVA	5	8	6	0	7	26
WRITE-INS	6	9	11	16	5	47
BLANKS	186	224	182	183	218	993
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>
<b>PARK COMMISSION - FIVE YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE</b>						
PAUL WAPLE	0	3	1	0	0	4
WRITE-INS	14	7	11	7	7	46
BLANKS	205	257	197	194	238	1091
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>
<b>QUESTION 1 - Shall the Town vote to have its Selectmen act as the Sewer Commissioners?</b>						
YES	91	119	89	99	108	506
NO	108	122	104	88	111	533
BLANKS	20	26	16	14	26	102
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**QUESTION 2 - Shall the Town of Swansea be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the Town's allocable share of the bond issued by the Greater Fall River Vocational School District for the purpose of paying costs of designing, engineering, constructing and equip a new Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School and related athletic facilities at 251 Stonehaven Road in Fall River, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?**

YES	93	127	103	107	119	549
NO	104	115	91	80	104	494
BLANKS	22	25	15	14	22	98
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1141</b>

**STATE PRIMARY**

September 06, 2022

The State Primary was held on Tuesday, September 06, 2022 in the Town of Swansea at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA with five polling places opening at 7:00 AM. The number of voters checked in at the polls was 1,747. The following is the State Primary results.

<b>DEMOCRATIC</b>
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	<b>Prec 1</b>	<b>Prec 2</b>	<b>Prec 3</b>	<b>Prec 4</b>	<b>Prec 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>GOVERNOR</b>						
SONIA ROSA CHANG-DIAZ	53	51	73	37	52	266
MAURA HEALEY	253	337	315	260	241	1406
WRITE INS	0	1	1	2	0	4
BLANKS	6	15	23	10	17	71
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
 <b>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR</b>						
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL	104	156	158	127	113	658
TAMI GOUVEIA	98	102	107	85	77	469
ERIC LESSER	88	115	107	69	88	467
WRITE INS	1	0	0	0	1	2
BLANKS	21	31	40	28	31	151
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
 <b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>						
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL	91	105	117	115	94	522
SHANNON ERIKA LISS-RIORDAN	141	180	169	109	126	725
QUENTIN PALFREY	67	98	97	69	68	399
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	13	21	29	16	22	101
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
 <b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>						
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	233	290	288	215	228	1254
TANISHA M. SULLIVAN	72	99	99	82	63	415
WRITE-INS	7	15	25	12	19	78
BLANKS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
 <b>TREASURER</b>						
DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG	264	347	342	266	251	1470
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	2	1	4
BLANKS	48	57	69	41	58	273
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
	<b>Prec 1</b>	<b>Prec 2</b>	<b>Prec 3</b>	<b>Prec 4</b>	<b>Prec 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>

**AUDITOR**

CHRISTOPHER S. DEMPSEY	100	141	130	101	98	570
DIANE DiZOGGIO	184	221	234	173	173	985
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	28	42	48	35	39	192
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - FOURTH DISTRICT**

JAKE AUCHINCLOSS	272	362	352	283	270	1539
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	1	0	2
BLANKS	40	42	59	25	40	206
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

**COUNCILLOR - FIRST DISTRICT**

JOSEPH C. FERREIRA	273	332	344	262	252	1463
WRITE-INS	1	0	1	2	3	7
BLANKS	38	72	67	45	55	277
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT - FIRST BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT**

MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES	271	352	349	267	256	1495
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	1	0	2
BLANKS	41	52	62	41	54	250
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FIFTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

PATRICIA A. HADDAD	276	357	357			990
WRITE-INS	1	2	1			4
BLANKS	35	45	54			134
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1128</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FOURTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

WRITE-INS				44	48	92
BLANKS				265	262	527
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>619</b>

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY - BRISTOL DISTRICT**

THOMAS M. QUINN, III	161	208	199	147	141	856
SHANNON M. McMAHON	143	186	204	157	155	845
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	8	10	9	5	14	46

<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>
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**SHERIFF - BRISTOL COUNTY**

NICHOLAS BERNIER	132	154	145	107	121	659
PAUL R. HEROUX	57	89	78	75	79	378
GEORGE M. McNEIL, JR.	111	147	170	116	89	633
WRITE-INS	1	14	0	0	0	15
BLANKS	11	0	19	11	21	62
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER - BRISTOL COUNTY**

JOHN THOMAS SAUNDERS	265	334	334	258	240	1431
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	0	1	2
BLANKS	47	70	77	51	69	314
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1747</b>

<b>REPUBLICAN</b>
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	<b>Prec 1</b>	<b>Prec 2</b>	<b>Prec 3</b>	<b>Prec 4</b>	<b>Prec 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>
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**GOVERNOR**

GEOFF DIEHL	111	87	71	76	120	465
CHRIS DOUGHTY	72	60	70	74	86	362
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0	3	3
BLANKS	4	4	3	1	3	15
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

LEAH V. ALLEN	98	81	82	76	106	443
KATE CAMPBELL	71	56	49	67	92	335
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0	2	2
BLANKS	18	14	13	8	12	65
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

JAMES R. McMAHON, III	156	132	121	128	167	704
WRITE-INS	2	0	2	0	3	7
BLANKS	29	19	21	23	42	134
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

RAYLA CAMPBELL	154	123	118	118	161	674
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WRITE-INS	0	0	1	0	2	3
BLANKS	33	28	25	33	49	168
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**TREASURER**

WRITE-INS	21	12	10	8	24	75
BLANKS	166	139	134	143	188	770
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**AUDITOR**

ANTHONY AMORE	143	112	115	109	155	634
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	0	3	4
BLANKS	44	39	28	42	54	207
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - FOURTH DISTRICT**

DAVID CANNATA	10	0	0	0	1	11
WRITE-INS	24	14	15	11	27	91
BLANKS	153	137	129	140	184	743
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**COUNCILLOR - FIRST DISTRICT**

WRITE-INS	23	7	7	7	24	68
BLANKS	164	144	137	144	188	777
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT - FIRST BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT**

RUSSELL T. PROTENTIS	136	108	110	108	156	618
WRITE-INS	3	0	0	0	2	5
BLANKS	48	43	34	43	54	222
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FIFTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

JUSTIN THURBER	17	11	11			39
WRITE-INS	25	5	6			36
BLANKS	145	135	127			407
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>			<b>482</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FOURTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

STEVEN S. HOWITT				124	176	300
WRITE-INS				6	4	10

BLANKS					21	32	53
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>					<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>363</b>

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY - BRISTOL DISTRICT**

WRITE-INS	30	10	10	11	22	83
BLANKS	157	141	134	140	190	762
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**SHERIFF - BRISTOL COUNTY**

THOMAS M. HODGSON	155	128	118	128	175	704
WRITE-INS	5	2	2	1	7	17
BLANKS	27	21	24	22	30	124
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER - BRISTOL COUNTY**

WRITE-INS	22	9	6	4	22	63
BLANKS	165	142	138	147	190	782
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>845</b>

**STATE ELECTION****November 08, 2022**

The State Election was held on Tuesday, November 08, 2022 in theTown of Swansea at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA with one polling location containing five precincts. The polls were from 7:00AM to 8:00PM. The number of voters checked in at the precincts were 2,592. The following is the State Election results.

	<b>Precinct 1</b>	<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>Precinct 4</b>	<b>Precinct 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>GOVERNOR and LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR</b>						
DIEHL and ALLEN	751	604	623	729	761	3468
HEALEY and DRISCOLL	580	726	720	660	640	3326
REED and EVERETT	19	18	24	22	20	103
BLANKS	11	10	12	6	6	45
WRITE-INS	2	3	1	2	2	10
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>						
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL	575	692	706	650	617	3240
JAMES R. McMAHON, III	762	636	651	747	782	3578
BLANKS	26	33	22	20	30	131
WRITE-INS	0	0	1	2	0	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>						
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	640	756	767	724	670	3557
RAYLA CAMPBELL	684	549	572	645	705	3155
JUAN SANCHEZ	22	35	23	20	30	130
BLANKS	17	21	18	30	24	110
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>						
DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG	720	822	825	827	756	3950
CRISTINA CRAWFORD	423	380	390	406	437	2036
BLANKS	212	150	151	176	221	910
WRITE-INS	8	9	14	10	15	56
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>
<b>AUDITOR</b>						
ANTHONY AMORE	726	591	613	719	768	3417
DIANA DiZOGGIO	505	617	637	574	523	2856
GLORIA A. CABALLERO-ROCA	19	22	24	17	23	105
DOMINIC GIANNONE, III	34	41	31	15	32	153
DANIEL RIEK	25	32	29	31	26	143
BLANKS	54	57	46	63	57	277
WRITE-INS	0	1	0	0	0	1

<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>
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**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - FOURTH DISTRICT**

JAKE AUCHINCLOSS	796	886	905	897	832	4316
BLANKS	497	404	405	472	533	2311
WRITE-INS	70	71	70	50	64	325
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

	<b>Precinct 1</b>	<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>Precinct 4</b>	<b>Precinct 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>
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**COUNCILLOR - FIRST DISTRICT**

JOSEPH C. FERREIRA	844	891	945	941	859	4480
BLANKS	461	414	393	439	518	2225
WRITE-INS	58	56	42	39	52	247
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT - FIRST BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT**

MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES	640	775	784	735	679	3613
RUSSELL T. PROTENTIS	691	543	562	654	713	3163
BLANKS	30	42	34	29	36	171
WRITE-INS	2	1	0	1	1	5
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FIFTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

PATRICIA A. HADDAD	615	760	727			2102
JUSTIN THURBER	721	584	627			1932
BLANKS	24	17	24			65
WRITE-INS	3	0	2			5
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>			<b>4104</b>

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - FOURTH BRISTOL DISTRICT**

STEVEN S. HOWITT				1070	1073	2143
BLANKS				330	309	639
WRITE-INS				19	47	66
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>				<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>2848</b>

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY - BRISTOL DISTRICT**

THOMAS M. QUINN,III	882	914	948	964	883	4591
SHANNON M. McMAHON	0	4	6	3	0	13
BLANKS	436	401	380	423	491	2131
WRITE-INS	45	42	46	29	55	217
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**SHERIFF - BRISTOL COUNTY**

THOMAS M. HODGSON	817	647	694	790	805	3753
PAUL R. HEROUX	519	697	669	611	609	3105
BLANKS	22	13	15	18	15	83
WRITE-INS	5	4	2	0	0	11
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER - BRISTOL COUNTY**

JOHN THOMAS SAUNDERS	823	889	921	935	842	4410
BLANKS	494	422	414	450	537	2317
WRITE-INS	46	50	45	34	50	225
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**QUESTION 1 - PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - STATE TAX INCREASE**

YES	537	611	630	603	551	2932
NO	776	685	669	764	820	3714
BLANKS	50	65	81	52	58	306
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**QUESTION 2 - LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION - DENTAL BENEFIT PLANS**

YES	794	876	862	867	837	4236
NO	507	414	427	489	526	2363
BLANKS	62	71	91	63	66	353
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**QUESTION 3 - LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION - ALCOHOL LICENSE LIMITS**

YES	475	520	524	528	513	2560
NO	815	754	761	827	836	3993
BLANKS	73	87	95	64	80	399
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

**QUESTION 4 - REFERENDUM ON AN EXISTING LAW - OBTAINING A STANDARD DRIVERS LICENSE**

YES	470	578	492	530	488	2558
NO	828	717	799	832	879	4055
BLANKS	65	66	89	57	62	339
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>6952</b>

## Town Accountant

### YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). Governmental activities include general government, public safety, education, public works, health and human services, culture and recreation, and debt service – interest. Business-type activities include solid waste operations.

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds can be divided into the following categories.

1. Governmental Funds
2. Proprietary Funds
3. Fiduciary Funds

**Governmental Fund** financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of expendable resources, as well as on balances of expendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements. The changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate the comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains *two* types of **proprietary funds**.

*The Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The Town uses an enterprise fund to account for its solid waste operations, which is considered to be a major fund.

*Internal service funds* are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the Town's various functions. In the past, the town was self-insured and used an internal service fund to account for its employees' health insurance.

**Fiduciary funds** are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of these funds are not available to support the Town's programs.

The other post-employment benefits (OPEB) trust fund is reported in the fiduciary fund financial Statements under "custodial funds".

#### **Financial Highlights**

- The assets of the Town exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$4,437,187 (net position).
- The Town's total net position increased \$3,566,531.
- At the end of the fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the general fund totaled \$24,871,200 or 43.8% of total general fund revenues and transfers in.
- The Town's total bonded debt decreased \$861,026 during the fiscal year; the town issued no new debt during the fiscal year.

#### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The original general fund budget of \$49,715,231 increased \$377,051 (0.76%) during the fiscal year. The following table summarizes the increase:

<u>Purpose of Increase</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Road Resurfacing	\$ 125,000	Unassigned fund balance
Police Camera Equipment	140,000	Unassigned fund balance
Library Expansion	75,000	Unassigned fund balance
Parking Area at Sandy beach	30,000	Unassigned fund balance
Other	<u>7,051</u>	Unassigned fund balance
<hr/>		
Total Increase	\$ 377,051	

During the year, revenues and other financing sources exceeded budgetary estimates while expenditures and encumbrances and continuing appropriations were less than budgetary estimates, resulting in a positive budget to actual variance of \$5,781,785.

**Capital Assets**

The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$36,006,617 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, construction in progress, land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment and vehicles, and infrastructure. The investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year increased 1.3%.

Major capital asset events that occurred during the current fiscal year include:

Town Hall Roof Replacement (\$681,000)

Road Paving and Resurfacing (\$858,000)

Public Safety and Public Works Vehicles and Equipment (\$263,000)

**Long-Term Debt**

At the end of the current fiscal year, 2022, total bonded debt outstanding was \$5,139,566.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
General Obligation Bonds	\$5,904,968	\$5,937,169
MCWT notes	95,626	113,630
Total bonds and notes	<u>\$6,000,594</u>	<u>\$6,050,799</u>

The town's total bonded debt decreased \$861,028 during the current fiscal year. No new long-term debt was issued during the fiscal year. There was no short-term debt activity during fiscal year 2022.

The following Financial Statements are provided for your information;

-Statement of Net Position

-Statement of Activities

-Balance Sheet Governmental Funds

-Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

-Statement of Net Position- Enterprise

-Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and changes in Fund balance Budget and Actual

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Jo Anderson  
Town Accountant

<b>STATEMENT OF NET POSITION</b>			
<b>June 30, 2022</b>			
	Primary Government		
	Governmental	Business-type	
	Activities	Activities	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,156,610	\$ 715,008	\$ 35,871,618
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	21,330,298	-	21,330,298
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:			
Real estate and personal property taxes	607,363	-	607,363
Tax & Trash liens	2,661,459	41,394	2,702,853
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	280,142	-	280,142
User charges	-	336,456	336,456
Intergovernmental	719,796	-	426,048
Total current assets	60,755,668	1,092,858	61,848,526
Noncurrent assets:			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		-	-
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:			
Real estate tax deferrals	34,247	-	34,247
Tax Foreclosures	-	-	-
Capital assets not being depreciated	5,498,722	-	5,498,722
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	30,507,895	-	30,507,895
Total noncurrent assets	36,040,864	-	36,040,864
Total assets	96,796,532	1,092,858	97,889,390
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Related to OPEB	14,263,871		14,263,871
Related to pension	4,574,488		4,574,488
Total Deferred Outflows of resources	18,838,359	-	18,838,359
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current liabilities:			
Warrants payable	930,719	117,170	1,047,889
Accrued payroll	2,832,150	356	2,832,506
Tax refunds payable	1,104,245	-	1,104,245
Other liabilities	712,461	-	712,461
Accrued interest	89,427	-	89,427
Lease Liability	37,305		
Unearned Revenue	1,170,217		
Compensated absences	109,637	-	109,637
Net OPEB Liability	443,774		443,774
Short-Term Notes Payable	-		-
Long-term bonds and notes payable	648,003	-	648,003
Total current liabilities	8,077,938	117,526	8,195,464
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Lease Liability	75,938		
Compensated Absences	986,731	-	986,731
Net OPEB Liability	53,492,024		53,492,024
Net Pension Liability	18,653,130	-	18,653,130
Long-term bonds and notes payable	4,491,565	-	4,491,565
Total noncurrent liabilities	77,699,388	-	77,623,450
Total liabilities	85,777,326	117,526	85,894,852
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Related To OPEB	31,286,225		31,286,225
Related To Pension	3,983,859		3,983,859
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	35,270,084		35,270,084
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	31,185,708	-	31,185,708
Restricted for:		<b>48</b>	
Community preservation	2,259,239	-	2,259,239
Debt service		-	-
Permanent funds:			
Expendable	1,554,055	-	1,554,055
Nonexpendable	8,794,301	-	8,794,301
Other specific purposes	6,262,070	-	6,262,070



<b>GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS</b>					
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>					
<b>JUNE 30, 2022</b>					
		Community	Joseph Case	Nonmajor	Total
	General	Preservation	Trust	Governmental	Governmental
<b>ASSETS</b>				Funds	Funds
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,155,559	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,155,559
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:					\$ -
Real estate and personal property taxes	607,363	-	-	-	\$ 607,363
Real estate tax deferrals	34,247	-	-	-	\$ 34,247
Tax liens	2,659,089	2,370	-	-	\$ 2,661,459
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	280,142	-	-	-	\$ 280,142
Community Preservation surcharges	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Intergovernmental	10,843	-	-	708,953	\$ 719,796
Tax foreclosures	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Restricted assets:					\$ -
Cash and cash equivalents	-	2,256,869	8,151,132	10,922,297	\$ 21,330,298
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$38,747,243</b>	<b>\$ 2,259,239</b>	<b>\$ 8,151,132</b>	<b>\$ 11,631,250</b>	<b>\$ 60,788,864</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</b>					
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
Warrants payable	\$ 531,212	\$ -	\$ 127,765	\$ 271,742	\$ 1,043,352
Accrued payroll	2,764,783	-	-	67,367	\$ 2,832,150
Tax refunds payable	1,104,245	-	-	-	\$ 1,104,245
Other liabilities	53,217	-	-	659,244	\$ 712,461
Unearned Revenue	-	-	-	1,170,217	\$ 1,170,217
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,453,457</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>127,765</b>	<b>2,168,570</b>	<b>\$ 6,749,792</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>					
Unavailable Revenue	3,398,495	2,370			\$ 3,400,865
					\$ -
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>					
Nonspendable	-	-	7,999,529	794,772	\$ 8,794,301
Restricted	-	2,256,869	23,838	8,943,827	\$ 11,224,534
Committed	5,067,443	-	-	-	\$ 5,067,443
Assigned	956,648	-	-	-	\$ 956,648
Unassigned	24,871,200	-	-	(275,919)	\$ 24,595,281
					\$ -
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>30,895,291</b>	<b>2,256,869</b>	<b>8,023,367</b>	<b>9,462,680</b>	<b>\$ 50,638,207</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$38,747,243</b>	<b>\$ 2,259,239</b>	<b>\$ 8,151,132</b>	<b>\$ 11,631,250</b>	<b>\$ 60,788,864</b>

<b>GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS</b>					
<b>STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES</b>					
<b>FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022</b>					
				Nonmajor	Total
		Community	Joseph Case	Governmental	Governmental
	General	Preservation	Trust	Funds	Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 35,884,279	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,884,279
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	2,757,556	-	-	-	2,757,556
Tax liens	734,571	-	-	-	734,571
Payments in lieu of Taxes	-	-	-	-	-
Community preservation surcharges	-	384,424	-	-	384,424
Charges for services	-	-	-	659,536	659,536
Intergovernmental	15,551,037	157,296	-	4,751,208	20,459,541
Penalties and interest on taxes	768,178	9,265	-	-	777,443
Licenses and permits	547,044	-	-	-	547,044
Fines and forfeitures	90,845	-	-	-	90,845
Departmental and other	379,897	-	-	870,220	1,250,117
Contributions	-	-	-	20,823	20,823
Investment income	17,878	-	(657,237)	13,665	(625,694)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>56,731,285</b>	<b>550,985</b>	<b>(657,237)</b>	<b>6,315,452</b>	<b>62,940,485</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
General government	2,475,887	58,091	-	946,849	3,480,827
Public safety	5,635,798	-	-	830,673	6,466,471
Education	28,526,796	-	1,559,689	3,293,864	33,380,349
Public works	1,575,274	-	-	526,167	2,101,441
Health and human services	826,480	-	-	91,061	917,541
Culture and recreation	597,638	-	-	306,336	903,974
Pension benefits	2,404,015	-	-	-	2,404,015
Employee benefits	6,338,366	-	-	-	6,338,366
Property and liability insurance	498,416	-	-	-	498,416
State and county charges	976,341	-	-	-	976,341
Debt service:					
Principal	592,747	60,000	-	-	652,747
Interest	208,664	36,347	-	-	245,011
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>50,656,422</b>	<b>154,438</b>	<b>1,559,689</b>	<b>5,994,950</b>	<b>58,365,499</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES</b>					
<b>OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>6,074,863</b>	<b>396,547</b>	<b>(2,216,926)</b>	<b>320,502</b>	<b>4,574,986</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Premium from Issuance of Bonds & Notes	-	-	-	-	-
Lease Proceeds	147,621	-	-	-	147,621
Transfers In	7,901	-	-	-	7,901
Transfers Out	-	-	-	(7,901)	(7,901)
Payments to refunding Bond Escrow Agent	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	<b>155,522</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,901)</b>	<b>147,621</b>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>6,230,385</b>	<b>396,547</b>	<b>(2,216,926)</b>	<b>312,601</b>	<b>4,722,607</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>24,664,906</b>	<b>1,860,322</b>	<b>10,240,293</b>	<b>9,150,079</b>	<b>45,915,600</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 30,895,291</b>	<b>\$ 2,256,869</b>	<b>\$ 8,023,367</b>	<b>\$ 9,462,680</b>	<b>\$ 50,638,207</b>

<b>PROPRIETARY FUNDS</b>		
<b>STATEMENT OF FUND NET POSITION</b>		
<b>JUNE 30, 2022</b>		
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND</b>		
	Business-Type	
	Acitivities -	Governmental
	Enterprise Fund	Acitivities-
		Internal
	Solid Waste	Service Fund
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 715,008	\$ 1,051
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:		
Trash liens	41,394	
User charges	336,456	-
Total assets	1,092,858	1,051
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Warrants payable	117,170	-
Accrued Payroll	356	-
Total liabilities	117,526	-
<b>FUND NET POSITION</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 975,332	\$ 1,051

GENERAL FUND								
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE								
BUDGET AND ACTUAL								
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022								
	Prior Year					Current Year	Actual and	
	Encumbrances	Original	Supplemental	Final	Actual	Encumbrances	Encumbrances	Variance
	and Continuing	Budget	Appropriations	Budget		and Continuing	and Continuing	Positive /
	Appropriations		and Transfers			Appropriations	Appropriations	(Negative)
<b>REVENUES</b>								
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ -	\$ 35,291,667	\$ 215,000	\$ 35,506,667	\$ 35,704,402	\$ -	\$ 35,704,402	\$ 197,735
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	-	1,617,500	-	1,617,500	2,757,556	-	2,757,556	1,140,056
Tax liens	-	-	-	-	734,571	-	734,571	734,571
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	11,646,733	-	11,646,733	11,970,714	-	11,970,714	323,981
Penalties and interest on taxes	-	18,000	-	18,000	768,178	-	768,178	650,178
Licenses and permits	-	250,000	-	250,000	547,044	-	547,044	297,044
Fines and forfeitures	-	25,000	-	25,000	90,845	-	90,845	65,845
Departmental and other	-	132,750	-	132,750	379,897	-	379,897	247,147
Investment income	-	13,000	-	13,000	16,668	-	16,668	3,668
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	-	<b>49,094,650</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>49,309,650</b>	<b>52,969,875</b>	-	<b>52,969,875</b>	<b>3,660,225</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
Current:								
General government	1,008,892	2,068,636	551	3,078,079	2,383,250	543,243	2,926,493	151,586
Public safety	287,212	6,464,512	140,000	6,891,724	5,635,798	963,937	6,599,735	291,989
Education	881,760	25,156,054	-	26,017,814	24,946,473	821,586	25,768,059	249,755
Public works	1,040,317	1,606,100	125,000	2,771,417	1,575,274	1,145,280	2,720,554	50,863
Health and human services	230,308	964,517	-	1,194,825	826,480	240,471	1,066,951	127,874
Culture and recreation	23,457	745,648	111,500	880,605	597,638	227,813	825,451	55,154
Pension benefits	-	2,404,175	-	2,404,175	2,404,015	-	2,404,015	160
Employee benefits	-	7,500,659	-	7,500,659	6,338,366	16,761	6,355,127	1,145,532
Property and liability insurance	-	498,416	-	498,416	498,416	-	498,416	-
State and county charges	-	910,740	-	910,740	976,341	-	976,341	(65,601)
Debt service:								
Principal	-	558,368	-	558,368	558,368	-	558,368	-
Interest	-	294,406	-	294,406	188,059	-	188,059	106,347
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,471,946</b>	<b>49,152,231</b>	<b>377,051</b>	<b>53,001,228</b>	<b>46,928,478</b>	<b>3,959,091</b>	<b>50,887,569</b>	<b>2,113,659</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES</b>								
<b>OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(3,471,946)</b>	<b>(57,581)</b>	<b>(162,051)</b>	<b>(3,691,578)</b>	<b>6,041,397</b>	<b>(3,959,091)</b>	<b>2,082,306</b>	<b>5,773,884</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>								
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	7,901	-	7,901	7,901
Premium from issuance of Bonds & Notes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	(563,000)	-	(563,000)	(563,000)	-	(563,000)	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(563,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(563,000)</b>	<b>(555,099)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(555,099)</b>	<b>7,901</b>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(3,471,946)</b>	<b>(620,581)</b>	<b>(162,051)</b>	<b>(4,254,578)</b>	<b>5,486,298</b>	<b>(3,959,091)</b>	<b>1,527,207</b>	<b>5,781,785</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,478,939</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 19,006,993</b>	<b>\$ 21,858,358</b>	<b>\$ 22,316,888</b>	<b>\$ 18,224,361</b>	<b>\$ 27,965,237</b>	<b>\$ (3,959,091)</b>	<b>\$ 24,006,146</b>	<b>\$ 5,781,785</b>

## Appointments

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Christopher Carreiro	06-30-2023
Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
Bruce Sutherland, Jr.	06-30-2023

### **Beach Committee**

Tim Haley	06-30-2023
George Jenkinson	06-30-2023
Frances Kelley	06-30-2023
Melissa Kenyon	06-30-2023
Kelly O'Brien-Plante	06-30-2023
Charlene Orton	06-30-2023
Lorrie Prior	06-30-2023

### **Board of Health**

James Carvalho	06-30-2023
Melissa Afonso	06-30-2023
Timothy Cabral, Sr.	06-30-2023

### **Building Department**

Alan Audet, Alternate Wiring Inspector	06-30-2023
Timothy Cabral, Alternate Electrical Inspector	06-30-2023
Brian Clark, Plumbing & Gas Inspector	06-30-2023
Marc LaPointe, Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector	06-30-2023
Edward Majewski, Plumbing & Gas Inspector	06-30-2023
J. Michael Medeiros, Electrical Inspector	06-30-2023
Jason Roia, Alternate Electrical Inspector	06-30-2023
John Santos, Building Commissioner	06-30-2024
Keith Sousa, Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector	06-30-2023

### **Cemetery Records Clerk**

Diane Pelland - Mt. Hope Cemetery	06-30-2023
Celine Brown - Vinnicum Woods Cemetery	06-30-2023

### **Chief Procurement Officer**

Mallory Aronstein	06-30-2023
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### **Citizens for Citizens**

Jamie Beane	06-30-2023
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### **Community Preservation Committee**

Robert Alford, II – rep. A&F	05-20-2024
Charles Applegate – rep. Conservation	06-24-2024
Matthew Beane	04-08-2024
Steven Bogle	04-14-2025
Colleen Brown – rep. Historical Comm.	06-30-2023
Edward Hill, Jr.	04-13-2026
Robert Silveira	04-12-2025
Ronald Silvia – rep. Housing Authority	04-09-2024

### **Community Response Coordinator**

Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
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**Conservation Commission**

Charles Applegate	06-30-2023
Charles Ashley	06-30-2024
Nanci Hedgcorth	06-30-2025
Robert Lemoi	06-30-2025
John Martelly	06-30-2025
Sean Moffi	06-30-2023

**Constables**

Joseph Latimer	06-30-2023
Andrew Martelly	06-30-2023
James Raposa	06-30-2023
Roland Richard	06-30-2023

**Council on Aging**

Cynthia Furtado	06-30-2025
Marita Gray	06-30-2025
Bernadette Huck	06-30-2025
Dorothea Maynard	06-30-2024
Wanda Peloquin	06-30-2024
Margaret Riley	06-30-2023
Mary Anne Tuttle	06-30-2023

**Cultural Council**

Albertina Bell	10-30-2025
Ersilia Fanuele	10-26-2024
Jo Ann Johnson	10-26-2024
Lisa Majewski	10-06-2023
Colleen Mulligan	10-06-2023
Kelly O'Brien-Plante	10-26-2024
Jennifer Salpietro	10-30-2025

**Emergency Management Agency**

Colby Anderson	06-30-2023
Peter Burke	06-30-2023
Nancy Cordeiro	06-30-2023
Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
Marc Haslam	06-30-2023
Gary Huntress	06-30-2023
Carl Sawejko	06-30-2023
Jeffrey Sawejko	06-30-2023
Antone Souza, III	06-30-2023

**Fair Housing Committee**

Bernadette Huck	06-30-2023
Vacancy	06-30-2023

**Fire Feasibility Committee**

Jordan Amarin	06-30-2023
Mallory Aronstein, Advisor/Non-voting Member	06-30-2023
Christopher Furtado	06-30-2023
Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
Richard Mello	06-30-2023

Andrew Moniz	06-30-2023
Joyce Moore	06-30-2023
Scott Olobri	06-30-2023
<b>Harbor Advisory Committee</b>	
Charles Applegate	06-30-2023
Shawn Cusick	06-30-2023
Henry Elliot	06-30-2023
Michael Flanagan	06-30-2023
Nanci Hedgorth	06-30-2023
Shane Heneghen	06-30-2023
Sean Moffi	06-30-2023
Kevin Munro	06-30-2023
Michael Rapoza	06-30-2023
John Venturini	06-30-2023
<b>Harbor Master</b>	
Donald DiBiasio (Assistant)	06-30-2023
Thomas Eaton (Assistant)	06-30-2023
Keith Lake	06-30-2023
Shane Mello	N/A
Ashley Motta (Assistant)	06-30-2023
<b>Historical &amp; Cultural Assets Committee</b>	
Carl Becker	06-30-2023
Cheryl Bogle	06-30-2023
Colleen Brown	06-30-2023
E. Patricia Redfearn	06-30-2025
Brandon Travers	06-30-2024
<b>Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)</b>	
William Anderson – representative	06-01-2023
<b>Keeper of the Lock Up</b>	
Marc Haslam	N/A
<b>Library Building Planning Committee</b>	
Barry Bibeau	06-30-2023
Judite Carey	06-30-2023
James Devol	06-30-2023
Angela Dolan	06-30-2023
Douglas Fiore	06-30-2023
Carol Gafford	06-30-2023
Frances Kelley	06-30-2023
Kyle Lloyd	06-30-2023
Susan McMullen	06-30-2023
<b>Open Space Committee</b>	
Gilbert Almeida	06-30-2023
Colleen Brown	06-30-2023
Nanci Hedgorth	06-30-2023
Edward Hill, Jr.	06-30-2023
<b>Parking Clerk</b>	
Melissa Curran-Heilborn (Assistant)	06-30-2023
Janet Helley	06-30-2023

<b>Personnel Board</b>	
Karen Hetherson	06-30-2023
Russell Malone	06-30-2023
<b>Public Access Oversight Committee</b>	
Christopher Carreiro	06-30-2023
Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
Deborah Kelley	06-30-2023
Frances Kelley	06-30-2023
Laurie Pimentel	06-30-2023
<b>Registrars</b>	
Jacquelyn Bates	04-01-2025
Jean Bolton	04-01-2024
Theodora Gabriel	04-01-2026
<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures</b>	
Raymond White	06-30-2023
<b>Shellfish Warden</b>	
Donald Dibiasio – Deputy	06-30-2023
Thomas Eaton – Deputy	06-30-2023
Keith Lake – Deputy	06-30-2023
Shane Mello - Warden	06-30-2023
Ashley Motta – Deputy	06-30-2023
<b>Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste Committee</b>	
Tracy Jo Anderson	06-30-2023
William Anderson	06-30-2023
Mallory Aronstein	06-30-2023
Colleen Brown	06-30-2023
Eric Hajder	06-30-2023
Nuno Jorge (Advisor)	06-30-2023
<b>Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA)</b>	
Christopher Carreiro	06-30-2023
Bernadette Huck	06-30-2023
<b>Southeastern Regional Planning &amp; Economic Development District (SRPEDD)</b>	
John Hansen, Jr.	05-24-2023
George Hovorka	05-24-2023
<b>Swansea Redevelopment Authority</b>	
Christopher Hajder	06-30-2025
Michael Moore	06-30-2023
Susan Nedar	06-30-2026
Paul Treloar (appt by DHCD)	10-07-2022
Vacancy (1 Yr. Appt.)	06-30-2023
<b>Town Properties Committee</b>	
John Hansen, Jr	06-30-2023
Elizabeth Leonardo	06-30-2023
Russell Malone	06-30-2023

**Village Park Commission**

Carl Becker  
Colleen Brown

06-30-2023  
06-30-2023

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Paul Grillo  
Crawford Kirkpatrick, Chair  
Matthew Pimentel (alternate)  
Paul Treloar

06-30-2024  
06-30-2023  
06-30-2023  
06-30-2023

**Beach Committee**

Committee Members

Frances M. Kelley	George Jenkinson
Charlene Orton	Carole Hyland
Kelly O'Brien-Plante	Tim Haley

With COVID pandemic restrictions all but lifted the Beach Committee was able to rerun to 'normal' operations for the 2022 summer season. Neighborhood parking, exasperated by the pandemic restrictions at the beach, remains a substantial issue for the Committee and area residents.

The 'unofficial' beach season begins with beach clean-up activities in early May 2022. Gates to the facility are open daily beginning on Memorial Day while parking fees were collected beginning on June 15th with the opening of the Beach House. Pre-season annual maintenance work included minor repairing of ramps leading to the beach (particularly the Accessibility Ramp), trimming of overgrowth along the beach parking lot, repairing and replacing signs, repairing snow fencing. Picnic benches were returned and placed on the beach

The Swansea Highway Department was, once again, instrumental in taking care of these, and other, maintenance items on the beach as the newly constructed beach house was to open for just the second time since construction. Trash cans were returned to the beach after a successful 'trial' season in 2021. Also, the Swansea Harbor Master took care of the warning buoys off shore at the beach warning boaters of the restricted 'Swim Area'. The Bristol County Sheriff's Pre-Release Program returned in 2022.

The Committee maintained the same entrance fee schedule collecting \$5.00 per week day admission, \$8.00 per day on weekends while season passes remained at \$15 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Recommendations to increase the fees in the spring were deferred until the opening for the season in 2023. Opening on June 15th and planning to be open through Labor Day, Life Guards were on the beach through September 4th. In 2022 there was a severe Life Guard shortage in southern New England with community and state facilities struggling to fill out their rosters for certified Guards. Swansea experienced this severe shortage but, luckily, managed to cobble together a qualified staff and Manager that lead to a successful season. An incentive program was instituted to attract and retain Guards through the season.

Parking fees are not collected after Life Guard coverage ends but the beach gate remains open to residents during the day through the end of October. In late fall, access to the beach is shifted to the westerly entrance of the facility by the Boat Ramp and the main gate closed.

With minimal rain in 2022, the beach was operational and staffed for 77 days and impacted by inclement weather closing the facility for some, or all of days for a record low 12 days in 2022, 15 less than 2021. For the seventh straight year, the beach was not closed a single day as a result of the weekly water testing by the Board of Health. Operating hours for the beach are from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Beach gates remain open until dusk and then closed by the Swansea Police Department. In 2022, a new record, 1016 Season Passes were issued, an increase of 142 from 2021. Records show that 5,384 cars entered the facility during operating hours in 2022, late afternoon and evening entrants are not included in this count.

## Board of Assessors

Timothy F. Cabral – Chairman 2020-2023

Wayne W. Gray – Vice Chairman 2021-2024

Patrick J. Travis – Board Secretary 2022-2025

### Office Staff & Operations:

The Board of Assessor's Office is located within the Assessor's Department in the Swansea Town Hall. The office is operated by the Principal Assessor (Michael R. Minardi). Mr. Minardi has been in the real estate field since 1984 and prior to working for the Town of Swansea spent sixteen (16) years as the Tax Assessor in the Town of Barrington and another six (6) years prior to that as the Deputy Tax Assessor in the City of East Providence. Mrs. Doreen Martin is the Assistant to the Principal Assessor. Mrs. Martin is in charge of processing the Motor Vehicle and Real Estate abatements, processing all other exemption applications for the Board, and the yearly pricing of boats. Mrs. Elizabeth Medeiros is in charge of reviewing deeds filed at the Fall River Registry of deeds and changing ownership in the CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) system. She also manually enters all of the Building/Plumbing/Mechanical/Electrical permits that flow through the Building Inspector's Office. Both Mrs. Martin & Mrs. Medeiros are the initial contact with the public and help the public with their needs.

### Five Year Revaluation with The Department of Revenue:

The Town of Swansea went through the Five-Year Certification of Values with the Department of Revenue (DOR) in 2022. The Board of Assessors is tasked with "Interim Updates" prior to the next scheduled Certification in 2027. The Five-Year Certification process involves a rigorous review of all values to adjust properties to their "Full & Fair Cash Value. The process includes; a field review of properties, a review of sales from the prior twelve (12) months, from the analysis of these sales the contractor updates numerous pricing tables (Cost, Depreciation, Land, etc.) and they will also review the income and expense declarations from commercial property owners to arrive at a value by the "Income Approach To Value". After their analysis is complete there is a public disclosure of all values so that appeals can be made (if requested by property owners). The Town has contracted with VGSI (Vision Government Solutions, Inc.) to adjust the real estate values and RRC (Real Estate Research, Inc.) to adjust the personal property values.

### Data Collection:

The Board of Assessors is supported by outside contractors to inspect properties that have pulled building permits. Personal Property is a specialized field and traditionally RRC has processed annual "Forms of List" for all the Personal Property in Town. As an aside, the top two (2) taxpayers in Swansea are

1. New England Natural Gas Co. with an assessed value of \$22,556,500 and
2. New England Power Company with an assessed value of \$18,912,190

The Department of Revenue requires that every property in Town be inspected at least once in a ten year span. This can be an expensive process to do all in the year of Certification, so the Department of Revenue allows annual inspections of a portion of the properties, just so long as they are all inspected within a ten year span.

### Commercial, Industrial, and Mixed-Use Property Valuation:

The assessed values are developed by our consultant (VGSI) and reviewed with the Assessor each year to determine the "Full And Fair Cash Valuation". Annual review and analysis of all property values are performed each year. Real property transfers are studied and qualified (or disqualified) by the Assessor. An analysis is then performed on all qualified sales, and real property values are adjusted as indicated by the analysis. Information is analyzed annually from information reported on the Income and Expense forms, which are mailed to the Tax Assessor's Office from local businesses. The reporting of information on the Income and Expense forms is mandatory per MA State Law. Income and Expense information is **strictly confidential**, and for the Assessors use only. The specific

income and expense information assists in valuing all Commercial and Industrial property within the Town of Swansea.

Value Generation:

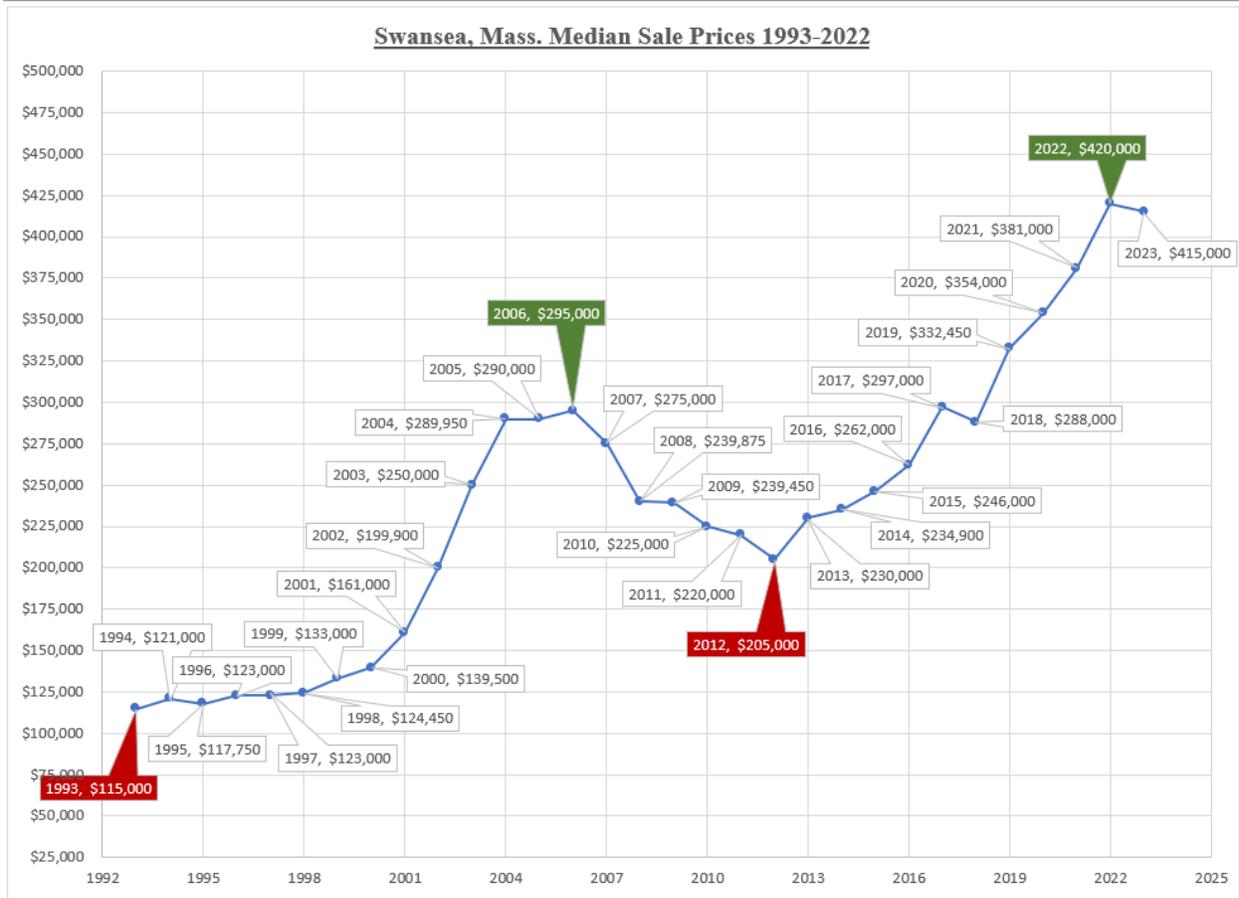
Swansea property values are derived through the three approaches to value: Sales Comparison Approach, Cost Approach, and the Income approach. All Municipalities within the State of Massachusetts must assess all real property at 100% of fair market value. DOR approval of the assessed values annually is the initial step in the process of setting property tax rates annually for all MA municipalities.

Tax Rates:

For Fiscal Year 2023, the Residential tax rate was set at \$12.05/1-thousand dollars of valuation along with a Water District tax rate of \$1.08/1-thousand dollars of valuation that comes to a total of \$13.13/1-thousand dollars of valuation. On an assessment of say \$300,000 the annual tax bill would be \$3,939 (or about \$985 per quarterly payment). The commercial tax rate was set at \$19.14/1-thousand dollars of valuation along with a Water District tax rate of \$1.08/1-thousand dollars of valuation that comes to a total of \$20.22. On an assessment of say \$500,000 the annual tax bill would be \$10,110 (or about \$2,528 per quarterly payment).

Property Values:

The Town of Swansea, along with most other Cities/Towns in the State of Massachusetts, has seen historic increases in property value over the past dozen years. In 2012 the median price of a single family home was approximately \$205,000 by 2022 that number had steadily increased to the point that a median price of a single family is now \$420,000 or a 105% increase in value. When considering the compound interest factor that works out to an increase of about 7.5% per year for the past ten years. Below is a chart of the track of real estate values over the past thirty years;



There was an initial market peak in 2006 with a median value of approximately \$295,000. Six years of decline till the market bottomed out in 2012 with a median value of approximately \$205,000. The highest priced single-family sale in 2022 was for a waterfront custom built home located at 222 Bay Point Road that sold for approximately \$2,370,000.

**Sales Volume & Availability:**

Over the past thirty (30) years, according to the local Multiple Listing Service (which accounts for approximately 90% of all transfers in Town) there are on average one hundred and forty three (143) single family home sales. However, over the past five (5) years that average is really two hundred and four (204) sales or seventeen per month. A significant increase in both sales volume and property values. At the time of writing this report, there were only fifteen (15) homes for sale in Swansea, that is less than one months inventory. Traditionally there is a balance between supply and demand when there are about half of the year’s sale inventory listed for sale at any given point in time. This imbalance between supply and demand has not resulted in a drop in value of single-family values despite the fact that the Federal Reserve has been steadily increasing the Discount Rate as an attempt to curb inflation. For the first quarter of 2023 the median sale price of a single-family home is \$415,00, which is approximately \$5,000 lower than the 2022 value but it is too soon in the year for realistic analysis of where values will be by the end of the year.

**Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles:**

A review of the motor vehicle data provides a snapshot of what is driven in Town for 2022. Despite daily news on electric cars like Tesla & Polestar and high-priced luxury cars such as Ferrari & Maserati, below is a list of the top six auto makes driven in Town;

1. Toyota with 2,875 cars (trucks) or 13% of the total market
2. Ford with 2,167 cars (trucks) or 10% of the total market
3. Chevrolet with 2,160 cars (trucks) or 10% of the total market
4. Honda with 1,523 cars (trucks) or 7% of the total market
5. Jeep with 1,093 cars (trucks) or 5% of the total market
6. Nissan with 1,011 cars or 5% of the total market



These top six auto makers represent 50% of all registered cars.

As far as age of cars, the most common age with 1,422 registered cars (trucks) was a four year old car (built in 2019), closely followed by five year old car, six year old car, seven year old car, and eight year old car. There were only 873 2022-year models or 3.8% of all registered cars (trucks) in Town.

There are 549 Harley Davidson motorcycles registered in Town, with Kawasaki a distant second with 65 models registered in Town.



## Board of Health

Much has changed in the Swansea Board of Health during 2022, which consist of the Health Director, Town Nurse, and the Animal Control Officer, as well as, one assistant and one inspector for the department.

With the continuous growth of the town of Swansea, both in residential and commercial, the demands for our services within this department have greatly increased. Our department is working daily to improve the lives of its citizens; responding to and investigating complaints, witnessing and reviewing septic installations in a timely manner, improving the efficiency of our food and housing inspection procedures, and planning for future public outreach programs to help promote and improve the health status of our community.

At the beginning of 2022, we were very fortunate to have Mr. Zackary Seabury as our Health Director, to enforce all Board of Health regulations. His dedication for the health department and the town was been greatly appreciated by this board, and we wish his all the best in his future endeavors. Since his departure, valiant efforts of our new Health Director, Ms. Alexandra Nicolosi, and our new Health Inspector, Joshua Montella, have allowed the Swansea Board of Health to upgrade protocols and procedures within our office to help us better serve the public and the people of Swansea. Through this addition of new staff members, the Board has not only been able to accomplish a swift and smooth change in management, but also have expanding upon the duties and responsibilities of the department. A main goal of the department for the upcoming year is to promote public outreach and better connect the community of Swansea with the public health resources available to them.

During this year the office has seen a rise in nuisance and blight related complaints. In response to the large influx of complaints, the Board looks toward implementing a new regulation or by-law in the near future that will help minimize and tackle these issues.

### Town Nurse

\*Please note that, unless otherwise noted, all data below is for both Somerset and Swansea, as the current nurse is serving both towns. \*

### **Blood Drives**

Four (4) blood drives were hosted by the Town Nurse office in conjunction with the Somerset Council on Aging. Using the services of the American Red Cross, more than one-hundred (100) people attended the four drives and successfully donated blood. It is the hope of this office and the Red Cross to continue offering blood drives multiple times per year to assist in the collection of more life-saving blood products. As of now there are seven (7) drives scheduled for this 2023 year.

### **Blood Pressure Readings**

Any resident is welcome to come into the Town Nurse Office to have their blood pressure checked. This is a free service offered during normal business hours.

### **Home Visits**

Visits to patients' homes in both towns this year were continued only for B-12 Injections and influenza immunizations.

### **Immunizations**

Just under six hundred (600) influenza immunizations were administered in both towns between September and December of 2021. Immunizations were available during private and public clinics, as well as during open office hours. Clinics were also held at all of the town offices, police and fire departments, and schools so that all town employees would have the opportunity to receive their flu shot.

It should be noted that anyone who has received a vaccine in the office can always call during normal business hours to request a copy of the paperwork if needed for school, employment, or medical records. Copies of medical records distributed by this office must be picked up in person. Online access to this information is also available on [myvaxrecords.mass.gov](http://myvaxrecords.mass.gov).

### **Routine Injections**

B-12 injections were administered to patients between both towns throughout the year. Injection appointments require a yearly order from the patient's physician and medication is provided by the patient themselves. There is currently no charge for this service.

### **Sharps Containers**

Empty sharps containers are available for purchase in the Town Nurse office \$5. Full containers (purchased either here or elsewhere) may be returned for \$10. These charges help to cover the cost of disposal, which totals over \$800 per year.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Participated in numerous drills and monthly meetings with the Bristol County Emergency Preparedness Coalition. These meetings include public health members from all Boards of Health in the county, as well as members from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Meetings include planning of and training for all possible disasters, from medical to environmental and anything in between.

### **Disease Surveillance (MAVEN)**

An important aspect in Public Health is disease surveillance and helping keep the community safe. There are a number of reportable diseases in Massachusetts in which the Local Board of Health is responsible in investigating and attempting to help prevent outbreaks. COVID-19 still remains part of this process and keeping the community updated on CDC and MDPH guidelines is important. Thank to Chief Barros and his crew at the Somerset Fire Department along with all the volunteers involved, we were able to vaccinate hundreds of residents and non-residents against COVID-19 and Influenza.

The LBOH continues to remain vigilant in public health emergency preparedness and we will continue to do our best to keep the community safe as best we can.

## Animal Control

The Animal Control Department consists of one full time animal control officer/ inspector and three on-call animal control officers/inspectors.

There were approximately 680 calls responded to in both Swansea and Somerset for the year. These calls consist of cruelty investigations, injured animals (domestic & wildlife) deceased animals, dogs running at large, stray dogs in custody, assisting emergency personnel, animal bites, issuing & releasing quarantines for quarantined animals and numerous types of animal complaint calls. These calls are responded to throughout the normal business day and after hours, as we are on call 24/7.

The shelter took in approximately 241 animals from Swansea and Somerset, to which 101 of those animals were returned to their owners. The remaining intakes consist of, 105 animals adopted to new homes, 9 transfers in, 5 transfer out to another facility, 3 died in care, and 7 that were euthanized due to illness. The remainder of animals are still in our care. The shelter also transferred numerous injured or orphaned wildlife to rehabilitators. Beside the daily animal control duties, the Animal Control Officers also spend a significant amount of their time on animal/shelter care, adoptions, and spending time with visitors.

In 2023, we are looking forward to offering a new and exciting program that will allow children to visit the shelter one Saturday a month to read with our adoptable animals. This will be a group effort with our Animal Control Officers and the Librarian.

We would also like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the volunteers at the shelter. Their dedication to the animals, staff and community should be commended. They are working on putting together a few great Fundraisers for 2023.

The Animal Control Department looks forward to another successful year, as we strive to always improve and do the very best, we can for our community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James Carvalho  
Board of Health Chairman

Alexandra Nicolosi  
Health Director

Desiree Harding  
Town Nurse

Lisa White  
Swansea Animal Control Officer/Inspector

## Bristol County Mosquito Control Project

This year marks the 63rd anniversary of the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and its services to the cities and towns of Bristol County. Our mission is to bring mosquito populations to tolerable levels using a variety of scientifically effective methodologies consistent with applicable laws. Surveillance, water management, biological and chemical controls are performed in an environmentally sensitive manner to minimize potential effects on people, wildlife and the environment. The Project is a regional response to a regional problem, and provides a way of organizing specialized equipment, specially trained employees, and mosquito control professionals into a single agency with a broad geographical area of responsibility.

The Project continues to make investments in new technologies that increase our efficiency and accuracy when fulfilling our mandate. We remain committed to applying environmentally responsible larvicide and adulticide products. Our surveillance program, along with service request data and updated GPS and computer equipment, allow us to focus our pesticide applications to targeted areas.

Disease risk from mosquitos changes greatly from year to year. Because of this constant change in risk, BCMCP works in close relationship with the MA Dept. of Public Health to analyze disease risk in current and future years. The summer of 2022 experienced severe drought throughout the County that significantly affected the mosquito population.

During the 2022 mosquito season, 12,196 individual mosquitoes in 452 samples were tested for the mosquito borne viruses EEE and WNV. There were no isolations of EEE and no human cases in the County. Bristol County had 5 mosquito samples test positive for WNV with no reported human cases. There were no equine cases for EEE or WNV.

The Project continues its year-round efforts to reduce mosquito breeding areas through water management and source reduction. Our goal is to remove debris, silt and vegetation from drainage ditches to improve water flow, thus eliminating standing water conducive to larval development. Work is conducted using mechanized machines and by hand.

Bristol County Mosquito Control Project completed the following work in the Town of Swansea during the time period of January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022.

- Sprayed over 4,860 acres
- Treated 30.63 acres in 48 locations with *B.t.i.* for mosquito larvae
- Received and completed 498 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 5,390 feet of brush
- Treated 1,320 catch basins

Throughout the year, we strive to educate the public concerning mosquito borne diseases and simple ways residents can protect themselves and help prevent breeding on their own property. We have many types of outreach programs available including speaking at public health events, radio/newspaper interviews, visiting local schools, senior centers, and creating informational handouts for distribution. Be sure to check out our website: [www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcountymosquitocontrol](http://www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcountymosquitocontrol) for updates and information.

I would like to thank the town officials and residents of Swansea for their continued support and cooperation. Our Project is extremely proud of the work we perform and look forward to serving our communities in the upcoming year. If there are any questions concerning the Project’s efforts or objectives, please feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Matton  
Superintendent

**Bristol County Mosquito Control Commissioners:**

Joseph Barile, Chairman  
Gregory D. Dorrance  
Christine A. Fagan  
Henry R. Vaillancourt

## Building Department

### Building Inspector’s Report

There were 852 building permits in 2022. These permits included:

26	New Residential Dwellings
02	Sheds/Barns
17	Signs

07 Demolitions  
 42 Pools  
 08 Garages/Car Ports  
 38 Decks/Porches  
 161 Roofing/Siding  
 99 Residential additions, renovations and alterations  
 112 Windows/Doors  
 00 New Commercial Buildings  
 40 Commercial additions, renovations and alterations  
 300 Miscellaneous permits (includes: 3 Season Room, 4 Season Room, Residential Steel Building, Roof Mounted Solar, Ground Mounted Solar, Residential Pavilion, Concrete Slab, Insulation, Weatherization, Air Sealing, Guard Shack, Accessory Apartments, Antennas on Existing Towers, New Cell Tower, Pool House, Pellet Stoves, Woodstoves, Remodel 2-Family, Metal Building, Fire Suppression System, Fire Alarm, Landing and Ramp Residential, Sprinkler Systems and Repairing of Sprinkler Heads, Temporary Mobile Home Residential Fire Damage, After the Fact Permit, Carport, Remove Unpermitted Accessory Apartment, Tents and Residential Outbuilding

Approximate cost of construction for 2022	\$ 29,033,743.22
Total Building Permit fees collected for 2022	\$ 236,398.04
Certificates of places of assembly total 59 fees amounting	\$ 2,980.00
73 Occupancy Certificates were issued. Total fees collected	\$ 4,600.00
71 Sheet Metal Permits were issued. Total fees collected	\$ 17,765.00
Total Fees collected and turned over to Town Treasurer	\$ 261,743.04

Respectfully Submitted,  
 John Santos  
 Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

### Electrical Inspector's Report

J. Michael Medeiros, Electrical Inspector  
 Alan Audet, Electrical Inspector  
 Timothy Cabral, Electrical Inspector

There were 621 electrical permits issued in 2022. All work covered by these permits were inspected, corrected when necessary and approved when completed. These permits included: New Residential and Commercial Construction, New Services, Washers, Dryers, Electric Heating, Electric Water Heaters, Cable TV, Telephone, Burglar Alarms, Fire Alarms, Solar Ground and Roof Mounted and call back fees.

Fees collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer	\$ 71,349.45
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Respectfully Submitted,  
 J. Michael Medeiros  
 Electrical Inspector

### Plumbing Inspector's Report

Brian Clark, Plumbing Inspector  
 Edward Majewski, Alternate Plumbing Inspector

There were 221 Plumbing Permits issued in 2022 for New Construction Residential and Commercial, Alterations for Residential and Commercial, Gas Water Heaters, septic pipes.

Inspections were conducted and installations were approved, except for those in progress.

Fees collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer: \$ 28,040.00  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Clark  
Plumbing Inspector

### Gas Inspector's Report

Brian Clark, Gas Inspector  
Edward Majewski, Alternate Gas Inspector

There were 244 gas permits issued in 2022 for New Construction Residential and Commercial, Alterations for Residential and Commercial, Gas Hot Water Heaters and Boilers, Gas Roof Top Units.

Inspections were conducted and installations were approved except for those in progress.

Fees collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer: \$ 22,145.00  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Clark  
Gas Inspector

## Cemeteries

The Town of Swansea has two Town-owned cemeteries under its jurisdiction, the Mount Hope Cemetery on Hortonville Road and Vinnicum Woods Cemetery on Vinnicum Road. The statistics for the two cemeteries are as follows:

### Mount Hope Cemetery:

Footings.....	19
Interments/openings	
Cremations.....	29
Full burials.....	25
Sale of lots.....	1
Dis-interments.....	0

Mount Hope Cemetery Fees turned over to the Town: \$9,500.00

Diane Pelland  
Mount Hope Cemetery Records Clerks

### Vinnicum Woods Cemetery:

Footings.....	28
Interments/openings	
Cremations.....	18
Full burials.....	11
Sale of lots:	
Full – Upright Marker.....	25
Full – Flat Marker.....	3
Cremation – Upright Marker.....	2
Cremation – Flat Marker.....	2
Trust Fund – Full Upright.....	25

Trust Fund – Full Flat.....	3
Trust Fund – Cremation Upright.....	2
Trust Fund – Cremation Flat.....	2
Dis-interments.....	0

Vinnicum Woods Cemetery Fees turned over to the Town: \$ 39,720.00

Celine E. Brown  
 Vinnicum Woods Cemetery Records Clerks

Respectfully submitted,  
 Diane Pelland  
 Town Clerk

## Community Preservation

The Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c 44B (“the CPA”) allows Massachusetts cities and towns to raise monies through a surcharge of up to 3% of the real estate tax levy on real property. These funds are to be used to acquire, create and preserve open space; and acquire and preserve historic resources; create, preserve and support community housing; and acquire, create and preserve land for recreational use. The Act also provides a significant state matching fund received from a portion of the transaction fee from the Registries of Deeds throughout the Commonwealth. In addition to Swansea, 134 other cities and towns across the state have adopted the CPA to date.

The Community Preservation Act was approved by Swansea voters at the May, 2008 Town Meeting and at the November 4, 2008 election. In Swansea, voters elected to fund the CPA account through a 1.5% surcharge on all real estate property tax bills with two exemptions:

- residential property owned and occupied by any person who qualifies for low-income housing, or low to moderate income senior housing.
- \$100,000 of taxable value of residential real property.

Ten percent of the monies collected must be used or set aside for future use for each of the three purposes: open space, historical preservation and community housing. Five percent may be set aside for administrative expenses. The balance of 65% of the monies may be used or set aside for any or all of the three purposes.

The Community Preservation Committee Bylaw was adopted at Town Meeting at the August, 2008 Town Meeting and the Committee has been formed to administer the CPA. There are nine members of the Committee. Six of the members are appointed as representatives of their respective boards: Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Housing Authority, Historical Commission and the Finance and Advisory Board. The other three members of the Committee are elected for three-year terms.

During 2022, the members of the CPC have worked to prepare projects for funding. In 2012, the CPA was amended to allow project funding for recreational purposes, even if the land was not purchased with CPA funds.

CPA funded projects for 2022 included:

Restoration of the Martin House stone Barn. Historic Preservation Fund \$109,500.00

Comprehensive site plan for Medeiros farm for passive and active recreation. \$50,000.00.

Interior and exterior walls of the Luther Store Museum. \$125,000.00.

Subsidize the cost of having the Wildlands Trust monitoring 4 conservation restrictions that the Wildlands Trust holds over town owned land, specifically on Barneyville Rd, Map 11 Lot 16, Northern section of Village Park, Hortonville Rd Map 16 Lot 34, Wilson Curtis land, Stevens Rd, Map 8 Lot 5 and Raymond Herbert Baker Farm Map 15 lot 13. \$53,000.

A \$100,000 toward the purchase of a recreational playground at Swansea Veterans Memorial Park, Milford Road.

\$535,000 toward the purchase of a conservation restriction of 190 acres more or less at 299 Market St, Map 11 Lot 1 if the town receives a grant for the rest.

The CPC will continue to work on projects which will seek funding in the future for preservation of the assets of our community.

I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work and efforts in preserving Swansea's future and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Colleen M. Brown  
Historical Commission  
CPC Chairman

Robert Alford II  
Advisory and Finance

Ronald Silvia  
Swansea Housing Authority

Matthew Beane  
Elected member

Edward Hill  
Elected member

Robert Silveira  
Elected member

## Conservation Commission

During 2022, the Swansea Conservation Commission addressed the following projects:

NOTICES OF INTENT: 42

Septic repair: 13	Inground pool: 3
SFD: 10	ANRAD: 5
SFD Demo & rebuild: 3	Garage: 2
Seawall: 2	Addition: 2
Commercial: 2	Sheds: 2
Dock: 3	

CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE: 32

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION: 2

ENFORCEMENT ORDERS: 5

REQUESTS FOR DETERMINATION: 2

The Conservation Commission signed off on the following types of projects, which did not require filing a formal request with the Commission, as they resulted in no alteration of any resource area.

Additions: 6	Shed : 10	Fire repair: 1
Garages: 9	Septic repairs: 52	Pool house: 1
Single Family Dwellings: 8	Above-ground Pools: 6	
In-ground Pools: 4	Decks & Porches: 16	

Throughout the year, the Commission office remained open for its regular hours and business regarding building permits, septic permits and conservation issues. Many of these procedures remain in effect into 2022.

The Swansea Conservation Commission conducted 79 public hearings and collected **\$21,477.50** in Notice of Intent fees.

The Commission members and I attended several seminars, including open space, recycling issues, construction in flood zones, solid waste disposal, review of DEP regulations and new stormwater regulations, municipal vulnerability plans, as well as several of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission seminars for new members.

The Commission worked with William Anderson, Director of Engineering and Highway Supervisor developing Swansea's Stormwater Report, Notice of Intent and regulations, which is required by the EPA to report the Town's efforts and accomplishments in attaining its goals defined in the Town of Swansea's Notice of Intent for its NPDES stormwater permit.

The Commission has continuing to revise the Open Space and Recreation Plan which is required by the state. The Open Space Committee has reached out to the Recreation Commission and Parks Department as well as other town committees and boards for input to the plan.

Congratulations to Colleen Brown, Conservation Agent for receiving a grant of \$126,000 from the Division of Ecological Restoration State of Massachusetts, signed by Governor Charles Baker & Lt. Governor Karyn Politto towards replacing culverts in town. Ms. Brown serves on many committees to help and protect the environment of our beautiful town of Swansea.

I wish to thank the members of the Swansea Conservation Commission, Charles Ashley, Chairman, Vice Chairman, John Martelly, Clerk, Robert Lemoi, and members Charles Applegate, Nanci Hedgorth, & Sean Moffi for their dedication and numerous hours of volunteered time serving the Town of Swansea protecting its wetlands and other natural resources.

I also wish to give special thanks to our clerk, Stacey Moniz for her excellent work and dedication, and minutes clerk, Jennifer Howard, who served the Commission throughout the years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Ashley, Chairman  
Conservation Commission

## Council on Aging

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Swansea Council on Aging provides assistance to our senior community in an effort to enhance their quality of life. Our objective is to provide assistance, by whatever means available, to allow our seniors to live (with dignity) as valued members of our community. This year we were thrilled to be able to expand programs after the struggles endured due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Swansea Council on Aging continues to provide essential services to our Swansea seniors.

### II. COUNCIL ON AGING PROGRAMS

**TRANSPORTATION** - Our Transportation program has continued to provide free rides to our seniors for essential services such as medical appointments and grocery shopping. Special cleaning protocols remain in place as we sanitize vans regularly in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible. Van driver, Eileen Guzior continues to do an outstanding job for our seniors.

**HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING** – The Swansea Council on Aging continued to offer Health Insurance counseling sessions throughout the year. Medicare beneficiaries were able to seek one-on-one assistance from our Counselors. These counseling sessions are always important to our seniors but never more important than during Medicare's Open Enrollment period. Medicare beneficiaries meet with our counselors to review existing coverage. Understanding their options and making changes for the upcoming year can result in significant cost savings. I'm happy to report that our seniors saw substantial savings by reviewing their coverage this year. Swansea seniors saved over One Hundred Nine Thousand (\$109,000) Dollars during Open Enrollment as a result of these counseling sessions! Seniors contemplating retirement struggle to understand the coverage offered by Medicare, their supplemental insurance options and prescription coverage available. Our counseling sessions enabled them to make informed decisions about the type of coverage that would work best for them. Our Health Insurance Counselors did an outstanding job of making sure our seniors understood their options and assisted in enrollment whenever possible.

**PROGRAMMING** – The Swansea Council on Aging understands the importance of offering programs and providing services to our senior population. This year’s programs included:



Technology at the COA: Our tablet loan and technology programs were made available to our seniors throughout the year. In addition to Android tables lessons, introduction to iPad lessons with lesson plans and hands-on instruction were also provided.

Fitness: Fitness programs with live instructors continue to be offered at least three days per week. Participants enjoy programs such as Drums Alive, Tai Chi and Zumba.

Gym: Thanks to grant funding received last year from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), the Council on Aging continues to provide use of our gym equipment five days per week! Recumbent Bikes and Recumbent Elliptical Bikes are available to our seniors Monday – Friday. Virtual bike tours are displayed on our television to give seniors a virtual bike riding experience by “touring” bike paths from around the world and our seniors love it!

### **III. PROGRAM STATISTICS**

Each year, the Council on Aging is required to track services and report those findings to outside agencies such as our Area Agency on Aging, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and to you, our Swansea residents. The following are some of the statistics from this year’s programs:

Fitness/Exercise – 1,966

Health Benefits Counseling – 474

Food Assistance – 146

COVID Services – 322

Recreation/Socialization – 681

Community Education - 191

Transportation – 640

### **IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Council on Aging would like to thank all who have come together to assist and support the Council on Aging over the past year. It would be impossible to offer our seniors all we do without the help of our dedicated volunteers. These individuals work tirelessly and contribute many hours of service to the COA in many different areas of our organization. They serve our patrons on many levels. Volunteers give of themselves to serve others. We are so grateful for your selflessness. On behalf of all of us at the Council on Aging, I thank each of you for all you have done and all you continue to do.

I would like to personally thank the COA Board of Directors Cynthia (Cindi) Furtado, Marita Durkin-Gray, Bernadette Huck, Dorothea Maynard, Wanda Peloquin, Margaret Riley and Mary Anne Tuttle, for their dedication and commitment to our seniors. They are greatly appreciated.

Meeting the needs of our seniors takes a group effort. I would like to express my thanks to the Honorable Board of Selectmen Christopher Carreiro, Steven Kitchin and Robert Medeiros for their continued support and the assistance we receive through the staff at the Selectmen’s Office. Our Police and Fire Departments have been of great assistance to the Council on Aging and our seniors. I appreciate the hard work performed by all Town Departments, especially those with whom we work with throughout the year: the entire staff from the Swansea Highway Department, our Building Inspector and Board of Health agent (for helping tend to facility needs); our Town Clerk and Town Accountant (along with their staff members) for helping us meet our departmental needs. I am thankful and so proud to work with you and all of our town departments. Our Town Administrator, Mallory Aronstein has consistently shown her support for the Council on Aging and our senior population. I am so grateful to her for that support!



I would like to thank my Assistant Julie Dallaire. It is a pleasure to work with someone so dedicated to our seniors. Her attention to detail and compassion are among the assets for which I am most grateful for. Her kindness

and her eagerness to always pitch in without being asked make her invaluable to the Council on Aging and to me personally, particularly this year when shortages in staff were extremely challenging. Ms. Dallaire took on additional duties, going the extra mile at every turn. This year we said good-bye to Transportation Coordinator, Judy Dempsey but wish her well in her retirement. This year we welcomed Andrew Pelland as our new Custodian. He has been a valuable asset and a welcomed addition to our team. The success of our Council on Aging can only be achieved when we work together. Our Swansea Community should know, as I do, how incredible this team is and how grateful I am to work with you.

Last but certainly not least, I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to our Swansea seniors. There is no doubt that the Covid pandemic has challenged in ways none of us could have imagined. The good news is that we've survived the obstacles placed before us and are stronger for it. Your patience and understanding have been greatly appreciated and I commend you for your cooperation through these difficult years. We're looking forward the bright future ahead. I am committed to meet your growing needs. I am honored to have the privilege of serving as your Executive Director and I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie A. Pimentel, *Executive Director*

## Emergency Management Agency

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has experienced another very productive and busy year. Attached to the Police and Fire Departments, the Office of Emergency Management works with appropriate municipal departments as well as various volunteer, private, state and federal agencies to respond quickly and effectively, providing continuity of services to the public. The primary mission of the EMA is to provide assistance to our first responders and all town departments and agencies as necessary.

In addition to this, the Emergency Management Agency is charged with the overall Emergency Preparedness Planning for the Town of Swansea. This includes the coordination of all resources of the town, public and private, professional and volunteer, to avert or combat the effects of disaster. A pool of trained volunteers is provided to the town for both emergency and non-emergency situations. Emergency Management as a discipline has been shaped by historical events, both nationally and internationally over the past years.

The possibility of exposure to many hazards is very real and has the potential for disrupting the community, causing damage, and creating casualties. Natural hazards include earthquakes, floods, severe weather and fires to name a few. Threats of terrorism are also a consideration in preparation and response. Our community also faces threats of hazardous materials and accidents involving the transportation, shipment, and storage of these materials.

To address these potential threats, the EMA publishes the town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This plan provides the framework upon which the Town of Swansea prepares for, responds to and performs its emergency response functions during times of natural or man-made disasters or national emergencies. This plan is based on the four phases of Emergency Management, which are:

Mitigation - Activities that reduce or eliminate the probability of disaster or damage.

Preparedness - Activities that government, organizations and individuals develop to save lives and property.

Response - Actions that minimize the loss of life and property and provide emergency assistance.

Recovery - Short and long-term activities that restore town operations and help return the community to a normal state.

Over the years, we have worked closely with the communities of Somerset, Fall River, Westport, Taunton, Rehoboth, Fairhaven and North Attleboro Emergency Management Agencies in providing and receiving mutual aid for various emergency situations, drills and events. News articles about our EMA programs, events and our Field Operations Unit and Shelter Operations Trailer were the subjects of stories published in editions of the South Coast Today, The Spectator and The Herald News along with regional television and Internet coverage.

Now that our national weather pattern is becoming more active, MEMA officials offer Hurricane and Winter Preparedness Tips that can be found here:

<https://community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/article/Winter-Storm>

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

Additional information on Emergency Preparedness can be found here:

[https://www.swanseama.gov/residents/town\\_nurse/emergency\\_preparedness.php](https://www.swanseama.gov/residents/town_nurse/emergency_preparedness.php)

Information on Swansea Emergency Management Public Safety Alerts can be found here:

[https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/police\\_department/swansea\\_public\\_safety\\_alerts .php](https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/police_department/swansea_public_safety_alerts.php)

Here are some highlights of our activities:

On January 25<sup>th</sup> & February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management personnel provided assistance with logistics for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine clinics held at Fire Station #4.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management Agency responded to a barn fire on 173 Elm Street and Stevens Road. Our Field Operations Unit provided drinks and light refreshments along with rehab services for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene. More information and pictures can be found here:

<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/se-mass/fire-breaks-out-on-reed-street-in-swansea/>

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 we participated in a Swansea Fire Department training exercise at St. Louis De France School. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab for the participants.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 our EMA personnel participated in our town's Memorial Day Parade. A video can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/715700768>

On June 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 EMA personnel were dispatched to a house fire on Lockwood Circle. Our Field Operations Unit provided drinks and light refreshments along with rehab services for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene. Meals were also provided to the displaced family members.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management Agency responded to a garage fire on Gardners Neck Road. Our Field Operations Unit provided drinks and light refreshments along with rehab services for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene.

On June 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 we participated in a Swansea Fire Department training exercise at St. Louis De France School. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab for the participants.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 we participated in a Swansea Fire Department training exercise at the Medeiros Farm property on Bark Street. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab for the participants.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 our Field Operations Unit was dispatched mutual aid to a brush fire on Elm Street in Dighton. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene.

On August 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 our agency members provided assistance with Swansea's first annual Police & Fire Softball game to celebrate Swansea Veterans and our Purple Heart Recipients which was held at the softball field on Route 6. A video can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/XFBFQVJ1Kjg>

On October 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management Agency responded to a house fire at 713 Reed Street. Our Field Operations Unit provided drinks and light refreshments along with rehab services for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene. More information can be found here:

<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/se-mass/fire-breaks-out-on-reed-street-in-swansea/>

On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 we participated in our Fire Department's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Public Safety Day. Our Field Operations Unit was available for viewing and our members were on hand to assist with the event. A short video of the event can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyyz0kvl8Iw>

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management personnel provided assistance with logistics for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine Booster clinic held at the Somerset Fire Department. These vaccines were available for Swansea & Somerset residents.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided lighting for the parking lot at the annual Veteran's Dinner located at the Old White Church at 1113 Grand Army Highway.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 our Emergency Management Agency responded to a barn fire on Cummings Road. Our Field Operations Unit provided drinks and light refreshments along with rehab services for firefighters and emergency responders at the scene.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 our agency assisted the Police & Fire Departments by providing lighting and a sound system for a memorial candlelight service held at the softball field on Route 6. More information and pictures can be found here:

<https://www.heraldnews.com/story/news/local/2022/11/11/vigil-remembers-swanssea-teen-as-kind-generous-outdoorsman/69639896007/>

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/community-plans-vigil-for-ethan-kielec-killed-in-swanssea-crash-swanssea-veterans-memorial-park-swanssea-nov-10-2022>

Throughout the year our agency played an active role as part of the COVID-19 task force, along with all town departments, in response to the recent pandemic. We continue to collaborate with our colleagues to ensure that our community remains safe during these unprecedented times.

#### **COVID-19 Task Force:**

This group is comprised of representatives from the Town's public health and public safety departments along with representatives from Town government and School Administration who continue to meet and collaborate regularly to monitor the continuing effects of the pandemic on town residents and town services. The group shares the latest information from the state and federal government along with the advice of leading experts from their numerous trade association affiliations. They work to assess needs and to update policies to guide town operations. The Task Force includes:

Chief Eric Hajder, Swansea Fire EMA Director  
Deputy Chief Michael Patterson, Swansea Fire  
Chief Marc Haslam, Swansea Police  
Lieutenant Joseph Martin, Swansea Police  
Carl Sawejko, Swansea EMA Coordinator  
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator  
Zackary Seabury, Health Agent  
Desiree Harding, Town Nurse  
John Robidoux, Superintendent of Schools

Over the past year we have continued to provide vaccine and booster clinics for our residents in collaboration with the Town of Somerset. This joint effort is spearheaded by our Town Nurse Desiree Harding.

This unprecedented public health crisis continues to highlight the importance of emergency planning in our community and validates the often-overlooked efforts taken to identify vulnerabilities and threats to the public welfare. The planning and preparations made by our public health officials and Emergency Management leaders over many years have proved to be of utmost importance during this difficult time. We must continue to remain vigilant in public health emergency preparedness, so we are always ready when and another large-scale event occurs.

While the true social and economic impact of COVID-19 may never be known, the lessons learned, partnerships formed and community connections made are invaluable. It has truly been a cooperative effort from all town departments, as well as those that live and work in the community that has helped to see the town through. Without the generous support of local businesses, it would have been very difficult to ensure the safety of our first responders as they continued to provide services to the town. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these businesses and the numerous individuals that donated cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for our first responders in the early days of the pandemic when supplies were very limited and the need was greatest.

The cooperative spirit displayed by our community during the pandemic should serve as an inspiration for future endeavors. Together we can overcome any challenge and continue to provide for the health and welfare of the citizens of Swansea.

For additional information visit: [www.swanseacovid19.com](http://www.swanseacovid19.com)

As you can see with each passing year, our agency is constantly raising the bar in the level of services we provide to our town and the surrounding area. We continue to look for new and creative ways to enhance our agency in order accommodate the ever-changing needs of the future. Through all of this, we remain dedicated to finding additional ways to serve, prepare and protect our community and its citizens in the years ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our EMA volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year and are always available at a moment's notice. I would also like to thank our Board of Selectman, Town Administrator, Police & Fire Departments, Board of Health, Town Nurse, Highway Department, Swansea Ambulance Corps, Swansea School Department, Swansea Water District and many others too numerous to mention here for their continued support of our agency and its mission.

It has been an honor to serve as your Coordinator of Emergency Management and I look forward to many more productive years in assisting the citizens of our town and the surrounding area.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carl F. Sawejko  
Coordinator

## Fire Department

The Swansea Fire Department continues to provide for the fire protection and public safety needs of our diversified and growing community through fire prevention, public education and fire suppression.

The Fire Department responded to 545 emergency calls during the year. The Fire Department dispatched 2,979 medical emergencies in 2022.

Accident/Potential Accident	1
Alarm Investigations	211
Animal Related	2
Brush Fires	20
Carbon Monoxide Responses	40
Electrical Emergencies	20
EMS Incidents	55
Extrications	11
Hazardous Materials	31
Illegal Burning	32
Investigations	44
Marine / other Water Related Incidents	5
Misc. Responses	15
Outside and Special Fires	13
Public Assistance	9
Structure Fires	26
Vehicle Fires	10

The Fire Department completed 1,896 inspections and issued 1,241 permits during 2022. The inspections identified 241 violations and resulted in the correction of 161 hazards. In addition, fire protection acceptance tests, quarterly inspections and yearly inspections were conducted.

Burning Permits	738
Blasting Permits	1
Fire Alarm Permits/Inspections	10
Flammable Gas Permits	18
Gun Powder/Ammunition Permits	1
Liquid Propane Permits/Inspections	35
Occupancy Inspections	57
Oil Burner Permits/Inspections	7
Overnight Parking Permits	1

Quarterly Inspections	27
Smoke Detector/CO Permits/Inspections	283
Sprinkler Permits/Inspections	13
Storage Tank Permits	18
Tank Removal Permits/Inspections	27
Welding Permits	5

One hundred and nine emergency calls were received through the Fire Department radio box system. An additional ninety-seven signals that required Fire Department response were received through the radio box system. These responses were handled the Chief, the Deputy Chief or the Fire Inspector and, as a result, did not require a response by volunteer firefighters.

Fire prevention remains an integral part of the department’s mission. The number of commercial buildings and residential homes continues to increase and the technology for fire alarms continues to change. The demands for plan review and acceptance testing related to the upsurge in new construction and renovation projects require that both the Fire Inspector and Deputy Chief spend a significant portion of each day on fire prevention duties. Their expertise and attention to detail ensure that each project meets all applicable codes and, when completed, is safe for those who live in, work in and visit these buildings.

As the revitalization of the former Swansea Mall continues, the time committed by the department to the project continues to increase. Over the past year the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Inspector have devoted hundreds of man hours to site plan meetings, pre-construction meetings, the review of fire protection systems and site inspections along with multiple fire responses to what remains a very active construction project.

In addition to new projects, inspections of existing businesses to identify hazards, as well as code violations, continue each year. The cooperative efforts between building owners and the Fire Inspector have resulted in many hazards being corrected and buildings becoming compliant with the fire code. The inspections have also allowed the department to enhance its computer-aided dispatch, providing responding firefighters up to date information to enhance the safety of personnel responding to emergencies in these buildings.

The Fire Department dispatchers continue to complement the volunteer system. They complete all state reports, town reports and other required reports. The administrative and clerical work they perform, in addition to dispatching and updating the computer-aided dispatch, are vital to the department. The Fire Department dispatchers are an integral part of our public safety team and a play a critical role in providing assistance in an emergency.

The tenth year of the tax incentive program is complete. Thirty-two firefighters met the established minimum standard. The program continues to pay dividends as many firefighters have increased their numbers of both fire responses and training hours.

The tax incentive, Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) and other recently established incentives are important components of a long-term plan to increase the recruitment and retention of department members in an effort to secure the future of our volunteer tradition.

Swansea firefighters provided 2,759 hours of emergency response and 2,377 hours of training for a total of 5,136 hours of commitment by volunteer firefighters in 2022.

Firefighters responded to twenty-six reported structure fires in 2022. In many of these instances, firefighters spent hours performing extremely labor intensive and physically exhausting work that often put them in harm’s way. Firefighters must be prepared to react quickly in hazardous and often life-threatening conditions. Their training and professionalism have kept fire loss to a minimum as they fight each fire with the same determination and skill we have come to expect.

On January 28 at 15:37 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 4,3,2, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to McDonald’s restaurant on James Reynolds Road for a report of a possible building fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a light smoke condition inside the building that rapidly intensified as firefighters searched for the source. After a brief investigation, a fire was found burning in an exterior wall. The fire had started in a nearby mulch bed and extended to the structure’s wood framing. Firefighters worked for more than an hour to clear smoke and remove both interior wall sections and exterior sheathing to extinguish the fire and ensure that it had not spread.

On April 16 at 00:58 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 1,2,3, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to multiple 911 calls reporting a building fire on Elm Street. First arriving units found a large, vacant barn heavily involved in fire and threatening a nearby residence. Firefighters established a water supply and began attacking the fire with multiple hand-lines as the aerial master stream from Ladder 1 was placed into operation. The fire was quickly brought under control but firefighters remained on the scene for more than three hours to

extinguish hot spots while overhauling the structure. Crews from Warren, RI stood by at Station 2 as Swansea firefighters worked at the fire scene.

On April 27 at 17:01 Car 2, Engines 2,3,1, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to a 911 call reporting an oven fire on Birchwood Drive. Upon arrival, firefighters found a stove-top fire that had spread to the adjacent cabinets. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and remained on the scene to clear smoke and assist the homeowner.

On May 21 at 17:41 Car 2, Engine 1 and Engine 2 responded to investigate multiple reports of a camper on fire on Oak Street. Firefighters arrived to find a large travel trailer fully involved in fire with fire extending to the nearby residence. Fire department personnel utilized two hand-lines and a water supply from a nearby hydrant to extinguish the quick-moving fire.

On June 5 at 15:58 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 4, 3, 2, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Lockwood Circle after a 911 call reported smoke coming from the roof of a residence. First arriving firefighters found a heavy smoke condition and began to evacuate the unsuspecting occupants. Firefighters entered the house and found a significant fire burning in the attic of the home. The deep-seated fire required the removal of multiple wall and ceiling areas to extinguish and unfortunately left the home uninhabitable.

On June 13 at 05:10 Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to Gardners Neck Road to investigate a 911 call reporting alarms sounding in the residence. Upon arrival firefighters found that lightning had struck the home's chimney causing significant damage to the brick-work and charring to the adjacent roof framing members. After ensuring that there was no extension of fire, firefighters secured the damaged electrical system and provided assistance to the homeowners.

On June 24 at 14:09 Car 1, Engines 1,2,3, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Gardners Neck Road to investigate a 911 call reporting a building fire. Firefighters arrived to find a fire burning outside of a detached garage and extending into the attic. The outside fire was quickly knocked down before firefighters entered the garage to extinguish the remaining fire in the attic space.

On September 22 at 12:51 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 1,2,3, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Midwood Drive to investigate a call reporting a possible lightning strike. Upon arrival firefighters utilizing thermal imaging cameras, found a fire in the rear wall of a single-family home as a result of lightning striking an aluminum downspout. Firefighters opened the walls in the area of the fire and extinguished remaining hot spots. A brief investigation found that the majority of the fire had been extinguished by a nearby water pipe that had been damaged during the strike. Firefighters secured the water and cleared smoke from the home.

On October 8 at 18:44 Car 2, Engines 4, 3, 2, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to a 911 call reporting a fire in a residence on Reed Road. Upon arrival firefighters found a fire burning on the first floor of a single-family home. After ensuring that all occupants were out of the building, firefighters stretched multiple hand lines and quickly confined the fire to the room of origin. Firefighters remained on the scene conducting salvage and overhaul operations as fire investigators worked to determine the origin and cause of the fire.

On November 10 at 15:54 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 1,2,3, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to a 911 call reporting a structure fire on Cummings Road. First arriving personnel found heavy smoke and fire issuing from a horse barn in the rear of the home. Firefighters stretched multiple hand-lines and began to attack the fire as other members entered the structure attempting to free the horses inside. The fire was quickly brought under control but, unfortunately, two horses perished due to smoke inhalation. Firefighters remained on the scene for more than two hours to assist the property owner and conducted salvage and overhaul operations as the cause of the fire was investigated.

In addition to building fires, Swansea firefighters responded to numerous calls for assistance requiring a substantial commitment in 2022. Some of the more significant calls included:

#### Brush

On March 9 at 10:46 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 4, Engine 5, and Forestry 1 responded to a call reporting cardboard burning inside of a recycling truck on G.A.R. Highway. Upon arrival firefighters found a large pile of recycling material burning in the rear lot of Schmidt Equipment. The driver, attempting to save his vehicle, had dumped the burning load prior the fire department's arrival. Unfortunately, the fire quickly spread to nearby brush and into the surrounding woodlands. Fire department personnel, utilizing multiple handlines, worked for more than an hour to contain the fire and extinguish the pile of burning cardboard.

On March 23 at 15:31 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Forestry 1 responded to Delmage Road after multiple reports of a brush fire were received. Upon arrival firefighters found a fire extending from a pile of burning brush into an adjacent wooded area. Firefighters worked for more than an hour to extinguish the deep-seated fire.

On June 13 at 16:21 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Engine 2 responded to Interstate 195 West after multiple calls reported a brush fire along the highway. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fast-moving fire.

On July 11 at 16:10 Car 1 and Engine 4 responded to Interstate 195 East after multiple calls reported a brush fire. Firefighters arrived to find a fire burning along the grass on the side of the highway and extending to an adjacent area of brush. The area of burning brush was quickly contained as firefighters worked to extinguish the grass fire.

On November 20 at 11:02 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Forestry 1 responded to investigate a 911 call reporting a possible brush fire off of Paradise Lane. Upon arrival firefighters found that a downed electrical wire had caused a fire in an area of brush adjacent to the roadway. The fire, driven by high winds, rapidly spread and threatened a nearby home. Firefighters, using multiple handlines, extinguished the fire that had spread to within three feet of the home and then began the arduous process of extinguishing the remaining fire in the heavily wooded area.

#### Extrication / Technical Rescue

On January 29 at 14:58 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 2, Engine 4 and Rescue 1 responded to Interstate 195 West to investigate reports of a vehicle accident with entrapment. First arriving personnel found a single vehicle that had left the roadway striking numerous trees and coming to rest on its side. The vehicle's operator had become trapped in the heavily damaged car. Due to conflicting reports of the accident location, firefighters from both Seekonk and Swansea arrived on scene and worked to free the victim from the wreckage prior to transport to the trauma center at Rhode Island Hospital.

On July 2 at 12:02 Car 1, Engines 4 and Rescue 1 responded to the intersection of Routes 6 & 136 after numerous calls were received reporting a multi-vehicle accident with entrapment. Upon arrival firefighters used a winch to pull apart the badly damaged vehicles and worked to free the operator of one of the vehicles. As firefighters worked to extricate the trapped occupant, other members assisted EMS providers from Swansea as they rendered aid to the other injured operator prior to transport to the trauma center at Rhode Island Hospital.

On July 8 at 16:42 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Swansea Mall Drive to assist at the scene of a two-car motor vehicle accident. Firefighters, using the Jaws of Life, worked for several minutes to free the driver of a vehicle that had left the roadway while other members secured the second vehicle and began treatment of the occupants.

On August 1 at 10:58 Car 1, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to the South Coast Educational Collaborative to assist two parties trapped in an elevator due to a power outage. After securing the elevator controls, firefighters were able to access the occupants and safely remove them from the disabled elevator.

On August 18 at 17:17 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 1, 2 and Rescue 1 responded to the intersection of Oak Steet and Wood Steet to assist at the scene of a multi-car accident. Upon arrival firefighters found a vehicle that had left the roadway and struck a sign post before coming to rest on a stone wall. Firefighters carefully stabilized the vehicle then used the Jaws of Life to remove a damaged door to free the car's driver.

On October 16 at 00:26 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 4, 2 and Rescue 1 responded to the area of Route 6 at Jamie Lynn Lane to assist at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Firefighters arrived to find a single vehicle that had left the roadway striking numerous trees and coming to rest its roof. Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to free the trapped driver of the vehicle.

On November 4 at 23:31 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1, 2 and Rescue 1 responded to a reported vehicle accident with entrapment. First arriving personnel found a single vehicle that had left the roadway and struck a utility pole trapping the driver in the heavily damaged car. Firefighters used multiple extrication tools to free the driver who had, unfortunately, succumbed to the injuries sustained.

#### Marine / Water Rescue

On February 24 at 0830 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to a call reporting a dog struggling in the water near the Swansea Dam. Firefighters arrived to find a large dog quickly tiring in the frigid water and unable to reach shore. As fire department personnel began to launch rescue boats, other members were able to assist the dog's owner with securing the dog and safely guiding him to shore.

On June 5 at 13:23 Car 1, Engine 3, Marine 3, Rescue 1 and Marine 1 responded to a call reporting a boat taking on water in the area of the Town Beach. Upon arrival, firefighters in Marine 1 & 3 located the vessel and safely removed the three occupants. After assisting the occupants, firefighters returned to the boat to slow the leak and towed the boat to a nearby dock.

On July 15 at 22:55 Car 1, Engine 3 and Marine 3 were dispatched to assist with a search for a person in the water in the area of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. Three Swansea firefighters manning Marine 3 conducted search operations along with marine units from surrounding communities until the party was located.

On November 4 at 09:20 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 3 and Marine 3 responded to the area of Spar Island as part of the Narraganset Bay Marine Task Force to investigate a report of a boat that had run aground. Firefighter searched the area and found a vessel had struck the island was unable to break free. After determining that the parties involved were uninjured, Swansea firefighters cleared the scene as U.S. Coast Guard assets worked to free the boat.

On December 23 at 08:04 Car 1, Engine 4 and Rescue 1 responded to 911 call reporting a person trapped in a vehicle stranded in flood waters on Old Providence Road. Upon arrival firefighters, wearing protective exposure suits and tethers, made their way through the rapidly rising water to remove the driver of the partially submerged vehicle on the Bungtown Bridge. The vehicle's occupant was brought safely back to dry land and evaluated by EMS personnel. As the rescue operation took place, Swansea firefighters were busy responding to a smoke condition inside Joseph Case High School. In all, firefighters responded to nine emergency calls in a span of a few hours as a powerful winter storm impacted the area.

### Mutual Aid

The Swansea Fire Department responded to sixteen mutual aid calls from eight cities and towns including Berkley, MA, Dighton, MA, Fall River, MA, Rehoboth, MA, Seekonk, MA, Somerset, MA, Bristol, RI, and Warren, RI.

On February 12 at 03:03 Car 1 and Engine 4 responded to a request for mutual aid from the Town of Rehoboth to assist at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters conducted drafting operations to establish a water supply for tankers from multiple communities as they worked shuttling water to the fire scene.

On April 3 at 17:01 Car 2 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the City of Fall River. Swansea firefighters covered a vacant Fall River fire station as city crews battled a fire at a multi-family residence.

On April 10 at 04:34 Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the Town of Berkley. Firefighters from Engine 2 secured a water supply from a hydrant in Dighton to assist Berkley crews as they worked at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters remained on the scene filling tankers for a water shuttle operation that lasted nearly four hours.

On April 16 at 23:36 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 2 and Forestry 1 responded to Barton Ave in Warren, RI to assist at the scene of a fire in a large dairy barn. Firefighters from Engine 2 secured a water supply at a hydrant nearby in Swansea and began to supply tankers, including Forestry 1, to shuttle water to the fire scene. Firefighters spent nearly five hours on the scene assisting personnel from multiple communities to extinguish the fire.

On June 5 at 21:53 Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the City of Fall River. Swansea firefighters covered a vacant Fall River fire station as city crews battled a fire in a large commercial building.

On June 24 at 16:35 Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to Dighton on mutual aid to assist at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters worked with crews from Dighton and Berkley for almost three hours to extinguish the stubborn fire.

On July 10 at 14:41 Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the Town of Dighton. Swansea firefighters covered a vacant Dighton fire station as they battled a fire in a commercial property.

On July 20 at 13:50 Car 1 and Engine 1 responded to a request for mutual aid from the Town of Somerset. Swansea firefighters covered the vacant Somerset station as their members fought a fire in a residential building.

On August 7 at 23:26 Car 2 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the City of Fall River. Swansea firefighters covered a vacant Fall River fire station as city crews battled a fire in a large commercial building.

On August 4 at 14:57 Car 2 and Forestry 1 responded to assist Dighton firefighters working on the scene of a brush fire. Swansea and Dighton crews worked for more than three hours using multiple handlines from Forestry 1 to extinguish the deep-seated fire.

On November 14 at 23:53 Car 2 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the City of Fall River. Swansea firefighters covered a vacant Fall River fire station as city crews battled a fire at the Burn's Power Tools building.

On December 21 at 07:43 Car 1, Car 2 and Ladder 1 responded to a mutual aid call from the Town of Somerset to assist at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters, working with crews from Somerset, stretched handlines over ladders to access a fire on the upper floor of the home as other crews attacked areas of fire on the floor below. Firefighters remained on the scene for nearly two hours assisting Somerset personnel with salvage and overhaul operations before returning to town to place their equipment and apparatus back in service.

The Fire Department continues to devote a tremendous amount of time to training. Throughout the year, firefighters attend a variety of both company and department-wide drills along with numerous fire academy courses and conferences.

Over the course of the year, Swansea firefighters participated in 2,377 hours of training. The department hosted monthly training on core topics, while individual fire companies trained on topics specific to their districts and equipment. Many firefighters also sought training through various outside agencies, including the MA Firefighting Academy, National Volunteer Fire Council, the Andy Fredericks Foundation, NFPA, and Underwriters Laboratory.

Department-wide training included sessions on self-contained breathing apparatus, self-rescue techniques, hose handling, water supply, ground ladders, and hazardous materials response. These training sessions help to evaluate minimum competencies, introduce new techniques, and assure consistency of operations. Each topic is delivered semi-annually in order to maximize attendance opportunities for our volunteers. Department personnel attended 672 hours of training on these important skills and concepts. The Fire Department hosted two sessions of flashover training presented by the MA Firefighting Academy. This valuable training prepares firefighters to recognize the warning signs of dangerous fire conditions and react accordingly to prevent injury. Twenty-three Swansea volunteers participated in these sessions alongside firefighters from several other area departments.

Four firefighters attended a two-day training conference in Alexandria, VA, bringing back current strategies and tactics as presented by leading experts from across the nation. An additional four firefighters participated in an 8-hour hands on training covering aerial apparatus operations which was hosted by the Newport, RI Fire Department. They were able to operate a variety of aerial apparatus types in challenging scenarios simulating fire attacks and victim rescues.

The department has continued to utilize two vacant structures, the Medeiros Farm house and St. Louis de France school to present realistic scenario-based evolutions. The ability to simulate both residential and commercial properties has been a great enhancement to our training program. Additionally, two training sessions were held at the former Police Department building, on Gardeners Neck Road, during which forcible entry and roof ventilation techniques were practiced. The building, which was slated for demolition, allowed us to perform destructive training evolutions which are difficult to simulate with props. Individual fire companies provided annual training on ice and water rescue techniques. These skills helped to ensure the safety of firefighters and one victim that was assisted from a vehicle disabled by floodwaters covering the Bungtown Bridge. As the weather warmed company training moved outside again and included topics such as water supply, ladders, marine responses, and brush fire responses

Firefighters completed the annual testing of nearly 16,000 feet of fire hose. All fire hose from the department's six engines, two brush trucks and ladder truck must be removed from the apparatus, inspected and pressure tested to ensure that it meets minimum requirements and complies with national standards. The time-consuming process is often used as an opportunity to train less experienced pump operators on the function of the department's fire apparatus.

Gaskell's Towing donated several vehicles throughout the year, allowing firefighters to train on vehicle extrication techniques. The skills and procedures presented were put to the test during six incidents in 2022. These incidents ranged from minor entrapments to complicated extrications that presented challenging complications, all of which were overcome safely and efficiently because of our volunteer's commitment to training.

The Fire Department received three grants totaling \$21,654.79. Grants for Student Awareness and Fire Education (SAFE), along with a Senior SAFE (focused on senior citizen fire safety) totaled \$8,230.00. A Department of Fire Services grant in the amount of \$13,424.79 was used to purchase two firefighter rescue sleds to aid in removing injured firefighters or civilians from within a structure. A FEMA grant totaling \$40,000 was secured to hire a consultant to assist in the process of updating the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additional grant funds in the amount of \$4,600.00 were designated for emergency preparedness.

The annual Swansea Fire Department Installation of Officers dinner, typically held in late January was, once again, cancelled as a result of scheduling problems remaining from the COVID-19 pandemic. The event provides the department with an opportunity to thank firefighters for their commitment while recognizing the many individual achievements and milestones that occurred during the previous year. Firefighters receiving Years of Service Awards in 2022 were:

5 Years of Service: Jared Sousa  
10 Years of Service: Devin Beaulieu, Nicholas Brillo, Gary Irons, Nathan Leonardo  
15 Years of Service: Justin Lachance  
20 Years of Service: Garrett Medeiros  
25 Years of Service: Daniel Boardman  
30 Years of Service: Donald Charron, Thomas Hydrick, Jr.  
35 Years of Service: Christopher Hajder  
40 Years of Service: Scott Johnson, Timothy Johnson

On January 29, Swansea firefighters staffed their respective fire stations as a snow storm dumped nearly 24" of snow on the town.

On February 15, a contract was awarded to Greenwood Emergency Vehicles from North Attleboro, MA to refurbish Engine 3. The \$218,836.00 contract allowed for the complete refurbishment of the 1997 Emergency One engine. After more than six months of work, Engine 3 returned to service with updated safety features and improved capabilities that will serve the town for many years to come.

On May 22, Swansea firefighters assisted science department staff from the Junior High School with their annual "parachute drop." Firefighters dropped the student-made parachute-type devices from the top of the department's aerial ladder as teachers determined the best "hang time" for each class.

On Saturday, May 28, the Fire Department Honor Guard took part in Memorial Day Services at the Veterans' Memorial Green. Members of the Honor Guard were joined by firefighters from the four stations as they walked the parade route during the annual parade on Monday, May 30.

On August 11, several Swansea firefighters assisted staff from the Swansea Recreation summer camp with their annual "egg drop." Groups of campers joined together to engineer egg delivery devices made from simple supplies provided to them by the staff to protect an egg from a fall. The contraptions were dropped from the top of the fire department aerial ladder and then compared to see which survived the drop.

In mid-August, prior to the opening of schools, Fire department personnel along with the building code official, conducted inspections of each of the town's public-school buildings. The safety inspections, completed prior to school opening, test emergency systems at each building to ensure proper function of egress doors, secondary lighting and warning/detection systems.

Fire department personnel assisted both the Swansea Police and School Departments with conducting armed intruder drills in each of the public schools during the month of September. The drills are an excellent opportunity for first responders to work with School Department staff to exercise existing plans while identifying potential shortcomings that may arise when dealing with incidents within the schools.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, members of the Swansea Fire Department, Swansea Police Department and the Armed Forces joined members of the community at the 9/11 Memorial outside Fire Station 1 to commemorate the horrific attacks on the United States on 9/11/01. A brief ceremony was held at which local leaders shared recollections of the day and the lasting impact on society.

Swansea firefighters spent the second week of October commemorating the Great Chicago Fire during Fire Prevention Week. Firefighters traveled to each of the town's four elementary schools providing information, answering questions and giving tours of fire apparatus to more than 950 students. As always, firefighters were enthusiastically welcomed as they shared valuable lessons about fire prevention.

After a two-year hiatus, Swansea firefighters hosted Public Safety Day on October 16. The day began with a parade of fire apparatus that wound its way through town ending at Station 2 where a large crowd gathered to enjoy the day's festivities. Representatives from the town's public safety agencies were joined by National Grid, Liberty Utilities and many others answering questions and providing information to town residents. Food and drinks along with children's fire helmets and coloring books were given out and accompanied the many displays and demonstrations that made the day a tremendous success. More than fifty Swansea volunteer firefighters took part in Fire Prevention Week activities. Once again, the firefighters demonstrated their commitment to the community, dedicating countless hours of their personal time to promote fire safety.

On Friday, November 11, the Fire Department Honor Guard took part in the annual Veteran's Day services held at the Veterans' Memorial Green.

The Fire Department responds to hundreds of emergencies at all hours of the day. The commitment of businesses that have allowed their employees to respond to these emergencies has, in part, enabled the Fire Department to remain a volunteer department. Firefighters are sometimes away from their jobs for hours at a time, several times each year. The resultant cost to businesses in lost production or services is substantial. The willingness of these businesses to assist the Swansea Fire Department and the community is greatly appreciated.

Swansea firefighters willingly respond to emergencies at a moment's notice, go without sleep, spend countless hours training and risk their lives twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. They respond within seconds and work tirelessly until the emergency is over. They are highly motivated, extraordinary individuals who willing put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens. They are dedicated public servants whose importance to this community can never be overstated. I offer my sincere thanks to each one of them.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the wives, significant others and family members whose support and understanding allows our firefighters to give of themselves to protect our community. They are the backbone of the fire department and often carry a significant burden that should never be overlooked. Many of the emergency responses come at the worst possible time and without their support and sacrifice, a volunteer fire department would not be possible.

Lastly, I would like to thank Deputy Chief Patterson, Inspector Antone, the officers and the firefighters of the Swansea Fire Department for all of their hard work and devotion to duty. Their commitment to emergency response, fire prevention and training is unequalled. Our members have once again proven that they are at their best when needed the most. Their dedication to each other, to the department and to the citizens of Swansea is truly extraordinary.

Swansea firefighters continue to go above and beyond the call of duty and allow the Swansea Fire Department to meet its ever-expanding mission. I thank them for all that they do to support our department and our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric S. Hajder  
Chief of Department

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER**

**Chief of Department**

Eric S. Hajder

**Deputy Chief of Department**

Michael J. Patterson

**Fire Inspector**

Bruce J. Antone, Sr.

**Captains**

Jordan Amorin  
Bruce Antone  
Nicholas Emard  
Brett Medeiros

**Lieutenants**

Scott Farrell  
Christopher Hajder  
Thomas Hydrick  
Richard Mello  
Justin Lachance

**Safety Officers**

Garrett Medeiros  
Benjamin Lambert

**Firefighters**

David Barata  
Tyler Beaudry\*  
Devin Beaulieu\*  
Joel Beaulieu  
Michael Berube  
Nathan Bettencourt  
Daniel Boardman  
Timothy Boardman

Dale Dellicker  
William Domingos  
Benjamin Emard  
Joseph Foley  
Nicole Foley  
Cameron Freitas  
Christopher Furtado  
James Furtado

Nathan Leonardo  
Mark MacKenzie\*  
Kyle McCallister  
Michael Medeiros  
David Miranda  
Andrew Moniz  
Timothy Moreira  
Kevin Nunes

Nicholas Brillo	Alexander Greene	Jonah Perry
Patrick Burke	Grant Hajder	Landon Rowe
David Cantin	Gary Irons	Caitlyn Silva
Christopher Carreiro	Scott Johnson	Jared Sousa
Richard Carreiro	Timothy Johnson	Jeremy Souza
Edward Cellemme	Francis Kelly	Christopher Street
William Chadwick	Michael Kelly	Timothy Teves
Donald Charron	Michael Kent	Matthew Thayer
Mathew Coffey	Alan Kocak	Lewis Walton
Tyler Cookson	Marc LaPointe	Travis Winters
Pamela Crombie	Alex Ledo	

\*Active Military

**Dispatcher/Administrative Assistant:** Sarah M. Lopes

**Dispatchers:** Nancy Cordeiro, Sherry Castelo

**Relief Dispatchers:** Jayden Adesso, Elizabeth Clemente, Nicholas Emard, Ashley Frates, Leslie Pavao, Catherine Vieira

## Highway Department

The Highway Department provides numerous services to the residents of Swansea. Calendar year 2022 was another extremely busy year given the duties that are continually directed upon the department to undertake. The following routine operations were conducted: patching potholes & pavement defects; saw cutting and pavement removal/replacement; driveway apron repairs; catch basin repairs; drainage repairs and extensions, cutting brush along the roadsides; cemetery grass mowing/trimming and internments; street sign replacement; sidewalk repairs and sweeping; litter pickup; painting roadway markings; mechanically cleaning catch basins; sweeping all Town streets at least once with some trouble spots and main roads receiving additional sweeping as needed; materials and project bidding, contracting and supervising roadway resurfacing and crack sealing vendors; managing the solid waste (trash) and recycling collection and disposal vendor contract, spring and fall beach cleanup and closure assistance, oversight of the New Beach Pavillion; and assisting other Town Departments with numerous tasks. The Highway Department also provides snow and ice control during winter storm events to allow safe passage on Town owned roadways.

### PAVEMENT MARKINGS

The application of new double yellow centerline pavement markings and single white shoulder pavement markings is typically applied for newly paved streets and heavily worn areas. In 2022, the town received additional monies from the State and all major roadways were repainted along with new fog lines.

The Highway Department also paints stop lines at all intersections, crosswalk markings at all town crosswalks, handicapped parking symbols, arrows and parking lot lines on public roadways and the following municipal parking lots: Town Hall/Library, Police Station, Highway Department, Town Hall Annex, Fire Stations 1, 2 and 4. All of these markings were completed in 2022 by department personnel.

### STREET SIGNS

The names of streets in Swansea are designated by Town Meeting at the time of their acceptance or as approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Highway Department erects and maintains all street name signs at intersections. The Highway Department completed the update of all street name signs to the new guidelines at the end of 2018. Upgrading of all street cautionary signs to the new MassDot guidelines was conducted during the 2020 and 2021 calendar years. In 2022, the department reviewed speed limit signs and placement to approved locations with MassDOT. This project is still on-going

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The Highway Department maintains signalized intersections that are located on Town-owned roadways only, such as the intersection of Main Street at Gardners Neck Rd, Swansea Mall Drive at Swansea Crossings, Wood Street at Oak Street, Oak Street at Locust Street, Bark at Buffington Street, and Sharps Lot at Marvel Street. Maintenance of this

equipment is performed using the Highway Department operating budget through a third-party vendor, Bell Traffic. Maintenance of these signalized light fixtures was conducted on the majority of them in calendar year 2022.

In addition, the Town of Swansea now owns all utility pole mounted street lights in town. All of these lights have been converted to LED. The town also maintains these lights as it is no longer National Grids responsibility. Any issues going forward should be reported to the Highway Department. In 2023, the town will be focusing on changing out the entire 120 pole lights located throughout subdivisions to LED.

### DRAINAGE

Drainage system repairs/installations were made at catch basin and drainage swale locations at various locations throughout town. These included repairs and or additional structures added on the following roadways: Weaver, Spring, Heatherington, Third St, Lee's River Ave, Madison, Ocean Grove Ave, Baptist, Bushee, Sharps Lot, Louis, Evergreen, Fawn, Sawyer, and Carvalho Dr. The Department also had to replace a culvert on Hortonville Road due to a waterline break. In addition, the department has continued the activities to locate every town owned drainage structure, outlet and detention pond throughout town to map in a single GIS application. All catch basins, drainage manholes, outlets and ponds were inspected for structural and/or illicit discharges in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the department has begun a second round of inspections.

Drain line flushing on Stevens Road, Harbor Road, Gardners Neck Area was performed by an outside vendor. Numerous locations were jetted and cleaned of buildup to open up the poorly performing drainage system.

In addition, the Department cleaned three (3) overgrown detention ponds located off of Bark Circle, Base Lodge Lane, Ronald Drive.

Highway Department staff mechanically cleaned 80% of the Town's nearly 1,650 catch basins during the year. This activity generally takes nearly 6-8 months to complete due to its time-consuming task.

### ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

Fiber reinforced roadway crack sealing (funded by MassDOT Chapter 90) was conducted during the 2022 calendar year. Crack sealing of roads was conducted in the Burnside area of town. Approximately 2,700 gallons of crack seal was installed.

The eastern end of Cummings Road was finally address during the 2022. The gravel section of the roadway extending to Dillon Lance was paved and upgrade with some water quality basins.

### ROADSIDE MOWING

The Highway Department utilized its tractor with a boom arm mounted mower to routinely cut the roadsides along town-owner roadways. During the 2022 Calendar year, we experienced an issue with the Town's tractor and had limited availability to perform these services. The Tractor was repaired during the winter of 2022 and will begin to be utilized in the spring of 2023 to maintain the towns roadways.

### SNOW & ICE CONTROL

One of the most important tasks of the Highway Department is keeping the roadways clear of snow and ice during winter conditions. The Department's policy has been an evolution of materials, process and timing over the past years. Experience has shown that pretreating the municipal roads with a salt/magnesium chloride mixture prior to the winter event is cost effective and reduces the time necessary to fully clean-up the event.

Rock salt (sodium chloride) that has a liquid accelerator consisting of magnesium chloride and molasses that is sprayed and mixed on the salt is the primary way the roads are treated during a storm event. This additive brings down the effective melting temperature for the combined material to approximately the low teens. It has been demonstrated that the pretreating application will melt ½" to 1" of the first falling snow.

Once a snow depth of 2 – 3 inches is reached during a storm event, plowing contractors are typically called out to supplement the town's 9 plowing vehicles to clear the snow from roadway surfaces. As the triggering of plowing contractors starts the clock on paying out typically more than \$2,000 per hour for their services, the timing of this function is tightly controlled by the Highway Director, Assistant Highway Superintendent and Foreman.

The timing and choice of tools in the snow fighting arsenal is dependent upon numerous factors that are variable from storm to storm: whether there is all snow or a mixture of rain; how long the storm will last; how the timing of snowfall relates to school opening or closing; how it relates to commuting hours; whether the storm on a weekend or weekday; is it a daytime or night-time storm; what are the air and roadway temperature before and after the event; will there be strong winds with the potential of downed trees; and are there truck or equipment breakdowns during or before the event.

Once the plowing of all streets and public safety parking lots has been completed, a post storm treatment may be necessary. It may be of the mains and hills, or include all streets, or may be omitted entirely. Also, before opening of municipal facilities (Town Hall, COA, Annex, etc.), parking lots need to be plowed and treated.

### CEMETERIES

Swansea has two municipally owned cemeteries – ‘Mount Hope Cemetery’ on Hortonville and Milford Roads in the village center and ‘Vinnicum Woods Cemetery’ on Vinnicum Road. The Highway Department’s tasks in maintaining the cemeteries are as follows:

- Conduct internments at both municipal cemeteries
- Install footings and foundations for monuments
- Install veterans’ markers
- Cut and trim grass
- Apply fertilizer when necessary
- Prune existing trees
- Maintain entrance plantings
- Maintain irrigation and water systems
- Collect leaves and trash

The Highway Department provides some maintenance for nineteen (19) ‘historical outside’ cemeteries as the time and workload allows.

### SOLIDWASTE / RECYCLING

The Highway Department currently oversees the Town’s Solid Waste Collections vendor, Waste Management. 2022 was another interesting year with Waste Management where every few months there seemed to be another issue with collections. Most of this was having to deal with numerous excuses (driver DOT hours, equipment breakdowns, new drivers, etc.) as to why they could not complete their contractual services. dealing with new drivers continuously being hired by WM and the alternating routes which changed times of collection during the day. In July of 2023, a new vendor will be chosen to provide the necessary town services, while the cost of these services will increase, we should expect better service overall.

The Highway Department has continued Recycling Inspections throughout the town. One round of two (2) week inspections was conducted in 2022 as a result of recycling downgrades that were affecting the Town’s Recycling Program. The Town’s Recycling Audits have revealed contamination upwards of 15%. Our inspection effort will be a continued effort going forward in 2023. In addition, the Solid Waste Vendor is continuing to inspect basins as they collect and reject the necessary loads.

### ROADWAY REPAVING and Repairs

Maintenance Paving in 2022 was conducted on three (3) roadways. These included Sharps Lot Road from Murray Place to Baker Road, Dillion Lane, and the eastern end of Cummings Road. This work encompassed 28,900 square yards of work for a cost of approximately \$285,500 and \$565,600 (Cummings Road). Roadway paving was paid using Chapter 90 funding and a town approved article for Cummings Road.

The Highway Department also repaired numerous driveway aprons, and installed asphalt berms to control drainage at numerous properties. The department spent approximately \$15,000 for approximately 150 tons of asphalt to repair pot holes and roadway depressions during the calendar year.

### TOWN OWNED DAMS

The Town received a grant to repair the outlet structure for the Milford Pond Dam, The Town’s engineering consultant is currently designing the new structure for implementation in 2023.

## TOWN PROJECTS

In 2021, drainage projects on Pearse Road and Miller's Lane were engineered and designed. Miller's Lane drainage upgrades will be undertaken by Department Personnel in the summer of 2023. Pearse Road Drainage will be bid for an outside contractor to install. This work will be scheduled for the end of June through December 2023.

Additional Projects completed during 2022 include: Complete roadway upgrade of Cummings Road; Culvert Replacement on Hortonville Road; Demolition of Nike Site Road Building and the Old Police Station; Boat Ramp Dock Removal, Repair and re-installation; Beach Parking Lot Upgrade, Overflow Parking Lot behind the Town Hall. Site Improvements and layout Town Hall Annex, Utility upgrades Town Hall Annex, and Town Hall Roof Project.

The Highway Department worked with the Beach Committee and Waterfront Committee to complete the Bluffs Building walkways and playground area.

The Highway Department Staff began the drainage improvement project to correct safety hazard areas created by residents pumping sump pumps to Town Roadways. There are a number of identified areas throughout the town that consistent required salting trucks on a frequent basis. Our goal is to install corrective actions or try and work with homeowners to eliminate the pumping to town roadways and hopefully stop the unnecessary continuous salting which occurs at a considerable expense.

The Highway Staff cleaned up and posted numerous "Access to Waterways" locations around the town. This effort will continue in 2023.

The Highway Staff worked with the Parks Department to repair field fencing, playgrounds, and helped with field lighting. Additional work on the baseball field lighting project was completed as well.

Upcoming Projects for 2023 include: New Town Fuel System, Beach Ramp Upgrades, Beach Sand Replacement, New Parks Playground, New T-Ball Field, Sail Shade Area at the Waterfront, Detention Pond Maintenance (Arrowhead Drive, etc.), Paving of Market Street and surrounding minor roads, Sandy Beach Parking Lot.

I would like to thank the residents of Swansea for the opportunity to serve you. I would also like to take this time to thank the hard-working members of the Highway Department who performed the tasks listed above and for their dedication and support. I would like to thank the Town Administrator Mallory Aronstein for her continued support of the department. I would also like to thank the Board of Selectmen for their guidance and support in keeping the town moving in a forward direction.

Respectfully Submitted,

William M. Anderson, PE  
Director

## Historical Commission

The Swansea Historical Commission (Cultural Assets Commission) was established to preserve and protect Swansea's historical assets. For the development of the historical and cultural assets of the Town of Swansea. To educate the residents of the Town of Swansea on its history. All done in the accordance with the provisions set by the Swansea Board of Selectmen and Section 8D, Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**The Swansea Historical Commission's Focus for 2022 included the following:**

### **Preservation of the Preserved Gardner house**

The Swansea Historical Commission has been working since 2018 to remove the Preserved Gardner House from the Town's demolition list and restore this majestic historical farm house back to its original state. In 2022 The Swansea Historical Commission was approached by Adam Kitchen from Swansea Cable Access. Mr. Kitchen is in need of

relocating due to lack of space. Mr. Kitchen and the Swansea Cable Access Board are interested in using the Preserved Gardner house as their new location. On October 11, 2022, Cheryl Bogle SHC Chairman, Brandon Travers SHC Secretary and Adam Kitchen SCA went before the Swansea Board of Selectmen. We presented the idea of saving the Preserved Gardner House for the use of the SCA department. We were given approval to move forward to compile a cost analysis. On November 4, 2022, a meeting at the Town Administrator's office was held to discuss the future of the Preserved Gardner House. In attendance were Mallory Aronstein, Swansea Town Administrator, Cheryl Bogle, Chairman Swansea Historical Commission, Adam Kitchen, Swansea Cable Access, Matthew Bean, Swansea Parks Department, John Santos, Swansea Building Inspector and Steven Bogle P.E., SAB Engineering. The Swansea Historical Commission was asked to spear head the project and develop a cost analysis for the Swansea Cable Access Department to utilize the Preserved Gardner House. Due to the inability to access the Preserved Gardner House for 4 months the cost analysis was not completed till March 2023. We will be presenting the Cost Analysis to the Swansea Board of Selectmen on April 11, 2023

**Restoration of the Elizabeth Stevens Brown portrait-** The Elizabeth Stevens Brown portrait that hangs in the entrance to the Elizabeth Stevens Brown Elementary School was in need of restoration. The framed portrait was stored in a sealed shadow box. Along with being exposed to prolonged daylight and ultra violet lighting. This caused discoloration, drying and chipping at an accelerated rate

In 2022 the Swansea Historical Commission made arrangements to have the Elizabeth Stevens portrait restored by Riverside Art in Somerset MA. The portrait was cleaned, restored, sealed, and placed in an appropriate frame with museum glass. Paid for through the SHC's yearly budget. It should be over 100 years before the portrait will need any type of restoration again. The original frame and shadow box was disposed of due to aging.

**Documentation of historical homes and buildings through deed research for the Development of historical districts and expansion of existing districts**

The Swansea Historical Commission continues to research Swansea's historical homes and Buildings through deed research. This information will be used to develop new historical district and expand existing historical districts. The information will also be used to verify information on historical maps and to verify information on the National Registry of Historic Places.

**Historical site sign project phase I (one room school house site signs)**

The Swansea Historical Commission completed phase I of our historical site sign project in 2021. We have not been able to obtain permission to erect the signs due to property sales and Baker Sign Company having employee issues that caused a back log on sign fabrication. We have recently been able to gain permission from property owners. If Baker Sign Company is not able to fabricate signs by May 2023, we voted to get out of our contract and move on to another company. One change we will be making is the use of QR codes on all the historical sites and historical district signs to increase the amount of information available.

**Phase II historical site sign project**

The Swansea Historical Commission has chosen the following topics/areas for phase II of our historical site sign project:

\* Historic Ocean Grove area

\*Swansea Village- History of the Village- Swazey's corner- Ye Olde Eddy cemetery and Swansea Dam and all information related to the history of Swansea Village District. Research has begun and should be completed by fall of 2023. Funding will be applied for through the Community Preservation Committee.

**Historical Cemeteries**

**Clean –up program** The Swansea Historical Commission was not able to expand the number of historical cemeteries cleaned in 2022 due to lack of volunteers and inclement weather. The following cemeteries were taken care of: Kingsley Cemetery on Milford Road. A seasonal cleanup was performed by Carl Becker and his wife, Kathy. We were asked by the First Congregational Church to clean the Mason family Cemetery. Brandon Travers and volunteers Ellen Viverios and Henry Raymond took care of the clean- up for the Church. Brandon Travers and Henry Raymond performed a seasonal clean up on the Small Pox Cemetery on Milford Road. That was the extent of the cemetery cleaning for 2022.

Brandon Travers is in charge of scheduling each cemetery clean up. The Swansea Historical Commission is responsible for all decisions made in regards to historical cemeteries and their care.

**Illegal Water Drainage** We were asked to investigate illegal water drained in to The Jabez Pierce Historical Cemetery #30 located off of Purchase Street on Pierce Lane. Brandon Travers performed a site visit to review existing conditions. Run off from the adjacent residence was not entering into the cemetery property. While in the area Brandon Travers did a site visit at the Stephen Lee Family historic cemetery #13 located on Pierce Lane. He found the cemetery to be over grown and in need of attention. Both cemeteries are scheduled for clean - up in 2023.

**Ye Olde Eddy Cemetery-** Cheryl Bogle, Chairman for The Swansea Historical Commission received four complaints about the Ye Olde Eddy Cemetery off of Ledge Road. This is the oldest cemetery in the Town of Swansea. It is owned by the Eddy Family Association of Colorado. The cemetery has been maintained by Judy Eddy and her brother Robert Eddy for many years. Due to vandals, the Eddy Family Association, along with Judy and Robert, decided to let the foliage in the cemetery grow to keep the cemetery hidden. It has been un-kept for over five years and will remain un-kept until the owners feel comfortable that the cemetery is not in danger of being vandalized. In the meantime, the SHC will be going out and monitoring its condition, to ensure that Mother Nature is not taking over and engulfing the headstones.

**Jewish Section of the Mount Hope Cemetery-** the Swansea Historical Commission was alerted to the condition of the historic Jewish section of the Mount Hope cemetery. Tree roots have begun to take over some of the headstones and graves in that section. The Town Administrator, Mallory Aronstein was alerted to the situation in October of 2022. Mrs. Aronstein contacted William Anderson, Highway Superintendent, to determine if the Town had jurisdiction over this issue. We are waiting to hear back from Mrs. Aronstein on whether or not the Town has any authority to remove the trees that are causing damage.

**Restoration and cleaning attempt of damaged historical cemetery monument and headstones**

Cheryl Bogle, Chairman Swansea Historical Commission, was contacted in regards to the Preserved Gardner Family and Sherman Family headstones in The Mount Hope Cemetery being heavily covered with an orange fungus. This type of fungus can damage headstones and monuments made from granite, slate and marble. The Swansea Historical Commission has addressed having the fungus removed. Research is being done to find family members to obtain permission to clean the head stones. The cleaning will be done in 2023.

**Captain Charles Eddy Cemetery-Eagle Scout**

The Swansea Historical Commission was contacted by the Town Administrator's office and the Department of Veterans Services in regards to Joel Mello. Joel contacted the Town for permission to clean a historical cemetery for his Eagle Scout Badge. The Swansea Historical Commission coordinated the cleanup. We contacted the Eddy Family Association of Middleboro, owners of the cemetery. Permission was granted for the cleaning. Cheryl Bogle Chairman coordinated and documented the cleanup. Brandon Travers, Secretary, assisted in coordination and oversaw the clean-up. Carl Becker, Commission member, assisted in the cleaning. Joel and his family put two days aside to do the cleaning. Joel and his family did a fantastic job. Through the cleaning they uncovered 3 headstones that had not been previously documented, as well as damage to a head stone and the family monument. The report was sent to the Town Administrator.

**Captain Charles Eddy Family Cemetery –Head Stone Monument Repair**

Through the cleaning of the Captain Charles Eddy cemetery, performed by Joel Mello, it was discovered that a headstone and the Eddy family monument were in need of repair. We gained permission from the Eddy family association to move forward on the repairs. Several monument companies were contacted. Morse and Beggs Monument Company was the only company that responded and they will not be available to do the repairs prior to June 30, 2023. The \$5,000 monument article expires June 30, 2023 and it is unknown if this article will be reinstated. These repairs will be covered by the \$5,000 monument fund if the work can be done prior to June 30, 2023. Several other monument companies have been contacted; we are waiting to hear back.

**Old Baptist Cemetery- stolen head stone fragment of Captain Hezekiah Kingsley**

Cheryl Bogle, Chairman of the Swansea Historical Commission, was contact by Lew Keene, Newport Cemetery Commissioner. Mr. Keene disclosed that he removed Captain Hezekiah Kingsley's headstone fragment from the Old Baptist Cemetery. When Mr. Keene was asked to return the headstone fragment, he said that the headstone fragment is either in the trunk of his car, basement of his house, or on the URI campus where he works. He has yet to return the headstone fragment. The Old Baptist Cemetery is privately owned by the First Baptist Church, located at 21 Baptist Street in Swansea. The First Baptist Church's Pastor, Deborah Lee, has been contacted. Pastor Lee put Chairman

Cheryl Bogle in contact with the head of the First Baptist Church cemetery commission. The First Baptist Church cemetery commission has asked the Swansea Historical Commission to assist them in researching any living relatives of Captain Hezekiah Kingsley. Once family members have been contacted, the church will make a decision on what direction they will take. Removing or defacing the headstone, monuments, etc. from historical cemeteries is illegal in the State of Massachusetts. General Law Part IV, Title I, Chapter 272, Section 73. Punishable by fine and or imprisonment.

#### **Demolition Delay By-Law**

In 2018, the Swansea Historical Commission developed a demolition delay by-law. Since 2019, we have attempted to get the by-law on the Town docket, but we have been denied each time. We were denied yet again in 2022. The SHC will attempt again for the Fall of 2023.

#### **Scenic by – Law**

In 2022, the Swansea Historical Commission voted to develop a scenic by-law.

#### **Colonial Historic District**

From 1986-1990, a Historical Town survey was performed. From that survey, an application for six Historical Districts were sent to the National Registry. 1-Colonial Historic District, 2- Barneyville Historic District, 3-Hortonville Historic District, 4- Luther’s Corner Historic District, 5-Swansea Village Historic District and 6-Ocean Grove Historic District. Unfortunately, Ocean Grove Historic District was denied and the Colonial Historic District was never developed. In 2022, the SHC voted to develop the Colonial Historic District and erect its sign. The Commission also voted to add Ocean Grove to phase II of our historic site sign project.

#### **Removal of historical dry laid stone walls Bay Point**

Cheryl Bogle, Chairman of the Swansea Historical Commission, was contacted three times in 2022 to help with what was thought to be the illegal removal of dry laid stone walls in the historic Bay Point area part of The Colonial Historic District. Unfortunately, we do not have any by-laws to help save these Historic dry Laid stone walls. Each person was told to contact the Building Inspector’s office for guidance.

Respectfully

Cheryl Bogle  
Chairman  
Swansea Historical Commission  
81 Main Street  
Swansea Massachusetts 02777  
508-496-9564

#### **Members:**

Brandon Travers- Secretary  
Colleen Brown  
Patricia Redfearn  
Carlton Becker

## Library

### Library Director’s Report 2022

Library Mission Statement: The Swansea Free Public Library is a strong community partner providing programs and services that bring people together, foster creativity, and encourage lifelong learning. We preserve and honor our historical past, enrich present lives, and prepare for a changing future.

Programming and Services: The library is now fully operational but has retained some options such as curbside pickup and home delivery. Digital resource and museum pass usage continues to increase since the pandemic. A wide variety of programs are offered for all ages such as: Monster Squad, Pokémon Club, cardmaking, genealogy, story time on the

farm and many more. The Haunted Library was a huge success this year, bringing in approximately 400 people. Visits from local authors are also very popular.

Library Expansion Project: At Swansea's Annual Town Meeting held on October 24, 2022, funds were appropriated for a newly renovated Swansea Free Public Library. Town funding is being supplemented with a \$6.8 million dollar grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Since October, the Library Building Committee has continued to work with our Project Managers, Pomroy and Associates, and our Architects – Johnson Roberts and Associates in preparation for the construction of the new library building. We are currently fourth in line for the first grant payment.

The new building will keep the old library in place and build an addition on the back. The old building will house historical collections and have spaces for leisure reading areas. The long table in the reference room will remain as well as the beloved wood features. Even the back exterior stone walls will be visible as one looks from the interior of the addition.

The first-floor addition will house the library collections, quiet study rooms, the circulation area, spaces for leisure reading, restrooms, and meeting rooms. A large meeting room at the rear of the addition will hold 100 people.

This community space will be available for all types of programs, concerts, and art exhibits. It will include a storage area and a kitchenette.

The second floor will primarily be the children's and teen area. It includes rooms for children's and teen programs, a comfort room for parents and children, and a separate restroom. There will also be a Maker Space on the second floor. Maker spaces are popular in libraries today. They include equipment, materials, and space for activities like 3D printing, photography, sewing, etc. The Teens will have their own area that will be enclosed by glass walls.

The exterior of the building will have a grassy area with a patio and a gazebo. There will be a parking lot of 42 spaces and there will be handicapped parking near the front entrance of the library.

Currently, the Library Building Committee is working with our architects and project managers on the Design Development phase of the project. Upon the completion of the design process, we will be preparing construction documents, conducting value engineering, site permitting, and working with the MBLC to be sure the building meets all state requirements for the grant. Construction bidding is planned for late fall 2023.

During this time, we will also be securing a temporary facility for the library during the construction phase and planning for that move. The set-up and move to the temporary facility are planned for early 2024.

In the Spring of 2024, The LBC hopes to begin the construction phase. Construction will take approximately 18 months to complete with a grand opening planned for Fall 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Dolan  
Chairperson of the Library Board of Trustees

## Planning Board

In 2022, the Swansea Planning Board conducted eighteen (18) meetings of which one (1) subdivision plan was approved and two (2) were amended; one (1) Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) was approved; seven (7) commercial site plans were submitted, four (4) were approved; two (2) Special Permits for Hammerhead Lots were approved; and twelve (12) Requests to Endorse Approval Not Required (ANR or Form A) plans, one (1) was resubmitted and one (1) was withdrawn. The Planning Board held one (1) preliminary meeting with a prospective applicant for a Subdivision. A total of \$17,400.00 in filing fees was collected and transferred to the General Fund.

The Planning Board held (2) two public hearings to recommend zoning changes. The first one was to amend the Rules and Regulations governing the Subdivision of Land. The second one was to solicit public comment regarding a

citizens petition to create a zoning overlay district bylaw to allow Marijuana Establishments with a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals and to amend the Zoning Map by creating a Marijuana Establishments Overlay District comprised of those portions of the Business B District and the Manufacturing District on the subject property.

The Planning Board underwent some changes in 2022. Mr. Robert Medeiros decided not to run for re-election and Mr. James Hanley resigned. Mr. Paul Waple was elected to the board and Mr. Steven Bogle was appointed to carry out the remainder of Mr. Hanley's term. We wish the very best to Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Hanley and thank them for their years of service to the Planning Board.

The Planning Board continued to represent the Town of Swansea as a member of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) by appointing the Town Planner to serve as their representative. The Planning Board also made the following appointments: Scott Adams and Tim Cabral were appointed to the Soil Conservation Board and Steven Bogle was appointed to the Community Preservation Committee.

The Comprehensive Plan update began this year with a kick-off meeting in May, a public survey being sent out in July, and a public workshop in September. The Open Space and Recreation Plan update also began this year and piggybacked on the Comprehensive Plan survey and workshop. Staff provided support to committees for both of these Plan updates. Staff also provided support to the Harbor Advisory Committee, which was re-engaged after 20 years with several new members.

The Town Planner represented the Planning Board on the Capital Building Committee, who was charged with identifying a site for a new Town Hall/Highway Facility. The Town Planner also represented the Town on the Sowams Natural Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, which commenced on a feasibility study to determine if our region would qualify as a Natural Heritage Area to tell the story of the Pilgrims first encounters with the indigenous peoples.

Another exciting project that the Town Planner worked on was the partnership with Bridgewater State University students to develop a Risk Assessment for the Town. The students held several interviews with Town staff and provided monthly progress updates and a final report, which will become an addendum to our Comprehensive Plan.

A State planning grant was received to fund a study of Rts 6 & 118 in anticipation of sewers being installed. Highest and best uses based on sewers coming will be identified in the coming year. A culvert assessment, funded through another state grant, began, which included identification of those structures in need of attention. And a federal grant was applied for to fund the reconstruction of a failing culvert as well.

The Town Planner also represented the Town on a regional brownfields assessment committee, where local sites have been identified for further study. Also, concept plans began to be developed for active recreation uses at Medeiros Farm with the help of a consultant and several Town staff.

As always, the Planning Board offers its thanks to the Town's many departments, boards and commissions for their cooperation throughout the year and looks forward to its continued service to the residents of Swansea to address the important issues of land use and commercial and residential development.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Adams  
Chairman

# Police Department

## Chief of Police

Marc R. Haslam

## Administrative Lieutenant

Joseph A. Martin

## Operations Lieutenant

Patrick A. Mooney

## Sergeants

Mark Foley  
Joey Faria  
John Souza  
Kyle Stone  
Robert Wilson  
Keith Chomka  
Jonathan Boyd (Det. Sgt)

## Patrolmen

Shane Mello  
Donald DiBiasio  
Nicole Levesque  
Daniel Walsh  
Sheila Valero  
Thomas Eaton  
Christopher Ball  
Eric Thibault (Det.)

Amy Gallant  
Jared Ulak  
Zachary Sousa (Det.)  
Keith Lake  
Thomas Nolan  
Charles Rowland  
Kyle Gaspar  
Jonathan Furtado

Jason Monchique  
Ashley Motta  
Macaila Saunders  
Michael Mulhern  
Andrew Pelletier  
Ethan Bouchard  
Jacob Ferreira

## Dispatchers

Terri-Ann Shileikis  
Lori Jennings  
Nicole Costa  
David Woolhouse

## Mechanic

Raymond Souliere

## Admin. Assistant

Stephanie Albernaz

## GRANTS:

FY22 State 9-1-1 Department Support & Incentive Grant Program.....  
\$59,385.00

FY22 Traffic Enforcement (Click it or Ticket, Distracted Driver &  
(Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over) .....  
\$29,655.50

**GRANT TOTAL.....**  
**\$89,040.50**

**Total Call for Service for 2022: 30,241**

Noise Complaints	58	Disturbance Calls	115
Loose Cow Complaints	8	Burglar Alarm Calls	545
Medical Emergencies	1,912	Motor Vehicle Stops	1,322
Open Door/Window	122	Section 12 Reports	104
Accidents	563	Citations Issued	1,451
Arrests & Summons	290	Offenses Committed	416

## January 2022

**New Firearms:** This month we took delivery of 40 new 9mm firearms. These will replace the 40cal firearms currently in-service by all members of the department. All officers were trained and qualified in the new weapons in June.

**New Cruisers Delivered:** Three new cruisers were delivered this month. The cruisers were ordered in May of 2021. Due to the chip shortage, it took 8 months to receive them. They will replace three high mileage vehicles currently in service.

**Per Diem Dispatchers:** Two new per diem dispatchers were appointed by the Board on January 25. I would like to welcome David Woolhouse and Lucas Canario to the department!

**Snow Events:** There were two snow events during the month of January. The snow event of January 29, 2022 saw snowfall amounts in the area of 19 to 22 inches of snow. Our staff actively enforced the parking ban the night before the storm, removing vehicles from all town roads to allow easier snow plowing operations. There were no major incidents during the storm.

### **February 2022**

**MedProject:** The MedProject grant was extended. The MedProject provides a convenient way for the public to properly dispose of prescription medications. A drop box located in the lobby was provided by MedProject and they cover the costs of disposal as well.

**Body Cameras:** During the month of February the Town and the FOP Union reached an agreement on a body worn camera mandatory use policy. The program went live in December of 2022

### **March 2022**

**Swatting Calls:** During the month of March this department received three separate swatting calls. Swatting is making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address. Once officers arrive on scene, they learn that the call was a prank. Detectives are currently following up on these calls in an attempt to determine where they originated from.

### **April 2022**

**P.O.S.T. Re-Certification:** Part of the recent Police Reform Legislation requires ALL police officers in the Commonwealth to be certified by the P.O.S.T. Commission. This year all police officers whose names begin with the letters A through H completed the re-certification process. This required a questionnaire to be completed by each officer, interviewed and an attestation form signed by the Chief of Police. **Autism Awareness:** April is Autism Awareness month. Swansea Police Autism Patches were sold to raise money for Autism research. The department is honored and proud to be a part of this annual fundraiser.

**Active Shooter/SIMS Training:** This year the department held annual active shooter/simuntion training at Medeiros Farm. By utilizing various role-playing scenarios, along with dynamic and interactive training equipment such as simulated firearm and ammunitions, our officers are able to receive invaluable training in use of force, de-escalation and shoot/don't shoot situations.

### **May 2022**

**Car Seat Event:** Management from Target sent a request to our department requesting assistance organizing a car seat installation event. Sgt. Keith Chomka, a certified car seat technician, organized an event for May 1, 2022. With assistance of Off. Mike Mulhern and car seat technicians from throughout the region, the event was held in the parking lot. It was well attended and was a great success!

**Drug Awareness Program:** Brown School Principal Wendy Williams requested SRO Macaila Saunders to put together a drug awareness program for elementary school students. Off. Saunders was able to design a great program to be taught to the students. SRO Saunders should be commended for the great work she has done at each of the four elementary schools.

**Sergeants Promotional Process:** On May 7, 2022 the written portion of the Sergeants Selection process was held at the police station. Eleven officers took the written exam, three of the officers passed the exam and moved onto the oral board on May 24, 2022. Seekonk Police Chief Dean Isabella, Rehoboth Police Chief James Trombetta and Acushnet

Police Chief Chris Richmond conducted the interviews. A list has been established and will be effective on June 23, the expiration date of the last process.

**Full-timers Appointed:** Former Disp. Jacob Ferreira was recently appointed as fulltime patrolman with the department and began the police academy leaving a dispatch vacancy. Part-time dispatcher David Woolhouse was appointed this month by the Board of Selectmen to fill this vacancy. He began his dispatch duties on May 25.

**Feed the First Response Event:** On May 24 the non-profit Feed the First Responder group treated the town's first responders to a great meal at Fire Station 4. Thank you to Carl Sawejko and Sawejko Communications for sponsoring the event. A special thank you to Chef Stephen Coe who has had four victories against Chef Bobby Flay on "Chopped: Beat Bobby Flay". The food was amazing and appreciated by all.

**In-Service Training Completed:** At this time, ALL officers have completed annual in-service training. This year training consisted of first responder/CPR, Responding to Emergencies of Those with a Mental Illness, Legal Updates, Human Trafficking, De-Escalation and Use of Force, Cultural Competency, Suicide Prevention: Question, Persuade, Refer, Critical Incident Stress Management, Officer Wellness Series - Mental Wellness. Firearms qualifications will take place the last week of June.

**Grant Request Approved:** The department applied for the equipment only "Shared Streets and Spaces Program". We were approved for \$32,063 for "Traffic Management & Roadway Safety". We intend on purchasing a new sign board/radar trailer to enhance our traffic enforcement initiatives. The trailer was purchased and put into service in November.

**Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade:** During the Memorial Day weekend members of the honor guard and department participated in the Ceremony held on Saturday and the parade held on Monday. After a two-year absence it was nice to have the parade back on schedule. Thank you to Kevin Serpa and Jaimie Beane for their efforts!

### **June 2022**

**School Safety/Threat Assessment Team:** During the months of June and July the Threat Assessment team met. Members of the team include Superintendent Robidoux and I along with SRO's Mello and Saunders, Asst. Superintendent Elizabeth White, Director of Finance and Technology Randi Arruda, Maintenance Director Gilbert Pereira, Fire Chief Hajder and Lt. Joseph Martin. The team is focused on developing a plan to address physical safety concerns of all the schools in the district.

**Click It or Ticket:** As part of the Massachusetts Traffic Safety Grant, funds were awarded to departments throughout the state to add extra patrols for different safety initiatives each month. This month we continue to participate in Click It Or Ticket. Officers were out on different days of the month in different locations in town for enforcement. We encourage all motorists to "Buckle Up" and be safe. We will also be using the grant to deploy bicycle patrol officers during July and August to increase awareness around bicycle safety.

**Luther School Special Olympics:** Several officers were on hand to cheer on the "Olympians" at the Luther School Special Olympics. We were honored to be a part of this amazing event.

**Annual Firearms Qualifications:** The department conducted annual firearms qualifications this month at the Somerset Sportsmen's Club. Officers were issued new weapons that were purchased with asset forfeiture funds. I hope to have a final proposal before the Board of Selectmen soon to locate a department qualification range at Sears Farm. This will streamline the qualification process and allow officers to practice more often increasing proficiency.

**Officer Bob Award:** It was an honor and a pleasure to once again present the Annual Officer Bob Award to TJ at the Hoyle School. The award is presented to a student who is kind, caring, responsible and always does their best. The student who receives the award exhibits the same character traits that were important to Cabral and that he taught to students in Swansea where he was the Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer at Joseph Case Junior High School and also coached youth sports.

## July 2022

**President Biden Visit to Somerset:** President Biden visited Brayton Point in Somerset on Wednesday July 20. The Swansea Police Department assisted in traffic control and overpass security for the event. There were minor traffic delays during the afternoon event and no reportable issues.

**School Safety Meeting:** On July 20 members of the police department command staff and school resource officers met with Mr. Robidoux and his administration to discuss the upcoming school year. We reviewed action and safety plans for active shooter events at all schools. Updated plans as needed and reviewed and signed our annual SRO Memorandum of Understanding.

**National Suicide Prevention 988:** This national program was rolled out during the month of July. Anyone suffering a mental health crisis or family members can dial 988 to obtain assistance and resources. The 988 dialing code will become the new national number routing callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline across the U.S. on July 16. The new phone line will be accessible 24/7/365 by call or text.

**Annual Patrolman's Association Scholarship:** Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 Swansea Police Patrolman's Association scholarship! On behalf of the Association, scholarships were presented by President Sgt. Mark Foley to Rylie Foley, Tori Leblanc, Marcus Martinez and Eleanor Miranda. Congratulations and best of luck to these students.

## August 2022

**School Opening:** The first day of school for the town was on August 30, 2022. Officers were present at all schools during drop-off and pick-up. No incidents were reported.

**Purple Heart Softball Game:** On Friday August 5 the town held the first annual Police Vs. Fire Softball game celebrating the town's designation as a Purple Heart Community. The game was well attended and a fun event for everyone. We look forward to many more years of this event.

**Sex Offender Checks:** The Swansea Police Department is responsible for conducting an annual audit of all Level 1 Sex Offenders and a bi-annual audit of all Level 2 and Level 3 Sex Offenders who live, work or have a mailing address in the Town. The audits consist of checking the live, work or mailing address in person to confirm the information provided to our department during the registration process.

As of August 30, 2022, the Town of Swansea has twenty-seven (27) registered sex offenders living, working or having a mailing address in town. This includes 19 living in town, 4 working in town, 2 living and working in town and 1 living and a mailing address in town and 1 with a mailing address in town. There are eleven (11) Level 1, fifteen (15) Level 2, and one (1) Level 3.

In July and August, the Detective Division conducted audits of all Level 1, 2 and 3 Sex Offenders. All were found to be in compliance with their registration status.

## September 2022

**High Five Friday:** We continued our High Five Fridays at the elementary schools. We were at Gardner Elementary on September 16, Elizabeth Brown on September 23 and Luther School on September 30. The kids were very excited to be welcomed by our officers and the staff look forward to seeing them!

**Municipal Road Safety Grant:** The Swansea Police Department was been awarded \$29,250 in grant funds as part of the Municipal Road Safety Grant allocated by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research (OGR).

Grant funds were used to support the department's continuing commitment to the enforcement of pedestrian, bicycle traffic and motor vehicle safety. As part of its bicycle enforcement, the department hosted a bike rodeo to teach children how to safely ride their bikes.

We also conducted crosswalk educational enforcement, bike patrols that reward those wearing helmets with an ice cream coupon, helmet distribution bike patrols, and bicycle education at local summer camps.

The grant was authored by Lt. Joseph Martin and Sgt. John Souza, who is head of the traffic unit.

### October 2022

**Re-Appropriation ARPA Funds:** On October 18, 2022 Chief Haslam appeared before the Board of Selectmen requesting that a previous request for ARPA funding be modified and amended to allow the Town of Swansea to hire a fulltime Social Worker as opposed to contracting with an outside vendor for a part time social worker. The Chief will work with the Town Administrator to solicit those funds from the County Commissioners.

**Flu Shots:** On October 13, 2022 Town Nurse Desiree Haring administered Flu Vaccines to Department Staff. Maintaining up to date immunization is important to keep our staff safe and when responding to that many different calls for service.

### November 2022

**Town Meeting:** At the Town Meeting held on October 24 the Swansea Police Department received funding to replace the department's portable radios. Those radios have been ordered and are anticipated to be delivered in January.

**911 Support and Incentive Grant:** During the month we completed an application to the State 911 Department for a support and incentive grant to assist in funding dispatch/911 operations and equipment.

**Crosswalk Sting:** On November 23, 2022 officer assigned to the Traffic Unit conducted crosswalk stings on Main St. and Wilbur Ave. Over 30 citation were issued to violators.

**New Police Officer:** On November 29, 2022 the Board of Selectmen appointed David Gadry to the position of fulltime police officer. He has completed the entry tests and will attend the police academy in February.

### December 2022

**Christmas Events:** The department participated in several fill a cruiser/ambulance events at Target and Walmart over the holiday season. The patrolmen's association also received toy donations and provided toys to needy families in town.

**Detective Assignment:** Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, interviews were held for the position of detective. After the interviews Patrolman Zachary Sousa was assigned to the position of detective. I would like to wish him well in this position. This will bring the total number of detectives to three; two detectives and one detective sergeant.

#### ***Harbormaster Report:***

The 2022 season started off with Officer Shane Mello and Officer DiBiasio painting and replacing the chains on the swim and channel buoys. Both boats were also serviced to ensure that they were both sea worthy.

Officer Shane Mello removed two boats from the water along Sandy Beach that had washed up on shore after breaking off their moorings. The owners of each vessel were contacted and assisted in the removal. Harbormaster Mello responded with other members of the police department along with Swansea EMS to two rescues one for a season party on Long Point and another for a missing kayaker. Both were resolved with the assistance of Swansea EMS.

Officers assigned to the Harbormaster Program were also responsible in marking the waterways, by placing buoys in the channel and along the beach area. Officers also conducted boat inspections and enforced waterway rules. Officers assigned to this program also assisted the Fall River Harbor Master and Police with the Fourth of July Firework display.

At the end of the season Officer Mello along with Officer DiBiasio removed all channel markers. Both boats were winterized and stored for the winter.

Officer Shane Mello is the Harbormaster and he is assisted by Officer Donald DiBiasio, Officer Thomas Eaton, Officer Motta and Officer Lake. The officers go above their regular assigned duties to make sure the waterways are safe for everyone.

**Shellfish Warden Report:**

The 2022 shellfish season was busy for the shellfish department with an early contaminated relay of 300 bushels re-seeded in the area in front of the boat ramp and the South East side of Long Point for both the Commercial and Recreational fishermen. This area for both commercial and recreational fishermen was closed from May 1<sup>st</sup> until October 15<sup>th</sup>. The department was involved in monitoring of the Contaminated Relay for the Commonwealth. The relay supplies Towns throughout the State with quahogs to re-supply their waterways. The Ocean rancher supplied over 8,380 bushels for reseeding. This program of monitoring the relay also allows this department to reseed our own waterways without any further cost to the Town.

Officers assigned to the Shellfish program were tasked with conducting shellfish harvest inspections at random locations throughout the waterway areas. The officers also regulated the fishing of blue shell crabs and several other species fished from the waterways of the Town. These officers are also responsible for placing and removing of the channel and swim buoys throughout the water ways.

Officer Shane Mello is the Shellfish Warden and he is assisted by Deputy Shellfish Wardens, Officer Donald DiBiasio, Officer Thomas Eaton, Officer Ashley Motta and Officer Keith Lake.

Commercial Permits Purchased ..... 9  
 Recreation Permits Purchased .....175  
 Non-Residents Permits Purchased.....46  
 Senior Permits Purchased.....217  
 Veteran Permits Purchased.....9

**MONIES TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN TREASURER 01/01/2022-12/31/2022:**

Alarm By-Law Fees:	\$ 2,840.00
F.I.D. Card Fees:	\$ 250.00
Gun Permit Fees:	\$ 8,525.00
<b>TOTAL FEES:</b>	<b>\$ 11,615.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Marc R.Haslam  
 Chief of Police

**Public Access Oversight Committee**

<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	
Balance as Jan. 1, 2022	\$ 79,326.59
Expenses	- 2,565.00
Ending Balance as of Dec 31, 2022	<hr/> \$ 76,761.59
<b>OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT</b>	
Balance as of Jan. 1, 2022	\$ 443,564.35
Income	+ 175,882.69
Operational Expenses	- 164,473.87
	<hr/>

Ending Balance as of Dec. 31, 2022

\$ 454,973.17

#### SWANSEA COMMUNITY NETWORK

c/o

Joseph Case High School

70 School St, Swansea, Ma. 02777

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Evening and weekends are by appointment only

The Cable access Coordinator can be reached during business hours at (508) 675-7483 ext. 5

We are always looking for members of the community to produce their own programs.

We are also searching for volunteers to assist in our programs. Free training is offered on the use of the broadcast equipment to all residents who either live or work in the Town of Swansea.

#### CHANNEL 09 EDUCATION:

Any programs with an educational value geared to students of all ages.

All School related programming will air on this channel. Channel 9 is geared towards content produced by students of the Swansea School District.

EX. Case High & JR High School Graduation, Award Ceremonies, Band Concerts, High School sports, etc.

Community Bulletin Board will have all school related announcements as well as the complete schedule of programs that will air on the channel

#### CHANNEL 15 GOVERNMENT

Any programs that relate to the Town of Swansea or any organizations within the Town of Swansea. Ex. Selectmen's Meeting. Community Bulletin Board will have all Town related information. Posted meetings, cancellations etc.

Completed schedule of programs that will air on the channel.

Also, Channel 15 airs the school committee and the Diman Regional School committee meetings.

#### CHANNEL 98 PUBLIC ACCESS:

Any program produced by people who live or work in the Town of Swansea as well as programming from neighboring community public access centers.

Nonresidents may get a Swansea resident to sponsor a program. Free training on the use of the broadcast equipment is provided.

Complete schedule of programs on this channel as well.

Community Bulletin Board is for all non profit organizations to list their events.

Respectfully submitted:

Public Oversight Committee

Chris Carreiro,

Frances M. Kelley

Laurie Pimentel, Chairwoman

Eric S. Hajder

Debbie Kelley

## School Department

### E.S. Brown School

Elizabeth Stevens Brown School, which opened in January 1956, is currently in its 67<sup>th</sup> year of providing quality education to young people of Swansea. The school was named after Elizabeth Stevens Brown, who was a Swansea elementary teacher and eventually became the Principal of Brown School. Originally the school was built as a Jr. High School to serve students in grades six through eight, later expanding to include students in grades three through eight. Over the years the school has adapted to meet the educational needs of the students.

Today Elizabeth S. Brown School serves students in grades three through five, with four classes per grade level, for a total of 12 classrooms. This year we have a current population of 289 students. We have the following average class sizes: grade three (26); grade four (21); grade five (25). Within the school, students are heterogeneously grouped within each homeroom while we continue to provide individualized services for students on IEPs in both inclusion and pull-out

models. Currently there are 40 Special Education students (14%) who receive academic support from two Special Education teachers and three paraprofessionals in these settings. We continue to qualify as a Title I school, which allows us to provide additional reading support for students to strengthen basic reading and comprehension skills that are vital to improved academic achievement. Additionally, we offer Math support services via a Math Specialist Teacher. Our Academic Interventionist supports students directly within their classrooms providing direct, short-term intervention to any struggling students. We also have a full-time School Adjustment Counselor to support students' social and emotional needs. This Adjustment Counselor assists students to develop prosocial skills and peer relationships, and strengthen mediation and peer conflict skills.

Our teaching staff is committed to providing effective strategies and skills to incorporate instructional technology in the classroom. Incorporating technology into daily lessons enhances our student's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and prepares our students in becoming career and college ready. Our students utilize Chromebooks in their daily lessons and work. Teachers have relied heavily on Google Classroom for creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way. Our technology plan identifies technology and equipment currently at E. S. Brown Elementary inclusive of twelve Chromebook carts, which provides enough chromebooks so that each student has their own to use during the school day. New this year we have TouchView interactive panels in each classroom to support kinesthetic and visual learning within the classroom.

Strengthening our students' reading ability and effective teaching strategies for reading remain our focus. Our use of common planning time has supported the teachers in our efforts to raise the bar for learning expectations for our students. In Grade 3, we began using Project Read for daily mini-phonics lessons. The Grade 3-5 ELA teachers focus on implementing the Lucy Calkins Units of Study, which helps teachers provide their students with instruction, opportunities for practice, and concrete goals to help them meet and exceed any set of high standards. This year we began using the iReady Reading Diagnostic as a tool to measure student reading levels and comprehension. Each student is assessed a minimum of three times per year. This is our second year with the iReady Math Classroom. Our math teachers have continued to use planning and professional development time this year continuing to learn the program and planning units of instruction. Brown School students will participate in the 2023 computer-based MCAS assessment in Reading and Mathematics. The fifth-grade students continue to also be assessed in Science, Technology and Engineering.

Parental and community involvement are instrumental in creating a safe, supportive environment at Brown School. The Swansea Police Department in collaboration with the School Department fosters healthy relationships with children while teaching them valuable lessons. Officer Saunders, the elementary School Resource Officer periodically visits our school and is welcomed to events and in classrooms. We have an active PTO Board that supports our students through the traditional Field Trips and School-wide community events. They have supported our students by providing fun all-school events, classroom supplies, and outdoor recess equipment. They have also supported our hard-working staff with monthly breakfasts and treats.

The Brown School Council continues to strive for improvement of our school; focusing on the existing school improvement goals and developing action plans for improving the overall climate and enhancing academic achievement for our students. The School Council is instrumental in determining the direction for the School Improvement Plan, inclusive of the budget, curriculum, and programs that drive instruction at Brown School. Faculty, parents, and family members are given the opportunity for input in determining the direction and development of our goals by participating in surveys each year.

The energy and efforts of our community and staff are reflective of the district's motto of "Children Come First" that will continue to be fostered at E. S. Brown School.

## Gardner Elementary School

Gardner Elementary School, located at 10 Church Street, has a population of 253 students in grades K-2, with four classes at each grade level. Starting in Kindergarten, students engage in learning activities that foster the development of the whole child. The learning environment at Gardner promotes academic success by fostering a growth mindset and belief in oneself. Social-emotional development is a major component of the school as well, as students work on developing their character through school-wide initiatives and learning activities.

The staff at the Gardner School is dedicated to the success of all students. Common planning time allows teachers to meet in grade level teams to plan curriculum, discuss the progress of students, and collaborate to provide the best instruction possible. Common planning time has been increased by one hour each month during the 2022 – 2023 school year. Our plan is to add an additional three hours next school year!

At least one teacher at each grade level is trained in how to instruct English language learners. Gardner continues to provide student support through our Title I program. One academic interventionist, one reading specialist, one special education teacher, one school nurse, one school adjustment counselor, three para-professionals, and our school secretary round out the staff at Gardner.

Gardner school staff and leadership value our students, their families, and the community. By effectively building and maintaining relationships with these stakeholders, we are able to support our students to the fullest. This year, with the help of our amazing parent teacher organization, we have increased our family and community events. These events include partnering with the Providence Bruins to help fight pediatric cancer, bringing back the sweetheart dance for families, fundraising for families in need, a clothing drive, and more! We believe in taking action to model what we believe, and these initiatives are just some of the ways we demonstrate our love for our students and our community.

Gardner school has been a Feinsein Leadership School for seven years, since 2016. As a recognized school, we are committed to teaching all of our students to be caring of others by demonstrating “Good Deeds.” As a Feinsein Leadership School, we follow the message of philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinsein, “Every time you do something good for someone, you make the world a better place.” The Gardner School Community has taken this message to heart, and the students, staff, and families have been extremely generous with their time and other resources in supporting people and animals in need.

Being part of the Feinsein program gives Gardner School the opportunity to receive financial support in recognition of the good deeds that we do. These funds have been and will continue to be used to enrich our academic programs and provide additional learning and cultural opportunities for our students. This school year we have added an outdoor classroom. This classroom could not have been built without the fiscal support of the Feinsein Foundation. In addition, our Gardner families helped provided the knowledge and the labor, while local businesses donated their time and resources. This project has highlighted the positive impact our strong family and community relationships can have. As a result, our students are able to participate in learning in a flexible and engaging outdoor space that is both beautiful and functional.

This school year, Gardner has become a Unified Champion School. The Special Olympics describe these schools as schools that, promote social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sports and other activities. Students who play Unified become better at helping others, standing up for each other, and sharing responsibility.” Our core values at Gardner align perfectly with the mission of the Special Olympics and their mission for Unified Champion Schools. Our participating students love being a part of this program and ask for more opportunities each week.

Reading and literacy continue to be a major point of emphasis at Gardner School. District and school leadership are working to pilot new literacy programs, in collaboration with carefully selected staff that have shown initiative in moving our district forward. This year we have introduced the “One School One Book,” initiative. Formal and informal data collections have proven this to be a huge success! As a result, we will continue with this each school year.

All 12 classrooms now have SMART Panel technology that has improved teaching and learning. This modern technology benefits teachers and students. Our teachers are able to easily create and implement lessons digitally, while students can work as a class using the panels, resulting in collaborative learning that is both rigorous and fun!

Our Gardner Cardinal Traits, which is a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) initiative, remain an integral part of our daily practices and conversations. Each month, students strive to meet excellence towards the

trait of the month. Their efforts are rewarded with certificates of achievement and school-wide recognition. This character development has proven to impact our students' lives beyond Gardner as well, as we have had many parents of former students reach out to thank us for our school and specifically the traits, as they have helped their children socially and emotionally, both at home and in school.

## Mark Hoyle Elementary School

The Mark Hoyle Elementary School stands in tribute of a young man who inspired a community. Located at 70 Community Lane, in Swansea Massachusetts, the Hoyle School currently serves 240 students. The Hoyle School opened its' doors in 1992 and has been providing a quality public education ever since. The Hoyle School educates students from pre-k through second grade. Currently, there are six, half-day sessions of integrated preschool serving students who are three and four years old.

One A.R.C.H. classroom serves students from kindergarten through grade two and offers support that mainstream classroom settings cannot. This year this classroom has eight students. Due to the many special needs' programs at Hoyle School, 19% of our students receive some type of special needs services.

The current population breakdown warrants three full day kindergartens, three first grades and three second grades. This is our twelfth year with full day kindergarten and it has been a huge success.

The rest of the professional support staff consists of one reading specialist, one academic interventionist, and two special needs teachers, as well as a district technology coach and Title 1 coordinator. Ten para-professionals help support the programming at the Hoyle School as well as a full-time nurse and a secretary.

All grades receive specialized reading services from our reading specialist. This supportive grouping has worked out extremely well for all students. Instruction is differentiated throughout the day. Students who are independent are able to work at a faster pace, allowing for more abstract, independent work. Students who are less independent are able to receive the support that they need to be successful. We are fortunate to have teachers in every grade level who are S.E.I. endorsed by the state.

Teacher collaboration is an integral part of student success within the groups. All teachers are afforded common planning time to discuss the students, their needs and the best approach to teaching them.

A strong emphasis has been placed on early literacy. The reading specialist is a key component to instruction. The specialized reading program supports our more needy students.

The Hoyle Elementary School has adopted a new math program that aligns perfectly with the Common Core Massachusetts State Frameworks. Technology is weaved throughout the daily instruction and all students receive an integrated curriculum.

The school improvement plan mirrors the district improvement plan. All teachers are highly qualified and certified in their area of instruction. The school improvement plan, as developed from the school council addresses the six main areas of quality schools as outlined but the state.

The climate at the Hoyle School is one of mutual respect, support, teamwork and character. All staff and faculty are committed to excellence for all students. Everyone works together resulting in a team approach to teaching. Respect, responsibility, tolerance and kindness are character development traits that we live by every day. We have developed a nice mutual partnership with the Bay Coast Bank, Council on Aging, Country Gardens Nursing Facility, Swansea Historical Society, Junior Achievement, and the Swansea Garden Club. Our annual food drive and toy drive are huge successes and are donated to local charities ensuring that the donations are helping families in our community.

The Hoyle School has a very strong and supportive Parent Teacher Organization. We have many volunteers who put many hours into fundraising and programming for our students. Through their work each class is able to attend two field trips a year as well as participate in numerous on-site programs.

The Hoyle School continues to be an exciting, respectful, learning environment that not only teaches academics, but also instills a lifelong love for learning in its' students.

## Joseph G. Luther Elementary School

The Joseph G. Luther Elementary School was built in 1930 and opened its doors for students in 1931. Luther School, as it is most commonly known, was named after Joseph Gardner Luther, a successful local businessman, town clerk/treasurer, and collector of taxes for the Town of Swansea. The school was originally built to serve the educational needs of students in grades one through eight. In 1963, Luther School was expanded to serve the increasing number of Swansea students with the addition of several classrooms, offices, and a gymnasium.

The Luther School today, with approximately 185 diverse students, is one of two elementary schools serving students in grades three through five. The school participates in the Surround Care Program and provides before and after school care to approximately 15 students throughout the school year. There are twenty-two teachers, six paraprofessionals, one school nurse, one school adjustment counselor, one school secretary, one full time custodian, one part time custodian and one administrator presently employed at Luther School. Luther School continues to offer Title I services for reading intervention as well as services in school-based counseling, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Luther School has continued to increase and update classroom technology through the purchase of additional Chromebooks as well as interactive panels in order to provide faculty members and students with a technology-rich learning environment. Students also have access to several mobile Chromebook carts, iPads, document cameras, and digital projectors. Luther School has received many recent upgrades to the facilities including the installation of an additional water fountain, new shades, HVAC system upgrades, hardwood flooring maintenance, interior painting, and repairs to the foundation to address ground water leaks.

Luther School students participate in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in grades three through five for mathematics and English language arts. Grade five students continue to participate in MCAS in science as well. State testing at Luther School continues to be computer-based for most students with a small number of students participating in the MCAS Alternate Assessment in the form of a portfolio. The Luther School faculty participates in ongoing professional development in order to effectively prepare students for these assessments. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not issue school or district accountability determinations for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our Grade 3 Teachers have implemented a new phonics component to our literacy block called Project READ during the current school year. We have continued to increase our computer-based assessments as well as screening/diagnostic assessments to identify students who need additional support. Luther School utilizes an intervention block to provide students with one-on-one and small group instruction to ensure students are receiving instruction that meets their individual needs.

The Luther School community has a building-based leadership team, a school council, a parent-teacher organization, a special education advisory committee representative, district curriculum committee representatives, a crisis response team, and a representative on the district diversity and equity committee. These groups allow for input from various stakeholders to advocate, plan, and respond to the needs of the Luther School educational community. Our school council also collects input through the use of parent and faculty surveys as well as student learning data to create our annual school improvement plan that addresses curriculum, instruction, professional development, student support services, and the financial management of the school budget.

The citizens of Swansea continue to provide Luther School with the resources and support for our students, staff and administrators to live up to our school mission statement: The Luther School community will provide a safe, caring, and technology-rich environment that will challenge and support students to continually improve their ability to read, write, problem solve, and work with others.

## Joseph Case Junior High School

In the 2022-2023 school year, Joseph Case Junior High School continues to meet the many challenges associated with education today. The administration, faculty, and staff of Joseph Case Junior High School continually provide opportunities for learning and improving student achievement while offering a safe, diverse and nurturing educational environment for all students. We seek to foster a growth mindset in our entire educational community.

The dedicated and highly qualified faculty and staff at Joseph Case Junior High School strive for excellence and are dedicated to providing the best possible learning experience for all students while ensuring 21<sup>st</sup> century readiness. Joseph Case Junior High School is a progressive junior high school of five-hundred students, forty-seven teachers, two guidance counselors, a school adjustment counselor, a school nurse, six paraprofessionals and three secretaries.

Meeting state standards and our goals for improvement continue to drive our curriculum and instruction. We continue to direct our remediation and intervention in all content areas to provide our students with every opportunity to be successful. We remain committed to addressing areas of concern and focusing our efforts towards continued improvement in all areas as we continue to implement the 2016 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks with continuous curriculum review.

The improvement of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning is the goal of our district and Joseph Case Junior High School. Our focus in professional development continues to be in the area of instructional strategies and instructional technology to achieve 21<sup>st</sup> century student outcomes. This school year, we have continued our focus on social and emotional learning (SEL) to help our students be successful in all aspects of life. This is more important than ever considering the challenges of the last three and a half school years. We are also working hard to improve our cultural proficiency to ensure equity for all members of our school community.

Our faculty remains committed to the learning and development of strategies and skills to incorporate instructional technology in the classroom. This year, our school has received tremendous support from the district in the area of instructional technology. Each of our students as well as our teachers has a dedicated Chrome Book for use throughout the day. Information, media, and technology skills are an important part of our global society and we strive to incorporate development of these skills into every lesson.

Our school continues to value our students' participation in extra-curricular activities and athletics. These activities provide our students with the opportunity to experience positive enrichment and growth after school hours and to develop socially, emotionally, and academically.

We are most proud of our school's designation by Special Olympics of Massachusetts as a Unified Champion School. This school year, we became the first middle school in the country to be named a National Banner School by Special Olympics of North America. We also were recognized by ESPN. This is due to our efforts to include all students in all aspects of our school. We have unified teams in bocce and basketball as well as a unified fitness program. Students with special needs participate in our leadership groups and we have an inclusive after school activity we call Case CardinalsCare.

At Joseph Case Junior High School, we believe in interacting with the community and recognize the importance of collaboration, cooperation, and communication between the school, the community, and parents. Our students continue to be involved in activities of community service and supporting the elderly and less fortunate of our community and abroad. Our National Junior Honor Society continues to engage in fundraising activities contributing to various community programs. For the fifteenth straight year, all members of our school community participated in our Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. Proceeds from this event were donated to the Bristol County Veterans' Association to assist them in their efforts to provide meals for veterans in need. This year we also held a very successful food drive in support of this organization as well. We are proud of the successes and achievements of our students, faculty and events at Joseph Case Junior High School.

We look forward to continued support for Joseph Case Junior High School in the future, which will enable us to continue to grow as a school and a community and prepare our students for the challenges of high school and beyond.

## Joseph Case High School

The opening of the school year was the first since 2019 without any COVID restrictions. Joseph Case High School welcomed 136 students of the Class of 2026. JCHS also introduced four new teachers to its faculty to fill vacancies as a result of retirements. Christopher Costa served his first year as principal after serving eight years as the assistant principal, succeeding Brian McCann, who retired after 18 years as the building leader and more than 33 years as a high school educator. Shayna Morgan, veteran educator, was hired as the school's new assistant principal.

JCHS hosted its fifth NEASC Decennial Accreditation team since it opened in 1975. Six visiting team members from NEASC spent three days at JCHS; visiting classrooms, interviewing multiple groups from the school community, and attending a gallery of student work. The accreditation team celebrated many of the strengths of Joseph Case High School. They provided feedback, including commendations and recommendations on our school improvement focus in three areas: personalized professional development, early identification of struggling students, and increasing technology support to augment student learning.

Student advisories were reimplemented. Our last student advisory meetings were held in March of 2020 before leaving for the remainder of the school year, as a result of the pandemic. Student advisories combine a member of the staff with a small group of students in the same grade (12-14 students). These assignments remain in place for each student's career at JCHS. The philosophy is to make a connection and build a relationship with an additional adult in the building.

Athletics has been extremely successful, as multiple teams qualified for tournament play in their respective sports. The cheerleaders had their best season ever by winning the New England championship. Unified Sports continued with basketball, Strength and Conditioning and Track and Field while the ARCH program continues to offer in-house internships and work experience for our post-grad population. The ARCH program was also able to reestablish the "Buddies" program, which allows students to enjoy social activities that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The JCHS band was very successful in their competition season with their production of "Serengeti."

Case Theatre continued with an aggressive schedule of performances. The fall production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" was a huge success and included students from all schools in the district. The winter production of "Clue on Stage," treated the audience to a smaller and intimate "blackbox" presentation. The "Desecrated Temple" was this year's METG State competition one act play. JCHS was the first high school in the country to receive the rights to produce "Mean Girls," and presented it as their spring production.

The Case High Class of 2022 graduated 121 students in Cardinal Stadium. The high school was able to return to the Lakeside Pavilion in Foxborough for the prom. The academic year ended with two Passion Days in lieu of traditional finals for the sixth year so that teachers and students could continue to build relationships through collaborative activities on the final days of school.

## Selectmen's Office

The turn of the new year brought about renewed energy to continue projects from 2021 and to start new projects to advance the Town, including major construction of local facilities. This year, the focus was primarily on finishing long overdue projects, prioritizing needs and demands, and reorganizing the Town for better means of service. Under the direction of the Board, various town officials and departments worked to enhance communication with state and federal partners as well as members of the business community to build lasting relationships for our community and economic development.

In March, the Town unveiled a new municipal website as well as launched the long-awaited e-permitting software. The goal of these two advancements were to enhance the user experience with the town, making it easier to file and

track permitting as it travels through the approval process. The Town's new website serves to provide information in a more user-friendly, organized way that will help residents and visitors keep up with local news and events within government. Combining these new tools, the Town created a business guide to assist new, current and prospective business owners in navigating necessary permit approval processes, including detailing which offices are required for permitting and estimated timelines for approvals. The Town also developed a Technical Review Committee to meet with businesses and other consultants looking to locate in Swansea to provide preliminary comments and feedback on proposed projects.

The Town held its Annual Town Election in April, where the Town elected Robert C. Medeiros to his first term on the Board of Selectmen after his previous years of service to the Board of Health and Planning Board. Mr. Medeiros filled the seat of Derek W. Heim who did not seek reelection. The Board appointed Mr. Heim and nine other individuals to the Capital Building Committee which met fervently to prioritize infrastructure projects facing the Town, identifying the Town Hall/Town Hall Annex and Highway Garage facilities as in the most immediate need of new construction. The Committee made various recommendations after an exhaustive search for where to locate these buildings and ultimately decided on exploring use of the Del Mac Orchard along Wood Street, purchased in 2019, for a municipal complex. The Committee also made the recommendation to combine the Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, and the Council on Aging into one facility to consolidate buildings, provide multiuse functions, and be more economic for sustainability and construction costs. Town Meeting in October 2022 funded \$200,000 to hire an Owners Project Manager and designer for both the Town Hall/COA and the Highway facilities. The Board is greatly appreciative of the work of this Committee and all of the members' efforts in advancing this important endeavor. A variety of information on the work of this Committee and their recommendations and reports can be found on that Town's website at [https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/town\\_administrator/capital\\_building\\_committee.php](https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/town_administrator/capital_building_committee.php).

The Comprehensive Planning process begun in 2022 as well. Under the direction of Town Planner John Hansen, the Town spent the year examining its current infrastructure, transportation, and recreational facility needs, polling for public input both by community workshops as well as surveys in tax bills, and reporting upon findings. A finalized report is expected in 2024. We hope residents continue to offer feedback and comments on their community in the various reports. In conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan the Town is assembling the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the oversight for which a committee was established, the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, an ADA Transition Plan, and an asset inventory for town-owned culverts and bridges. The latter three plans are all funded via state awarded grants. All planning initiatives will continue into 2023.

The Board of Selectmen regularly and routinely establish goals and priorities to manage the many initiatives facing the town. In addition to setting goals to streamline permitting to be more business-friendly, the Board also focused on providing senior tax relief initiatives which will come before voters at the Annual Town Meeting in 2023, analyzed town-owned infrastructure implementing a Facilities Manager position to ensure protection and maintenance of our buildings, began a Fire Feasibility Study Committee to analyze the Fire Department's current volunteer model and devise ways in which to continue the volunteerism we are so proud of, and examined the Town's organization, leading to the combination of the Park and Recreation Departments to fall under the Park and Recreation Commission. The Board was also focused on ensuring roadway safety, directing increased patrols of the Police Department and studying the layout of key areas for exclusionary traffic along Old Providence Road and Warren Avenue. The Town was also successful in landing a spot on the state's Transportation Improvement Plan through MassDOT, securing \$9 million commitment of state and federal funding to rebuild and redesign Route 118 to improve safety and mobility at our primary commercial corridor, enhancing economic development in our community.

Aligning with the goals of creating unity and greater community, the Town held more community events this year, hosting two movie nights at Swansea Memorial Park, hosting the First Annual Purple Heart Softball Game between police and fire department personnel, and a Trunk or Treat event. Our Annual Holiday in the Village event was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Town will continue to find new ways to inspire residents to gather and build community.

The Board supported the new school construction for Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School which ultimately passed Swansea with unanimous support. Construction is expected in late 2023. The Board also supported the \$19 million expansion and renovation project for the Swansea Free Public Library which was voted favorably in October 2022.

A variety of human resources initiatives were instituted, including funding the first Human Resources Director position to assist in professionalizing our organization. The Board also instituted a variety of employment policies, including an updated Drug and Alcohol Policy, Tobacco and Smoke Free Workplace policy, and Workplace Attire policies. The Town also considered to appoint its Treasurer/Collector, a position which is currently elected. Voters will face that question on the ballot at the Annual Town Election in 2023. The initiative was spurred by recommendations from Massachusetts Department of Revenue and succession planning best practices.

As with previous years, the Board continues monitoring and enhancing access to waterways throughout the community. The Town through its Highway Director is undergoing permitting through the Conservation Commission to develop Sandy Beach in Ocean Grove as an access area. The Town also enjoyed an Eagle Scout project installing a kayak launch along Milford Dam. Further projects are continually reviewed and developed as we enjoy coastal living in Swansea.

The Board thanks its staff, Ms. Janet Helley and Ms. Melissa Heilborn, for their continued efforts in serving the residents and businesses in Town. The Board also recognizes the distinguished service of Ms. Mallory Aronstein as Town Administrator throughout this year implementing the initiatives described here and guiding and advancing the Town. Lastly, the Board thanks all elected officials, department heads, volunteers, and all of those who have supported the Town of Swansea.

Respectfully submitted,

#### **THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, Chairman  
Mr. Christopher R. Carreiro, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Robert C. Medeiros, Clerk

*Follow us on social media for important Town news and updates!*

*Facebook: @SwanseaMassachusetts Instagram: @swanseamass*

*For special news relating to Swansea, see also [www.swanseaportal.com](http://www.swanseaportal.com) or [www.swanseapolice.com](http://www.swanseapolice.com)*

## **Solid Waste**

Weekly curbside collection of trash, recyclables and yard waste is offered to Swansea Residents. Waste Management was the vendor providing those services in 2022 and is contracted with the Town until June 30, 2023. Participating residents pay an annual fee as set by the Board of Selectmen as well as paying for the trash bags used in the disposal. The annual fee was set at \$115.00 for fiscal year 2022 with the cost of bags set at \$2.00/each for the 30-gallon large bags and \$1.00/each for the smaller 15-gallon bags. Trash bags and bulky item green tags are sold at local grocery and convenience stores in Swansea and adjacent communities. Recycling is collected weekly in 65 gallon or 96 gallon wheeled carts by an automated collection truck.

Participants in the Town's curbside program may also dispose of other bulky items (TV's, large appliances, furniture, scrap metal, etc.) by purchasing a green tag (current cost is \$10.00) at the selected locations. One (1) bulky item per week with a tag attached may be set out for pickup on the resident's household trash day with the exception of white

goods and electronics which are to be picked up by appointment bi-weekly through Waste Management. The resident must call the Town's vendor (Waste Management) at (800)-972-4545 to schedule a pickup. Mattress & Textile disposal was banned by the State on November 1, 2022. Mattress recycling was enabled at the Highway Department for drop off only. Mattress Recycling fees included \$30 for clean mattress and \$50 for heavily soiled mattresses.

Yard waste is collected for eight months (37 weeks) from the second week in April to the second week in December.

The actual tonnage figures for collection in Calendar year 2022 were:

Yard Waste	1,315.6
Solid Waste	3,571.5
Recycling	1,865.9

Comparing the tonnages to 2021, solid waste and recycling was about the same and yard waste was down about 200 tons.

During the Christmas season of 2022, the pickup of Christmas trees was continued as in years past, over a two-week period in January.

For informational purposes for 2022, there are approximately 6,074 residents currently using the solid waste program. The yearly solid waste fee of \$115 covers recycling and yard waste costs. The PAYT bag program pays for yearly trash costs. An approximate breakdown of solid waste related costs is as follows:

- Curbside trash collection cost was \$4.19 per month per household, or \$50.32 per year
- Trash disposal was based on \$81.00 per ton (Average \$47.60 per household per year, distributed evenly)
- Curbside Recycling collection cost was \$4.19 per month per household, or \$50.32 per year
- Recycling disposal cost varies from \$94 to \$120 per month (Average is about \$33.80 per household per year, distributed evenly)
- Yard waste collection and disposal was \$34.79 per year per household.
- Total approximate solid waste cost per household per year = \$216.83

The Town still is experiencing contamination within the recyclable loads. The Town is currently at 15% contamination within its recycling. Residents continue to place items that potentially could be recycled but are not considered recyclable in our program into their recycle bins. This practice continues to downgrade our recyclables and cost the town additional funds to properly dispose. Residents should understand that we have a **limited** recycling program and not all plastics are allowed to be placed in the recycling bin as part of the program. For a complete list of what is allowed, residents can contact the Highway Department directly at (508) 678-5615.

We thank you the residents of Swansea for your participation and support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Swansea Solid Waste Committee

Colleen Brown  
Chief Eric Hajder  
William Anderson

Tracy-Jo Anderson  
Mallory Aronstein  
Elizabeth Leonardo

Gayle Sircello  
Nuno Jorge

## Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

The Town of Swansea is a member of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. Originally founded in 1956, SRPEDD (pronounced “sir-ped”) is one of 13 regional planning agencies (RPAs) across the state and one of approximately 550 across the country.

SRPEDD serves 4 cities and 23 towns in southeastern Massachusetts. Through our work, we address common issues facing the region, including economic development, growth and land use, safe and efficient transportation, environmental stewardship, municipal partnerships, community development and affordable housing, and general planning. A Commission of local mayors, selectmen, planning board members, and at-large members govern SRPEDD. Federal and state grants, local assessments, and local contracts fund our activities. In 2022, the Town of Swansea paid \$3,122.23 to SRPEDD, based upon an assessment of 20.17 cents per capita. SRPEDD’s annual budget in 2022 was \$2,720,262.

SRPEDD also serves as the region’s staff for the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization ([SMMPO](#)) and the regional Economic Development District ([EDD](#)) with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). In both roles, SRPEDD works with numerous partners to program tens of millions of dollars to directly invest in our region’s infrastructure and community development.

Please visit SRPEDD’s recently updated agency website at [www.srpedd.org](http://www.srpedd.org) to review our work, read our [2022 Annual Report](#), and tour new projects, including: our [Drone Program](#) and [Virtual Building Tours](#); our work to support communities as they comply with the [new Section 3A of Chapter 40A](#); our [watershed](#) and [resilience](#) planning work program; our [Complete Streets](#) and [Multi-Use Path](#) transportation projects; our work with the Southeastern Region Homeland Security Advisory Council ([SRAC](#)); our work with school districts and public safety officials to create [Active Shooter/Hostile Event \(ASHE\) Response Tools](#); and various municipal projects, such as [Redevelopment Studies](#) and [Community Master Plans](#). Our website also includes departmental web pages, a calendar of events, and recent news.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) with any questions, concerns, or project ideas.

### **Local citizens/officials representing Swansea in SRPEDD activities:**

George Hovorka and John P. Hansen, Jr. on the SRPEDD Commission.

William Anderson on the Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG).

**In 2022, SRPEDD provided technical assistance to Swansea in the following areas; please note that funding sources and project web pages are provided, where available:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>More Information</b>
Master Plan & Housing Production Plan	DLTA, Local, MA, Urban Agenda	<a href="https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/community-master-plans/swansea-comprehensive-plan/">https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/community-master-plans/swansea-comprehensive-plan/</a>
Open Space and Recreation Plan	Local	<a href="https://srpedd.org/environment/open-space-planning/swansea-open-space-recreation-planning/">https://srpedd.org/environment/open-space-planning/swansea-open-space-recreation-planning/</a>
Town-wide Growth Model	DLTA, MA	
Traffic Counts on several roadways (details available by request)	MassDOT	
Wastewater District Assistance	EDA	

**Highlights from SRPEDD’s general 2022 Work Program include the following:**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>More Information</b>
Agriculture Retention Workshops	DLTA	
Arts and Culture Community Development Initiative	DLTA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/justice-equity-and-community-development/arts-and-culture/">https://srpedd.org/justice-equity-and-community-development/arts-and-culture/</a>
Assawompset Ponds Flood Management Program	DER	<a href="https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/environment/watershed-planning/assawompset-ponds-complex-and-nemasket-river-watershed-planning/">https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/environment/watershed-planning/assawompset-ponds-complex-and-nemasket-river-watershed-planning/</a>
Assawompset Ponds Groundwater Hydrologic & Hydraulic Study	DER	
Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant	EPA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/environment/brownfields-redevelopment/">https://srpedd.org/environment/brownfields-redevelopment/</a>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>More Information</b>
Bus Stop Capital Investment Plan	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/public-transit/">https://srpedd.org/transportation/public-transit/</a>
Bus Stop Inventory Update	MassDOT	
CARES Act/COVID-19 U.S. EDA Technical Assistance	SRPEDD, U.S. EDA	
Cranberry Bog Program Technical Assistance	DER	
FEMA Flood Map Bylaw Update	SRPEDD	
FFY20 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	MAPC	<a href="https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/">https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/</a>
FFY21 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	MAPC	<a href="https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/">https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/</a>
Freight Action Plan	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/freight-action-plan/">https://srpedd.org/freight-action-plan/</a>
Green Communities – Annual Reports and Competitive and Designation Grant Applications	EOEEA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/environment/climate-resilience-planning/green-communities/">https://srpedd.org/environment/climate-resilience-planning/green-communities/</a>
Justice, Equity, and Community Development (JECD) Initiative	DLTA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/justice-equity-and-community-development/">https://srpedd.org/justice-equity-and-community-development/</a>

Mass. Assoc. of Regional Planning Commissions (MARPA)	RPAs	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>More Information</b>
MBTA Multi-Family Zoning Support	DLTA, DHCD	
Old Rochester Regional High School Active Shooter Response Job-Aid Tool	DLTA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/ashe-response/">https://srpedd.org/homeland-security/ashe-response/</a>
Pavement Management - Federal Aid Road Network	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/#pavement-management">https://srpedd.org/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/#pavement-management</a>
PDA/PPA Update for MBTA Communities	MBTA, DLTA	
Regional Housing Services Office Feasibility Study	DLTA, MassHousing	<a href="https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/housing/regional-housing-services-office/">https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/housing/regional-housing-services-office/</a>
RTP Continuous Public Outreach	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/regional-transportation-planning/regional-transportation-plan-rtp/">https://srpedd.org/transportation/regional-transportation-planning/regional-transportation-plan-rtp/</a>
Rural Policy Advisory Council	DLTA, sister RPAs	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rural-policy-advisory-commission-rpac">https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rural-policy-advisory-commission-rpac</a>
South Coast Administrators Committee	SRPEDD	

SRPEDD Regional Resilience Plan (SRRP)	DLTA , CCC EDA, MassDOT	
Taunton River Stewardship Council Upper Nemasket Implementation	TRSC	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>More Information</b>
Taunton River Trail	MassDOT	
Taunton Watershed Pilot Project	SNEP, Mass-Audubon	<a href="https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/environment/watershed-planning/#ongoing-watershed-projects">https://srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/environment/watershed-planning/#ongoing-watershed-projects</a>
Technical Assistance Planning and GIS	GATRA	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/public-transit/">https://srpedd.org/transportation/public-transit/</a>
Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/traffic-counting/">https://srpedd.org/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/traffic-counting/</a>
Trails Mapping (Off Road)	MassDOT	<a href="https://srpedd.org/transportation/bicycle-and-pedestrian-networks/regional-trails-mapping-project/">https://srpedd.org/transportation/bicycle-and-pedestrian-networks/regional-trails-mapping-project/</a>

## Treasurer/Collector

The Treasurer/ Collector's Office is pleased to provide the following billing and collection information for the fiscal year 2022. The billing for Real Estate, Personal Property and Trash occurs completely within the fiscal. The 2022 Motor Vehicle Excise bills continue to arrive from the Registry of Motor Vehicles long past the close of the fiscal year and into fiscal year 2023. The result of this is additional tax revenue billed and received after the close of the fiscal year.

Preliminary tax bills were mailed timely according to guidelines set by Massachusetts General Law. The August and November preliminary tax bills were mailed together in June 2021. The Actual tax bills, due in February and May were also mailed timely, in December, 2021.

Fiscal Year 2022 saw a marked increase use of the Lock Box payment service. This service, which is provided free of charge to the residents of Swansea by Webster Bank, has enabled this office to increase the speed and efficiency of payment processing without cost to the taxpayers. Timely payments received at the lock box facility in Boston, MA are electronically processed within hours of receipt and payments are deposited directly into the Swansea Tax Receipt Depository Account. Residents continue to make use of the payment drop box. The town hall was opened to receive payments in person for the entire fiscal year.

On-line payments became available in January, 2012 and continue to be available to those residents who prefer that method. On-line bill payments are accessible through the Town of Swansea’s official web site. ACH, credit and debit cards are acceptable methods of payment when utilizing the on-line option. Fees associated with on-line payments are the responsibility of the taxpayer and no such fees are assessed or collected by the town. The on-line option is only available for **current** Real Estate, Personal Property, Excise tax bills and Trash Fee bills. Past due bills are not payable on-line

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Stephanie Pavao, Assistant Tax Collector, and Lisa Majewski, Assistant Treasurer, for their continued support and service to the residents of Swansea.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth B. Leonardo  
Treasurer/Collector

TREASURER/COLLECTOR’S SUMMARY OF BILLING/RECEIPTS 2022\*

<b>Tax Type</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Abatements</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	<b>Tax Title</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Real Estate</b>	\$ 34,756,043.07	\$ 33,822,019.39	\$ 299,577.54	\$ (37,238.50)	\$ 302,886.39	\$368,798.25
<b>Personal Property</b>	\$ 1,651,775.54	\$ 1,585,338.53	\$ 8,968.65	\$ (9,740.61)	\$	\$67,508.97
<b>M. V. Excise</b>	\$ 2,405,378.64	\$ 2,184,51.99	\$ 43,286.39	\$ (11,781.07)	\$	\$189,621.33
<b>Solid Waste</b>	\$ 706,380.00	\$ 647,738.46	\$ 1,665.00	\$ (1,163.41)	\$	\$58,139.95

\*The information provided is a summary of the amount of tax that was billed in fiscal year 2022 along with the dollars collected, the tax amounts abated and dollars refunded. The amounts listed reflect a cut-off date of June 30, 2022.

## Veteran's Benefits and Services Department

Swansea's Department of Veteran Services operates under the direction of The Secretary of Veteran Services, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulation (108 CMR).

The Veteran's office is staffed by a certified Veteran Service Officer and certified Assistant (Per MGL CH 115) requiring intensive training by both the Secretary of Veterans Services and by the Massachusetts Veterans Service Officers Association.

The Department provides numerous services for Swansea's veterans, from assisting with forms to more complex cases of representing clients at VA Hearings and assisting with medical appeals as well as legally assuming Power of Attorney.

The caseload in Swansea includes those at the federal level pertaining to VA pensions and compensation. Extensive time is spent conducting investigations, visiting with clients or agencies and generally taking care of business that might ordinarily overwhelm the clients.

A considerable amount of administrative time is spent processing and monitoring Federal Medicare plans and supplemental insurance. The Massachusetts Prescription drug plan coupled with the Medicare D Federal program has resulted in a substantial savings for both the Town and Commonwealth.

The Veterans office also provides transitional assistance for veterans being released from active military service. We process applications for upgrading discharges, issuing of awards and medals, medical and educational benefits. Monuments are provided for veteran's graves and final arrangements are made including burial in VA National Cemeteries.

Survivor Benefits and Dependents Indemnity Insurance claims are prepared for widows and dependents. Client information is processed and maintained in a professional and confidential manner.

Since January 1st through December 2023 this department conducted frequent phone interviews with resident veterans requiring various services to Include assisting with Covid relief.

Swansea's Department of Veteran Services provides services for 2,789 veterans/dependents and spouses resulting in Federal revenue in excess of 5,951,539.60 brought into our community at no cost to the Town.

The office is generally open the same hours as the Town Hall offices. The policy of the Veterans Department is to provide prompt, courteous and confidential services to our veterans, their dependents and widows at the time of need.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Serpa  
Veterans Service Officer/Director