

2024 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT



Town of
Swansea

Massachusetts

TOWN OF SWANSEA

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST

Each of these individuals left an indelible mark on our community, shaping its values with their kindness, dedication, and unwavering support, and their legacy continues to inspire and guide us every day.

We thank them for their service.

*Mr. David Betts- Building Inspector
Ms. Joan Casilli -Assessors Office Clerk
Mr. Edward Hamel – Police Officer
Mr. Antone Miranda- Deputy Fire Chief
Ms. Ann Parente -Town Nurse*

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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

2023 ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS – 15,856

REGISTERED VOTERS – 12,957

2020 FEDERAL CENSUS – 17,144

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

OFFICES:

Board of Selectmen	508-678-2981
Town Clerk	508-678-2981
Town Accountant	508-678-2981
Tax Collector	508-678-2981
Building Department	508-674-5731
Board of Assessors	508-678-2981
Council on Aging	508-676-1831
Library	508-674-9609
Town Nurse	508-674-5731
Planning Board	508-674-5731
Conservation Commission	508-674-5731
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	508-674-5731
Town Nurse	508-672-4305
School Department	508-675-1195
Veterans Agent	508-676-1831
Parks & Recreation	508-676-1831

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS – 2024

SELECTMEN

Robert C. Medeiros	term expires 2025
Steven H. Kitchin	term expires 2026
Michael K. Beaudette	term expires 2027

TOWN CLERK

Diane Pelland	term expires 2027
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TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Elizabeth B. Leonardo	term expires 2025
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ASSESSORS OF TAXES

Patrick J. Travis	term expires 2025
Timothy F. Cabral Sr.	term expires 2026
Gilbert S. Almeida	term expires 2027

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Alanna B. Solitro	term expires 2025
Sonya M. Barbosa	term expires 2026
Thomas M. Rodrigues, Jr.	term expires 2026
James J. Carvalho	term expires 2027
Anakarine C. Ponte-Porto	term expires 2027

DIMAN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jeffrey J. Begin	term expires 2027
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MODERATOR

Paul C. Burke	term expires 2026
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TREE WARDEN

Wayne Dias	term expires 2026
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TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Susan T. McMullen	term expires 2025
Sarah K. Hunicke	term expires 2025
Angela R. Dolan	term expires 2026
Maureen E. Pacheco	term expires 2026
Judite Carey	term expires 2027
Kimberly L. Libby	term expires 2027

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Robert F. Silveira	term expires 2025
Edward Hill	term expires 2026
Matthew Beane	term expires 2027

CONSTABLES

Jonathan K. Furtado	term expires 2025
Robert K. Furtado	term expires 2025
Brian D. Bell	term expires 2025
Chad A. Rosen	term expires 2026
Paul J. Waple	term expires 2026
Jeffrey D. Trenholme	term expires 2026

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Matthew Beane	term expires 2025
Carlos Silva	term expires 2027
Gail T. Carey	term expires 2029

PLANNING BOARD

Timothy F. Cabral, Sr.	term expires 2025
Jonathan Carreiro	term expires 2026
Paul Waple	term expires 2027
Tracy M. Albernaz	term expires 2029
Scott Adams	term expires 2028 (resigned 05-01-24)
Steven A. Bogle	filled vacated seat for one-year, until annual election of 2025.

PARK COMMISSION

Gilbert Almeida	term expires 2025
Jeffrey J. Wood	term expires 2026
Paul Waple	term expires 2027
Kara A. Wickman	term expires 2028
Ethan R. Gonsalves	term expires 2029

SEWER COMMISSION

Richard C. Cunha	term expires 2025
James J. Pelletier	term expires 2026
Mark E. Johnson	term expires 2027

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The Board of Registrars were involved in the following Town Meetings and Elections, which were held in the Town of Swansea during the calendar year of 2024.

Meetings.

The following meetings were held in the auditorium of the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA:

Special Town Meeting – May 20, 2024 – 265 voters

Annual Town Meeting – May 20, 2024 – 366 voters

Special Town Meeting – October 28, 2024 – 563 voters

Election

The following elections was held in the gymnasium at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA:

March 5, 2024 – Presidential Primary

April 8, 2024 – Annual Town Election

September 3, 2024 – State Primary

November 5, 2024 – Presidential Election

Early Voting In-Person and Vote by Mail were popular for all elections held this year.

With this being a Presidential Year, many hours were spent certifying Nomination Papers and Petitions.

The Board of Registrars constantly oversees the ever-changing face of elections and implements those changes in order to conduct safe and efficient elections in order to serve the registered voters in the Town of Swansea.

Board of Registrar Members:

Jacquelyne Bates (R) - 2025

Theodora Gabriel (R) – 2026

Jean R. Bolton (D) - 2027

Diane Pelland (U) - 2027

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pelland, Board of Registrars Clerk

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS:	73	Births recorded
	126	Birth-Certified Copies
	67	Marriage Intentions
	63	Marriages recorded
	233	Marriage-Certified Copies
	184	Deaths recorded
	783	Death-Certified Copies
	<u>80</u>	<u>Burial/removal permits</u>
	Total:	\$ 13,895.00
DOG LICENSES:	1,264	Dog licenses – neutered
	206	Dog licenses – Unneutered
	68	Late fees
	1	Dog Fines issued by
Animal Control Officer		
	6	Kennel licenses
	<u>2</u>	<u>Tag Replacements</u>
	Total:	\$ 9,625.00
SHELLFISH PERMITS:	1	14-Day Non-resident
Family Permit	4	Duplicate Permits
Shellfish Permits	7	Non-resident Taxpayer Permits
	20	Non-resident Shellfish Permits
	148	Resident Family Shellfish Permits
	166	Senior Citizen Resident Shellfish Permit
	14	Shellfish Fisherman's Commercial Licenses
	1	Shellfish Fisherman's Jr. Commercial Licenses
	13	Veteran's Shellfish Permit
	<u>15</u>	<u>Shellfish Gauges</u>
	Total:	\$ 18,780.00
ZONING	1	Administrative Appeal
	3	Sign Petitions
	26	Residential Petitions
	<u>4</u>	<u>Business Petitions</u>
	Total:	\$ 5,800.00

MISCELLANEOUS:	34	Certified Copies of any records
	87	DBA Business Certificates
	9	DBA Changes/Withdrawals
	20	Gas Storage Registration
	0	Pole Location - Certified
	2	Public Records Requests
	2	Raffle permits issued
	1	Records Correction
	0	Solicitation Permit
	1	Business Closing Permit
	9	Street List
	0	Town Flags
	<u>3</u>	<u>Returned Check Fees</u>
	Total:	\$ 5,253.48

CENSUS FORMS MAILED: 7,227

FEES TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN: **\$ 53,353.48**

The Town Clerk's Office experienced a change of staffing this past year, Sr. Clerk Stephanie Suplido resigned from the Clerk's Office and was hired at the Swansea Council on Aging as Transportation and Programs Coordinator, we wish her well in her new position. Coming on board as Sr. Clerk was Sonia Araujo. Ms. Araujo has proven to be a wonderful addition to the Clerk's Office, quickly learning how to navigate the vast variety of duties within the office. Finally, the Town Clerk would like to recognize and thank Assistant Town Clerk Celine E. Brown for her dedication and constant unwavering loyalty in serving the residents of the Town of Swansea.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland
Swansea Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SWANSEA
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 20, 2024**

The Annual Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Swansea, MA on Monday, May 20, 2024, 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; being duly posted and a quorum present, with all procedural requirements being met.

7:36 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. As of 7:28 PM, there were 366 voters present; quorum requires 75.

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

Selectman Medeiros led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectman Beaudette called for a Moment of Silence for the first responders and those who struggle each day.

Moderator Burke recognized Swansea's new Police Chief Mark Foley and the retiring of Police Chief Marc Haslam and School Superintendent John Robidoux.

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

Sarah Carlson read the report of the Advisory & Finance Committee.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
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.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
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 2027. Second received.

Robert M. Sparrow	138 Kispert Court
Robert L. Alford, II	22 Weaver Street
John R. Salzillo	11 Riverview Avenue
Jonathan Darling	12 Windfall Drive
M. Mercedes Soares	68 Collins Avenue

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 4 VOTED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all Town Officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 as follows:

Selectmen:	
Chairman	\$5,000
Vice Chairman	\$5,000
Clerk	\$5,000
Town Clerk:	\$83,281
Treasurer:	\$98,968
Assessors:	
Chairman	\$2,000
Vice Chairman	\$1,000
Clerk	\$1,000
Tree Warden	\$1000
Moderator	\$500

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
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 Town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 based on the Advisory and Finance Committee recommendations for the Line-Item numbers 1 through 109 inclusive in the May 20, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Budget Book, wherein \$25,786 is transferred from the Beach Receipts Reserved account and all such other sums amounting to \$46,328,124 be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

Speaking on article:

James Devol, 502 Old Fall River Road – called for a motion to approved the budget in whole. Moderator Burke ruled the motion out of order and continued with a review of the budget, line by line.

Budget #650: Joyce Moore, 72 Main Street
Paul Waple, 99 Swansom Road,
Chairman of the Parks & Recreation
John Pozzi, Director of Parks & Recreation
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator

NO.	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	TOTAL BUDGET
	# 114 Moderator		
1	Salary	500.00	
2	Expense	100.00	\$ 600.00
	# 122 Selectmen		
3	Salaries (Selectmen)	15,000.00	
4	Salaries	415,585.00	
5	Expense	47,200.00	
6	Equipment	0.00	\$ 477,785.00
	#123 Public Buildings & Properties Main.		
7	Salary	194,018.00	
8	Expense	493,000.00	\$ 687,018.00
	#131 Advisory & Finance Committee		
9	Salary	0.00	
10	Expense	4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	#132 Reserve Fund		
11	Reserve Fund	100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00

	#135 Accountant		
12	Salaries	193,271.00	
13	Expense	43,225.00	\$ 236,496.00
	#141 Tax Assessors		
14	Salaries (Elected)	4,000.00	
15	Salary	100,786.00	
16	Clerical Salaries	89,684.00	
17	Other Salaries	65,000.00	
18	Expense	79,000.00	\$ 338,470.00
	#145 Treasurer/Collector		
19	Salary	98,968.00	
20	Clerical Salaries	105,201.00	
21	Expense	53,450.00	\$ 257,619.00
	#151 Legal & Risk Management Services		
22	Expense	155,000.00	\$ 155,000.00
	#155 Management Information Systems		
23	Expense	133,500.00	\$ 133,500.00
	#161 Town Clerk		
24	Salary	83,281.00	
25	Clerical Salaries	100,720.00	
26	Equipment	0.00	
27	Expense	15,600.00	\$ 199,601.00
	#162 Election Expense		
28	Expense	72,000.00	\$ 72,000.00
	#163 Registrar of Voters		
29	Salaries	2,500.00	
30	Expense	11,700.00	\$ 14,200.00
	#171 Conservation Commission		
31	Salary (Agent)	82,003.00	
32	Clerical Salary	52,484.00	
33	Expense	28,100.00	\$ 162,587.00
	#175 Planning Board		
34	Salary	88,000.00	
35	Clerical Salary	49,963.00	
36	Expense	27,685.00	\$ 165,648.00
	#176 Zoning Board		
37	Salaries	0.00	

38	Expense	8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	#177 Water Aquifer		
39	Expense	200.00	\$ 200.00
	#192 Beach Expense		
40	Expense	51,573.00	\$ 51,573.00
	#193 Waterfront Public Buildings & Properties Maintenance		
41	Expense	30,456.00	\$ 30,456.00
	#195 Printing Town Report		
42	Expense	4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	#210 Police Department		
43	Salaries	4,893,269.00	
44	Expense	450,968.00	
45	Equipment	109,150.00	
46	Special Investigations	1,500.00	
47	Travel Expenses	1,000.00	\$ 5,455,887.00
	#220 Fire Department		
48	Salaries	802,135.00	
49	Expense	265,650.00	
50	Equipment	24,000.00	
51	Out-of-State Expenses	0.00	\$ 1,091,785.00
	#241 Building Department		
52	Salary (Dept. Head)	77,250.00	
53	Clerical Salary	53,801.00	
54	Salaries (Other)	110,000.00	
55	Expense	35,800.00	
56	Equipment/Clothing Allowance	1,500.00	\$ 278,351.00
	#244 Sealer of Weights		
57	Salary	7,000.00	
58	Expense	500.00	\$ 7,500.00
	#291 Emergency Management		
59	Salary	2,000.00	
60	Expense	18,400.00	
61	Equipment	0.00	\$ 20,400.00
	#300 Swansea School Department		

62	Salaries & Wages	21,310,033.00	
63	Maintenance & Expense	5,380,669.00	
64	Equipment & Outlay	100,000.00	\$ 26,790,702.00
	#390 Bristol County Agricultural School Assessment		
65	Expense	125,344.00	
66	Debt Expense	191,350.00	\$ 316,694.00
	#390 Diman Regional School Assessment		
67	Expense	1,851,603.00	
68	Debt Expense	101,768.00	\$ 1,953,371.00
	#422 Highway Department		
69	Salaries & Wages	1,016,711.00	
70	Operating Expense	433,750.00	
71	Snow Removal	150,000.00	
72	Street Lighting	90,000.00	\$ 1,690,461.00
	#425 Wastewater Management Plan		
73	Expense	0.00	\$ 0.00
	#429 Tree Warden		
74	Salary	1,000.00	
75	Expense	65,000.00	\$ 66,000.00
	#491 Cemeteries Records Clerk		
76	Salary	2,000.00	
77	Expense	300.00	\$ 2,300.00
	#493 Care of Soldiers Graves		
78	Equipment	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	#510-512 Board of Health		
79	Salaries & Wages	366,037.00	
80	Expense	56,090.00	\$ 422,127.00
	#541 Council on Aging		
81	Salaries	186,251.00	
82	Expense	57,540.00	\$ 243,791.00
	#543 Veterans		
83	Salaries	131,546.00	
84	Expense	10,000.00	
85	Benefits	250,000.00	\$ 391,546.00

	#610 Libraries		
86	Head Librarian	85,490.00	
87	Salaries	243,416.00	
88	Expense	126,985.00	\$ 455,891.00
	#650 Parks & Recreation		
89	Superintendent	72,100.00	
90	Asst. to Superintendent salary	53,207.00	
91	Other & Overtime	9,000.00	
92	Expense	169,390.00	
	Equipment (clothing/phone allowance)	2,000.00	\$ 305,697.00
	#680 Special Events		
93	Expense	8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00
	#691 Historical Commission		
94	Expense	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	#699 Arts Council		
95	Expense	340.00	\$ 340.00
	#710 / 751 Notes & Interest – Long Term		
96	CPA Rousseau Farm/Hollack Property	142,045.00	
97	Police & Community Center	360,875.00	
98	CPA Land Purchase – Medeiros Farm	90,000.00	
99	WPAT/CWMP	20,142.00	
100	Multi-Purpose Loan of 2016	131,520.00	
101	Waterfront	61,430.00	\$ 806,012.00
	#752 Notes & Interest - Short Term		
102	Interest, Short-term	20,000.00	
103	Principle, Short-term	0.00	
104	Borrowing Costs	0.00	\$ 20,000.00
	#900 Bristol County Ret. Fund/Pension		
105	Expense	2,883,502.00	\$ 2,883,502.00
	#913 Unemployment		

	Compensation Fund		
106	Expense	35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
	#951 Soil Commission		
107	Expense	2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total of ARTICLE 5 – Budget for FY’25			\$46,353,910.00

ARTICLE 6 VOTED: That the Town voted 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.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,965,076.00 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.

**Advisory and Finance Committee vote to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 8 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$60,500 to meet the expense of the annual audit and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop
Richard Borden, 896 Wilbur Avenue
Ellen Viveiros, 48 Laurel Lane
Steven Kitchin, Board of Selectmen

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 9 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000 to meet the Town's expenses for Tax Title purposes, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 10 VOTED: That the Town vote to set the maximum spending limits for FY2025, pursuant to § 20-8C of the General Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, 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

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 11 VOTED: That the Town vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ to appropriate the sum of \$2,333,520.81 from the General Fund, the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Receipts Account and/or the Solid Waste Retained Earnings Account to meet the expenses of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Account.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12 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.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>
Appropriations Community Preservation Administrative Expenses	\$ 23,818.21

Community Housing Reserve	\$	47,634.42
Historic Resources Reserve	\$	47,634.42
Open Space Reserve	\$	0.00
Payment of Debt Service on Medeiros Farm Open Space Purchases	\$	232,045.00
FY 24-25 Annual Budgeted Reserve	\$	24,912.95

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13 VOTED: That the Town vote to authorize a sum of \$45,000 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 three separate conservation restrictions that the Wildlands Trust holds over Town-owned land, specifically on Stevens Road Map 8, Lot 4 Richard Road Map 54, Lot 15 and Old Fall River Road Map 13, Lots 6B & 6D.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 14 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 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 by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by Majority (12-1; 1-abstention).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 15 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$42,000 to be expended by the Police Chief to meet the expense of purchasing bulletproof vests and related equipment, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief to purchase turnout gear for the volunteer firefighters and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 17 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief to purchase a Ford Expedition and related equipment for the Fire Department, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (12-2).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 18 VOTED: That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief for the paving and resurfacing needs of Fire Stations 1 and 2, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$110,000 for the design, permitting, and installation of mechanical barriers at Old Providence Road to address flooding hazards along the roadway and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Michael Medeiros, 92 Walker Street
 Joyce Moore, 72 Main Street
 Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
 Ellen Viveiros, 48 Laurel Lane
 Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by a Majority (12-2).

Motion was defeated by a Majority.

ARTICLE 20 VOTED: That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$130,000 to be expended by the Highway Department to purchase skid steer, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).

Motion was defeated by a Majority.

ARTICLE 21 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$372,000 to be expended by the Highway Department to purchase a Western Star truck, chassis, swap loader system, and related equipment and that said sum to be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Joyce Moore, 72 Main Street

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).

Motion was defeated by a Majority.

ARTICLE 22 VOTED: That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase and implementation of e-Permitting software for various Town Departments, including the Board of Health, Town Clerk, and Board of Selectmen, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).

Motion was carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 23 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the field study, permitting, and design of the intersection improvements for Gardner Neck Road/New Gardner Neck Road at Route 103/Wilbur Avenue and that said sum to be raised by direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Dann Boyer, 94 Pamela Drive

8:44PM:

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by a Majority (11-1).

Motion carried by a Majority – Moderator was challenged – Article went to a ballot vote. Ballot #6 was used.

Vote count: YES – 170. NO – 175.

Motion was defeated.

ARTICLE 24 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$52,500 to expand and create additional cemetery space at Vinnicum Cemetery, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by a Majority (13-1).

Motion carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 25 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$2 million for the purposes of renovating and restoring the Preserved Gardner House at Swansea Memorial Park, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article:

- Michael Beaudette, Board of Selectmen
- Robert Medeiros, Board of Selectmen
- Michael Medeiros, 92 Walker Street
- Mark Shane, 924 Gardner Neck Road
- Lisa Pergola, 104 Puffer Avenue
- Randy Lebeau, 253 Cummings Road
- Armand Dauteuil, 770 Gardner Neck Road
- Brady Couto, 20 Lisa Drive
- Marc Lapointe, 236 Hortonville Road
- Cheryl Bogle, Chairperson Historical Commission
- Samuel Chase, 86 Main Street
- Sarah Carlson, 1205 Gardner Neck Road
- Davis Dewey, 200 Winslow Way
- Kathleen Leblanc, 50 Morin Avenue
- Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator

9:26PM:

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to not recommend (3 in favor, 9 opposed).

Article went to a ballot vote. Ballot #10 was used.

Vote Count: YES-111. NO-227. Motion is defeated.

ARTICLE 26 VOTED: That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$85,000 for the purposes of demolishing the Preserved Gardner House and regrading at Swansea Memorial Park, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by Majority (9-3).

Article went to a standing vote. Vote Count: YES-204. NO-92. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 27 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the continued funding of reserve accounts, by adding \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund and by adding \$250,000 into the Capital Stabilization Fund, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (13-1).

Motion carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 28 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (14-0).

Motion carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 29 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$86,000 for the purpose of funding the Length of Service Awards Program for the Firefighters of Swansea, and that sum be raised by direct taxation.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend by a Majority (11-3).

Motion carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 30 VOTED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, if it deems it to be appropriate and necessary, to file with the General Court of the Commonwealth, a Home Rule Petition to effectuate the adoption of legislation precisely as follows:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SWANSEA TO GRANT ADDITIONAL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows.

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the numerical limitations for such licenses that are imposed upon the Town of Swansea pursuant to Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, or by any other general or special law to the contrary, the Swansea licensing authority may grant up to six additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises under Section 12 of said Chapter 138.

SECTION 2. The additional Section 12 licenses that are allowed pursuant to this Act may be granted by the Swansea licensing authority only for the types of establishments that are otherwise eligible for Section 12 licenses, and only for such establishments that are located on the property known as and comprising the “Swansea Mall Redevelopment Area”; this property being identified as the area located on the northerly and southerly parcels along Route 6 from the westerly boundary of Gardner Neck Road to the westerly boundary of Milton Reiser Road, as contained in the Town of Swansea Zoning Map, Business B District, and from Route 6 and Route 118 in a northerly direction 3,900 feet +/- to the northerly most point of the Swansea Mall, so called, as contained in the Town of Swansea Zoning Map, Business B District.

SECTION 3. Any additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act and is granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority shall not be transferable to any other person, corporation, or organization for a period of five (5) years from the date of original issuance. Nor may any such license be transferred in violation of the limitations of Section 2 of this Act. Any transfer in violation of Sections 2 or 3 of this Act shall render said license null and void.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding Sections 12 and 77 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the Swansea licensing authority may, in its sole discretion, restrict the grant of any additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act to holders of common victualler licenses.

SECTION 5. Whenever an additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act is granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority and subsequently revoked by said licensing

authority or determined by said licensing authority to no longer be in use at the location of original issuance, then said license shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights and privileges pertaining thereto, to said licensing authority.

SECTION 6. No additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act may be granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority unless the applicant files with said licensing authority letters from both the Department of Revenue and a letter from the Division of Unemployment Assistance indicating that the applicant is in good standing with those entities and that all applicable taxes, fees, and contributions have been paid.

SECTION 7. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the additional Section 12 licenses that are allowed hereunder shall be subject to all provisions, restrictions and requirements of said Chapter 138.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

And further to clarify, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves substantive amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such substantive amendments, provided that they are within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 31 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by inserting a new article Article VI under Chapter 7 Boards, Commissions, and Committees as follows:

ARTICLE VI: Attendance Requirements

§ 7-22 Removal for failure to attend meetings.

- A. Unless such consequence is preempted by any special or general law, any appointed member of any board, commission or committee who, without reasonable excuse, fails either to attend three consecutive meetings, or fails to attend 25% of meetings in a calendar year will automatically be removed from office effective immediately, without further action needed.

- B. The vacancy created by the removal of any appointed member of any board, commission or committee pursuant to this ARTICLE VI shall be filled by the relevant appointing authority in the same prescribed manner for filling any other vacancy on said board, commission or committee; provided, that the same individual who was removed from office pursuant to § 7-22A shall not be reappointed to the same board, commission or committee for three (3) years.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 32 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend the Town's Bylaws by deleting the language of Section 77-7 in its entirety, excepting only the title, and replacing it with the following language:

The Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and without requiring any further vote of Town Meeting, may sell and convey on behalf of the Town, and may execute deeds for such conveyance of, any land the title to which the Town acquired either through the foreclosure of a tax title or through a deed from the owner in lieu of unpaid taxes, and regardless of whether such acquisition occurred prior to the adoption of this § 77-7.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 33 VOTED: That the Town vote to delete § 230-1 of the General Bylaws in its entirety, excepting only the title, and replacing it with the following language:

- A. No person shall throw, place, dump, deposit or strew, or cause to be thrown, placed, dumped, deposited or strewn, upon any public way, or any private way that is open and accessible to the general public, or any public park, public beach or other public property, any of the following: solid waste, recyclables, yard waste, construction materials, agricultural waste, composting, manure and other

byproducts, earth materials, hazardous waste or other disposable materials.

- B. The provisions of this §230-1 shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement. The first violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$100, the second violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$200, and each additional violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$300. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

And further, to delete existing Chapter 230-7 of the General Bylaws in its entirety, and to renumber §230-5 and 230-6 of the General Bylaws as §§ 230-6 and 230-7 respectively; and further, to add a new §230-5 under Article I of Chapter 230 of the General Bylaws as follows:

§ 230-5 Discharge of Water and Other Liquids.

- A. No person shall cause or allow any water or other liquid substance to be pumped, drained or discharged by artificial or engineered means into or across any public way, any private way that is open and accessible to the general public, or any public park, public beach or other public property.
- B. Any activity that is otherwise allowed under § 227-8 shall nonetheless be prohibited under § 230-5A whenever such activity causes nuisance or dangerous conditions on the surface of the public way, open and accessible private way, or other public property.
- C. The provisions of this § 230-5 shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement. The first violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$100, the second violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$200, and each additional violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of

\$300. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

Speaking on article: James Furtado, 204 Stevens Road
William Anderson, Highway Director
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
Ronald Nascimento, 51 Barbara Lane
Michael Callaghan, 50 Locust Street

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 34 VOTED: That the Town vote to delete in its entirety Article IV of Chapter 230 of the General Bylaws, and replace it with the following language:

ARTICLE IV Construction within the Public Way

§ 230-12 Scope.

No person, corporation or other legal entity shall cause, allow, direct or otherwise assist in any construction activities within the layout of any public way, except in accordance with the restrictions and requirements of this ARTICLE IV.

§ 230-13 Driveway Permits.

Except as provided in Paragraphs B and D, the construction, installation, upgrading, replacement, alteration or extension of any driveway or sidewalk that is, whether in whole or in part, within the layout of any public way, and that occurs subsequent to the adoption of this ARTICLE IV, shall require first obtaining a Driveway Permit from the Highway Director.

- A. For the purposes of this § 230-13, a driveway shall be inclusive of any improved location that is utilized for vehicular or pedestrian access to a parcel of land from a public way.
- B. No Driveway Permit shall be required solely for the repaving or other resurfacing of a driveway where such activity meets the following criteria;
 - 1. No change in the width of the curb cut;

2. Any excavation does not exceed six (6) inches in depth;
 3. Any excavation, repaving or other resurfacing does not extend beyond the line of the curb cut into the improved public way; and
 4. No laying, repair, extension, alteration or relocation of any utilities or drainage culverts.
- C. The application and application fee requirements for Driveway Permits shall be as provided in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; provided, that there shall be no fee for any application to replace an existing driveway without changing the location or dimensions of the same; further provided, that any such application shall be executed by both the property owner of record and the contractor.
- D. If the Highway Director determines that any of the following apply, then the Highway Director shall deny the application and instead require the submission of an application for an Excavation Permit as provided in § 230-14:
1. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will extend more than two (2) feet from the curb, or will involve more than sixty (60) square feet of the layout of the public way;
 2. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will involve significant excavation within the layout of the public way;
 3. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will involve the laying, repair, extension or alteration or relocation of utilities or drainage culverts within the layout of the public way; or
 4. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will require a police detail in order to maintain public safety.
- E. The Highway Director may impose reasonable conditions on any issued Driveway Permit.

- F. The applicants shall notify the Highway Director in writing of the date on which work will begin pursuant to the Driveway Permit, and no such work shall begin prior to that date. Once such work begins, all such work, including restoration of the public way, shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee in accordance with § 230-18A, within five (5) days. If said inspection indicates that additional work is required in order to come into compliance with § 230-16B, then the such work shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee, within five (5) days.

- G. For a period of five years from the issuance of a completion certificate by the Highway Director pursuant to § 230-18B, or from the date of restoration of the public way by the Town in the event that the posted surety is utilized for that purpose pursuant to §§ 230-17A, the property owner of record, including any successors-in-interest, shall be solely responsible for maintaining the portion of the driveway or sidewalk that is within the layout of the public way in a safe and suitable condition for use by pedestrians and vehicles, as determined by the Highway Director. Should the Town be required to correct any violations of this provision, then said property owner of record shall be liable to the Town for reimbursement of the Town's actual costs in doing so, with complete payment being made to the Town within 30 days of billing.

§ 230-14 Excavation Permit.

Any excavation within the layout of a public way shall require first obtaining an Excavation Permit from the Highway Director, unless a Driveway Permit has been obtained for the same pursuant to § 230-13. For the purposes of this ARTICLE IV, the Swansea Water District shall be considered a utility.

- A. The application and application fee requirements for Excavation Permits shall be as provided in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15.
 - 1. For utility work, if the utility hires a contractor to undertake the work, then both the utility and the

contractor must execute the application. In the event that the proposed utility work extends onto any private property, then each such private property owner of record must execute the application as well.

2. For driveway or sidewalk work that the Highway Director, pursuant to § 230-13C, determined requires an Excavation Permit, both the property owner of record and the contractor shall execute the application.
- B. A police detail is required to be present during any work that is undertaken pursuant to an Excavation Permit. The applicant(s) shall be solely responsible for the cost of any such police detail.
 - C. Any driveway or sidewalk work that is undertaken pursuant to an Excavation Permit nonetheless shall be subject to the requirements of § 230-13F.
 - D. The Highway Director may impose reasonable conditions on any issued Excavation Permit.
 - E. The applicants shall notify the Highway Director in writing of the date on which work will begin pursuant to the Excavation Permit, and no such work shall begin prior to that date. Once such work begins, all such work, including restoration of the public way, shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee in accordance with § 230-18A, within five (5) days, or as otherwise approved as the Highway Director. If said inspection indicates that additional work is required in order to come into compliance with § 230-16B, then such work shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee, within five (5) days. In the event that a temporary patch is utilized in accordance with the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, then this entire process, from notice of the date on which work will begin through timely inspection, shall be

undertaken with respect to the temporary patch and thereafter repeated for the subsequent final restoration of the public way.

- F. Whenever emergency excavation of the public way must occur immediately in order to correct or alleviate a hazardous condition that presents an imminent risk of injury to persons or property, then the utility and/or its contractor may begin work in the public way without first obtaining an Excavation Permit, provided that the following requirements are met:
1. The utility notifies the Highway Director or their designee in advance of beginning such work. If the emergency situation arose outside of business hours, then notice shall be provided to an email address or telephone number that is designated by the Highway Director for that purpose and provided to all relevant utilities;
 2. An application for an Excavation Permit is submitted by the next business day following the commencement of such work;
 3. Any pre-Permit work adheres to the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15;
 4. The utility ensures, at its sole cost, that a police detail is on-site for any pre-Permit work; and
 5. The utility has on file with the Town an executed agreement in which it states that it will indemnify and hold harmless the Town, and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, accountants, attorneys, departments, boards, commissions and committees from and against any liability for injury, loss, accident or damage to any person or property, and from and against any suits, claims, actions, proceedings, liabilities, administrative actions, fees, damages, fines, penalties, forfeitures, expenses and costs (including, without limitation, attorney's fees):
 - (i) arising from the omission, fault, willful act, negligence or other misconduct of the utility and

any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers; (ii) resulting from the failure of the utility and any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers to perform or ensure the performance of all work in accordance with this ARTICLE IV and any regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; or (iii) resulting from the violation of any other federal, state or local statute, bylaw, code, rule or regulation by the utility and any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers. For the purposes of these indemnification obligations, any corporate parents, subsidiaries, sisters and affiliates of the utility, and any officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers of the same, shall be considered agents of the utility.

§ 230-15 Regulations.

The Board of Selectmen shall promulgate regulations in order to implement and enforce this ARTICLE IV. Without limiting the possible scope of these regulations, the Board of Selectmen shall ensure that said regulations include the following:

- A. Performance Standards for undertaking and completing all work, ensuring public safety during all work, and completing restoration of the public way after the completion of all work, that is undertaken pursuant to Driveway Permits and Excavation Permits;
- B. Application requirements, including with respect to fees, plans and information to be submitted;
- C. Minimum insurance coverage requirements, as applicable, for all property owners, contractors and utilities;
- D. Standards and timeframes for utilizing temporary patches; and
- E. Allowed days and hours of operation.

§ 230-16 Restrictions on Use of Permit.

All Driveway Permits and Excavation Permits are subject to the following restrictions:

- A. By accepting, and undertaking work pursuant to, a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, all applicants for said Permit shall, and agree that they will, indemnify and hold harmless the Town, and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, accountants, attorneys, departments, boards, commissions and committees from and against any liability for injury, loss, accident or damage to any person or property, and from and against any suits, claims, actions, proceedings, liabilities, administrative actions, fees, damages, fines, penalties, forfeitures, expenses and costs (including, without limitation, attorney's fees): (i) arising from the omission, fault, willful act, negligence or other misconduct of any of the applicants, or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers; (ii) resulting from the failure of the applicants or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers to perform or ensure the performance of all work in accordance with the issued Permit and its conditions, this ARTICLE IV and any regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; or (iii) resulting from the violation of any other federal, state or local statute, bylaw, code, rule or regulation by the applicants or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers. For the purposes of these indemnification obligations, any corporate parents, subsidiaries, sisters and affiliates of any utility or contractor, and any officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers of the same, shall be considered agents of said utility or contractor, and regardless of whether such agents are otherwise authorized to assist, participate in or direct any of the work in accordance with § 230-16F. These indemnification obligations shall automatically constitute

a condition on any issued Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit.

- B. The Highway Director and any of their designees shall have the right at any time, and without notice, to be present during, and inspect the progress of, any work that is being undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit. The applicants shall adhere to any orders that the Highway Director or their designee issues with respect to such work, whether for the correction of deficiencies, the ensuring of public safety or otherwise.
- C. All work shall be undertaken in accordance with any conditions that are imposed upon a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, with the plans that were submitted and approved with application, and with any performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15. In no event shall the public way be excavated, altered or disturbed in any area except as explicitly marked on the approved plan. Should circumstances occurring during the work necessitate expanding the footprint of the public way to be excavated, altered or disturbed, then the applicant(s) must cease the work and apply to amend the Permit.
- D. No work shall be undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit until the applicant(s) have obtained confirmation from Dig Safe regarding the location of underground utilities, and have obtained confirmation from the Highway Director or their designee of the location of underground traffic control devices.
- E. A copy of the Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be kept on-site at all times and be available for inspection.
- F. In no event shall any contractor or subcontractor, or any corporate parent, subsidiary, sister or affiliate, that is not included in the application as a co-applicant be allowed to assist, participate in or direct any of the work being

undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit.

- G. All permanently removed granite curbing shall be returned to the Highway Department.

§ 230-17 Surety and Insurance Certificate.

- A. No approved Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be issued to the applicant(s) until and unless the applicant(s) post a bond or other surety with the Town that satisfies the following requirements.
 - 1. The amount of the surety shall be determined by the Highway Director, and must be sufficient to ensure restoration of the public way in accordance with the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, and regardless of whether the non-restoration portion of the contemplated work is otherwise completed by the applicants;
 - 2. The surety shall be valid through, and only released after, the following benchmarks:
 - a. For work that is completed in accordance with a Driveway Permit, upon the issuance of a completion certificate pursuant to § 230-18B; and
 - b. For work that is completed in accordance with an Excavation Permit, after five (5) years have elapsed after the issuance of the completion certificate; provided, that if a permanent resurfacing of the public way is required by the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, then the surety shall not be released until ten (10) years have elapsed after the issuance of a completion certificate.

3. The Town shall be entitled to utilize the surety in any of the following events:
 - a. The applicant(s) violate the timeframes of §§ 230-13E or 230-14E;
 - b. After a second failed inspection, whether of a temporary patch or of the final restoration of the public way;
 - c. Upon the failure of any temporary patch, unless that failure is repaired, to the satisfaction of the Highway Director or their designee, by the applicant(s) within fourteen (14) days, at the sole cost of the applicant(s); and
 - d. Upon the failure of any final restoration of the public way, unless that failure is repaired, to the satisfaction of the Highway Director or their designee, by the applicant(s) within fourteen (14) days, at the sole cost of the applicant(s)
4. In no event shall the surety be utilized for, and in no event shall the Town be responsible for, completing any work on private property or completing any work in the public way on behalf of the applicant(s) other than ensuring the temporary patching or final restoration of the public way.
5. Nothing shall preclude the Highway Director, in their discretion, from forbearing the use of the posted surety under § 230-17A(3)(a) or § 230-17A(3)(b), and instead authorizing the applicant(s) additional time to complete the work, pass inspection and receive a completion certificate pursuant to § 230-18. Any such forbearance shall not operate to waive the use of the surety by the Town at any point thereafter.

- B. No approved Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be issued to the applicant(s) until and unless the applicant(s) provide certificate(s) of insurance each indicating the following:

1. That coverages exist in the amounts that are required by the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; and
2. That these coverages will not expire, or be discontinued or canceled, without 14 days prior notice to the Highway Director.

§ 230-18 Inspection and Completion Certificate.

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant(s) to schedule in a timely manner, in accordance with the applicable timeframe of either §§ 230-13E or 230-14E, the inspection(s) of the work that has been completed pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit. Such inspections shall be undertaken by the Highway Director or their designee.
- B. If the Highway Director or their designee determines that the work has been completed in a manner that satisfies the requirements of § 230-16B, then the Highway Director shall issue a completion certificate to the applicant(s); provided, that whenever seasonal conditions require the placement of a temporary patch, a completion certificate shall not be issued until after inspection of the subsequent final restoration.

§ 230-19 Enforcement.

- A. The provisions this ARTICLE IV, the terms and conditions of any Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, and the provisions of any Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement.
 1. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation, and nothing shall preclude a particular action or inaction from constituting multiple distinct and separate fineable offenses.

2. Any violation by a contractor shall result in separate fines being issued to both the contractor and the property owner or utility that hired that contractor.
 3. Each violation shall result in a fine of \$ 250.00.
- B. The Highway Director, upon the approval of the Board of Selectmen, may seek the enforcement of the provisions this Article IV, the terms and conditions of any Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, and the provisions of any Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, through the issuance of injunctive or other equitable relief by the Superior Court.

§ 230-20 Severability.

The provisions of this Article IV are severable. Should any court of competent jurisdiction invalidate any particular provision, the remainder of this Article IV shall continue in full force and effect.

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).

Motion carried by a Majority. Moderator was challenged. Article went to a standing vote. Vote Count: YES-134. NO-95. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 35 VOTED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, as a gift or a nominal fee of \$1.00, a non exclusive emergency access easement over the property located at 57 Main Street, being shown as Assessor's Map 8, Lot 3-A and Assessor's Map 72, Lot 3, for the benefit of the Town land on which the Town Hall and public library are located, being 81 Main Street and shown as Assessor's Map73, Lot 33, for the purpose of allowing access to and from said Town land by emergency personnel and vehicles.

Speaking on article:

Shirley Stasiowski, 26 Picard Court

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).

Motion carried by a 2/3's declared Majority.

ARTICLE 36 VOTED: That the Town vote to accept High Hill Road and White Rock Lane as public ways as laid out April 23, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 37 VOTED: That the Town vote for Keith Circle and Kyle Court as public ways as laid out on April 23, 2024, by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to not recommend (5 in favor, 7 opposed).
Motion is defeated by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 38 VOTED: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of \$21,600,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of Phase 1A of the Route Corridor and Route 118 wastewater collection system throughout the Town including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws.

And further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and for the purpose of meeting this appropriation, to borrow any and all of said \$21,600,000, and to issue bonds or notes therefore, under and pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws and any other enabling authority, with such bonds or notes being general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations to be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of said Chapter 29C.

And further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and for the purpose of meeting this appropriation, to borrow any and all of said appropriation from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to said Chapter 29C, and, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to secure such loan by general revenues or such local systems revenues to the extent required by said Trust.

And further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission, and their respective designees, to enter into, execute, submit and file any and all applications and agreements that are necessary or expedient to effectuate the receipt of any grants, reimbursements, aid, loans or other funds from any local, state or federal source, including without limitation pursuant to said Chapter 29C with the Trust and with the Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of funding or financing all or any portion of said Phase 1A construction;

And further to clarify, the total expenditure for the Phase 1A construction from all combined sources, including, without limitation, grants, reimbursements, aid, loans (and whether secured or unsecured), and issuance of bonds and notes (and whether general or limited), shall not exceed the said amount of \$21,600,000.

And further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission, and their respective designees, to expend all funds available for said Phase 1A construction and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out said Phase 1A construction.

Speaking on article: James Pelletier, 37 Pearse Road
Randy Lebeau, 253 Cummings Road
Robert Medeiros, Board of Selectmen
Albert Baldwin, 117 Reservoir Avenue
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
Ronald Nascimento, 51 Barbara Lane
Michael Callaghan, 50 Locust Street
John Mello, 245 Gardner Neck Road
Angela Dolan, 17 Windfall Drive
Steven Kitchin, Board of Selectmen

Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend Unanimously (12-0).

Moderator Burke stated this would require a 2/3's vote due to this being a borrowing article. Ballot #9 was used. Vote Count: YES 241. NO-26.

Motion passes.

ARTICLE 39 VOTED: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws

for the purpose of establishing Sewer Services as an enterprise fund effective Fiscal Year 2025.

**Advisory and Finance Committee voted to recommend
Unanimously (12-0).
Motion is carried Unanimously.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 11:04 PM and to reconvene back to the Special Town Meeting.

Adjournment.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SWANSEA
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 20, 2024**

GREETINGS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Swansea,

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the JOSEPH CASE HIGH SCHOOL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, Swansea, Massachusetts, on MONDAY, the TWENTIETH (20th) day of MAY, 2024 at SEVEN-O'CLOCK P.M., then and there to act on the following articles in the warrant:

7:00 PM

Town Moderator Paul Burke called the Special Town Meeting to order at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA with a quorum being present. As of 7:00 PM, there were 265 voters present; quorum requires 75.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant.

Motion carried unanimously.

The ballot collectors for this evening were Susan Hajder, Sharon Furtado, Anita McGee, Robin-Sue Farrell, Donald Morrissette, and Michael Donais.

The guest list was read into the record by Mr. Burke: Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator / Luce Cabral, Swansea Community Network / Helen Saad, Swansea Community Network / John Pozzi, Parks & Recreation Director / Scott Olobri, Swansea Asst. Highway Supervisor / John Hansen, Community Development Director / William Anderson, Swansea Highway Director / Peter Travis, McKenzie Drive, Rehoboth, MA / Tracy Jo Anderson, Town Accountant / Greg Sullivan, The Herald News / John Santos, Swansea Building Inspector / Anthony Savastano, Town Counsel / Kayla Fish & Andy Paskowski, WPRI-12 News / Alexandra Nicolosi, Board of Health Director / Celine Brown, Town Clerk's Office / John Robidoux, School Superintendent / Kevin Serpa, Veteran's Agent / Kevin M. Siddeon, 544 Milford Road, Swansea, MA and Liz White, Swansea Public Schools.

Mr. Burke explained the handout for the meeting, the ballots to be used, the use of the microphones, and the procedure for the meeting.

ARTICLE 1 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$58,530.78 from the Health Insurance Trust to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 2 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$98,500 to purchase a turf mower for the Parks and Recreation Department and that said sum is to be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on the article: Paul Waple, 99 Swansom Road, Chairman
of the Parks & Recreation
Richard Borden, 896 Wilbur Avenue

**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 3 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$50,000 to purchase An infield machine for the Parks and Recreation Department, and that said sum is to be Transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on the article: Paul Waple, 99 Swansom Road, Chairman
of the Parks & Recreation

**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 4 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$115,000 to fund An Owners Project Manager and design services for the renovation, repair, or expansion of the Annex building at 68Stevens Road, and oversight of the same, to house municipal departments and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on the article: Geraldine Mullaly, 990 Hortonville Road
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
James Pelletier, 37 Pearse Road
Marc Lapointe, 236 Hortonville Road,
Chairman of the Capital Bldg. Committee
Wayne Cote, 162 Ocean View Avenue
Frederick Poulin, 7 Quaker Lane

**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried by a Majority.
A motion was made and seconded to recess the Special Town Meeting at 7:34 PM and to be reconvened following the completion of the Annual Town Meeting.**

Special Town Meeting reconvened at 11:04 PM.

ARTICLE 5 VOTED: That the Town voted to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Beach Receipts Reserve Account to fund a grant match for the Harbor Advisory Plan.

Speaking on article: Henry Elliot, 1205 Gardner Neck Road
**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 6 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,678,334 to fund The installation of sewer infrastructure along Route 6 at Gardner Neck Road and Route 118, in coordination with MassDOT reconstruction of the same, and that \$1,500,000 be transferred from the released funds from the Assessor's Overlay Surplus Fund Balance Reserves per vote of the Board of Assessors on August 23, 2023 and said sum of \$178,384 be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: James Pelletier, 37 Pearse Road
**Advisory and Finance voted to Recommend Unanimously (14-0).
Motion carried Unanimously.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 11:08PM.

Adjournment.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SWANSEA
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2024**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Swansea,

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the JOSEPH CASE HIGH SCHOOL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, Swansea, Massachusetts, on MONDAY, the **TWENTY-EIGHT (28th)** day of **OCTOBER, 2024** at **SEVEN-O'CLOCK P.M.**, then and there to act on the following ARTICLES in the warrant:

7:00 PM

Town Moderator Paul Burke called the Special Town Meeting to order at the Joseph Case High School, 70 School Street, Swansea, MA with a quorum being present. As of 6:52 PM, there were 375 voters present; quorum requires 75.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was led by Board of Selectmen Chair Robert Medeiros recognizing all Veterans.

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

The ballot collectors for this evening were Susan Hajder, Anita McGee, Sharon Furtado, Christine Alford, David Kiley and Michael Donais.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Mr. Burke to submit the list of guests to the Town Clerk to be placed on file waiving the reading of the list.

Mr. Burke explained the handout for the meeting, the ballots to be used, use of the microphones and the procedure for the meeting.

7:08 PM – voter count was: 545 voters.

ARTICLE 1 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 as the grant match for design, permitting, engineering and related costs for the Hailes Hill Road Culvert Upgrade Project, and said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 2 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$130,000 to be expended by the Highway Department to purchase a skid steer and related attachments, and that said sum be transferred from certified free cash.

Speaking on article: Geraldine Mullaly, 990 Hortonville Road
 Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
 Robert Medeiros, Board of Selectmen Chair
 Tracy Jo Anderson, Town Accountant

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (14- 1)
Standing Vote: 266-YES 238-No
Motion passes by a simple Majority.**

ARTICLE 3 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be expended by the Police Department to purchase and install signage for speed control, and that said sum be raised by direct taxation.

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (10 – 4 – 1
abstention)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 4 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15.9 million for the purposes of funding the construction of town offices, of which \$1.8million is to be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Account, and \$10.6 million is to be transferred from certified free cash; and further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow up to \$3.5million of said appropriation for purposes of meeting the same, and to issue bonds or notes, therefore, under and pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws and any other enabling authority.

Speaking on article:
 Marc Lapointe, Capital Building Committee member
 Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
 Steven Kitchin, Board of Selectmen Vice Chair
 Robert Medeiros, Board of Selectman Chair
 Michael Beaudette, Board of Selectmen Clerk

Robert Alford, Advisory & Finance Committee Chair
Brian Bell, 91 Sycamore Street
Yousri Fam, 214 Kispert Court
Mark Shane, 16 Gardner Neck Road
Maria Salpietro, 150 Old Fall River Road
Geraldine Mullaly, 990 Hortonville Road
Joyce Moore, 72 Main Street
Vance Geldart, 45 Mattapoisett Avenue
James Clarkin, 1560 Gardner Neck Road
Richard Borden, 896 Wilbur Avenue

Mr. Burke stated this would require a 2/3' vote. Ballot #6 was used.

8:17 PM – there were 563 voters present.

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15 – 0)
549 ballots were cast. A 2/3's vote would require 366 votes. Results
were: 408-YES 141-NO.
Motion passes by a 2/3's Majority.**

ARTICLE 5 VOTED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be expended by the School Department for the purposes of conducting security assessments, training and studies for continued school security districtwide, and that said some be raised by direct taxation.

Speaking on article: Geraldine Mullaly, 990 Hortonville Road – Ms. Mullaly asked to amend this article to read “transfer from Certified Free Cash instead of direct taxation”. Mr. Burke called for a voice vote on the amendment: Amendment was defeated by a majority.

Also speaking: Frank Kingsley, 500 Swansea Mall Drive
Scott Holcomb, Swansea School
Superintendent
Davis Dewey, 200 Winslow Way

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 6 VOTED: That the Town vote to transfer a sum of \$30,000, from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community

Preservation Fund to be expended by the Conservation Commission to subsidize the costs of the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust in monitoring a conservation restriction that the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust will hold over Town-owned land, specifically at 1100 Bark Street, Assessors Map 27, Lot 17.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop
Robert Alford, Advisory & Finance Committee
Chair

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 7 VOTED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, for a nominal fee of not more than \$1.00, a non exclusive underground utility easement to Massachusetts Electric Company on the property located at 81 Main Street, being shown as Assessor's Map 73, Lot 33 for the purpose of installing, constructing, reconstructing, repairing, replacing, maintaining and operating underground electricity distribution equipment that will provide electricity to said Town land, on such terms as the Board of Selectmen deems to be prudent.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue
James Devol, Library Building Committee Chair

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a 2/3's Majority (voice vote).**

ARTICLE 8 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend ARTICLE IV of the Zoning Bylaw by deleting "Accessory apartment" under Residential Uses in the Table of Principal and Accessory Uses found in § 265-4.0 and replacing it with "Accessory dwelling unit", such use to be allowed as of right in the RR District and BA District, and not allowed in all other zoning districts.

And further, to amend § 265-4.1A by deleting the definition for "Accessory Apartment".

And further, to add a new § 265-4.2A(1)(k) as follows:

Accessory dwelling unit, subject to the requirements of § 265-4.3.

And further, to delete § 265-4.2A(2)(a).

And further, to add a new §265-4.2B(1)(q) as follows:

Single-family dwelling, not to exceed 2 1/2 stories with attached or detached private garage.

And further, to add a new § 265-4.2B(1)(r) as follows:

Accessory dwelling unit, subject to the requirements of § 265-4.3.

And further, to delete § 265-4.3 in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§ 265-4.3 Accessory Dwelling Units

A. Definitions:

1. Accessory Dwelling Unit (“ADU”): as defined by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 1A: a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principle dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principle dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger in gross floor area than ½ the gross floor area of the principle dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

B. Approval Process:

1. The Building Inspector shall issue a Building Permit authorizing the installation and use of an ADU within an existing or new single-family dwelling or for the installation and use of a single ADU in a detached structure on a single-family home lot, subject to the Technical Review Requirements as provided in § 265-4.3D.

C. Use and Dimensional Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units

1. The ADU will be a complete, separate housekeeping unit containing both kitchen and bath.

2. No more than one ADU shall be permitted on any single lot, regardless of the number of principal dwelling units or other structures located on the lot.
3. The principal dwelling units and ADU shall remain in common ownership with each other and with the ownership of the lot on which they are located, and shall not be severed in ownership so long as they remain on the same lot. This prohibition includes, without limitation, the prohibition of the creation of any condominium form of ownership, or of any other common interest land jointly owned by individual unit owners.
4. Any new separate outside entrance serving an ADU shall be located on the side or in the rear of the building.
5. The gross floor area of an ADU (including any additions) shall not exceed 900 square feet or one-half of the gross square footage of the primary structure, whichever is less.
6. The construction of any ADU must be in conformity with the State Building Code, State Fire Code (Chapter 18), Title V of the State Sanitary Code, and other local bylaws and regulations.
7. Sufficient and appropriate space for at least one additional parking space shall be constructed by the owner to serve the ADU. The parking space shall be constructed of materials consistent with the existing driveway and shall have vehicular access to the driveway. No additional parking space shall be required for an ADU located not more than 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station.

<u>Setback</u>	<u>Dimension</u>
Front Yard	35'
Rear Yard	30'
Side Yard	15' 30' if Corner Lot
Maximum Setback from Primary Residence	75'

9. Dimensional Requirements for Detached ADU:

10. Detached ADU shall be (a) placed behind primary structure in rear yard or (b) shall be placed in side yard with the same front yard setback as the primary structure.

D. Technical Review Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units

1. Prior to the issuance of a Building Permit for an ADU, a site plan must be submitted for technical review by the following department heads, who shall ensure that said plan complies with all of the requirements of § 265-4.3: Town Planner, Building Inspector, Fire Chief, Board of Health Agent, and Highway Department Director.
2. The site plan must include, but is not limited to, the following details:
 - i. **Location of the ADU:** The precise location of the ADU on the lot, including setbacks from the property lines, distance from the primary structure, and any other structures on the lot.
 - ii. **Access and Parking:** Details of vehicular access to the ADU, including driveway modifications, if necessary, driveway construction, and the provision of required parking spaces in accordance with the bylaws.
 - iii. **Utilities and Services:** Plans for connecting the ADU to water, sewer/ septic, electricity, and other necessary utilities, ensuring compliance with local regulations.
 - iv. **Fire Safety:** Fire safety measures, including accessibility for emergency vehicles. Access shall comply with the requirements of 527 CMR 1.00 Chapter 18.
 - v. **Landscaping and Screening:** Proposed landscaping or screening measures to maintain the privacy and aesthetic character of the neighborhood.
 - vi. **Architectural Design:** The design of the ADU must include architectural details such as windows, doors, roofing, and siding materials that match or complement those of

the primary dwelling. The design should ensure that the ADU remains visually subordinate to the primary structure, maintaining the overall aesthetic harmony of the property and the surrounding neighborhood. Attached ADUs shall maintain the look of a single-family residence.

- vii. **Floor Plan:** a floor plan must be submitted showing the proposed interior and exterior changes to the building.
3. The plan must demonstrate that the proposed detached ADU will be in harmony with the surrounding area, maintaining the stability, property values, and residential character of the neighborhood.
 4. All plans must comply with the State Building Code, Title V of the State Sanitary Code, and other applicable local bylaws and regulations.
 5. The site plan must be prepared, stamped, and signed by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Registered Professional Land Surveyor and include the following information:
 - i. Locus Map
 - ii. North Arrow
 - iii. Title Block with the following information
 1. The address of the subject property
 2. The legal reference of the subject property as recorded at the Registry of Deeds
 3. The Assessor's Map and Lot number
 4. Name of who the plan was prepared for
 5. Name and address of who prepared the plan
 6. Scale, both graphic and written
 - iv. Street Lines and Street Names
 - v. Lot Boundaries, Dimensions, Area (in square feet)
 - vi. Setbacks from all property lines to all existing and proposed structures

- vii. Footprint and address of all existing and proposed structures on the subject site. Structures on the subject site shall be measured and drawn to scale.
 - viii. Dimensions of proposed structure shall be shown
 - ix. Existing and/ or proposed off-street parking and any paved areas on the site (dimensions required)
 - x. A notation as to the height/ visual appearance of existing and proposed structure(s)
 - xi. Zoning Compliance Table
6. A Certificate of Occupancy for an ADU will only be issued upon submission and approval of As-built Plans, which must demonstrate full compliance with the plans as submitted for Technical Review and approved by the department heads listed in § 265-4.3D(1). Each such department head shall review and approve submitted As-built Plans prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop
 Christopher Parayno, Town Planner
 Paul Treloar, 18 Chestnut Street, Zoning Board Chair
 Richard Carreiro, 375 Mountfair Circle
 Michael Durette, 114 Pond Street
 Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
 Motion is carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 9 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend Chapter 115 of the General By Laws by deleting the language of § 115-8 Licensing; Fees in its entirety, excepting only its title, and replacing it with the following:

§ 115-8 Individual Licensing; fees.

- A. All dogs six months or older that reside within the Town, and that are not covered by a kennel license

pursuant to § 115-10, must be individually licensed annually, with the license and tag being on a form prescribed and furnished by the Town Clerk. The Owner or Keeper of the dog must obtain said individual license each year by the latest of:

1. April 1st
2. 30 days from the date on which the dog reached six months of age;
3. 30 days from the date on which the dog is relocated to the Town;
4. 30 days from the date on which the Owner or Keeper acquires the dog; or
5. 30 days from the date on which the dog is no longer licensed pursuant to a kennel license pursuant to § 115-10.

- B. The License Fee structure shall be as follows, and shall apply to all licenses, regardless of whether the dog was previously licensed under a kennel license or a license issued by another municipality or to a different Owner or Keeper:

Unspayed female dogs and unneutered male dogs
\$20 license per year

Spayed female dogs and neutered male dogs \$10 license per year

Late fee after June 30 th	\$20
Lost, defaced, or destroyed tag replacement	\$1.00

- C. No fee shall be charged for an individual dog license when the Owner or Keeper is at least 70 years of age, and said individual submits to the Town Clerk, at the time of issuance of the license, government-issued documentation that demonstrates said age. No refund shall be issued in response to such documentation being provided subsequent to the issuance of a license.

And further, to amend Chapter 115 of the General Laws by adding a new § 115-16 as follows:

§ 115-16 Supplementation of statutory requirements.

This ARTICLE II of Chapter 115 supplements the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 137 through 174E, inclusive. Those statutory provisions should be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of the licensing and regulation of dogs within the Town.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 10 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend Chapter 160 of the General Bylaws by deleting the language of ARTICLE 1 Town Clerk Fees in its entirety, excepting only its title, and replacing it with the following, or take any other action relative thereto:
§ 160-1 Fees for specific services.

The following schedule of fees shall be charged by the Town Clerk for the specific services listed:

- A. Issuance of certified copy of a Birth, Death or Marriage Certificate: \$10.00
- B. Filing a Notice of Intention for Marriage: \$25.00
- C. Filing of a Business Certificate: \$40.00
- D. Filing of a change of Business Certificate, name, location, residence, retirement, withdrawal or discontinuance from said Business Certificate: \$20.00
- E. Corrections and/or Amendments of Birth, Death, or Marriage Certificate: \$15.00
- F. Filing of a Certificate of Marriage by persons married outside of the country: \$15.00
- G. Recording an order granting locations of poles, piers, abutments, conduits, alterations, or transfers thereof, and/or increase of number of wires and cables or attachments under provisions of MGL c. 166, §22: \$50.00
 - 1. Certified copy of such petition: \$10.00
 - 2. Each additional street in such order: \$15.00

- H. Issuance of certified copies of any records, other than as provided in §§ 160-1A and 160-1G: \$10.00
- I. Filing and receiving a complete inventory of all items to be included in a business closing sale, etc.
 - a. First Page: \$25.00
 - b. Each additional page \$ 5.00
- J. Filing of Certificate of Registration for fuel storage: \$50.00
- K. Street lists - 17 years and older: \$10.00

§ 160-2 Other fees.

To the extent that a particular service of the Town Clerk is enumerated in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 262, Section 34 but is not listed in § 160-1, then the default statutory fee for that service as provided in said Section 34 shall continue to apply.

§ 160-3 Schedule of fees is not comprehensive.

The fees as listed in §§ 160-1 and 160-2 are not intended as a comprehensive listing of possible services that are or could be performed by the Town Clerk for which a fee can and will be charged. Nothing in §§ 160-1 and 160-2 should be construed as limiting the ability of the Town in general, or the Town Clerk in particular, to set fees for other services pursuant to any other legal authority, including statute, regulation, and bylaw.

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 11 VOTED: That the Town vote to amend Chapter 40 of the General Bylaws by adding a new ARTICLE III as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

ARTICLE III Tree Warden

§ 40-11 Appointment.

In accordance with the authority provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 1, the position of tree warden shall be an appointed position, with the Board of Selectmen being the appointing

authority. Each such appointment shall be for a period of no more than three (3) years as set by the Board of Selectmen.

§ 40-12 Existing elected tree warden.

The existing elected tree warden at the time of adoption of § 40-11 shall continue in that position until the expiration of the term for which said individual was elected, or until said individual earlier vacates such office. Nothing shall either preclude the Board of Selectmen from appointing, or require the Board of Selectmen to appoint, said individual thereafter to the position of tree warden.

Speaking on article: Brenda Guertin, 25 Missile Loop

**Advisory and Finance Committee Recommends (15- 0)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 12 VOTED: That the Town vote to accept Johemi Trail and Linda Way in the Diamond Ledge subdivision as public ways as laid out on September 17, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Speaking on article: Timothy Reynolds, 112 Taft Avenue
Christopher Parayno, Town Planner
William Anderson, Swansea Highway Director

**Advisory and Finance Committee gave No Recommendation
Motion carried by a Majority.**

ARTICLE 13 VOTED: That the Town vote to accept Buckingham Drive in the Buckingham Estates subdivision as a public way as laid out on September 17, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Speaking on article: Timothy Haley, 478 Ocean Grove Avenue
Robert Alford, Advisory & Finance Committee
Chair
Randy Alvarez, 61 Buckingham Drive
Christopher Parayno, Town Planner
John Harrington, 19 Buckingham Drive
William Anderson, Swansea Highway Director

**Advisory and Finance Committee Does Not Recommend
(12- 0 – 3 abstentions)**

Motion carried by a Majority.

ARTICLE 14 VOTED: That the Town vote to accept Kayleigh Court as a public way as laid out on September 17, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

**Advisory and Finance Committee gave No Recommendation
Motion carried Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 15 VOTED: That the Town vote to accept Keith Circle and Kyle Court as public ways as laid out on April 23, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen, and the plan for which is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Speaking on article: Daniel Jackman, 17 Keith Circle
Nina Medeiros, 184 Keith Circle
Dann Boyer, 94 Pamela Drive
Fire Chief Eric Hajder, Swansea Fire
Normand Vadeboncoeur, 234 Keith Circle
Christopher Parayno, Town Planner
Tracy Wood, 151 Keith Circle

**Advisory and Finance Committee Does Not Recommend
(12 - 0 – 3 abstentions)
Motion carried by a Majority.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 9:33PM.

Adjournment.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland
Swansea Town Clerk

STATE PRIMARY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

The State Primary was held September 3, 2024, in the Town of Swansea at Joseph Case High School, 70 School St. with five polling stations opening at 7:00 am. The number of voters checked in at the polls was 1,777. The following is the State Primary Results

	P1	DEMOCRATIC			P5	Total
		P2	P3	P4		
Senator in Congress						
Elizabeth Warren	295	349	338	272	249	1503
Jake Auchincloss	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Cain	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-Ins	7	9	5	12	12	45
Blanks	40	62	42	45	40	229
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

Representative in Congress- Fourth District						
Jake Auchincloss	291	357	338	278	253	1517
Write-Ins	4	0	2	2	2	10
Blanks	47	63	45	49	46	250
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

Councillor- First District						
Joseph Ferreira	293	338	330	255	233	1449
Write-Ins	2	0	1	2	0	5
Blanks	47	82	54	72	68	323
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

Senator In General Court – First Bristol & Plymouth District						
Micheal Rodrigues	301	352	337	279	242	1511
Write-Ins	2	0	2	1	0	5
Blanks	39	68	46	49	59	261
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

Representative in General Court -Fifth Bristol District						
Patricia Haddad	301	363	322			996
Write-Ins	4	1	2			7
Blanks	37	56	51			144
Total	342	420	385	0	0	1147

Representative in General Court – Fourth Bristol District						
Write-Ins				42	44	86
Blanks				287	257	644
Total	0	0	0	329	301	630

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	Total
Clerks of Courts -Bristol County						
Jennifer Sullivan	283	331	316	262	233	1425
Write-Ins	3	0	1	0	2	6
Blanks	56	89	68	67	66	346
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

Register of Deedes – Fall River						
Bernard McDonald	153	188	170	142	136	789
Christopher Carreiro	187	220	207	176	155	945
Write-Ins	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	2	12	7	11	10	42
Total	342	420	385	329	301	1777

County Commissioner – Bristol County						
John Mitchell	218	257	244	189	188	1096
Julie Ruggiero	213	244	238	191	174	1060
Write-Ins	0	0	2	0	0	2
Blanks	253	339	286	278	240	1396
Total	684	840	770	658	602	3554

REPUBLICAN

Senator in Congress						
Robert Atonellis	21	13	19	12	22	87
Ian Cain	6	4	7	3	6	26
John Deaton	162	113	130	102	160	667
Write-Ins	1	0	1	1	2	5
Blanks	4	0	4	2	2	12
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

Representative in Congress – Fourth District						
Write-Ins	22	15	18	13	10	78
Blanks	172	115	143	107	182	719
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

Councillor – First District						
Write-Ins	18	7	12	6	7	50
Blanks	176	123	149	114	185	747
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

Senator In General Court – First Bristol & Plymouth District						
Write-Ins	13	10	12	6	9	60
Blanks	171	120	149	114	183	737
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	Total
Representative in General Court -Fifth Bristol District						
Justin Thurber	138	103	123			364

Write-Ins	1	2	5			8
Blanks	55	25	33			113
Total	194	130	161	0	0	485

Representative in General Court – Fourth Bristol District

Steven Howitt				90	145	235
Write-Ins				4	1	5
Blanks				26	46	72
Total	0	0	0	120	192	312

Clerks of Courts – Bristol County

Write-Ins	22	11	10	3	4	50
Blanks	172	119	151	117	188	747
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

Register of Deeds – Fall River District

Write-Ins	39	53	61	48	25	226
Blanks	155	77	100	72	167	571
Total	194	130	161	120	192	797

Country Commissioner – Bristol County

Write-Ins	16	12	12	2	5	47
Blanks	372	248	310	238	379	1547
Total	388	260	322	240	384	1594

LIBERTARIAN

Senator in Congress

Elizabeth Warren	0	2	2	2	0	6
Write-Ins	2	4	0	1	1	8
Blanks	3	0	1	2	1	7
Total	5	6	3	5	2	21

Representative in Congress- Fourth District

Write-Ins	0	6	2	1	1	10
Blanks	5	0	1	4	1	11
Total	5	6	3	5	2	21

Councillor- First District

Joseph Ferreira	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-Ins	0	4	2	1	1	8
Blanks	5	2	1	4	1	13
Total						

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	Total
Senator In General Court – First Bristol & Plymouth District						
Write-Ins	0	6	2	1	1	10
Blanks	5	0	1	4	1	11
Total	5	6	3	5	2	21

Representative in General Court -Fifth Bristol District						
Write-Ins	0	6	3			9
Blanks	5	0	0			5
Total	5	6	3			14

Representative in General Court – Fourth Bristol District						
Write-Ins				1	1	2
Blanks				4	1	5
Total	0	0	0	5	2	7

Clerks of Courts -Bristol County						
Write-Ins	0	6	2	1	1	10
Blanks	5	0	1	4	1	11
Total	5	6	3	5	2	21

Register of Deeds – Fall River District						
Write-Ins	3	4	2	5	2	16
Blanks	2	2	1	0	0	5
Total	5	6	3	5	2	21

Country Commissioner – Bristol County						
Write-Ins	0	6	4	2	1	13
Blanks	10	6	2	8	3	29
Total	10	12	6	10	4	42

Respectfully submitted.
Diane Pelland, Town Clerk

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 \$17,243,250 (net position).
- The Town's total net position increased \$12,488,707.
- At the end of the fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the general fund totaled \$17,776,584 or 27.1% of total general fund revenues and transfers in.
- The Town's total bonded debt decreased \$41,301 during the fiscal year; the town issued \$544,929 of long-term debt during the fiscal year.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The original general fund budget of \$54,972,414 increased \$3,944,384 (7.17%) during the fiscal year. The following table summarizes the increase:

Joseph Case Jr. High School Feasibility Study	\$ 2,000,000
Sewer Infrastructure	1,678,384
Recreation Equipment	148,500
Town Hall Annex Project	115,000
<u>Sewer commission</u>	<u>2,500</u>

Total Increases \$3,944,384

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 \$5,086,592.

Capital Assets

The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$43,776,102 (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 12.9%.

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

- Purchase of Hallock Property (\$785,000)
- Library Expansion Project construction in progress (\$2,200,000)
- Public works vehicles and equipment (\$600,000)
- Various Infrastructure projects (\$1,059,000)

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, 2024, total bonded debt outstanding was \$4,765,335.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>General Obligation Bonds</u>	\$4,725,933	\$ 4,748,117
<u>MCWT notes</u>	\$ 39,402	<u>58,519</u>
<u>Total bonds and notes</u>	<u>\$4,765,335</u>	<u>\$ 4,806,636</u>

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 Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
Enterprise Fund
- Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and changes in Fund balance
Budget and Actual

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Jo Anderson
Town Accountant

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2024

	<u>Primary Government</u>
	Business-
Governmental	type

ASSETS	Activities	Activities	Total
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$42,523,027	\$662,007	\$43,185,034
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	31,436,600	-	31,436,600
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:		-	
Real estate and personal property taxes	739,036	-	739,036
Tax & Trash liens	2,903,734	53,943	2,957,677
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	318,756	-	318,756
Opioid Settlements	55,244		
User charges		- 550,816	550,816
Intergovernmental	1,445,363	-	426,048
	<hr/>		
Total current assets	79,421,760	1,266,766	80,688,526
Noncurrent assets:			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		-	-
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:			
Real estate tax deferrals	42,057	-	42,057
Opioid Settlements	421,424		421,424
Capital assets not being depreciated	9,273,908	-	9,273,908
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	34,502,194	-	34,502,194
	<hr/>		
Total noncurrent assets	44,239,583	-	44,239,583
	<hr/>		
Total assets	123,661,343	1,266,766	124,928,109

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Related to OPEB	6,677,864		6,677,864
Related to pension	5,432,481		5,432,481
Total Deferred Outflows of resources	12,110,345	-	12,110,345

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:

Warrants payable	1,615,144	342,793	1,957,937
Accrued payroll	3,545,637	356	3,545,993
Tax refunds payable	787,526	-	787,526
Other liabilities	828,878	-	828,878
Accrued interest	73,135	-	73,135
Lease Liability	37,820		
Unearned Revenue	2,410,222		
Compensated absences	127,468	-	127,468
Long-term bonds and notes payable	723,614	-	723,614
Total current liabilities	10,149,444	343,149	10,492,593

Noncurrent liabilities:

Compensated Absences	1,147,214	-	1,147,214
Net OPEB Liability	45,689,591		45,689,591
Net Pension Liability	28,046,956	-	28,046,956
Long-term bonds and notes payable	4,041,721	-	4,041,721
Total noncurrent liabilities	78,925,482	-	78,925,482

Total liabilities	89,074,926	343,149	89,418,075
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Related To OPEB	30,364,133		30,364,133
Related To Pension	12,996		12,996
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	30,377,129		30,377,129
NET POSITION			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	38,390,738	-	38,390,738
Restricted for:			
Community preservation	2,030,484	-	2,030,484
Debt service		-	-
Permanent funds:			
Expendable	1,267,035	-	1,267,035
Nonexpendable	10,185,054	-	10,185,054
Revolving and Receipts Reserved	3,437,079	-	3,437,079
Gifts and grants	5,699,912		5,699,912
Opioid Settlements	781,385		781,385
Unrestricted	(45,472,054)	923,617	(44,548,437)
Total net position	\$16,319,633	\$923,617	\$17,243,250

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Timothy F. Cabral – Chairman 2023-2026

Patrick J. Travis – Vice Chairman 2022-2025

Gilbert Almeida - Board Clerk 2024-2027

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 recently retired and she was 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 entered all of the Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical permits that flow through the Building Inspector’s Office. Her replacement, Ms. Lynn Monte is quickly learning her new duties from Ms. Medeiros. Mrs. Martin is the initial contact with the public and help the public with their needs. The new addition to the staff is Mr. James Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan’s primary duties include the physical inspection of all uncompleted building permits, requests for Certificate of Use & Occupancy inspections on new construction, inspections on property owners requesting an abatement of taxes, and learning the general tasks of the daily duties of a Tax Assessor

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.

As previously stated, The Board of Assessors has hired a Deputy Assessor to perform the building permit inspections so the services of an outside contractor are no longer needed. 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. whose tax bill was \$423,381 and
2. New England Power Company whose tax bill was \$495,461

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.

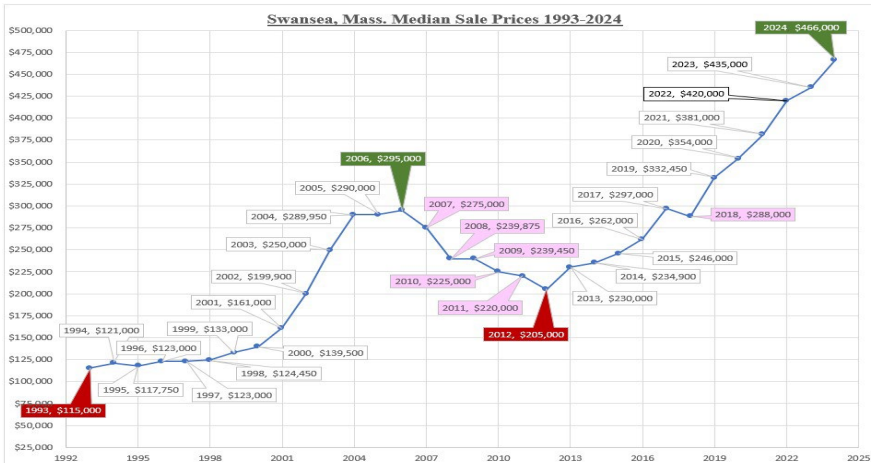
Commercial, Industrial, and Mixed-Use Property Valuation:

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. The Department of Revenue (DOR) approval of the assessed values annually is the initial step in the process of setting property tax rates annually for all MA municipalities.



For Fiscal Year 2025, the Residential tax rate was set at **\$10.98/1-thousand** dollars of valuation along with a Water District tax rate of \$0.94/1-thousand dollars of valuation which comes to a total of \$11.92/1- 11.92/1-thousand dollars of valuation. On an assessment of say \$465,000 the annual tax bill would be \$5,106 (or about \$1,277 per quarterly payment). The commercial tax rate was set at \$17.37/1-thousand dollars of valuation along with a Water District tax rate of \$0.94/1-thousand dollars of valuation which comes to a total of \$18.31. On an assessment of say \$500,000, the annual tax bill would be \$9,155 (or about \$2,289 per quarterly payment).

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 one hundred and ninety-four (194) sales or sixteen 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 month's 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. Due to the increased mortgage rates & lack of inventory, the sales volume is down from 162 in 2022 to 118 in 2023.

Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles:

A review of the motor vehicle data provides a snapshot of what is driven in Town for 2024. 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 Swansea;

- 1 Toyota with 2,236 cars or 16.9% of the market
- 2 Chevrolet with 1,380 cars or 10.4% of the market
- 3 Ford with 1,326 cars or 10.0% of the market
- 4 Honda with 1,116 cars or 8.4% of the market
- 5 Jeep with 807 cars or 6.1% of the market
- 6 Nissan with 716 cars or 5.4% of the market

These top six auto makers represent 57% of all registered cars.

As far as age of cars, the most common age with 820 registered cars was a eight-year-old car (built in 2017), followed closely by cars built in 2018, 2015, 2019, and 2016. There were only 126 2024-year models or 1.0% of all registered cars (trucks) in Town.

There are 329 Harley Davidson motorcycles registered in Town, Honda was a distant second place finisher with only 54 motorcycles and Suzuki in third place with 39 bikes.

Since it has become commonplace to lease motor vehicles over purchasing, I am including statistics on the top leasing companies and the models they lease.

Since it has become commonplace to lease motor vehicles over purchasing, I am including statistics on the top leasing companies and the models they lease.

Company	Unit	Car Styles
Hyundai Leasing:	165	Kia, Hyundai, and Genesis
Toyota Lease Trust	160	Toyota, Lexus and Mazda
CU Leasing Corp:	101	Chevy, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Subaru, Toyota,
Acar Leasing, LTD	74	Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, GMC
Honda Lease Trust	54	Honda and Acura
Nissan/Infiniti LT:	45	Nissan and Infiniti

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Swansea Board of Health had a busy year in 2024! New State Protocols and Training were established and both myself and Allie took part in multiple training sessions. I was able to complete all 3 Tiers of the MA PHIT Food Training as well as 2 Tiers of the MA PHIT Housing Training.

I began working with the BOH in March as an Inspector, where I was tasked with completing routine inspections for all Body Art/Tattoo Parlors, Tanning Salons, Camps, Swimming Pools, and Food Establishments. It was great to go out and meet the workers/people in charge of various locations and make myself an asset to those that may need help. Being in the food/hospitality industry previously, I enjoyed being able to answer questions and assist multiple establishments. I did encounter a few issues but was able to work with the owners to rectify the situations and ensure public health standards were met.

Being new to this field of work, there were various certifications and trainings that I took part in to better understand my position and allow me to uphold the MA State codes put in place. I completed courses to become a Certified Pool Inspector (CPI) and Animal Control Officer (ACO), in addition to the MA required trainings for food and housing. I began shadowing Allie on septic inspections in the summer and was able to complete some basic inspections in her absence.

Our department participated in various community events over the course of the year. Our annual Health Fair took place in June, and though the weather postponed to a rain date, it was another successful event where we were able to pass out useful public health information to residents while also supporting local vendors and agencies. This is something that will continue this year as I am already working on a plan to get the word out and hopefully bring in a larger crowd than previous years. Next, we worked with Lisa from the Animal Shelter in coordinating her annual Yard Sale. This event has proven to be a success, and this year was no different. This is another event that we will be assisting with in 2025, and our goal is to have the Yard Sale and Health Fair at the same time and location, attracting a larger following for both events. Allie and Desiree held Public Health Talks at the Library that covered various topics from heart health, to stress. They also organized blood drives and flu clinics throughout the year which was open to residents and staff. I was happy to setup our vehicle and decorate for Trunk or Treat along with my family. It was a great

turnout and really nice event, look forward to doing it again! Lastly, I helped permit and book vendors for the Town's Holiday in the Village Event. I inspected the food trucks to ensure quality and standards were being held, and then enjoyed the festivities afterwards. This was such a great event with beautiful scenery, decorations, and some really delicious food!

Allie left our Department in November and I was tasked with handling all inspections and day to day responsibilities until a new Director was hired. I participated in the annual MHOA (MA Health Officers Association) Conference that took place in Springfield and learned about various septic issues/resolutions, food safety protocols, and housing enforcements. This was extremely valuable information and something I was appreciative to have been able to go to. I wrapped up routine inspections and we worked on completing our renewal applications for the upcoming year. We were able to permit about 95% of our renewals before 12/20/24, which was our deadline. We have also worked with the few that missed the deadline to get all necessary paperwork and certifications to license them in 2025.

I was promoted/hired as the new Health Director in December and began to organize our office to become more efficient. I met with Grace to discuss better ways to communicate and make sure we are on the same page with our schedules so we are working cohesively as it should be. We setup new file systems with an "in" and "out" area for all plans that need to be reviewed as well as those that have all been processed and signed. This system has been working great as we have been able to complete plan reviews within a few days of receiving them, helping to keep things moving and avoiding a back log of paperwork needing to be done. I familiarized myself with our E-Permit system and worked with Jennifer from the Building Department to assist with any questions I had so our department was holding up any projects in their department. I dedicate time each day to review tasks in the system and sign off as soon as possible which has helped speed up the process for applicants trying to acquire a permit.

Challenges

As with anything else, we did encounter some issues and challenges over the course of the year. An installer violated our town regulations and had to appear before the Board, where his license was temporarily suspended, with guidelines in place for it to be re-instated. The installer complied with what was voted on, and was awarded his license back 4 months later. He has complied with all regulations since.

I encountered food safety issues at a couple of food establishments, the Ice Cream Barn and the Venus de Milo. The Ice Cream Barn had numerous bacteria lab results come back with excessively high numbers, vastly exceeding the allowance by the State. After the 3rd high count in a row, I was forced to temporarily close the establishment until we could figure out the root cause of the problem(s). Though this was not an easy decision, it was necessary in order to prevent a possible foodborne illness outbreak. Thankfully it appears that the issue was linked to the dairy product coming in to the facility and being maintained at the proper temperature (under 41 degrees F). They have since had 4 lab tests come back, with only 1 being high for the same problems, which helped pinpoint the issue.

The Venus de Milo was, and continues to be a challenge for me. I was met with resistance from the owner immediately, but have managed to work with him to bring the establishment into compliance. I inspected the facility over a half dozen times from March to December, with the same repeat violations occurring. The establishment had issues with cooling process, holding temperatures, and equipment/facility maintenance. They were sent a notice of intent to suspend license due to numerous uncorrected violations. They did correct the critical/priority violations by the due date, and I verified with an inspection. They are still working on flooring and fixing the less critical problems. The owner came before the Board in December to request permission to sell food by Time/Temperature Control, rather than hot or cold holding, something that had been a cause of one of their repeat violations for months. The Board agreed to allow them to do this under specific guidelines set forth by me, which includes daily logs with times and temperatures of all cooked products being sold at room temperature. Any unsold food MUST be discarded after 4 hours, regardless of quality or temperature.

Our last challenge came from our beach testing. Due to high bacteria counts, we were forced to close the beaches on 2 separate occasions in 2024, but thankfully only for a day or 2 before new testing results came back. This is never a fun task as concerned residents were unsure about the status of the beaches and we received numerous calls asking about them being open. Improving communication to the public for situations like this is something I am working on for 2025.

My goal in my new role as Director is to prevent these same issues from happening by setting the standard for professionalism and accountability.

All in all, 2024 was a really good year for our department. We were able to complete multiple trainings to improve our skills, dispense valuable information to residents during our outreach events, and improve our day-to-day job functions to be more efficient. I got a crash course in public health and am fortunate to take on a larger role now as the Health Director. My goal in my new role is to prevent issues like “office drama” and tension from happening by setting the standard for professionalism and accountability. There were issues among staff in 2024 that hopefully have been resolved and not occur again going forward. Our department encountered problems, like we always will, but were able to address them, and hopefully prevent the same ones from happening in the future. My goal is to continue to improve our department so that we are assisting the public the best we can and are a resource rather than a roadblock. I look forward to what is in store for 2025!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Abreu
Health Director

Board of Health Members
Mr. James Carvalho – Chairman
Ms. Melissa Afonso
Mr. Timothy Cabral

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

Six (6) blood drives were hosted by this office in conjunction with the Somerset Council on Aging. We also implemented two (2) drives in Swansea at the American Legion Post 303. Using the services of the American Red Cross, over two hundred (200) people attended the eight drives and successfully donated blood. There continues to be a national blood shortage and this office and the Red Cross will continue offering blood drives multiple times per year to assist in the collection of more life-saving blood products. As of now there are six (7) drives schedule for 2025 in Somerset and three (3) scheduled in Swansea.

Blood Pressure Readings

Any resident is welcome to come into the office to have their blood pressure checked. This is a free service offered during normal business hours. Additionally, free blood pressure readings are available at the Swansea Council on Aging the first Wednesday of each month.

Disease Surveillance (MAVEN)

An important aspect in Public Health is disease surveillance and helping keep the community safe. There are over ninety (90) reportable diseases in Massachusetts in which the Local Board of Health is responsible in investigating and attempting to help prevent outbreaks. Vaccinations help make diseases more difficult to spread. Thank you to the Somerset Fire Department along with all the volunteers and all the school nurses for their continued support, we were able to vaccinate hundreds of residents and non-residents against Influenza this season. 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.

Emergency Preparedness

This office continues to participate in monthly meetings with the Bristol County Emergency Preparedness Coalition. These meetings include public health members from all Boards of Health in Region 5, (which comprise of 24 local communities) 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. These meetings are also a good way to see what is happening in other local communities and what they are doing to help their residents.

Health Fair

The second annual Health Fair put on by the Swansea Board of Health was held in August. It was another successful event. Here we provided education and information on local resources available for living a healthier lifestyle. We hope to continue this event and increase the number of vendors and attendees!

Home Visits

Visits to patients' homes in both towns this year were continued for B-12 Injections and influenza immunizations. If someone is seeking a routine injection, they must have an order from their provider and be able to supply the medication.

Immunizations

Just under four hundred (400) influenza immunizations were administered in both towns between September and December of 2024. Immunizations were available during private and public clinics, as well as during open office hours. Clinics were also held at all 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.

Library Talks

These are done monthly/bimonthly at the Swansea Public Library. Topics are relevant for the month at hand. Some topics include respiratory viruses, seasonal affective disorder, heart health, tick and mosquito information, and much more.

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.

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

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

There were approximately 706 calls responded to in 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, numerous types of animal complaint calls, along with yearly state livestock inspections. 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 251 animals from Swansea and Somerset, to which 72 of those animals were returned to their owners. The remaining intakes consist of, 131 animals adopted to new homes, 16 transfers in, 11 transfers out to another facility, 3 that died in care, 14 that were euthanized due to terminal illness. The remainder of the animals are either still in our care, or wildlife transferred to rehabilitators. In addition to 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.

Our reading with cats' program, which we coordinate with the library, continues to be successful. This program has brought attention to the positive work being done at the shelter and it has allowed us to get to know our residents in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

We partnered with Dighton Animal Control, Bristol Agricultural High School Animal Science students and Dr Jeremy Murdock for our first rabies clinic in many years. It was a successful event and we look forward to more in the near future.

Our shelter is still partnering with the Council on Aging, the Veterans office, and new to our program, Four Paws Pet Pantry to help provide pet food for those in need.



Animal control continues to provide free spay/neuter vouchers through the Mass Animal Fund, for qualifying

residents. This program makes it possible for people to have their pets altered, lowering shelter intakes.

I 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. The volunteers had two very successful fundraisers this year. Our June yard sale was one of our biggest and best so far!! This event raised funds for the animals in our care. A shout out to our Highway Department for all their help with this event as well! Our Holiday Giving Tree, another big success, providing lots of items needed for the animals.

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,
Lisa White
Swansea Animal Control Officer/Inspector



BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

38R Forest Street * Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 823-5253 * Fax: (508) 828-1868

ANNUAL REPORT –SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

This year marks the 65th 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 mosquitoes 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.

During the 2024 mosquito season, 12,216 individual mosquitoes in 447 samples were tested for the mosquito borne viruses EEE and WNV. There were 6 isolations of EEE and no human cases in the County. Bristol County had 32 mosquito samples test positive for WNV with 1 reported human case. There were no reported 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, 2024–December 31, 2024.

- Sprayed over 6,414 acres
- Treated 17.04 acres in 33 locations with *B.t.i.* for mosquito larvae
- Received and completed 413 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 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
Joseph Carvalho

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

There were 882 building permits in 2024. These permits included:

- 20 New Residential Dwellings
- 06 Sheds/Barns
- 19 Signs
- 05 Demolitions
- 32 Pools
- 11 Garages/Car Ports
- 34 Decks/Porches
- 195 Roofing/Siding
- 90 Residential additions, renovations and alterations
- 112 Windows/Doors
- 01 New Commercial Buildings
- 42 Commercial additions & renovations
- 315 Miscellaneous permits (includes: Replacement of columns and eliminate railings replace with lattice, carport, free standing canopy, temporary mobile home (residential house fire), Roof Solar, Ground Mounted Solar, Patio, Update 3-family approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals, Insulation and Weatherization, Support Porch, Residential Metal Storage Building, Post & Beam Barn, Demo Detached Garage, Pellet Stove, Wood Stoves, Pre-Fab Residential Building, Steel Residential Building, Sprinkler System, Fire Alarm and Fire Panel, Fire Suppression System, Removal of Deck and Pool, Accessory Apartment, Waterfront Sail Shade.

Approximate cost of construction for 2024	\$41,070,013.60
Total Building Permit fees collected for 2024	\$ 212,738.10
Certificates of places of assembly total 96 fees amounting	\$ 4,960.00
46 Occupancy Certificates were issued. Total fees collected	\$ 3,300.00
42 Sheet Metal Permits were issued. Total fees collected	\$ 7,540.00
Total Fees collected and turned over to Town Treasurer	\$228,538.10

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 578 electrical permits issued in 2024. 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 \$ 55,843.68

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Michael Medeiros

Electrical Inspector

PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Clark, Plumbing Inspector
Edward Majewski, Alternate Plumbing Inspector

There were 199 Plumbing Permits issued in 2024 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: \$ 20,329.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Clark

Plumbing Inspector

GAS INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Clark, Gas Inspector
Edward Majewski, Alternate Gas Inspector

There were 180 gas permits issued in 2024 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: \$ 14,240.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Clark

Gas Inspector

REPORT OF THE 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.

Mount Hope Cemetery:

Footings.....	9
Interments/openings:	
Cremations.....	20
Full burials.....	11
Sale of lots.....	0
Disinterments.....	0
Mount Hope Cemetery Fees turned over to the Town:	\$ 4,700.00

Diane Pelland
Mount Hope Cemetery Records Clerks

Vinnicum Woods Cemetery:

Footings.....	16
Interments/openings:	
Cremations.....	11
Full burials.....	14
Sale of lots:	
Full – Upright Marker.....	13
Full – Flat Marker.....	0
Cremation – Upright Marker.....	6
Cremation – Flat Marker.....	3
Trust Fund – Full Upright.....	13
Trust Fund – Full Flat.....	0
Trust Fund – Cremation Upright.....	6
Trust Fund – Cremation Flat.....	3
Disinterments.....	0
Vinnicum Woods Cemetery Fees turned over to the Town:	\$ 27,460.00

Celine E. Brown
Vinnicum Woods Cemetery Records Clerks

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland
Town Clerk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In its inaugural year, the Community Development Department was extremely busy, working on a variety of projects and topics outlined below. The Director's duties were separated from the Town Planner's responsibilities, with the hiring of a new Town Planner in June. The Department focused on long-range plan creation and implementation, stormwater and water quality improvement projects, regional efforts, economic development initiatives, the continued development of the Medeiros Farm Recreational Complex, and miscellaneous projects involving Town communications and risk analyses.

The Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Planning Board and the Open Space and Recreation Plan, Housing Production Plan, and Hazard Mitigation Plan were all approved by the respective State agencies tasked with confirming compliance of said plans under their regulations. The Route 6/118 Corridor Study was completed, which demonstrates the types of uses possible along these commercial thoroughfares once sewers are installed while also identifying key development sites and necessary bylaw amendments to necessitate these changes. The Waterways Plan, Digital Equity Plan, and Route 103 Corridor Study were all kicked off with public workshops being held, surveys developed, and key stakeholders identified for interviews. These should all be completed in 2025.

The design of a stormwater retrofit at Compton's Corner courtesy of grants and training from the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management was advanced to the thirty percent (30%) phase with full construction drawings anticipated in 2025. The Town received the Futures Award, given to communities that excelled at building their local capacity using the SNEP Network tools, training, and/or technical assistance.

Additionally, culvert improvement designs in frequently flooded areas along Seaview Avenue and Sharps Lot Road began with funding from an upstream subdivision flood mitigation requirement and State earmarks, respectively. Permit design plans are anticipated in 2025, at which time funding will be sought for permitting, final design plans, and construction. A joint effort with Save the Bay and volunteers from the community to mark storm drains alerting the public to their connection to our coastal waterways was nearly completed. And the second year of water sampling by the Harbor Advisory Committee in the Lees and Coles Rivers took place with a final year of funding requested for 2025.

As Community Development Director, I represented Swansea on a Steering Committee for the establishment of the Sowams Natural Heritage Area, an effort to highlight the profound historical, cultural, and natural significance of the region, centered on Southeastern Massachusetts and the East Bay of Rhode Island. The group completed a feasibility study and will continue to seek formal Congressional designation.

Lastly, I represented Swansea on a Brownfields Steering Committee for an EPA Community Assessment Grant awarded for the region focusing on the Mount Hope Bay watershed. The old Swan Finishing site on Ledge Road was selected and a site assessment was completed that will aid in the site's future redevelopment.

In May, The Town hosted a small business networking event at the Bathhouse sponsored by BayCoast Bank in an effort to build relationships amongst the business community in Town. We also participated in various ribbon cuttings for new business openings including Locked-In Nutrition, Bay State Veterinary Services, Jitterbug Café, and Isabellenhutte.

One-hundred percent (100%) construction plans have been completed for the Medeiros Farm Recreational Complex and work has begun including stormwater basins, roadway improvements, and a parking area. A title examination of surrounding properties has been completed and we will continue to seek various funding sources to expand recreational opportunities on the parcel. We filed a conservation restriction with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and a lease agreement has been signed by the Swansea-Somerset Youth Soccer League for the development and maintenance of soccer fields. Originally authorized to purchase in 2020, the Town has worked continuously on developing this parcel for public enjoyment.

As a major part of the Town's Communication Plan, the community newsletter continued, which now has over 300 subscribers a year after it first launched. We also engaged the Gardner and Luther Schools Student Leadership Groups by introducing concepts of local government in the hopes of inspiring tomorrow's leaders. We anticipate to grow these interdepartmental programs in the next year. The Sears Road Landfill capping discussions have been held with the owner and will continue in 2025, with oversight from the Department of Environmental Protection. A cybersecurity assessment was completed and upgrades to our

infrastructure and continued training for our personnel will continue into 2025 to ensure maximum protection. The Town participated as a client for a Bridgewater State University Risk Assessment class for a third year. This term focused on climate change and the recommendations and insights provided by the class will be examined and analyzed for potential implementation.

Thank you to the residents, fellow departments, and the boards and committees who have supported the efforts of this Department. We hope for continued success in 2025.

John P. Hansen, Jr., AICP
Community Development Director/
Assistant Town Administrator



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Swansea Conservation Commission oversees the rules and regulations provided in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Swansea Wetlands Protection Bylaw. In 2024, the Swansea Conservation Commission conducted public hearings to regulate the following projects:

NOTICES OF INTENT: 31

Septic repair: 9	Inground pool: 2
Single Family Dwelling: 5	ANRAD: 3
Garage: 2	Offshore Linear: 1
Seawall: 3	Watermain: 1
Dock: 1	Stormwater Basin: 2
Propane Tank Pads: 1	Additions/Sheds: 2

CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE: 41

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION: 3

ENFORCEMENT ORDERS: 3

NOTICES OF VIOLATION: 8

REQUESTS FOR DETERMINATION: 17

The Swansea Conservation Commission conducted 129 public hearings and collected **\$25,638.50** in filing fees.

The Conservation Commission performed preliminary reviews and sign offs 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: 5	Shed: 1
Garages: 1	Fire repair: 1
Septic repairs: 21	Demo: 4
In-ground Pools: 2	Decks & Porches: 3
Propane Tanks: 1	Addition: 1

The Conservation Department welcomed Adeline Bellesheim as the Conservation Agent for the Town of Swansea in July of 2024. Ms. Bellesheim has an extensive background in wetland delineation, land surveys, rare species assessment, environmental permitting, plan review, forestry, and environmental education. Ms. Bellesheim has dedicated her career to the preservation and protection of natural resources, and will continue those efforts for the Town of Swansea.

In 2024, The Conservation Department oversaw the Phase I construction of the Medeiros Family Farm Complex, worked with local organizations to begin trail signage at Village Park, and began conceptual trail development and public use plans for open space areas previously purchased by the Town. The Agent worked with the owners of Stoney Creek Farm to apply for an Agricultural Conservation Easement grant that could protect 17 acres of natural land. The Agent continued to work with local partner organizations to identify land conservation opportunities in the Town of Swansea.

The Commission would like to thank, William Anderson, Director of Engineering/Highway Supervisor and Scott Olobri, Assistant Highway Superintendent/Facilities Manager for helping with emergency on-call situations and attaining protecting our wetlands and waterways.

The Agent and Senior Clerk wish to thank the members of the Swansea Conservation Commission, Chairman, Charles Ashley, Vice Chairman, Charles Applegate, Clerk, Robert Lemoi, and members Nanci Hedgorth, and Sean Moffi for numerous hours of volunteered time serving the Town of Swansea. Their commitment and efforts are crucial to the protection of wetlands and natural resources in the Town of Swansea.

A special thanks to the Conservation Senior Clerk, Stacey Moniz for her diligence, dedication, and exceptional work ethic. The Senior Clerk



has worked tirelessly to help convert historical documentation to electronic records to ensure preservation and data integrity. The Commission would like to thank the Minutes Clerk, Jennifer Howard, who has served the Commission throughout the years.

Respectfully submitted,
Adeline Bellesheim

Adeline Bellesheim Conservation Agent
Swansea 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.

II. COUNCIL ON AGING PROGRAMS

TRANSPORTATION - Free transportation is available to our seniors Monday through Friday for essential services such as medical appointments and grocery shopping. We thank van driver, Eileen Guzior for her compassion and commitment as she continues to do an outstanding job meeting the transportation needs of our seniors.

HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING –Health Insurance counseling is offered throughout the year. New retirees often struggle to understand the complexities of Medicare and other insurance options available to them. Personalized one-on-one counseling is available from our free and independent Medicare Insurance Counselors. These sessions are always important but even more so during Medicare’s Annual Open Enrollment period. Medicare beneficiaries are able to have their existing coverage compared to changes that will become effective in the new year. After their counseling session, seniors are able to make educated decisions about the option(s) that are best for the coming new year and with the assistance of our counselors, they are enrolled in the most cost-effective plan(s). Understanding these options and making the necessary changes result in significant cost savings. For example, during 2024’s Open Enrollment (October 15 – December 7) our seniors saw savings of \$89,313.87 in changes made to Part D (Prescription coverage) plans alone and an additional \$45,077.61 with enrollment into various Medicare Savings Programs. Additional savings are, of course, seen throughout the year as we assist in screening for public benefits etc. Our Health Insurance Counselors do an outstanding job assisting Swansea’s Medicare beneficiaries. Each counselor is subjected to an annual certification and receive training not only prior to Open Enrollment but through monthly trainings as well.

PROGRAMMING – The Swansea Council on Aging offers programs throughout the year, including:

Swansea's Senior Garden:

Thanks to Senator Michael Rodrigues, and grant funds awarded in 2023 to the Swansea COA through the SouthCoast Community Foundation Grant, we were able to offer our second year of Swansea's Senior



Garden. Through the hard work of Swansea COA staff and a special thanks to "Richard", fresh produce was picked daily (as items were available) and shared with Swansea seniors at no cost. Items included Zucchini, Summer Squash, a variety of Tomatoes, Basil, Peppers, Eggplant and more!

Arts & Crafts: Arts & Crafts continue to be a favorite for our participants. These programs are not only fun for our seniors but have physical and emotional benefits as well. For those suffering from isolation and/or depression, these programs bring people together encouraging socialization and support. Physical benefits of hand dexterity and eye/hand coordination also benefit participants. On top of that, seniors walk away with a beautiful item they can take pride in.

While some opt to keep items for themselves, many choose to gift these beautiful crafts to loves ones. It's such a pleasure to see their creativity and smiles! Among the projects created this year were Wooden Heart Keepsake boxes for Valentine's Day, the Summer's Terra Cotta Lighthouses (shown here) and Holiday ornaments.



Crochet & Knitting: In 2024, Introduction to Crochet was offered. A



number of participants learned various crochet stitches with volunteer instructor (Adeline) and created lovely items. The success of this program sparked additional interest in

not only continuing sessions but expanding them to include knitting. As a result, our Crochet & Knitting Club was established. These talented individuals work on their own projects and share their talents

and patterns with one another. This group continues to welcome “newbies” and make themselves available to assist other “students” in getting started.

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. All of these programs were funded through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and we thank them for their commitment to our seniors.

Gym: The Council on Aging’s gym is open five days per week! Participation in this program continues to grow each year. We continue to receive feedback on how important this gym equipment is. Some have indicated that they have completed physical therapy sessions but due to insurance restrictions, they are unable to continue. Thanks to the equipment in our gym, seniors who would still benefit from additional care but are unable to afford to purchase these large pieces of equipment, now find it beneficial to utilize the equipment offered at the COA. For them and so many others, our gym is a game changer. 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 on those statistics to various agencies and most importantly, to you our Swansea residents. The following is just a small sampling of some of the statistics from this year’s programs:

Fitness/Exercise – 2,732
Food Assistance – 325
Recreation/Socialization – 1,572
Transportation – 328
Health Benefits Counseling – 516
Congregate Meals – 343
Community Education – 599
Cultural Events – 54
Durable Medical Equipment - 101
Health Screening – 21

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council on Aging would like to thank all who have provided support to the Council on Aging over the past year. We are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly and contribute many hours of service to the COA in many different areas of our organization. Volunteers give of themselves to serve others. We are so grateful for your selflessness. This year, volunteers contributed nearly 400 hours of service – a value that exceeds well over \$20,000. 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 (who assisted in our senior garden and serves as an insurance counselor), Marita Durkin-Gray, Elizabeth Manton, Wanda Peloquin, Margaret Riley and Mary Anne Tuttle, for their dedication and commitment to our seniors. This year, we lost COA Board member Bernadette Huck, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. “Bernie” was a former Swansea COA Director who made the smooth transition to our Board after her retirement. She was a strong and constant advocate for the senior community and will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Meeting the needs of our seniors takes a group effort. I would like to express my thanks to the Honorable Board of Selectmen - Michael Beaudette, Steven Kitchin and Robert Medeiros for their continued support. My appreciation extends to the entire staff at the Selectmen’s Office for their assistance throughout the year. Our Police and Fire Departments continue to be of great assistance to the Council on Aging and our seniors. This past year we collaborated with them to bring safety programs to our seniors. In addition, 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). Town Nurse (Desiree Harding) conducts Blood Pressure clinics at the COA each month. Our Town Clerk and Town Accountant (along with their staff members) are always so helpful in assisting us in meeting 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 never wavered in her support for the Council on Aging and our senior

population. Whenever her schedule permits, she is an active participant in various programs throughout the year. While I understand how much she enjoys participating, it's also a wonderful opportunity for our seniors to engage with her. In these informal settings, they are able to voice their concerns, share valuable feedback and walk away feeling heard and valued. Not only do I extend my sincerest appreciation to Ms. Aronstein on behalf of our seniors but also for the guidance and support she offers to me as the COA's Department Head.

This year the COA welcomed our newest staff member, Stephanie Suplido as our Transportation and Programs Coordinator. She has proven herself to be a valuable asset. She has done so by completing the required Driver Certifications as well as becoming a Certified Health Insurance Counselor. I thank Stephanie for her "team effort" demeanor and for the respect and kindness she shows our seniors. Welcome aboard!

I would like offer special thanks to my Assistant Julie Dallaire. Julie celebrated her 10-year Anniversary at the COA this year! Her positive attitude, kindness and her eagerness to always pitch in without being asked make her invaluable to the Council on Aging and to me personally. She has embraced her new co-worker (Stephanie) in a very welcoming manner and assisted in providing the necessary on-the-job training that sets us all up for success. 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. As we face constant changes and many challenges, I look forward the bright future ahead. I am committed to meeting 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://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

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

Additional information on Emergency Preparedness can be found here:
https://www.swanseama.gov/residents/town_nurse/emergency_prepar_ess.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

Here are some highlights of our activities:

On March 9th 2024 EMA personnel were dispatched to the rear of Joseph Case Junior High School assist the police department looking for a missing child who slipped away from a basketball game. He was found shortly thereafter and without incident.

On March 13th 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to assist crews in fighting a barn fire at 673 Pierce

Road. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab unit.

On May 27th 2024 our EMA personnel participated in our town's annual Memorial Day Parade. A video of the parade can be viewed here:

<https://vimeo.com/951140352>

On June 6th 2024 EMA personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to Joseph Case High School for fire in the building. Fire crews on scene found the fire originating from a storage room and were able to quickly extinguish it without incident. School was cancelled for the next day to allow for cleanup. More information can be found here:

<https://www.heraldnews.com/story/news/fire/2024/06/07/swansea-fd-thursday-fire-at-case-high-school-appears-to-be-accidental/74011270007/>

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/fire-breaks-out-at-joseph-case-high-school-southern-new-england-massachusetts-students-classes-classroom-teachers-staff-education-smoke-damage-june-6-2024>

<https://whdh.com/news/crews-extinguish-fire-inside-storage-room-at-swansea-high-school/>

On August 2nd 2024 our EMA personnel participated in the Swansea Police & Fire Softball game to celebrate Swansea Veterans and our Purple Heart Recipients which was held at the softball field at Veterans Memorial Park at 347 G.A.R Highway.

On September 10th 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched to a structure fire at 105 Birchwood Drive. Our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided assistance and served as a canteen / rehab for the participants. More details can be found here:

<https://www.heraldnews.com/picture-gallery/news/fire/2024/09/10/swansea-firefighters-battle-blaze-at-birchwood-drive-house/75163214007/>

<https://wbsm.com/swansea-house-fire-birchwood-drive/>

<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/se-mass/3-displaced-by-large-house-fire-in-swansea/>

<https://www.abc6.com/three-displaced-after-swansea-fire/>

On October 5th 2024 our EMA personnel along with our Field Operations Unit met with surrounding agencies at the Home Depot in Somerset MA, to participate in their Public Safety Day.

On October 6th 2024 we participated in our Fire Department's 31st annual Public Safety Day. Our Field Operations Unit was available for viewing and our members were on hand to assist with the event.

On October 26th 2024 our Emergency Management personnel provided assistance with logistics for distribution of the Flu vaccine clinic held at the Somerset Fire Department. These vaccines were available for Swansea & Somerset residents.

On November 8th 2024 our Field Operations Unit and personnel provided lighting for the parking lot at the annual Veteran's Meat Pie Dinner located at the Old White Church at 1113 Grand Army Highway.

On November 24th 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to assist crews with a structure fire located at 116 Louis Street. Our personnel provided rehab along with refreshments and snacks.

On November 30th 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to assist crews with a roof smoking at 89 Bark Street. Our personnel provided rehab along with refreshments.

On December 7th 2024 our EMA personnel participated in the Town of Swansea's annual Holiday in the Village event. EMA members provided assistance to the public as well as gave tours of the Field Operations Unit and apparatus at the event.

On December 11th 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to assist crews with a structure fire located at 78 Brentwood Court. Our personnel provided rehab along with refreshments and snacks. More details can be found here:

<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/se-mass/crews-respond-to-fire-at-2-story-swanssea-home/>

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/fire-home-brentwood-court-swanssea-bridol-county-massachusetts-flames-firefighters-emergency-response-december-11-2024>

On December 31st 2024 EMA Personnel were dispatched with our Field Operations Unit to assist crews with a structure fire located at 2 Massasoit Ave. Our personnel provided rehab along with refreshments and snacks.

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

SWANSEA 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 558 emergency calls during the year.

The Fire Department dispatched 3,040 medical emergencies in 2024.

Alarm Investigations	246
Animal Related	1
Brush Fires	13
Carbon Monoxide Responses	53
Electrical Emergencies	14
EMS Incidents	15
Extrications	6
Hazardous Conditions	51
Illegal Burning	35
Marine / other Water Related Incidents	9
Misc. Responses	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	41
Outside and Special Fires	6
Public Assistance	23
Rupture/Explosion	1
Structure Fires	19
Technical Rescues	1
Vehicle Fires	13

The Fire Department completed 1,865 inspections and issued 1,298 permits during 2024. The inspections identified 215 violations and resulted in the correction of 148 hazards. In addition, fire protection acceptance tests, quarterly inspections and yearly inspections were conducted.

Agricultural Burning Permits	4
Burning Permits	757
Blasting Permits	1
Demolition Permits	2
Energy Storage Systems	3
Fire Alarm Permits/Inspections	21
Flammable Gas Permits	17
Flammable Solid	8
Gun Powder/Ammunition Permits	2

Hazardous Substance Storage	1
Liquid Propane Permits/Inspections	38
Occupancy Permits	28
Oil Burner Permits/Inspections	8
Overnight Parking Permits	1
Quarterly Inspections	27
Smoke Detector/CO Permits/Inspections	206
Sprinkler Permits/Inspections	13
Storage Tank Permits	39
Suppression Systems	1
Tank Removal Permits/Inspections	29
Transfer Tanks	4
Welding Permits	1

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. 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.

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.

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 also allow the department to continually improve its computer-aided dispatch ensuring that the most up to date building data is available when needed. The installation of iPads in department apparatus now gives responding firefighters access to this critical information while enroute to emergency scenes. Building lay-outs, known hazards and fire hydrant locations can be easily viewed and help to improve the safety of personnel responding to emergencies in these buildings.

The Fire Department dispatchers continue to play a vital role in sustaining the success of our volunteer system. Along with answering E911 calls and providing initial medical instructions to those in need, they determine the appropriate level of fire and EMS response and dispatch apparatus accordingly. Following each incident, they complete all necessary federal, state and local reports to ensure that our volunteers can return to their homes or workplaces as soon as possible. The dispatchers are an integral part of our public safety team and play a critical role in providing assistance during emergencies. The administrative and secretarial work they perform in addition to dispatching and updating the computer-aided dispatch system, are equally as important as they are the department's only clerical personnel.

Swansea remains the largest community in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts protected by a volunteer firefighting force. As such, the Town of Swansea is highly dependent on its volunteer corps to deliver emergency services in a safe and efficient manner. However, the capacity for the Swansea Fire Department to provide effective fire protection is directly dependent on our ability to recruit, train and retain volunteers.

The continued growth of the town and the demands of a changing society present unique challenges for volunteer firefighters. Each year, our firefighters are asked to increase their commitment of time as emergency responses rise and the number of responders declines. Meeting attendance, fire safety education, fundraising events, community events and the upkeep of apparatus and facilities add additional time demands. The development of incentive programs for our volunteers has had a positive impact, helping to recognize their efforts and offering a small manner of compensation for their time. The tax incentive program, Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) and other recently established incentives are important components of a long-term plan to aid in the recruitment and retention of department members as we endeavor to secure the future of our volunteer tradition.

Swansea firefighters provided 2,389 hours of emergency response and 2,286 hours of training for a total of 4,675 hours of commitment by volunteer firefighters in 2024.

Firefighters responded to nineteen reported structure fires in 2024. 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. The following are some of the more noteworthy responses.

On March 9 at 0132 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1, Engine 2 and Ladder 1 responded to investigate a box alarm at Oakwood Senior Estates. Upon arrival firefighters found occupants actively evacuating and a significant smoke condition on the first floor of the large residential building. Further investigation found a fire burning on a stove top in an empty apartment. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire that had begun to extend to the adjacent cabinets. Crews remained on scene to remove the damaged oven and clear smoke as police searched for the occupant that had fled the scene.

On March 13 at 1326 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 2, Engine 3, Engine 1, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Pearse Road for a reported building fire. Upon arrival firefighters found fire engulfing the rear of a 15'x 30' barn in the rear of a single-family home. Firefighters quickly deployed two handlines from Engine 2 to attack the fire while others secured a water supply from a near-by hydrant. After knocking down the exterior fire, crews entered the building to open walls and ceilings to expose and extinguish fire burning in numerous void spaces throughout the structure.

On April 15 at 1900 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 1,2,3, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Keith Circle for a reported building fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a significant smoke condition resulting from a fire involving the home's oven. Firefighters quickly extinguished the smoldering remains of a stove top fire that extended to the adjacent cabinets and vent hood. Crews remained on scene to remove the heavily damaged oven and clear smoke that had accumulated throughout the residence.

On April 25 at 1852 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 4, 3, 2, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Barneyville Road for a reported building fire. Upon

arrival firefighters found a fire burning on the side deck of the home and extending up the home's exterior. Firefighters quickly deployed a handline from Engine 4 to attack the fire while others secured a water supply from a near-by hydrant. After extinguishing the exterior fire, crews entered the building to check the walls and ceilings to ensure that the fire had not spread.

On Thursday, June 6, Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Ladder 1 were dispatched to Joseph Case High School to investigate a fire alarm. Upon arrival, Car 2 reported a significant smoke condition in the building. Engines 2, 3 and Rescue 1 were immediately added to assist at the scene. Firefighters searched the building to ensure that all occupants had evacuated as others attempted to locate the source of the rapidly worsening smoke condition. After a brief search, firefighters located a fire burning in a first-floor supply room. The fire was quickly brought under control but caused significant damage to the area and the many band instruments that were stored in the room. In total, firefighters remained on scene for nearly three hours removing debris and clearing smoke from the building. Crews from Rehoboth and Warren manned vacant Swansea fire stations during the event.

On Saturday, August 31 at 2115, Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Ladder 1 responded to investigate a Box Alarm at the 5 Guys restaurant. First arriving personnel reported that a leaking gas pipe feeding the cook top had caught fire causing the alarm. Firefighters immediately secured the gas supply and began to check for fire extension. The fire resulted in minor damage to the immediate area but forced the closure of the restaurant.

On Tuesday, September 10 at 1322 Car 1, Car 2, Engines 3,2,1, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Birchwood Drive after multiple 911 calls reported a fire on the rear deck of a residence. Upon arrival, Car 1 confirmed a "working fire" finding the rear of the single-family home heavily involved with fire rapidly extending to the interior. Firefighters stretched a single 2.5" hand line to knock down the bulk of the exterior fire as additional crews extended two 1.75" hand lines to the interior to attack fire that had extended to the basement, second floor and attic of the home. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes of arrival, but firefighters remained on scene checking for further extension and extinguishing hot spots. Firefighters from Warren, RI provided station coverage as Swansea firefighters worked at the scene. Members of Swansea EMA and the Providence Canteen provided rehab. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the

Swansea Fire Department with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit attached to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The preliminary investigation suggested the fire was accidental. The three occupants of the home were assisted by the Red Cross.

On Sunday, November 24 at 20:44, Car 2, Engines 3,2,1, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Louis Street after a 911 call reported a fire in the residence. Upon arrival firefighters found a fire burning in the bedroom of a single-family home. After ensuring that the occupants had safely evacuated the house, firefighters quickly knocked down the fire, containing it to the room of origin. Fire department personnel remained on scene to clear smoke and secure the utilities before releasing to home to its occupants that, fortunately, were not injured.

On Wednesday, December 11 at 10:47, Car 1, Car 2, Engines 2,3,4, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Brentwood Court after a 911 call reported a fire in the kitchen of the residence. Upon arrival firefighters noted a significant smoke condition with fire showing from the area surrounding a vent in the rear of the home. After ensuring that the occupants had safely evacuated the house, firefighters extended multiple handlines to both the rear and the interior of the large, single-family house. While crews knocked down the exterior fire consuming the vinyl siding and extending towards the vinyl soffit, additional crews began the laborious process of opening walls and ceilings to extinguish the fire running through the void spaces. The fire caused significant damage to the kitchen and living room areas rendering the home uninhabitable. Fire department personnel remained on scene to clear smoke and secure the utilities before releasing to home to its occupants that, fortunately, were not injured.

On Tuesday, December 31 at 12:17 Car 2, Engines 3, 2, 1, Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Massasoit Avenue after a 911 call reported a possible building fire. First arriving firefighters found smoke issuing from the second floor of a detached garage. Upon gaining entry, firefighters encountered a fire burning in the living room of a second-floor apartment. The fire was quickly extinguished but caused significant damage to the area of origin.

In addition to building fires, Swansea firefighters responded to numerous calls for assistance requiring a substantial commitment in 2024. Some of the more significant calls included:

Extrication / Technical Rescue

On January 10 at 09:25 Car 2, Engine 4 and Rescue 1 responded to Old Providence Road at the Myles Bridge for a report of a person trapped in a vehicle in the water. Upon arrival firefighters found a single car partially submerged with the driver standing at the water's edge. Firefighters, wearing cold water submersion suits, entered the water and checked the car to ensure that the vehicle was empty. The driver was treated on scene for exposure but was not injured.

On January 13 at 09:40 Car 1, Engine 4 and Rescue 1 responded to Old Providence Road at the Myles Bridge for a report of a vehicle in the water. Upon arrival firefighters found two cars partially submerged in the water with a single operator standing at the water's edge. Once again, firefighters, wearing cold water submersion suits, entered the water and checked the vehicles to ensure that they were empty. The operator of one vehicle had left the scene. The second driver was treated on scene for exposure but was not injured.

On January 18 at 20:01 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1, Engine 2 and Rescue 1 responded to the area of 179 Swansea Mall Drive for a reported motor vehicle accident with entrapment. First arriving units found a two-car accident with both drivers trapped in their vehicles and one vehicle on fire. Swansea police officers removed the unconscious driver of the first vehicle as Car 2, using a portable fire extinguisher, kept the fire at bay. Upon arrival, firefighters from Engine 1 extinguished the vehicle fire as crews from Engine 2 and Rescue 1 worked to free the driver of the second vehicle. Both drivers were transported to the trauma center at RIH with serious injuries.

On April 7 at 1837 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 4 and Rescue 1 responded to the Holiday Inn to investigate a call from Swansea Police reporting a possible hazardous material incident. After quickly evacuating the facility, firefighters searched the building and found a chemical compound in an exterior trash can adjacent to the building. Further investigation determined that the mixture was used in an attempted chemical suicide that, fortunately, did not succeed. Firefighters remained on scene to ensure that additional chemicals found in the perpetrator's room and vehicle were safely removed.

On April 8 at 1841 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Village Park to assist a female involved in a bicycle accident. After

arriving at the staging area in the rear of the Swansea Library, firefighters established a command post and began coordinating crews to search the party's last known location. Firefighters, manning the fire department's UTV, located the injured rider on a section of trail adjacent to Paradise Lane and, along with Swansea Ambulance personnel, began providing care for a badly injured leg. The patient was loaded onto the UTV and transported to a waiting Somerset ambulance for transport to Rhode Island Hospital.

On April 10 at 1913 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Village Park to aid in the search for a lost hiker. Upon arrival, firefighters established a command post and began coordinating crews of firefighters and police officers to search the party's last known location. The cold and tired female party was located by firefighters after a brief search and transported with her dog via the fire department's UTV to her vehicle in the rear of the Junior High School.

On Sunday, June 2, Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to 789 Wood Street to assist EMS personnel that were trapped in an elevator. Upon arrival firefighters found a member of the EMS crew stuck with a patient inside an elevator that had stalled between floors. After confirming that the patient was stable, firefighters went through the process of securing power and opening the elevator door. The patient, EMS provider and a staff member were assisted from the elevator without incident.

On Saturday, July 6 at 1149 Car 1, Car 2 and Rescue 1 responded to Stoney Creek Farms to assist with a horse that had fallen and was unable to stand. After assessing the situation, firefighters used fire hose positioned under the frail horse to create a sling and began to slowly lift the horse with the aid of a farm tractor. Once on its feet firefighters, working with the horse's owners, re-adjusted the sling to support the animal's weight to allow the horse time to re-gain its strength.

On Friday, July 12 at 0543 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Engine 2 responded to Interstate 195 West for a reported vehicle accident with fire. First arriving apparatus found a single car that had left the roadway, rolled several times and caught fire when it came to rest in the woods adjacent to the roadway. Firefighters quickly deployed a handline to attack the fire as other members assisted EMS personnel providing care to the injured driver.

On Tuesday, July 30 at 1300 Car 1, Car 2 and Ladder 1 responded to 195 Main Street to assist with a worker stuck in the basket of fully-

extended bucket truck. Upon arrival firefighters found that a failed hydraulic line left a worker repairing a flag pole stranded in the basket adjacent to the flag pole. Firefighters maneuvered Ladder 1 into position, extended the aerial and assisted the uninjured worker down the ladder to the ground.

On Sunday, August 25 at 1152 Car 1 and Engine 4 responded to Interstate 195 East for a reported motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival firefighters found a single car that had left the roadway and rolled multiple times before coming to rest on its roof. After securing the vehicle, firefighters assisted EMS with removing the vehicle's occupants before they were transported to the trauma center for treatment.

On Sunday, September 15 at 0659 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1 and Engine 2 responded to Interstate 195 West for a reported motor vehicle accident with vehicle on fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a single car that had left the roadway and rolled multiple times before coming to rest on its side. After ensuring that the fire had been extinguished, firefighters stabilized the vehicle and assisted EMS with treating the vehicle's operator prior to transport to a trauma center for treatment.

On Thursday, September 19 at 1852 Car 1, Engines 1, 2 and Rescue 1 responded to the intersection of Oak Street and Locust Street for a reported motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, firefighters found a single vehicle that had left the roadway striking a guardrail and continuing through a fence before coming to rest on its side. Firefighters quickly stabilized the vehicle before removing the vehicle's windshield to access the driver. The patient's injuries were treated on scene before transport to a local hospital for further evaluation.

On Saturday, September 21 at 1134 Car 2 and Engine 4 responded to area of 2045 G.A.R. Highway after multiple 911 calls were received reporting a motor vehicle accident. Firefighters arrived to find a multi-vehicle accident with the injured operator of one vehicle trapped in the car. The victim was removed by firefighters using the Jaws of Life and transported by EMS to a local hospital for evaluation.

On Friday, November 29, Car 1, Car 2 and Engine 4 responded to the area of 1914 G.A.R. Highway for a motor vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer. Upon arrival firefighters found that a pick-up truck had struck a tractor trailer causing it to spill its content onto the roadway. As EMS personnel provided care to the vehicle's operator, fire crews

worked to stabilize both vehicles and ensure that there was no danger posed by the truck's content. The badly injured driver was transported to the trauma center at RIH for treatment. Firefighters remained on the scene while the vehicles were separated and cleared from the roadway.

On Saturday, November 16 at 07:26 Car 1, Engines 1, 2 and Rescue 1 responded to Interstate 195 West after multiple 911 calls reported a vehicle roll over. First arriving units found that a large dump truck had left the roadway and overturned scattering its load of gravel across the highway and trapping its driver inside the heavily damaged cab. Firefighters worked quickly to stabilize the vehicle and began working to access the badly injured operator. The driver was freed from the wreckage after nearly thirty minutes and treated by personnel from Swansea Ambulance before being transported to a waiting Boston Med Flight helicopter that had landed at the crash scene. Firefighters remained on the scene for nearly two hours as heavy equipment was called in to remove the truck and clear the debris from the roadway.

On December 18 at 1245 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 the partially submerged vehicle on the Bungtown Bridge. The vehicle's occupant, who had exited the car prior to fire department arrival, was located on the opposite shore a short time later and evaluated by EMS personnel. As the rescue operation took place, Swansea firefighters were busy responding to multiple calls as a powerful winter storm impacted the area. In all, firefighters responded to nine emergency calls and numerous non-emergency calls in a span of a few hours.

Marine / Water Rescue

On February 11 at 08:54 Car 2, Engine 3 and Marine 3 responded to a request from the Narraganset Bay Marine Task Force to investigate reports of a boat adrift in the area of Spar Island. It was quickly determined that the boat was unoccupied and had broken off a nearby mooring.

On April 29 at 0935 Car 2, Engine 3 and Marine 3 responded to the area of Spar Island as part of the Narraganset Bay Marine Task Force to

aid in the search for a missing boat. Marine units from several departments searched the area but were unable to locate the vessel. After determining that it was likely a false call, Swansea firefighters were cleared from the scene by U.S. Coast Guard assets.

On May 7 at 1830 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 3, Marine 3, Rescue 1 and Marine 1 responded to a call reporting a capsized boat in the area of the Cedar Cove Club. Firefighters in Marine 1 & 3 quickly located the vessel and determined that the occupants had been safely removed from the boat by another vessel in the vicinity prior to arrival.

On July 5 at 1401 Car 1, Engine 3 and Marine 3 were dispatched to assist with a search for a person who fell from a boat in the area of the Braga Bridge. Three Swansea firefighters manning Marine 3 conducted search operations along with marine units from surrounding communities until the party was located.

On July 13 at 2317 Car 1, Car 2, Engine 3 and Marine 3 were dispatched to assist with a search for a person in the water in the area of the Braga Bridge. Swansea firefighters manning Marine 3 searched along with multiple marine units from surrounding communities but were unable to locate the victim.

On August 19 at 0920 Car 1, Engine 3 and Marine 3 responded to the area of the Veterans Memorial Bridge as part of the Narraganset Bay Marine Task Force to assist with people in the water from a capsized boat. Swansea firefighters cleared the scene after assets from the U.S. Coast Guard determined that the parties involved had been located and were uninjured.

On Sunday, August 25 at 1746 Car 1, Engine 3 and Marine 3 responded to the area of the town beach to assist a boat that had run aground. Firefighters quickly located the boat on No Name Island and transported the uninjured occupants back to the boat ramp to await further assistance.

Mutual Aid

The Swansea Fire Department responded to seventeen mutual aid calls from cities and towns including Fairhaven, MA, Rehoboth, MA, Seekonk, MA, Somerset, MA, Bristol, RI, Tiverton, RI and Warren, RI.

On January 26 at 02:30 Car 2 and Engine 2 responded to a mutual aid request from the Town of Warren, RI. Swansea firefighters provided station coverage while firefighters from Warren and Bristol battled a fire in a multi-family home.

On February 18 at 14:25 Car 1 and Ladder 1 responded to a mutual aid request from the Town of Somerset. Swansea firefighters responded to assist Somerset firefighters at the scene of a working fire in single family home. Members of Ladder 1 worked with Somerset crews to stretch multiple handlines in an effort to extinguish the wind-driven fire in an attached two-car garage. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the garage and limited damage to the home.

On March 2 at 1457 Car 1, Engine 4 and Ladder 1 responded to Warren, RI after a request for mutual aid was received to assist at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters worked for nearly two hours alongside firefighters from Warren, Bristol and Rehoboth to bring the fire under control. The fire heavily damaged multiple occupancies in the large commercial structure.

On Tuesday, July 2 at 1357 Car 2 and Engine 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from the Seekonk Fire Department to assist at the scene of a multi-vehicle accident on Interstate 195. On arrival, firefighters from Engine 2 supplied water to a Seekonk engine and assisted with attacking a fire consuming a large box truck that had been involved in the accident.

On Saturday, August 31 at 1356 Car 2 and Engine 4 responded to a request for mutual aid from Rehoboth. Swansea firefighters staffed a vacant Rehoboth station for nearly four hours as Rehoboth firefighters battled a fire barn fire.

On Sunday, October 27 at 13:18 Car 2 and Forestry 1 responded to Rehoboth to assist at the scene of a large brush fire. Swansea firefighters remained on scene for nearly two hours as they assisted apparatus and personnel from multiple communities to contain the fire.

On Saturday, November 9 at 15:35 Car 1, Engine 4 and Forestry 1 responded to a request for mutual aid from Seekonk to assist with a brush fire. Upon arrival, Car 1 and Forestry 1 were assigned to work with mutual aid companies from East Providence to contain and

extinguish a multi-acre fire as Seekonk firefighters worked at a separate fire scene. Engine 4, tasked with covering a vacant Seekonk fire station, responded to multiple emergency calls during the nearly three hours that Swansea firefighters spent rendering aid.

On Sunday, November 24 at 09:02, Car 2 and Engine 1 responded to a request for mutual aid from Somerset to assist at the scene of a building fire. Swansea firefighters worked alongside Somerset crews for more than an hour to control a stubborn fire that heavily damaged a single-family residence.

On Monday, November 25 at 11:39, Car 2, Engine 2, Forestry 1 and Forestry 2 responded to a request for mutual aid from Somerset to assist at the scene of a multi-acre brush fire. Swansea firefighters deployed multiple hand-lines along two separate fire fronts to contain and extinguish a large area of burning brush as Somerset firefighters worked to keep the wind-swept flames from impacting nearby homes.

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.

In 2024, Swansea firefighters participated in 2,286 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 and Emergency Management Institute. 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 595 hours of training on these important skills and concepts.

Company training sessions were presented by the officers of each station and covered basic firefighting skills, driver-operator skills and training with specialized equipment assigned to each of Swansea's four fire stations. Specialized training in vehicle extrications, marine rescue

operations and aerial apparatus operations were conducted at the company level.

Two firefighters attended an intense 8-day training course on structural collapse and rescue. The course initially focuses on familiarizing firefighters with a wide variety of specialized equipment not routinely used in firefighting and how to incorporate heavy machine operations safely into rescue efforts. The course then covers a wide variety of tactics instrumental to rescuer safety including stabilization of collapsed and partially collapsed commercial and residential buildings, atmospheric monitoring, and remote victim location techniques. The course culminates with a challenging rescue-focused obstacle course in which the skills learned over the week were applied to perform a complex rescue applying newly learned skills including breaching and cutting concrete and metal barriers.

Three firefighters attended a three-day training conference in Indianapolis, IN bringing back invaluable information about current strategies and tactics as presented by leading experts from across the nation. The conference, attended by over 36,000 firefighters from around the world, offers training on subjects ranging from recruitment & retention to combating fires in electric vehicles and allows our members to learn vital lessons from firefighters on the cutting edge of the industry.

The department has continued to take advantage of the St. Louis de France school to perform training. Department and company training sessions are held multiple times each month at this site. Several trainings props have been built in the structure, including a stair collapse prop, a floor collapse prop, and an area that is used to simulate a firefighter that has fallen through the roof of a burning building. These props have been used to present new techniques and refresh skills on self-rescue, and rapid intervention. A new smoke machine, capable of reducing visibility in large portions of the building to zero, has been incorporated into these scenarios to increase realism and stress levels. With the delivery of new portable radios, the department has also focused heavily on the radio communication skills of our officers and firefighters during these training sessions.

The department hosted its annual training on ice and water rescue techniques. Thirty firefighters participated in the four-hour training,

performing multiple “rescues” on Lewin Pond. A variety of techniques and equipment were used based on the situation presented to the rescuers. At the conclusion of the training, members spent several hours cleaning, inspecting and returning the equipment to service. Swansea firefighters partnered with MA DEP, Nuka Research, Somerset Fire Department and local law enforcement agencies in a joint oil spill response simulation. Participants attended classroom sessions in the morning during which they reviewed equipment, response plans and mitigation tactics. The training then moved onto the Taunton River where the agencies worked together to contain simulated oil spills. Boats, drones and shore crews worked in concert to deploy and test pre-developed response plans which would be used in the event of a coastal spill.

Gaskell’s Towing once again donated several vehicles over the course of the year, providing firefighters the opportunity to train on vehicle extrication techniques. The skills and procedures were demonstrated to the public during our annual Public Safety Day and were put to the test during six incidents in 2024. These incidents ranged from minor entrapments to complicated extrications that presented significant challenges, all of which were overcome safely and efficiently because of the commitment that our volunteers make to training.

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.

The Fire Department received three grants totaling \$26,542.50. Grants for Student Awareness and Fire Education (SAFE), along with a Senior SAFE (focused on senior citizen fire safety) totaled \$7,542.50. A Department of Fire Services grant in the amount of \$19,000.00 was used to purchase Fire COMM communication systems for each of the department’s front-line engines. The in-cab radio headsets will greatly enhance communications and protect firefighters from the damaging noise encountered while responding to emergency calls. Additional grant funds in the amount of \$4,600.00 were designated for emergency preparedness.

Firefighters receiving Years of Service Awards in 2024 were:

5 Years of Service: Nicole Foley, Timothy Moreira

20 Years of Service: Jordan Amorin

25 Years of Service: Grant Hajder, Brett Medeiros, David Miranda

30 Years of Service: Marc Lapointe, Michael Patterson, Jeremy Souza

35 Years of Service: Eric Hajder

On February 13th retired Deputy Fire Chief Antone “Tony” Miranda passed away suddenly at his home. Deputy Miranda proudly served our community for nearly fifty-five years. As a Swansea firefighter for more than forty-three years, he worked his way up through the ranks before being appointed to rank of Deputy Chief in 1992. Tony retired from the fire department in 2013 and became an integral part of our EMA team whom which he devotedly served for the last eleven years. Deputy Miranda touched many lives and was truly a friend to all. He will be deeply missed.

On Wednesday, May 1, Swansea firefighters Richard Albernaz (Station 1), Bruce Katz (Station 2) and Landon Rowe (Station 4) graduated from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Program. The three firefighters successfully completed the intensive program consisting of more than 240 hours of classroom instruction, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practical sessions held at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s Bridgewater campus. The graduates received certificates of completion at a ceremony held at Bridgewater State University. The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. The recruits met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and became certified to the level of Firefighter I and II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. We proudly welcomed Rich, Bruce and Landon to our ranks and look forward to working with them for years to come.

On Saturday, May 25, the Fire Department Honor Guard took part in Memorial Day Services at the Veterans’ Memorial Green. Twenty-one firefighters representing each of the four stations, walked the parade route and proudly displayed the department’s apparatus during the annual parade on Monday, May 27.

On Friday, August 2, members of the Fire and Police Departments met on the diamond to take part in the 3rd Annual Purple Heart softball game. The game, held in conjunction with National Purple Heart Day, pays tribute to those members of the military who received the decoration for injuries sustained in the line of duty. The firefighters were victorious for the third consecutive year.

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 11th, 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 took part in a number of community events during October. Members handed out candy during Trunk or Treat events sponsored by Swansea Recreation and the Swansea YMCA and attended Tractor Supply's annual Safety Day. On each occasion firefighters engaged community members to educate them about fire department operations and the volunteer opportunities that exist.

On Sunday, October 2 current and retired Swansea firefighters gathered with their families for a "Fire Family Breakfast" at Station 4. The semi-annual event serves as a show of appreciation for our firefighters and brings their families together to thank them for their support. The breakfast also provides an opportunity to welcome new members, share

stories with many of the retired members and recognize milestones achieved. Retired Station 4 firefighter Tim Johnson was acknowledged for his forty-one years of service to the department and his continued involvement within the community.

Swansea firefighters kicked off Fire Prevention Week hosting our 31st Annual Public Safety Day on October 6. 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 the MA State Police, 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.

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 1,000 students. As always, firefighters were enthusiastically welcomed as they shared valuable lessons about fire prevention.

On Saturday, November 2, several Swansea firefighters joined members of the community at a "Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser" sponsored by American Legion Post 303. Post members, with the assistance of Scout Troop 303, organized the dinner and raffles as a show of support and appreciation for our volunteer firefighters.

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

On Tuesday, November 12, three of Swansea's newest firefighters graduated from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Fire Academy as members of Class #115. Firefighters Lucas Canario (Station 2),

Madden Huck (Station 1) and James Stellakis (Station 2) completed the rigorous 240-hour training program which included both classroom and hands-on instruction. The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. The recruits met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and became certified to the level of Firefighter I and II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Our members put forward a tremendous effort and distinguished themselves throughout the program. We proudly welcomed Lucas, Madden and James to our ranks and look forward to working with them for years to come.

On Saturday, December 7, nineteen Fire Department members took part in the annual “Holiday in the Village” stroll along Main Street. As in past years, department members displayed fire apparatus for a Touch-a-Truck event and served more than one thousand cups of hot chocolate, made by firefighters, along with nearly 800 cookies to the large crowd of attendees walking past Fire Station 1. In addition, firefighters used the opportunity to staff a recruitment booth and spent more than three hours answering questions from town residents while explaining what it means to be a volunteer firefighter.

In late December, the department took delivery of a new 2024 Ford Expedition. The vehicle, approved by voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May, was placed in service shortly after to replace a 2015 Expedition formerly used as the Deputy Chief’s vehicle.

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 willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Their importance to this community can never be overstated. I extend a heartfelt thank you to each one of them. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the wives, husbands, 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 and 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 incomparable. Their dedication to each other, to the department and to the citizens of Swansea is truly remarkable. 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

Tyler Cookson
Scott Farrell
Christopher Hajder
Garret Medeiros
Richard Mello
Justin Lachance

Firefighters

Richard Albernaz	Christopher Furtado	Kyle McCallister
Colbey Arnold	Grant Hajder	Andrew Medeiros
Tyler Beaudry*	Madden Huck	Michael Medeiros
Michael Berube	Thomas Hydrick	Andrew Moniz
Nathan Bettencourt	Scott Johnson	Timothy Moreira
Daniel Boardmen	Bruce Katz	Shane Neto
Lucas Canario	Fran Kelly	Jonah Perry
Edward Cellemme	Michael Kelly	Samuel Racine
William Chadwick	Jared Koger	Landon Rowe
Matthew Coffey	Marc LaPointe	Jeremy Souza
Dale Delliger	Benjamin Lambert	James Stellakis
Benjamin Emard	Alex Ledo	Matthew Thayer
Joseph Foley	Nathan Leonardo	Maicon Vilas-Boas
Nicole Foley	Logan MacDonald *	Travis Winters
	Mark MacKenzie *	

*Active Military

Dispatcher/Administrative Assistant: Lucas Canario
Dispatchers: Nancy Cordeiro, Sherry Castelo, Robert Faulkner

Relief Dispatchers: Jayden Adesso, Alayna Brillo, Elizabeth Clemente, Nicholas Emard, Katey Farrell, Ashley Frates, Brandon Halbardier, Leslie Pavao, Caitlyn Silva, Catherine Vieira, Travis Winters

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department provides many services to the Town. Many residents don't have a clear understanding of what the Highway Department does for the town besides plowing snow during winter conditions or patching pot holes in town roadways. However, I believe it would be surprising for most residents to find out how many tasks and projects the highway department undertakes and completes in any given year, especially given the number of employees that currently work for the department. Since 2022, the Department has shifted its workload to be more project oriented but the day-to-day work still has to be undertaken and completed.

In 2024, the department consisted of a total of 16 employees, categorized as follows:

- Director / Town Engineer
- Assistant Superintendent / Facilities Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Working Foreman
- Mechanic
- Five (5) Heavy Equipment Operators
- Three (3) Truck Driver/Laborers
- Three (3) Facilities Workers

In September 2022, the department added a Facilities Manager/ Assistant Superintendent to the department to begin to address the town facility issues. In March 2024, the department hired (3) facility maintenance workers to begin the process of addressing the problems with the Town buildings. As many of the town residents are aware, maintenance of the town's infrastructure has been lacking for many, many years. This was a priority for the Board of Selectman to begin to address the Town's Infrastructure. I am pleased to report that both the Highway and Facilities groups have stepped up to the tasks and have begun to slowly correct the lagging maintenance of the Town's buildings, facilities, roadways and drainage systems.

In 2024, the Highway Department provided the following on-going day to day services to the Town:

- Plowing and salting of town roads
- Patching town roads, including crack sealing and pot holes, driveway aprons, etc.
- Re-surfacing / reconstruction of town roads (including Bark Street south, Market Street and a few other roadways.)
- Cleaning, repairing and maintenance of the town's drainage systems including cleaning of catch basins, manholes, swales, drainage ponds, and drainage outlets.
- Repairing catch basins and manholes for the over 1,700 structure system.
- Roadside cutting and maintenance of town roads
- Repair and replacement of street signs
- Roadway sweeping
- Application and maintenance of pavement markings for roadways, cross walks, and stop lines
- Repair and maintenance of town owned traffic lights
- Maintenance and upkeep of the two (2) town owned cemeteries, and nineteen (19) historical cemeteries throughout town.
- Providing cemetery interment services, installation of footings and grave markers
- Inspection and maintenance of the town owned dams
- Town beach maintenance and trash removal
- Upkeep of the boat ramp and repair of the docks
- Beach raking and trash removal during beach season
- Provide operation support and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Park
- Oversight of the trash and recycling vendor (EZ Disposal)
- Providing logistical and operational support for town events including Household Hazardous Waste day, Holiday in the Village, Trunk or treat in the park, sand castle event at the beach, etc.,
- Review of building permits for drainage, roadway/driveway access, and utility installation

In addition to the ongoing day to day services, the Highway Department completed a number of projects using inhouse personnel rather than

hiring a contractor to complete the projects. This saved the town a significant amount of money as expenses only required materials, and the requirement to pay prevailing wage with a contractor was avoided. These projects included:

- The new playground in Veterans Memorial Park (included design, drainage and all subgrade construction work)
- The Exercise pad, located in Veterans Memorial Park (included design and site construction)
- New Bocci Courts in Veterans Memorial Park, (included site construction and building of the courts)
- Sandy Beach parking area and dune restoration (included design and site construction, wetlands replanting and rope and post placement.)
- Temporary parking lot for Town Hall due to library construction (included design and site construction, paving by others)
- Milford Road drainage repairs (included design and full construction)
- Arrowhead Drive drainage pond cleaning and reconstruction of inlet channel and outlet weir which helped to alleviate flooding on Milford Road (included design and site construction)
- Repair of drainage swale Hidden Woods Subdivision, identified as a flooding contributor to Milford Road (included rebuild of swale and redirection of drainage flow)
- Completion of beach ADA access ramp
- Maintenance and reconstruction of access paths to town beach (included the installation of “Mobi Mats”)
- Maintenance of the Town Beach dune and rehabilitation of the dune grass, installation of a post and rope dune barrier
- Construction of the New Town Fuel Facility (included design and site construction with drainage system)
- Mederios Farm Recreational Area drainage pond construction and partial roadway/parking area development (included design and site construction)

- Cleaning of the Cole River fish ladder
- Cross Walk signage upgrades at three (3) locations around town.
- Prepared the bid to demolish and remove hazards from the “Preserved Gardner House”.
- Clean up of 509 Wilbur Avenue (derelict property)
- Library moving support services for temporary relocation
- Event Parking support for the Animal Shelter fundraiser
- Waterfront Sail Shade Installation and site construction
- Pearse Road Drainage Upgrades project oversight
- Re-paving of Market Street, Bark Street (south), Filko Lane, Walker Are, Nod Rd, Briarwood Lane, Oak Hill Drive project oversite
- Sidewalk Upgrades Bark Street South project oversite

Again, all of these services were performed using town personnel instead of hiring an outside contractor to perform the same work. This resulted in huge savings to the town. As an example, the design and site work required for the playground saved the town upwards of \$250,000. This meant the full budgeted amount went into the playground equipment itself.

In 2024, the Facilities Department completed the following activities for the town’s facilities:

- Completed the construction of the ADA ramp next to the parking attendant shack
- Assisted with the sail shade installation
- Installed ADA Beach “Mobi” mats on ramps 2 & 4
- Maintained the beach throughout the entire beach season including beach raking, trash pick-up and removal.
- Repaired the loft area in the beach pavilion
- Worked with cable access to install a beach earth camera on the pavilion building
- Assisted with Town events including the sandcastle event, Holiday In the Village, and trunk or treat in the park.

- Provided landscaping services at all town facilities
- Installed benches at the beach and park
- Installed two water filtration stations at the Police Station
- Emptied the entire Annex building of junk and trash in preparation of the remodel.
- Moved all Annex files from the Annex building to the working Trailer
- Installed a new outside light for the kennel area
- Extended the existing kennel area with additional fencing
- Working with Highway, created a new parking entrance to the animal shelter
- Installed fencing at the Highway Facility to better differentiate the veterans Memorial Green.
- Installed a new Facilities working area behind the highway building, working with Conex boxes and a tent system.
- Worked with Highway to install the new bocci courts
- Repaired field dugouts on multiple fields in Veterans Park
- Installed new foul poles on Fields 1 & 2.
- Currently renovating the “Gold” room at the COA and creating a new nurse’s station in the old kitchen at the COA.
- Continued the maintenance and operational support for all COA activities and events.

Additional highlights of 2024 are as follows:

DRAINAGE

Given the climate changes and the increase in intensity of storm events, drainage concerns around town from residents have been increasing, especially in newly developed areas. In 2024, the town had an outside consult review all culvert locations around the town for deficiencies. The culverts were ranked and a report was prepared identifying culverts that need to be reviewed further. Presently three (3) of those culverts located on Seaview Ave, Sharps Lot Road, and Hayles Hill Road are under engineering review for replacement and/or channel upgrades.

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: Milford Road, Sandy Beach, Arrowhead Drive, Gardners Neck Road, Ocean View Ave, Puffer Ave, Filko Lane, Sharps Lot Road, Anthony Ave, Comptons Corner and Smokerise Circle. 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 as required by our MS4 permit. All catch basins, drainage manholes, outlets and ponds were inspected for structural and/or illicit discharges in 2020 and 2021. In 2024, the department has continued inspections and cleaned approximately 567 basins within the system. In 2025, the town will be working through its MS4 Permit to implement water treatment locations of environmental concerns such as Nitrogen loading, bacteria levels at five (5) locations around town. In addition, drainage upgrades will be undertaken on Millers Lane in the Fall of 2025.

Drain line flushing was performed by an outside vendor last fall.. Numerous locations were jetted and cleaned of buildup to open up the poorly performing drainage system.

In addition, the Department cleaned two (2) overgrown detention ponds located off Arrowwood Drive and Ronald Drive.

Highway Department staff mechanically cleaned 25% of the Town's nearly 1,700 catch basins during the year. This activity generally takes nearly 6-8 months to complete due to its time-consuming task.

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 2024. Major issues with the traffic lights on Swansea Mall Drive were corrected in early 2024. Sections of wires stripped by mice were replace as well as the control cabinets controlling the lights.

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.

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 2024 Calendar year, the roadside cutter was very busy given the excessive amount of rain that fell during the spring, cutting back the vegetation on Town roadways. In addition, with the purchase of the new rubber-tired excavator in the early 2023, the department included an attachment for a cutter head to help cut back the sprawling vegetation.

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 veteran’s 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.

In 2025, the department will be working on the expansion of the Vinnicum Woods Cemetery.

SOLIDWASTE / RECYCLING

The Highway Department currently oversees the Town's Solid Waste Collections vendor, EZ Disposal, LLC. of Revere, MA. Since the beginning of the new contract in July 2023, the issues related to our prior vendor Waste Management, particularly poor service, have been corrected. While the costs associated with the solid waste program have basically doubled in comparison to the prior contract, overall service has increased tremendously.

The department collects mattresses at the facility. Residents may bring mattresses for recycling every Wednesday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. The cost for each unit is \$30.

TOWN OWNED DAMS

The Town received a grant to repair the outlet structure for the Milford Pond Dam in 2022. The Town's engineering consultant is currently designing and permitting the new structure for implementation in 2025. In addition, issues with the lower control gate at Swansea Dam have been identified and repairs to the air driven controls will be conducted in 2025.

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, Facilities Department and support staff 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 and 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.

Overview of The Swansea Historical Commission's projects and activities for 2024

Preserved Gardner house

The Preserved Gardner House was placed on the demolition list in 2016. As stated in past reports since 2018 the Swansea Historical Commission has been working to remove the house from the demolition list and restore the house back to original state. In 2024 The Swansea Historical Commission present a 6th cost analysis to save the Preserved Gardner House from demolition. JJ Cardosi Construction Company's Designer Greg Begian prepared a layout and cost breakdown for the preservation of the Preserved Gardner House. This information was presented to the Swansea Board of Selectmen. Since the Preserved Gardner House was on the demolition list the Swansea Board of Selectmen brought the opportunity to take the Preserved Gardner house off the demolition list and preserve the structure to the Town's people at Annual Town Meeting. \$2 million to save the house or \$85,000.00 for the houses demolition. The Town voted to put the house up for demolition. October 2024 the Preserved Garner house listed on the National Registry was taken down by Pasquazzi Brothers Demolition Company out of Cranston RI...

Old Girl Scout Camp property

The Swansea Historical Commission was alerted to the possibility of undocumented historical cemetery at the Old Girl Scout Camp property. SHC members Cheryl Bogle and Brandon Travers along with Planning Board representative Steven Bogle walked the property. Brandon Travers located possible remanence of an old family cemetery. This included pieces 2 or more headstones along with grave markers. A second site visit was scheduled, SHC member Brandon Travers, Town Planner John Hanson, Planning Board Representative Steven Bogle, the

Developer of the property along with his General Contractor did an additional walk through. All agreed that this was remanence of a cemetery. We were told the General Contractor would mark off the area to avoid any more damage and preserve the site of the cemetery. We were also informed that the Old Stage Coach Rd went through an area located at the Rehoboth boarder. The Developer was willing to save the road if documentation could be provided. Research was performed unfortunately we could not find any documentation to prove the Stage coach Line went through this property.

Town Deed & Town Family research

As in past years the Swansea Historical Commission continues with our deed and Town history research program for our Founding Father's descendants.

Swansea the Early Years Historical site sign project 1667-1800

The Swansea Historical Commission's early years site sign project is a 4 phase project. Phase I Swansea Village, Stevens Road to Sharp's Lot Road. Hortonville Road to Milford Road. We are hoping to erect the first sign by October of 2025.

Historical Site Tours

Cheryl Bogle performed tours of Christ Church, The Stevens Home, historical homes, historical districts and cemeteries for the Eddy Family Association of Middleboro and Mason Family members summer of 2024. The Historical Commission has scheduled more historical site tours for summer of 2025.

School Tours of Historical Homes & Historical Sites

Cheryl Bogle sat down with School Superintendent Scott Holcomb to discussed The Swansea Historical Commission's plan for the possibility of bus tours of the Town's historical sites, homes and districts for our elementary schools. The possibility of bus tours was also present to the School Board. The School Board voted to move forward and develop a plan. Cheryl sat down with the Assistant School Superintendent and the elementary school principals. The Historical Commission will develop a bus tour of the Town's historical homes and sites for the 3rd and 4th graders along with a walking tour of Swansea Village for the 5th graders. This will be for the students of the Brown and Luther Elementary Schools. The Principal of the Mark Hoyle Elementary passed on the bus tours for his students.

Revolutionary War 250th Anniversary Event

Not able to get the help needed

Historical Cemeteries Clean –up program

In 2024 the cemetery clean – up program was not as active as we would like. This was due to the weather, lack of volunteers and Commission members not being available. Because of this only 2 cemeteries were cleaned. Historical Commission member Brandon Travers cleaned the Small Pox cemetery on Milford Road. Brandon was also able to clean path in the Captain Charles Eddy Cemetery for the Eddy Family Association of Middleboro to view the work done on the Eddy Family monument. Historical Commission member Carl Becker and his wife Kathy cleaned the Kingsley family cemetery on Milford Road.

Ye Olde Eddy Cemetery-

We have had several complaints on the condition of the Ye Olde Eddy Family Cemetery. The Eddy family Association of Middleboro was notified. In 2024 The Eddy Family Association of Middleboro viewed the Ye Olde Eddy Cemetery. The ownership of the cemetery is in question and is being addressed by the Middleboro and Colorado Eddy Family Associations. The cemetery is left uncared for to keep it hidden from being vandalized and will remain uncared for until vandalism is no longer a risk. In the meantime the SHC is keeping an eye on its condition so Mother Nature will not take over and engulf the headstones. When ownership is confirmed the Eddy Family Association of Middleboro would like to have the cemetery cleaned. Access for clean- up will be through the Stevens Home. The Director of the Stevens Home has given permission to access the cemetery through the Stevens Home property for the clean-up.

Captain Charles Eddy Family Cemetery –Head Stone Monument Repair

Morse and Beggs Monument Company were hired to clean the Captain Charles Eddy Monument. The monument was disassemble, cleaned, reassembled, adhere the pieces together and sealed. Members of the Eddy Family Association viewed the monument work; they were pleased with the work.

Scenic by – Law and Demolition Delay By-Law

Both our Demolition Delay By-Law and Scenic by-law were revised in 2024. We are planning on presenting these by-laws to the Swansea Planning Board and The Swansea Board of Selectmen in 2025

Erecting and Replacing Historic District Signs

The Colonial Historic District was established in 1990, a historical district sign was never erected. One of three historical district signs in Barneyville was stolen. The Swansea Historical Commission will have the Colony Historic District sign erected and replace the sign for Barneyville Historic District both will be taken care of in 2025.

Shadow Box / History Board

In 2024 the SHC presented to the Swansea Board of Selectmen the idea of a shadow box to be hung in The Town Hall to display our Town's history. This was approved and with the help of our Town Administrator the shadow box was hung. We will be hanging a 2nd box and the history boards will be changed out every 3 months.

District 2 One Room Schoolhouse Prints

The SHC will be placing 2 framed prints with the history of the one room schoolhouses in District 2 Swansea Village and Elizabeth Stevens Brown. Both prints will be placed on either side of the portrait of Frank S Stevens in the Frank S Stevens School.

National Registry sign program

The Swansea Historical Commission developed a National Registry sign program in 2023. Phase I will be for Town owned buildings. We have permission to erect National Registry signs at the Frank S Stevens school building, the Frank S Stevens Public Library Building aka Swansea Free Public Library and the Town Hall of Swansea. Phase II will be the Historical Churches in Town. We will be including Christ Church in Phase I. Phase III will be historical homes one Historical District at a time. This program will be on going over a course of several years due to the number of historical homes, sites and buildings in town

William Cahoon Plaque

Along with the National Registry Plaque Program we will also be erecting a plaque on William Cahoon first person killed at the beginning of King Philip's War and the Town of Swansea residents who also lost their lives during the first armed conflict between settlers and Native

Americans to be hung in our Town Hall. This plaque is being donated to the Town of Swansea by Erika Brien a William Cahoon descendant.

The Alfred Gardner Plaque

The Swansea Historical Commission, Curator of the Varnum Armory Museum and Jon Pole from Gettysburg Memorial Cemetery began working together in the spring of 2024 to develop information for a plaque to be hung in the Town Hall of Swansea in honor of Alfred Gardner. It is estimated that the research will be completed and the plaque erected by winter of 2025.

Martin House Solar Panel Project

The Swansea Historical Commission was not able to take a stand on the 2024 solar panel project at the Martin House. Our question and concerns were not answered by the Directors of the Dames of Boston, owners of the Martin House.

Preserving Swansea History Facebook Page

The Swansea Historical Commission started posting Swansea history on the Preserving Swansea History Facebook Page June of 2023. A piece of Swansea history is posted nightly. We have gained several followers in 2024. Through the Facebook page we have had several requests for research on deeds, historical homes and families. We were able to help 18 followers in 2024 and will continue this service.

Swansea Historical Commission Members

Eileen Patricia Redfearn retired from the Swansea Historical Commission after holding the seat for close to 20 years. New member Katherine Leblanc was sworn in 2024. We also had a 2nd individual Karen Bowen apply in 2024 she will be sworn in February of 2025.

Cheryl Bogle was contacted in 2024 by a representative of the National Registry / Parks Department. A report was requested on the National Registry listings that have been demolished or extremely altered. At this time we have 28 National Registry listings that have been demolished or extremely altered. Research is still needed. This report will be submitted in April of 2025.

Historical Homes & Buildings Built prior to 1776

In preparation for a possible Revolutionary War Anniversary event research on homes and buildings built prior to 1776, 21 homes were built prior to 1776 with 18 homes still standing and 3 demolished.

Stevens Treatment Program/ Stevens Home for Boys

SHC members Cheryl Bogle, Katherine Leblanc and Carl Becker meet with the Executive Director Ivy Medeiros and Catherine Monty head of maintenance in regards to work needed on the Stevens mansion, Nottingham house and cottage #1, all 3 building are on the National Registry. We meet to discuss the issues with the buildings and what guidance we may be able to provide such as grant programs they qualify for, CPA funding, etc..

Swansea Historical Commission Members:

Cheryl Bogle/ Chairman

Integracrete2@gmail.com

508-496-9564

Brandon Travers/ Secretary

Recoveryagent566@gmail.com

774-627-4385

Colleen Brown

Jcbrown09@aol.com

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Carl Becker

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508-379-0972

Katherine Leblanc (New Member2024)

Kathieblanc21@yahoo.com

508-338-0062

Respectfully
Cheryl Bogle
Chairman
Swansea Historical Commission
81 Main Street
Swansea, MA 02777

SWANSEA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Swansea Free Public Library's Mission Statement:

The Swansea Free Public Library (SFPL) 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 an ever-changing future.

Swansea Free Public Library Building Project Update:

The construction project truly got off the ground in 2024. In February, the construction project went out to bid for both subcontractors and general contractors. The general contractor bid was awarded to Delphi Construction in March.

It was a challenge to find a suitable temporary location for library operations. A lease agreement was signed with the First Christian Congregational Church in April. As the church readied the property for the library, the library closed for a few weeks, packed and prepared for the move in May. A portion of the collection and library artifacts were put into storage for safekeeping, while other items traveled to the temporary location for use.

The construction crew mobilized for a late May start to the project. On June 1, the town held a groundbreaking ceremony. Site work followed through the summer, and the foundation was poured in August. By the end of the year, the library was taking shape.

Structural steel was up and sheathed with the air and vapor



barrier. Windows were starting to be installed and preparation for roofing was underway.

The next two construction grant payments from the MBLC was received in the combined amount of \$3,307,259.



General Services:

The SFPL continued to offer as many materials and services as it could in its temporary location. We are pleased to report that there was not a drastic decrease in use at the temporary location. The SFPL offered access to over 18,470 books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, ebooks, wi-fi hotspots, and other items at the temporary location. Swansea's offerings are enhanced with the library's membership in the SAILS Library Network. With this arrangement, Swansea library users borrowed 16,773 items from other SAILS libraries. The SFPL also loaned 8,492 Swansea items to other SAILS libraries.

The SFPL also participates in the Commonwealth Catalog, a way of sharing materials with libraries throughout Massachusetts. Swansea library users borrowed 259 items with the Commonwealth Catalog, while the SFPL loaned 87 items to other Massachusetts libraries.

As a member of the SAILS library network, we are a part of a cooperative of with 70 other member libraries. SAILS supports the technological networking for this resource sharing, as well as provide support for group purchasing of patron resources and supplies.

The SFPL also offers digital library resources for Swansea library cardholders, available all hours of the day. They include eBooks and audiobooks, recipes, genealogy research, streaming music, and streaming films through Libby and Hoopla. The SFPL helped with computers, printing, the Internet, and wireless Internet.

Programs and Events:

The SFPL offers a variety of programs for children, teens, adults and families. Story times continued through 2024, including stories at the

town beach and Stony Creek Farm. Kids visited the animal shelter every month to read to the animals.

Summer reading encourages people of all ages to read throughout the summer. For kids and teens, this encouragement helps stem learning loss as they progress to the next academic year. Special parties and entertainers helped us celebrate Massachusetts's *Read, Renew, Repeat* reading program.

Older kids and teens enjoyed Monster Squad, a chance to explore the cultural, historic and pop culture impact of favorite monsters. Anime Club inspected different examples and themes in this Japanese cinematic artform.

Adults met to discuss books in a variety of genres, researched family history together, and came together to share different crafting techniques, among many other activities.

The library participated in weekly summer concerts and in Swansea's Holiday in the Village. A successful Haunted Carnival was held at the temporary location.

The SFPL was among over 100 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) to increase digital literacy using Digitallearn.org resources, powered by a generous \$2.7 million contribution from AT&T. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive support public libraries in their work of improving basic digital skills among families and communities.

Friends of the Swansea Free Public Library:

The Friends of the Library continued to meet regularly to support the library's mission. They are crucial to the operation of the library as they assist with their countless volunteer hours and sponsorship of popular lectures, programs and the museum pass program.

Statistics:

Hours Open Per Week:	53 hours open
Physical Items owned by SFPL:	53,158
Physical Items added by SFPL:	2,719
Total circulation:	53,050
Total Digital circulation:	30,544 (<i>Libby and Hoopla</i>)

Cardholders Registered:

462

The SFPL received \$44,218 from the MBLC's State Aid program for the library's Fiscal Year 24 certification. To qualify for state aid, a municipality and its library must be annually certified by the Library Commissioners and follow state statutes in the State Aid to Public Libraries program. In addition to this financial aid, Swansea residents continued to be able to borrow books and other library materials from libraries across Massachusetts.

Special Thanks:

We are grateful to the support of the staff of the Swansea Free Public Library; Friends of the Swansea Free Public Library; Library Building Committee, Board of Trustees, Swansea Cultural Council; Christ Church; Swansea Animal Shelter; Swansea Community Network; Stony Creek Farm; Holiday Village Committee; and our wonderful library users.

We are especially grateful to the First Christian Congregational Church, Delphi Construction, Pomroy Associates and Johnson Roberts Associates. They have all been such great partners during the construction of the library.

All of these entities and individuals have allowed us use of space, helped us with projects and have been wonderful community partners.

Lastly, thank you to our town officials for their support of the library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jocelyn Tavares
Library Director

PLANNING BOARD

Overview

In 2024, the Swansea Planning Board was actively engaged in overseeing the Town's development through various initiatives, meetings, and planning efforts. The Board's commitment to sustainable growth and community enhancement was evident in its comprehensive approach to managing land use, zoning, and development projects.

Meetings and Submissions

The Board conducted (sixteen) 16 meetings throughout the year, during which several key submissions were reviewed and decided upon:

Subdivision Plans: (One) 1 submission, fully approved.

Commercial Site Plans: (Four) 4 submissions, with (three) 3 approved and (one) 1 pending.

Special Permits for Hammerhead Lots: (Three) 3 submissions with (three) 3 approved.

Requests to Endorse ANR Plans: (Two) 2 submissions with (two) 2 approved.

A total of \$8,010.00 in filing fees was collected, contributing to the General Fund.

Street Approval

The following streets were recommended by the Planning Board to be accepted as public ways:

Buckingham Drive, Kayleigh Court, Keith's Circle, Johemi Trail and Linda's Way. They were presented at town meeting after the approval of the Board of Selectmen where they were then approved by the town.

Key Initiatives

Zoning and Development

The Board held a public hearing to solicit comments regarding the proposed zoning bylaw amendment aimed to establish new zoning regulations for the creation of Accessory Dwelling Units.

The proposed bylaw amendment includes, but is not limited to, provisions regarding:

Definition of Accessory Dwelling Units

Use and dimensional requirements
Site Plan Review requirements

The amendment was presented at town meeting after the approval of the Board of Selectmen where it was then approved by the town.

Appointments and Representations

Reorganization of the Planning Board:

- Scott Adams, Chairman, resigned on May, 21, 2024
- Tracy Albernaz joined the Board on April 16, 2024
- Steve Bogle's last meeting was on March 4, 2024. He returned to the Board on July 1, 2024, when Scott Adam's resigned.

- Appointments included Tim Cabral as Chairman; Jonathan Carreiro as Vice Chairman; and Paul Waple as Clerk.
- Appointments also included Paul Waple to the Soil Board and Tracy Albernaz to the Community Preservation Committee.
- Representation in the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) was maintained.

Planning and Development

- The Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Rt 6/118 Corridor Study were completed.
- Design of a stormwater retrofit continues courtesy of a Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant for stormwater management improvements at Compton's Corner.
- Construction plans have been completed and work has begun on the development of the Medeiros Farm Recreational Complex.
- Participated in regional efforts for brownfields assessment and the establishment of the Sowams natural heritage area.

Community Engagement and Economic Development

Continued the production of the community newsletter to improve the Local news coverage and community engagement.

- Participated in various ribbon cuttings for new business openings and hosted a small business networking event.

Acknowledgements

As always, the Planning Board offers its thanks to the Town's many departments 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. The board would like to thank Scott Adams for his many years of service as the Chairman. His hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. Upon his promotion to the position of Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development Director, the Planning Board offered its thanks to John Hansen for his six years of service as the Town Planner. The Planning Board also welcomed Christopher C. Parayno as the new Town Planner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Cabral
Chairman

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police

Mark Foley

Administrative Lieutenant

Operations Lieutenant

Joey Faria

Sergeants

John Souza

Kyle Stone

Robert Wilson

Zachary Sousa

Keith Chomka

Eric Thibault

Jonathan Boyd (Det. Sgt)

Patrolmen

Shane Mello

Donald DiBiasio

Nicole Levesque

Thomas Eaton

Christopher Ball

Amy Gallant

Jared Ulak

Keith Lake

Thomas Nolan

Charles Rowland (Det.)

Matthew Estrella

Scott Stavens

Kyle Gaspar

Jonathan Furtado (Det.)

Jason Monchique

Ashley Motta

Macaila Saunders

Ethan Bouchard

Jacob Ferreira

David Gadry

Ryan Lavoie

Connor Levesque

Zachary Oliveira

Dispatchers

Terri-Ann Shileikis

David Woolhouse

Mechanic

Raymond Souliere

Admin. Assistant

Stephanie Albernaz

GRANTS:

FY24 State 911 Support & Incentive Grant Program... \$59,385.00

FY24 Traffic Enforcement (Click it or Ticket,

Distracted Driver & Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over) .. \$29,716.17

GRANT TOTAL..... \$89,101.17

Total Call for Service for 2024: 26,677

Noise Complaints	48
Loose Cow Complaints	6
Medical Emergencies	2,114
Open Door/Window	116
Accidents	551
Disturbance Calls	107
Burglar Alarm Calls	458
Motor Vehicle Stops	1,116
Section 12 Reports	94
Citations Issued	1,550
Arrests & Summons	322
Offenses Committed	341

Training 2024

Training for the month of January, 2024 included the following:

January 3, 2024- Detective Sousa attended the following SEMLEC SWAT Training:

Sustainment Training-Basic firearms proficiency, fundamentals of shooting, reloads, malfunctions, transitions, shooting platforms, elevated heart rate drills, hostage rescue entries and firing. The training took place at the Woodcock Rifle Range located at 100 Woodcock Road in Dartmouth.

January 8, 2024- Lt. Mooney, Lt. Foley, Sgt. Faria, Sgt. Souza, Sgt. Chomka, Ptlm. Mello, Ptlm. Eaton, Ptlm. Gaspar, Ptlm. Rowland, Ptlm. Monchique, Ptlm. Saunders, Ptlm. Mulhern, Ptlm. Gallant, Ptlm. Lavoie, Ptlm. Gadry completed Firearms Training Scenarios and night qualification (Blue Line Corp. Firearms trailer, Swansea).

January 9, 2024- Det. Sgt. Boyd, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Thibault, Det. Furtado, Det. Sousa, Ptlm. Ball, Ptlm. Bouchard, Ptlm. Nolan, Ptlm. Pelletier, Ptlm. Ulak, Ptlm. Lake, Ptlm. Motta completed Firearms Training Scenarios and night qualification (Blue Line Corp. Firearms trailer, Swansea).

January 9, 2024- Patrolman Ulak attended SEMLEC Search and rescue training, ICS refresher, Swansea.

January 9, 2024- Patrolman Gallant and Lake attended SEMLEC CISM training in Middleboro.

January 9, 2024- Sgt. Faria and Ptlm. Ferreira attended In-Service training in Taunton.

January 10, 2024- Sgt. Stone, Ptlm. N. Levesque, Ptlm. C. Levesque, Ptlm. Ferreira completed Firearms Training Scenarios and night qualification (Blue Line Corp. Firearms trailer, Swansea).

January 10, 2024- Detective Furtado attended NESPIN Training, Swansea.

January 11, 2024- Lt. Foley completed In-Service training in Taunton.

January 16th-17th, 2024- Det. Sousa attended the following training: Cultivating, Developing and Managing Informants and Other Sources Certification (2 day), Grafton.

January 17, 2024- Detective Sergeant Boyd attended the following SEMLEC SWAT Training:

Sustainment Training- CQB repetition, Force on Force, building/room entries, scenarios with use of robot and roll players. The training took place at the Old Dartmouth Police Station located at 249 Russell Mills Road in Dartmouth.

January 19, 2024- Det. Furtado attended Sex Offender Registry Training (SORIS) (1 Day) on line.

January 22, 2024- Sgt. Wilson, Ptlm. N. Levesque, C. Levesque, Pelletier completed In-Service training in Taunton.

January 24, 2024- Lt. Foley completed Public Records Law in Grafton, MA.

January 25th and 26th and 29th through 30th- Det. Furtado completed Sexual Assault investigations Certification (Southbridge Conference Center).

January 31st- Ptlm. Rowland completed In-Service training in Taunton Sgt. Chomka, Det. Sgt. Boyd, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Thibault, Patrolman Bouchard, Rowland, Motta, Gaspar, Monchique, Lake, Ball completed the following online training via Acadis:

In-Service TY24 - TY24 Police Reform and the POST Commission Online

Det. Sgt. Boyd, Sgt. Wilson, Patrolman Gaspar, Bouchard, Monchique, Lake completed the following online training via Acadis:

In-Service TY24 - TY24 CPR/First Responder

Sgt. Souza, Det. Sgt. Boyd, Dispatcher Jennings completed the following online training provided by the State Ethics Commission: Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees 2024

Training for the month of February, 2024 included the following:

February 2nd- Det. Furtado completed ONLINE ACADIS training Police Reform and the Post Commission training.

February 2nd- Det. Sousa completed ONLINE ACADIS training CPR/First Aid.

February 2nd- Ptlm. Ferreira completed ONLINE ACADIS training for CPR/First Aid and Police Reform and the Post Commission training.

February 5th- Det. Sousa completed ONLINE ACADIS training Police Reform and the Post Commission training.

February 5th- Ptlm. Estrella completed Firearms training: Pistol, rifle, less lethal beanbag training in Swansea.

February 6th- Ptlm. Saunders and Ptlm. Estrella completed Taser training in Swansea.

February 7th- Det. Sgt. Jonathan Boyd and Det. Sousa attended Flash Bang Recertifications and CQB with force on force utilizing simunitions. The training took place at 350 Norton Avenue in Taunton.

February 7th- Det. Furtado, Sgt. Souza, and Sgt. Wilson attended DNA Collection Certification in Randolph, MPTC

February 8th- Sgt. Faria and Ptlm. Ferreira attended In-Service training in Taunton.

February 12th, 14th-16th- Lt. Foley and Det. Sgt. Boyd attended Internal Affairs certification in Swansea.

February 12th, 14th-16th- Ptlm. Estrella attended APCO training in Middleboro.

February 19th- Sgt. Faria completed ONLINE ACADIS training for CPR/First Aid and Police Reform and the Post Commission training.

February 20th and 21st- Ptlm. Estrella completed NG-911 training in Middleboro.

February 29th- Dispatcher Shileikis attended NG-911 Refresher in Middleboro

Training for the month of March, 2024 included the following:

March 1st- Ptlm. Estrella completed APCO training in Middleboro.

March 4th- Lt. Foley completed ONLINE ACADIS training Police Reform and the Post Commission training.

March 7th- Lt. Foley completed ONLINE ACADIS training for CPR/First Aid.

March 20th- Det. Sousa completed the following SEMLEC SWAT training:
Sustainment Training-Room Clearing, Room Entry, Room Entry with Use of Robot/Drone/K9, Room Clearing as well as team scenarios with force on force. The training took place at 148 Peck Street in Rehoboth (Old Town Hall).

March 21st- Lt. Foley completed Acadis Portal Fundamentals for POCs

- MILFORD

Training for the month of April, 2024 included the following:

04/01/24- Detective Furtado- Background Investigations (MPI)

Foxborough PD

04/12/24- Det. Sgt. Boyd- Operations of the Evidence Room (MPI)

Foxborough PD

4/16/24 through 4/20/24- Active Shooter/Applied Patrol Procedures training (Case High School) Department wide training. All officers attended this training except Ptlm. Bouchard, Ptlm. Gallant, Ptlm. Lavoie, Ptlm. Pelletier. Lt. Mooney completed the classroom and walk through portion only.

04/22/24 through 4/26/24- Det. Sousa-SEMLEC SWAT In-Service (LA Tactical Consultants) Yarmouth PD

Training for the month of May, 2024 included the following:

May 13th to 16th- Chief Foley completed the following training: Police Chief and Command Staff Managerial Skills- Legal Ramifications of Emerging Technology in Law Enforcement Operations, First Responders Sound of the Alarm/Officer Wellness, Why you need Social Media, Recruiting, First Amendment and Responding to Protests, Police Policies Words beyond a page, Active Shooter and Hostile Event Response (ASHER), and Brady List issues. Martha's Vineyard

Training for the month of June, 2024 included the following:

June 3rd through June 29th- All sworn members, including retirees, received Firearms training and qualifications, as well as Taser transition drills. Training was conducted at the Somerset Sportsman's Club, Baker Rd. Swansea.

June 11th and 12th- Part time dispatcher Amanda Silvia received in house training in dispatch.

June 21st- Sgt. Stone and Ptlm. Mello attended Instructor Development - HQ - Patrol Procedures Instructor (Recruit Program) Curriculum Update in Boylston.

June 27th- Dispatcher Woolhouse completed NG-911 Refresher in Middleboro.

Training for the month of July, 2024 included the following:

July 16th- Lt Joey Faria, Det. Sgt. Jonathan Boyd and Sean Ryan received **Public Records for Massachusetts Public Safety Personnel**, MPI-Grafton MA Police Dept.

July 19th- Lt Joey Faria, **MPTC Firearm Qualification 9mm Shield**, Tiverton RI Rod and Gun Club.

July 25th- Sgt Zackary Sousa, **Breath Test Operator Training**, Dept of Correction's Head Quarters, Milford MA

Training for the month of August, 2024 included the following:

08/18/2024 Ptlm Scott Stavens and Ptlm Zachary Oliveira, State Ethics Commission Conflict of Interest Law 2024- Online Training

08/20, 21, 2024 Lt Joey Faria and Ptlm Jared Ulak, Project Lifesaver Electronic Search Specialist and Instructor Training @ Freetown Police.

08/29/2024 (830-1130) Det Furtado MPTC Use of Force Instructor Training at MPTC Randolph (3 hours)

08/29/2024 (1230-330p) MPTC Freedom of Assembly: Crowd Management Instruction Training at MPTC Randolph (3 hours)

08/21/2024 Ptlm Scott Stavens FEMA ICS 100 and ICS 200 online training

08/13/2024 Disp Chantel Cesar, Two-day NG911 Equipment Certification, Middleboro 911 Office

08/19/2024 Disp Chantel Cesar Five Day APCO PST Training, Middleboro 911 Office

Training for the month of September, 2024 included the following:

Boyd

1. 09/20/2024 9am-1pm(4 hours) MPTC-ATF Introduction to Crime and Gun Intelligence Training was held at MPTC Randolph
2. 09/24/2024 8am-3pm(7 hours) Law Enforcement Dimensions- POST Compliant IA Investigations Training was held at Westport PD
3. 09/30/2024 8am-2pm(6 hours) MPTC-Election Security Summit Training was held at Wellsworth Hotel and Conference Center in Southbridge

Furtado

1. 09/05/2024 1pm-3pm(2 hours) Child Advocacy Center Training-LE Response to Child Abuse Training was held online
2. 09/20/2024 9am-1pm(4 hours) MPTC-ATF Introduction to Crime and Gun Intelligence Training was held at MPTC Randolph

Rowland

1. 9/11/2024 10am-1pm(3 hours) MSP Fusion Center-Crimetracer Class Training was held at MPTC Randolph

2. 09/13/2024 9am-12pm(3 hours) Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry-SORIS Training, Training was online
3. 09/16/2024 9am-11am(2 hours) NESPIN-NESPIN Access and User Training, Training was held at Swansea PD

Faria

1. 09/23/2024 – 09/27/2024 5-DAY Internal Affairs Certification Program at Danvers Police Department MPI
2. 09/30/2024 8am-2pm (6 hours) MPTC-Election Security Summit Training was held at Wellsworth Hotel and Conference Center in Southbridge
3. 09/09/2024 Post Promotion Suicide Prevention Bridgewater Police

Ulak

1. 09/18/2024 Commonwealth of MA Department of Mental Health CIT certificate (40hrs) Swansea Police Dept

Saunders

1. 09/18/2024 Commonwealth of MA Department of Mental Health CIT certificate (40hrs) Swansea Police Dept
2. MPTC TY25 @-Day In-Service Training Program- Norwood-October 2&3, 2024 8:00-3:30

Sousa

1. 09/09/2024 Post Promotion Suicide Prevention Bridgewater Police
2. 09/16/2024-09/27/2024 Front Line Supervisor 80 hr course Roger William University, RI

Mello

1. MPTC TY25 @-Day In-Service Training Program- Norwood-October 2&3, 2024 8:00-3:30

Training for the month of October, 2024 included the following:

Boyd

10/03/2024 8:30am-4:30pm (8 hours) MPTC- The Massachusetts State Police Forensic Services Division Behind the Scenes MPTC Randolph

Furtado

10/03/2024 8:30am-4:30pm (8 hours) MPTC- The Massachusetts State Police Forensic Services Division Behind the Scenes MPTC Randolph

10/30-31/2024 8:00am-4:00pm (16 hours) MPTC-Less Lethal Shotgun Instructor Certification Dighton Police Dept.

Rowland

10/03/2024 8:30am-4:30pm (8 hours) MPTC- The Massachusetts State Police Forensic Services Division Behind the Scenes MPTC Randolph

10/8-9/2024 8:30am-4:30pm (16 hours) MPI- Breaking and Entering Recovery MPI Grafton

10/28/2024 9:00am-3:00pm (6 hours) MPI Grafton Background Investigations

10/29/2024 8:00am-3:30pm (7.5 hours) MACA (Massachusetts Children's Alliance)-CAC/MDT Training Summit on Abuse Sheraton-Framingham Conference Center

Faria

10/28/2024- 11/01/2024 (5 days 40 hrs) Command Training: Mid Management Course, Justice System Training and Research Institute, RWC Portsmouth RI

Training for the month of November, 2024 included the following:

Boyd

11/20/2024 (10:00am-3:00pm) Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission Program Overview-Training at MPTC Randolph (5 hours)

Rowland

11/14/2024 (8:00am-4:00pm) Bristol County Outreach-Mental Health for First Responders-Training held at Westport Police Dept. (8 hours)

Training for the month of December, 2024 included the following:

Gallant- 12/22/2024 – 12/13/2024 (80 hrs.) 2-week Front Line Supervisor, Justice System Training and Research Institute- Roger Williams University

Ulak- 12/17/2024- SEMLEC Search and Rescue training: NSAR Online Training

Boyd-12/05/2024 (9:00am-3:00pm) - Technology Search Warrants-Hosted by MPI-Took Place at Middleborough Police Department (6 hours)

Rowland- 12/05/2024 (9:00am-3:00pm) - Technology Search Warrants-Hosted by MPI-Took Place at Middleborough Police Department (6 hours)

12/10/2024 (8:30am-4:30pm) - Dust and Bust-Hosted by MPI-Took Place at-Plymouth County Sherriff's Office (24 hours)

Furtado - 12/05/2024 (9:00am-3:00pm) - Technology Search Warrants-Hosted by MPI-Took Place at Middleborough Police Department (6 hours)

12/10/2024 (8:30am-4:30pm) - Dust and Bust-Hosted by MPI-Took Place at-Plymouth County Sherriff's Office (24 hours)

Annual MPTC In-Service: held in Taunton at old Coyle Cassidy High School. Officers who attended in Dec:

- Lt. Faria, Det. Sgt. Boyd, Sgt. Wilson, Ptlm. Ball and Ptlm. Lake.

One of my goals as Chief of Police is to increase professional development opportunities for our officers. In particular, I would like to foster a growth mindset and fully develop our Command Staff and Supervisors. Allowing them to achieve their full potential will have an immense impact on our department and the citizens of the Town of Swansea as a whole. With the recent complete turnover of the leadership team within our department, I believe that it is imperative to properly prepare our Command Staff and Supervisors to lead effectively and efficiently. In turn, my goal is also to identify, develop,

and prepare our future leaders. To quote the great Denzel Washington, “Work hard to get it. When you get it, reach back. Pull someone else up. Each one, teach one. Don’t just aspire to make a living. Aspire to make a difference.”

With the constant changes and demands of modern day policing we must continue to train and develop each of our officers. We must set them up for success. Doing so will allow us to maintain our commitment to providing top notch professional law enforcement services to our citizens, businesses, and all of our community stakeholders.

Some of the courses and curriculum should include, but not be limited to Leadership, Professional Standards and Training, Accreditation Training, POST training and reporting, Internal Affairs, public relations, Public records, community policing initiatives, tactical training and awareness, De-escalation training, as well as Officer Wellness. To add, a training simulator would bring with it the ability to develop and fine tune the essentials mental and physical skills demanded of 21st century police officers.

Shellfish Warden/Harbormaster Report:

Officer Shane Mello is the Shellfish Warden/Harbormaster and he is assisted by Officer Donald DiBiasio, Officer Ashley Motta, Officer Keith Lake, Officer Ethan Bouchard and Officer Andrew Pelletier. These officers go above their regular assigned duties to make sure the waterways are safe for everyone.

The 2024 season was busy for the Shellfish and Harbormaster division. This year the Town collected \$17,770.00 in license fees. Four hundred bushels of quahogs were 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. 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 7,000 bushels for reseeded. 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 and Harbormaster Program were also responsible in marking the waterways, by placing and removing buoys in the channel and along the beach area. Officers also conducted boat inspections and enforced waterway rules. Officers were also 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.

Officers are also tasked with the regulation of parking at the boat ramp. Vehicles that were not launching recreational boats were removed from the ramp. Vehicle's that did not have the proper ramp pass were issued parking citations.

Commercial Permits Purchased 12
Recreation Permits Purchased150
Non-Resident Permits Purchased..... 11
Senior Permits Purchased.....169
Veteran Permits Purchased.....13
14 Day Non-Resident Permits Purchased.....1

MONIES TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN TREASURER

01/01/2024-12/31/2024:

Alarm By-Law Fees:	\$ 1,490.00
F.I.D. Card Fees:	\$ 187.00
Gun Permit Fees:	\$ 11,075.00
TOTAL FEES:	\$ 12,752.00

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Foley
Chief of Police

PUBLIC ACCESS

Expenses for	2024	2023	2022
Comcast	45091.00	43728.67	40665.32
Lawyer Fee	12240.00	5850.00	
Salary	56988.00	52177.85	52560.09
Insurance	22690.00	8907.38	7900.50
Work Study	7535.00	7090.00	6150.00
Recycle	0	0	52.05
B&H Photo	4168.00	2339.35	4081.32
MX Consulting	27600.00	27600.00	26650.00
School		8000.00	16000.00
Debit Card	5309.00	4134.98	4627.82
Capital Transfer	0	0	0
C&M adobe			975.00
MA fee	100.00	0	175.00
Telephone	360.00	480.00	520.00
Asst. Salary	10640.00	2280.00	3030.00
G&G			1085.99
Mileage	22.00	104.80	0
Total	192743.00	162693.03	164473.87
Income	275167.00	180650.50	175882.69
Expense			-164473.87
Total Remaining	82424.00	17957.47	11408.82

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JANUARY

Expenses

Balance 1/1/2024	69929.00
	<u>-41616.00</u>
Balance 12/31/2024	28313.00
Operational Account	
Balance 1/1/2024	5472.931
	<u>-275.167</u>
Balance 12/31/2024	192743.00

Ending Balance 555355.00

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 Channel 9 is geared towards content produced by students of the Swansea School District.

Example Case High Graduation, Luther School Graduation, 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. Example 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.

Nonr esidents 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 nonprofit organizations to list their events.

Respectfully submitted:

Public Oversight Committee

Frances Kelley
Debbie Kelley

Eric Hajder
Susan Nedar

E. S. BROWN SCHOOL

Elizabeth Stevens Brown School, located at 29 Gardners Neck Road opened in January 1956 and is currently in its 69th year of providing quality education to students 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.

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 286 students. We have the following average class sizes: grade three (24); grade four (21); grade five (27). 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 17% of our students receive support from three 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 Interventionist Teacher. Our ELA Interventionist supports students directly within their classrooms providing direct, short-term intervention to any struggling students in reading. We also have a full-time School Adjustment Counselor to support students' social and emotional needs by assisting students to develop prosocial skills and peer relationships, and strengthen mediation and peer conflict skills. We also have one school secretary, one school nurse, one full-time custodian, one part-time custodian, and one administrator.

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 21st Century Skills and prepares our students in becoming career and college ready. 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. TouchView

interactive panels in each classroom further 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 daily common planning time has supported the teachers in our efforts to raise the bar for learning expectations for our students. This year we have adopted the new HMH Into Reading ELA program which is used by all teachers in gr. K-5. This new program will help align instruction across classrooms and further support our focus on development of reading skills to help students meet and exceed high standards. In addition, three times per year we check students' reading abilities using the iReady Reading Diagnostic. In Math our teachers use iReady Math for daily instruction as well as the iReady Diagnostic three times per year to assess Math skills. Every six weeks we hold Data Meetings to monitor student progress and implement targeted intervention during the weekly WIN (What I Need) times in both ELA and Math. Brown School students will participate in the 2025 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. We have an active PTO Board that supports our students by providing fun school events, family nights, educational field trips, all-school assemblies, and outdoor recess equipment. They have also supported our hard-working staff with monthly breakfasts and treats. Our parent volunteers support our Library so that all students can have access to books through bi-weekly visits as well as two book fairs held each year.

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. This year our Council set the goal of starting a Student Leadership team, which gives one student per classroom an opportunity to support school-wide improvements and initiatives as determined by the 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 school community and staff are reflective of the District's motto of "Children Come First" that continues to be fostered at E. S. Brown School.

GARDNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gardner Elementary School, located at 10 Church Street, continues to serve **278** students in grades K-2, with four classes at each grade level.

Beginning in Kindergarten, students engage in learning activities that foster the development of the whole child. The learning environment at

Gardner promotes academic success by cultivating a growth mindset and belief in oneself.

Gardner Elementary celebrates its **100th anniversary** this school year! The school's longevity is a testament to the unwavering commitment of district leadership and the town of Swansea, whose support has preserved our beloved school for generations.

Our centennial celebrations include a feature in the **Fall River Herald, a tree-planting ceremony** honoring the original Gardner Farm's history, renowned for its elm trees, and commemorative **Gardner 100 sweatshirts** gifted to all students and staff. Additionally, the school will be adorned with **custom screen prints**, our annual school dance will have a roaring twenties theme, and we look forward to participating in this year's **Memorial Day Parade** to cap off the celebrations.

The dedicated staff at Gardner Elementary collaborates to ensure student success. Common planning time allows teachers to meet in grade-level teams to plan curriculum, discuss student progress, and provide the best instruction possible. These meetings take place on Monday mornings from 8:40 - 9:10. During this time, students enjoy an additional recess period, supporting the mission to nurture the whole child and starting the academic week positively.

The Gardner Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) remains an integral part of our school community, enriching our students' educational experiences through cherished events such as the annual **Spooktacular, Holiday Shoppe, and Sweetheart Dance**.

These activities not only bring joy to our students but also foster strong partnerships between families, the school, and the broader community.

In addition to organizing these events, the PTO has provided significant financial support to our school, raising over **\$40,000** in the past two school years. These funds have enabled us to host programs like **Mad Science**, an exciting and interactive science initiative that engages students with hands-on lessons and culminates in a dynamic, whole-school assembly.

Gardner Elementary continues to provide critical student support services, including Title I programs. Our team consists of one academic interventionist, one reading specialist, two special education teachers, one school nurse, one school adjustment counselor, **five paraprofessionals**, and a school secretary. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services are also provided to students who are in need.

Gardner School has been a Feinsein Leadership School for nine years, since 2016. This designation reflects our commitment to teaching students the importance of caring for others and performing "Good Deeds." Inspired by philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinsein's message, "Every time you do something good for someone, you make the world a better place," the Gardner School community has embraced this philosophy. We remain dedicated to honoring Mr. Feinsein's memory and upholding his enduring legacy.

As part of the Feinsein program, Gardner receives financial support to enrich academic programs and provide additional cultural and learning opportunities for students. In recent years, these funds, combined with family, community, and local business contributions, helped us construct an outdoor classroom. This flexible and engaging space allows students to enjoy hands-on learning in a natural environment.

Gardner is also proud to be a **Unified Champion School for the second consecutive year.** Through partnerships with Special Olympics, we promote social inclusion by uniting students with and without intellectual disabilities in sports and other activities. This

program embodies our commitment to fostering empathy, teamwork, and responsibility among students.

This year, Gardner Elementary School adopted the **Into Reading literacy program**, a comprehensive curriculum that aligns with the **Science of Reading**. Supported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this program emphasizes evidence-based practices proven to develop foundational literacy skills.

Into Reading integrates phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing instruction, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the needs of all learners. By embedding the principles of the Science of Reading, the program equips students with the skills they need to become confident, proficient readers.

Teachers at Gardner have received professional development to implement this program effectively, ensuring fidelity to the research-based methods that make Into Reading a powerful tool for improving literacy outcomes.

This adoption represents Gardner's commitment to utilizing high-quality instructional materials that support the academic success of every student while aligning with the latest educational research and state guidelines.

Our **"One School, One Book" program** continues to do well in its third year, fostering family reading at home and strengthening community bonds through shared literary experiences. This year, we have expanded the initiative to include **family math challenges**, culminating in a **Family Showcase** planned for May 2025.

This showcase serves as a meaningful conclusion to the program, bringing learning full circle. Families are encouraged to enrich their children's education at home and are then invited to celebrate their collective achievements together at school, reinforcing the collaborative spirit that defines our community.

Classrooms at Gardner are equipped with SMART Panel technology, improving both teaching and learning. These interactive panels allow teachers to create and deliver digital lessons efficiently, while students collaborate and engage in rigorous yet fun learning experiences.

Our Gardner Cardinal Traits, part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) initiative, continue to shape our school culture. Our traits provide opportunities for all students to receive daily positive reinforcement by earning "KIND Cardinal Cards." Students earning these cards are entered into a monthly raffle, with one student selected to win the "Trait of the Month" award. At the conclusion of the school year, students who exemplify exceptional character will be recognized with the prestigious Judy Eddy Award.

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 252 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 five, half-day sessions of integrated preschool serving students who are three and four years old.

Three A.R.C.H. classrooms 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, 20% 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.

The rest of the professional support staff consists of one reading specialist, 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. There is also one E.S.L. teacher to support our, English as a second language, students.

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 Luther School today, with approximately 196 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 10 students throughout the school year. There are twenty-three teachers, seven 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 continues to update its facilities for all students, which has included the installation of an accessibility swing and the purchase of a communication board for the playground.

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.

We not only rely on the input of our staff and community stakeholders, but also the voice of our students. This year we have continued with our student leadership team, which has provided students the opportunity to brainstorm and assist with school wide initiatives. The Luther School

Catch a Cardinal, has also been a continued initiative where students are highlighted for exemplifying the 6 traits of the Vision of the Graduate. The student leadership team has since facilitated the *Catch a Cardinal* initiative for the staff, where they choose to highlight two staff members a month that continuously go above and beyond for the students of Luther Elementary School.

In addition, the Luther School has created a *Cardinal Store*, where students can spend their *Cardinal Cash*. *Cardinal Cash* can be earned by students from any staff member throughout the school day. Luther students can earn *Cardinal Cash* by displaying any of the 6 Cardinal Traits, and/or exemplifying the Luther School Expectations.

Luther Elementary continues to look for new ways to grow as a community, and will continue to be a Unified and Feinstein Leadership School. By being a Feinstein Leadership School, Luther Elementary has worked to give back to the community by establishing and maintaining a food pantry, in addition to the recognition of ongoing kindness. The work the students have done has earned Luther Elementary School multiple monetary grants which will be used to continue funding for specific programs for the students and the community. Furthermore, as a Unified School, we participate in Unified activities and are sponsored by the Special Olympics.

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 2024-2025 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 21st century readiness. Joseph Case Junior High School is a progressive junior high school of five-hundred students, forty-seven teachers, two guidance counselors, two school adjustment counselors, a school nurse, six paraprofessionals and three secretaries. Our second school adjustment counselor was added this year as an additional step to help all students succeed.

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 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks with continuous curriculum review.

The improvement of 21st 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 21st 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. We are also working hard to improve our cultural proficiency to ensure equity for all members of our school community. In addition, we have been working this school year on ways to increase student voice to ensure the needs of all students are met.

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. This school year we began a 1:1 Chrome Book initiative. Each of our students as well as our teachers has a dedicated Chrome Book that is issued at the beginning of the school year, students will use this device throughout their time at our school. 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. Two years ago, 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 ongoing 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 Cardinals Care. A Unified Activities Coordinator has been added to our school to increase whole school engagement in this important area.

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 sixteenth 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

Joseph Case High School opened the school year with an enrollment of 520 students and welcomed 119 freshmen to the Class of 2028. JCHS also introduced four new teachers to its faculty, to fill vacancies as a result of retirements and a newly created position in the Special Education Department.

As a result of the First Report of Progress and Planning submitted to the Commission on Public Schools, Joseph Case High School was awarded continued Accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This was the first checkpoint subsequent to the NEASC Decennial Accreditation visit in the spring of 2023. The Commission commended the accessibility of meaningful professional development, ongoing work on student discipline policies and practices to ensure equity, improvement of educational outcomes for all students, work to ensure curriculum and instruction are aligned, that all members of the professional staff know plans for classroom technology and professional development, and current efforts to create a system for progress monitoring that will include cycles of inquiry to track student progress using data to inform strategies for success.

Joseph Case High School earned a place on the AP® School Honor Roll for the 2023-24 school year by the College Board. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success.

Joseph Case High School earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). The AP Program recognized 1,153 schools for their work toward improving equal female representation during the 2023-24 school year. Joseph Case High School is one of only 847 schools worldwide to achieve this accomplishment for AP CSP, and the high school received this designation for the third consecutive year.

Joseph Case High School hosted a college fair last fall. Over 30 colleges, universities, trade schools, and military personnel were in

attendance. Students in all grades had the opportunity to meet with representatives and gather information.

A Credit for Life Fair sponsored by BayCoast Bank was held at Joseph Case High School. Students were asked to imagine their life as a 25-year-old adult and are assigned a career, salary, and credit score.

Joseph Case High School was declared an official Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion School. The staff and students have demonstrated their commitment to meaningful inclusion through unified sports, inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement. Unified Sports continued with basketball, Strength and Conditioning and Track and Field while the ARCH program offers in-house internships and work experience for our post-grad population. The Transition Program continues to run the “Brightside Cafe.” which provides coffee and snacks to faculty and staff.

Student advisories continue to meet regularly. 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. Student voice is consistently captured during these sessions.

Athletics has been extremely successful, as multiple teams qualified for tournament play in their respective sports. The girls’ softball team won the 2024 MIAA State Championship (back to back).

Case Theatre continued with an aggressive schedule of performances, including the fall production of Godspell. The winter production of Cinderella was a huge success and included students from all schools in the district. “VOX” is this year’s METG State competition one act play. Case Theatre will close out the school year with the production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in May.

The Case High Class of 2024 graduated 159 students in Cardinal Stadium. The Junior/Senior Prom returned to Lakeview Pavilion in Foxborough. The academic year ended with two Passion Days in lieu of traditional finals for the eighth year so that teachers and students could continue to build relationships through collaborative activities on the final days of school.

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

In Swansea, 2024 was an incredible year of growth and reorganization for our community. We started the year working to fill a variety of vacancies across all Town departments as there were many retirements and resignations that seemed to happen all at the same time. We take this time to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for those employees who have served us so well and congratulate the retirements of Conservation Agent Colleen Brown, Police Chief Marc Haslam, Administrative Assistant Janet Helley, Police Dispatcher Lori Jennings, Senior Clerk (Assessors) Betty Medeiros, and Police Lieutenant Patrick Mooney.

Some of these vacancies spurred us reorganize our office. We updated the Executive Assistant position to include human resources duties and, in June upon the hiring of a new Town Planner, we officially welcomed Community Development Director John Hansen as the Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development Director. We welcome Mr. Hansen as part of our administrative team and are thrilled to have his assistance in a variety of planning, economic development, and community engagement initiatives. Early on, we saw dividends with the position as Mr. Hansen engaged with the Southcoast Chapter of New England Mountain Bike Association who now assists the Town in marking out and developing Village Park. Such work enhances public safety and the group is now finalizing zones to assist fire and police personnel in responding to emergencies as well as trail markers and maps to identify and organize the various routes around the property for pedestrians and cyclists alike. With Mr. Hansen's work in developing relationships, he organized the first ever Business Networking event held at the bathhouse, an event intended to establish and build relationships amongst the business community and to demonstrate the Town's support of local business.

The members of the Beach Committee, many of them with over thirty years' experience, resigned as the responsibility over the waterfront and bathhouse along with increased use of the beach became too much for volunteers to monitor. The Board thanks these volunteers, past and present, for their countless hours of dedication and work to protect access to a critical Town resource. They certainly did yeoman's work and it did not go unnoticed. This property is now under the auspices of

the Town in full and is caretaken by the newly implemented Facilities Management team, which officially got up and running in March. This department is critical to our ability to care for and maintain our properties, to save repair costs, monitor needs and projects, and plan future maintenance, resulting in better budgeting and capital planning practices.



Economic development initiatives have long been a key priority for the Board of Selectmen, and culminated with the Route 6/Route 118 Corridor Study. Within these commercial areas, MassDOT began construction of the redesign of four intersections. The Board remains committed to advocating for businesses located at these intersections and supports continuing commerce despite the construction work.

Despite Mr. Christopher Carreiro's decision not to seek reelection for a fourth term on the Board, we continued and realized many key policy goals that he championed, including approving and establishing sewer infrastructure, building new town offices to join the departments in the Town Hall and Annex together, reviewing and marketing commercial properties along the economic corridors, continue business-friendly programs like expanding epermitting services, and modernize services and public outreach. Many of these goals were long range planning items begun years ago and 2024 saw these come to fruition, most critically the sewer infrastructure and approving construction of municipal offices. We thank Mr. Carreiro for his many years of service and his creative solutions to develop Swansea.

With Mr. Carreiro's departure, Mr. Michael Beaudette was elected to his first term. We welcome Mr. Beaudette, who has identified improving access to waterways and programs benefitting seniors and veterans as focus areas. The Board has continually worked to make it easier to live on a fixed income in Swansea by increasing the abatement

of the Senior Work Off program, making fiscal decisions that continue to leave excess levy capacity, and working to encourage more businesses to choose to locate in Swansea, thereby allowing lower tax rates for those calling Swansea home. Increased outreach and partnerships with veterans groups took place this year as well under the leadership of the Board and Veterans Service Agent Kevin Serpa. This partnership developed into a first-ever 5K to support Veterans Suicide Awareness. We thank all involved in developing, planning and spearheading that event and hope it will be the first of many years!

Collectively, all Town personnel have aimed to increase public outreach and accessibility to government. The community newsletter begun last year now has over 300 subscribers and is a great tool to get important information into the hands of taxpayers. Department heads have been using Swansea Community Network more and more to film short videos to educate voters on bylaws, special projects in the Town, and community events that are taking place. Lastly, department heads are submitting monthly reports about ongoing matters and monthly activity in their department, enhancing collaboration across all disciplines of the Town.

The administrative team continued efforts to ensure cyber security for the Town's systems. In 2024, Mr. Hansen and Ms. Aronstein partnered with Bridgewater State University to perform a cyber security assessment and identify vulnerabilities in our systems. The assessment provided a variety of recommendations which will be implemented in the new year. With help from Senator Rodrigues' office, this program was no cost to the Town of Swansea.

The Medeiros Farm Recreational Complex was a primary focus this year as we continued to develop the parcel. The Town utilized state funds to perform grading and drainage and purchase materials for the creation of a disc golf course. The Town graded and paved a parking area and roadway for access to the property, purchased a pavilion to be installed by our personnel, and developed signage. Our Highway Department personnel were instrumental in keeping costs down and stretching this funding to accommodate all that needed to be completed. Eight acres will be leased to the local youth soccer league upon our finalization of an approved conservation restriction. As there are a few abutting parcels to the property under Town ownership, we anticipate expanding recreational offerings to realize the Medeiros Farm Site Plan

which was informed in large part by public engagement and input. We thank the staff for all their efforts and for continuing to create this space with virtually no tax impact.

We successfully passed two new policies that are specifically focused on maintaining Swansea as a competitive and desirable employer. These include a Tuition Reimbursement Policy and a Work From Home Program. These policies prescribe specific conditions for employees to realize benefits that are commonplace in the private sector. This allows Swansea to not only attract top-level talent but to also retain employees. A high retention and recruitment rate builds a strong organization and supports Swansea's strong footing in the South Coast as a top community.

Swansea is reliant upon its staff and volunteers. The Board thanks Ms. Jessica White, Ms. Melissa Heilborn and Mr. John Hansen, for their distinguished work in serving the residents and businesses in Town. The Board also recognizes the dedicated service of Ms. Mallory Aronstein as Town Administrator implementing our established priorities and policy goals throughout this year, addressing the Town's capital infrastructure needs, and operating under sound fiscal practices in all ways. Lastly, the Board thanks all elected officials, department heads, volunteers, and all of those who have supported the Town of Swansea and for whom the Town's success is greatly attributed.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mr. Robert C. Medeiros, Chairman
Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, Vice Chairman
Mr. Michael K. Beaudette, Clerk

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SOLID WASTE

In April 2023, the Board of Selectman awarded the solid waste contract for a period of five (5) years with the option to renew for an additional 5-year period to EZ Disposal, LLC of Revere, MA. In July 2024, the contract began its second year and based on performance, EZ Disposal, has been performing at a much better rate than prior contractors. Costs related to the program considerably increased in FY2023. Based on the contract, in FY2025, EZ disposal requested an increase of 3% bringing the total cost of the program to \$2,210,332. Costs include \$976,076 for weekly trash pickup and disposal. Recycling, yard waste and administrative costs accounted for \$1,200,143. There were 6,145 participants in the program ending December 2024. 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 for FY2025 remained at \$210.00, with the cost of bags set at \$3.00/each for the 30-gallon large bags and \$1.75/each for the smaller 15-gallon bags. Trash bags and bulky item green tags (\$35 each) 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 \$35.00) 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 EZ Disposal. The resident must call the Town's vendor (EZ Disposal) at (781) 233-2211 to schedule a pickup.

In FY2024, the following quantities of bulky items, electronics, and white goods were disposed.

- Bulky items – 535 items
- Electronics – 72 items
- White Goods – 109 items

In November 2022, the State of Massachusetts placed a ban on mattress disposal across the Commonwealth. The Town of Swansea set up a mattress collection pod at the Highway Facility for recycling of

mattresses. Mattresses are collected every Wednesday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. Clean recyclable mattresses are accepted at \$30 per unit and non-recyclable mattresses are accepted at \$50 per unit. In FY2024, the town collected 271 mattresses for recycling.

Yard waste is collected for eight months (35 weeks) from the second week in April to the first week in December.

The actual tonnage figures for collection in Calendar year 2024 were:

- Yard Waste 979.70 tons
- Solid Waste 3,275.5 tons
- Recycling 1,805.5 tons

During the Christmas season of 2024, the pickup of Christmas trees was continued as in years past, over a two-week period beginning the first week in January 2025.

For informational purposes for 2024, there are approximately 6,145 residents currently using the solid waste program. The yearly solid waste fee of \$210 covers recycling and yard waste costs. The PAYT bag program pays for yearly trash costs. In FY2024, the Town sold 194,390 large bags and 137,200 small bags. The solid waste fee is billed bi-annually (September and March) to participants. By ordinance, participants have one (1) month to request an abatement (if necessary) after receiving the bill for services. An approximate breakdown of current solid waste related costs is as follows:

- Curbside trash collection cost was \$8.34 per month per household, or \$100.06 per year
- Trash disposal was based on \$103.00 per ton at 3,500 tons annually (Average \$59 per household per year, distributed evenly)
- Curbside Recycling collection cost was \$6.94 per month per household, or \$83 per year
- Recycling disposal cost is \$120 per ton per month at 1,850 tons annually (Average is about \$36 per household per year, distributed evenly)
- Yard waste collection and disposal was \$1.83 per week (35 weeks) or \$64 per year per household.
- Total approximate solid waste cost per household per year = \$342.00 (assumes evenly distributed trash quantities and does not include administration costs)

The Town still is experiencing contamination within the recyclable loads. 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 or refer to the town website under the Highway Department Page.

We did not have a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event in FY2024. Our next HHW event at the Junior High will be April 19, 2025.

We thank you the residents of Swansea for your participation and support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Swansea Solid Waste Committee

Tracy-Jo Anderson

Nuno Jorge

Chief Eric Hajder

Mallory Aronstein

William Anderson

Elizabeth Leonardo

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

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, infrastructure needs, 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 2024, the Town of Swansea paid \$3,545.38 to SRPEDD, based upon an assessment of 20.68 cents per capita. SRPEDD’s annual budget in 2024 was \$6,826,432. 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). SRPEDD staff also works with the Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC). In these roles, SRPEDD works with numerous partners to program tens of millions of dollars to directly invest in our region’s infrastructure, safety and emergency preparedness, and community development.

Please visit SRPEDD’s agency website at www.srpedd.org to review our work, read our 2024 Annual Report, and tour recent projects, including: our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); our work to support communities as they comply with the new Section 3A of Chapter 40A; our ongoing Regional Resilience Plan; our Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and diverse Environmental Planning work program; our Regional Transportation Plan; our Complete Streets and Multi-Use Path transportation projects;

our Safe Streets For All (SS4A) Action Plan; our work with SRAC; our work with school districts and public safety officials to create Active Shooter/Hostile Event (ASHE) Response Tools; our collaboration with communities to update Priority Development Area (PDA) and Priority Protection Area (PPA) designations; and various municipal projects, such as Redevelopment Studies, Business and Marketing Guides, Community Master Plans, and Open Space and Recreation Plans. Our website also includes departmental web pages, staff profiles, 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 and Scott Olobri on the Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG).

In 2024, SRPEDD provided technical assistance to Swansea in the following areas; please note that funding sources and project web pages are provided, where available:

- Wastewater District Assistance
Route 103 Corridor Plan
- Route 6 Economic and Community Development Plan.
- Traffic Counts completed in town. (details available by request)
- Turning Movement Counts completed in town. (details available by request)
- Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan and Housing Production Plan

Highlights from SRPEDD's 2024 General Work Program include the following:

- Arts and Culture Community Development Initiative
- Assawompset Ponds Watershed Plan Priority Action Implementation
- Brownfields Community Wide Assessment Grant
- Bus Stop Capital Investment Plan
- Bus Stop Inventory Update
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)
- Coastal Resilience Project Planning Support
- District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) and DLTA - Augmentation (project development and grant-writing)
- FFY20 Homeland Security Program and Project Management

- FFY21 Homeland Security Program and Project Management
- FFY22 Homeland Security Program and Project Management
- Freight Action Plan
- Green Communities – Annual Reports and Competitive and Designation Grant Applications
- Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)
- Justice, Equity, and Community Development (JECD) Initiative
- Mass. Assn. of Regional Planning Commissions (MARPA)
- Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) Asset Mapping and Digital Equity Planning Enrollment
- MBTA Multi-Family Zoning Support
- Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) Regional Study
- Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network
- PDA/PPA Update for MBTA Communities
- Regional Evacuation Route Study
- Regional Pedestrian Plan
- Regional Stormwater Management Planning and Technical Assistance
- Rural Community Section 3A Compliance
- Rural Policy Advisory Council
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan
- South Coast Administrators Committee
- South Coast Bikeway Technical Assistance
- Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)
- Southern New England Program (SNEP) Network Technical Assistance Provider
- Taunton River Trail
- Technical Assistance Planning and GIS
- Title VI Program Report
- Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts
- Trails Mapping (Off Road)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Workshop

TREASURER/COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The Treasurer/Collector's Office is pleased to provide the following billing and collection information for the fiscal year 2024. The billing for Real Estate, Personal Property and Trash occurs completely within the fiscal. The 2024 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 2025. 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 2023. The Actual tax bills, due in February and May were also mailed timely, in December, 2023.

Fiscal Year 2024 saw continued increase in the 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

Please see the following chart which shows the taxes that were billed in fiscal year 2024 and the balance outstanding at the end of the fiscal year.

Tax Title receipts for all fiscal years collected in fiscal year 2024 totaled \$838,245.78.

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**

Tax Type	Commitment	Balance
Real Estate	\$39,931,249.39	\$561,658,.27
Personal Prop.	\$1,810,149.60	\$28,577.75
M.V. Excise	\$2,735,376.07	\$227,906.37
Solid Waste	\$1,209,975.00	\$119,798.56

*The information provided is a summary of the amount of tax that was billed in fiscal year 2023 along with the dollars collected, the tax amounts abated and dollars refunded. The amounts listed reflect a cut-off date of June 30, 2023.

VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

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 National VA and Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services. 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 2024 this department conducted frequent phone interviews with resident veterans requiring various services to include assisting with Financial Hardship relief.



Swansea's Department of Veteran Services provides services for 2,420 veterans/dependents and spouses resulting in Federal revenue in excess of 6,242,132.28 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



August 2, 2024
Rain Date:
August 9, 2024

Town of Swansea
Presents:

Purple Heart Day
A tribute event to Our Nation's Combat Wounded

3rd ANNUAL
SOFTBALL GAME
SWANSEA POLICE
VS.
SWANSEA FIRE

Swansea Memorial Park Veteran's Field
347 GAR Highway
First Pitch @ 5:45 PM

Honoring the men and women who fought for the country
and are of the military order of the Purple Heart.



**THE BEAUTIFUL COVER IMAGE OF THIS TOWN
REPORT WAS CREATED WITH THE ARTISTIC
COLLABORATION OF:**

- **Melinda Pimentel**, Advisor, Case Jr. High School Visual Art Teacher and Photography Club Advisor
- **Kelsea Levasseur-King**, Grade 6 Student

Their collective creativity and dedication helped bring this project to life.
A heartfelt thank you to them for their contribution!

