

**ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OF DALTON
MASSACHUSETTS
FOR 2004**

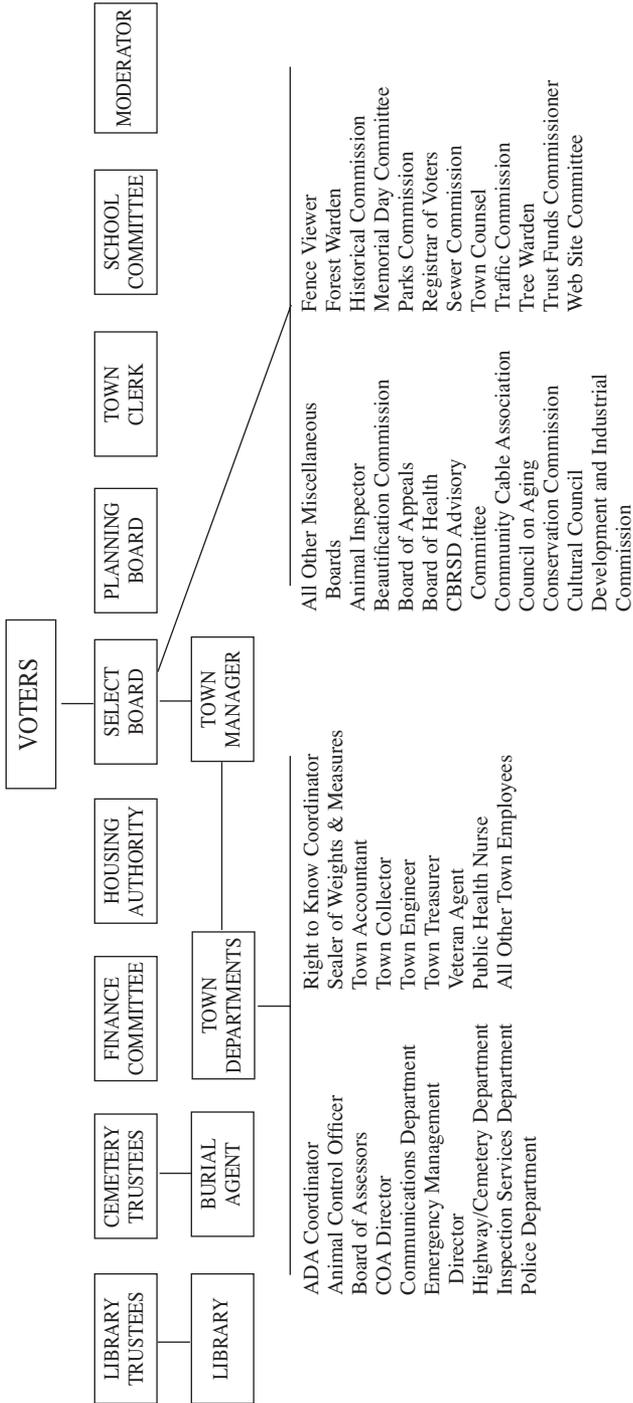
Population 2004 Census	7,017
Number of Registered Voters	4,494
Area	21.83 Sq. Miles
Latitude	42°-30"
Longitude	73°-10"
Miles of State Road	6.75
Miles of Town Road	44
Tax Rate (Town)	\$17.64
Tax Rate (Fire District)	\$.51
Total Tax Assessed (Town—including Personal Property)	\$7,887,043
Total Tax Assessed (Fire District)	\$228,027
Total Valuation	\$447,111,318
'05 Town Meeting	May 2, 2005 (7:00 pm)
'05 Town Election	May 9, 2005 (10:00 am-8:00 pm)
'06 Town Meeting	May 1, 2006 (7:00 pm)
'06 Town Election	May 8, 2006 (10:00 am-8:00 pm)

**Please bring this report with you to the Annual Town Meeting May 2, 2005.
Please note time change to 7:00 for all Town Meetings.**

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TOWN OF DALTON ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Select Board
 (Term 3 Years)
 William E. Chabot, Chair 2007
 Lawrence A. Gingras 2006
 Timothy F. Kirby 2005
 Russell B. Sears 2007
 Thomas S. Szczepaniak 2005

Town Clerk
 (Term 3 Years)
 Barbara L. Suriner 2006

Moderator
 (Term 1 Year)
 Ronald J. Marcella, Sr. 2005

Dalton Housing Authority
 (Term 5 Years)
 Kathleen Burke, Chair 2006
 Florence E. Catelotti 2007
 Helen F. McGarry 2005
 Patricia A. Stottle 2008
 Robin P. Higgins (State Appointed)

Cemetery Trustees
 (Term 3 Years)
 Marjorie E. O’Keefe, Chair. 2005
 H. Edwin Cady 2007
 John P. Cooney 2006

Library Trustees
 (Term 3 Years)
 John Kittredge, Chair 2007
 Patricia M. Becker 2005
 Vacancy 2006
 Joan M. Roy 2006
 Judith L. Douville 2006
 Raymond W. Fischer 2005
 Robin A. Higgins. 2007
 Kelly B. Marshall 2007
 Thomas L. Sedgwick. 2005

Planning Board
 (Term 5 Years)
 Richard F. Ladd, Chair 2006
 Thomas A. Burgner 2007
 Edward M. Gero 2005
 Louisa M. Horth 2008
 Russell B. Sears 2009

Finance Committee
 (Term 3 Years)
 Henry H. Williams III, Chair . . . 2005
 George H. Bissell 2005
 Christine A. Derby 2007
 William A. Drosehn III 2007
 David E. Fairfield 2006
 J. Michael Hoffman (Apt 2005) . . 2007
 Ronald W. Rice 2005
 Domenico Suppappola 2006
 Vacancy 2006

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

(Serving as of December 31, 2004, for one year unless stated otherwise)

Town Manager
 Kenneth E. Walto (2007)

Administrative Assistant
 Deborah J. Merry

Town Accountant
 Sandra J. Albano (2007)

Town Collector
 Jane A. Carman

Town Treasurer
 Sharon M. Messenger

Acting Police Chief
 Lawrence R. Higgins

Board of Assessors
 Frances M. Broderick, Chair.
 Michael J. Britton
 Vacancy

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS continued

Board of Health

Richard J. O'Brien, Chair.
Cora E. Cooney
Daniel M. Doyle
George A. Finn III
Edward F. Gero

**Building Inspector/
Zoning Enforcement Officer**

Richard G. Haupt
Jerry A. Sargent, Alternate
Lawrence R. Higgins, Alt. ZEO

Inspector of Wiring

John M. Broderick
Ronald A. Smith, Alternate
Brian M. Smith, Substitute Asst.

Inspector of Plumbing

Stanley A. Greenleaf
Richard A. DeGiorgis, Assistant

Council on Aging Director

Susan P. Jacobs

Librarian

Doris J. Lamica

Director of Communications

Michael J. Norton

**Superintendent of Streets
Sewers, Cemeteries & Parks**

James R. Galliher (2006)

Animal Control Officer

Michael L. McClay

Board of Health Agent

Edward M. Fahey

Veterans Agent

Daniel K. Casey

Burial Agent

H. Edwin Cady
Lawrence R. Higgins, Alternate

Town Counsel

Kopelman & Paige, P.C.

Constables

George W. Adams III
John W. Bartels, Jr.
Lawrence R. Higgins
John M. Marley
Kevin L. Miller
Richard A. Nicholas, Jr.
John L. Thibodeau

Police Matron

Vacancy

Park Commission

Select Board

Sewer Commission

Select Board

**Community Development Plan
Steering Committee**

William E. Chabot, Chair
Richard F. Ladd
Anthony P. Doyle
Susan Gregory
Robert W. Bishop, Jr.
Robin A. Higgins
Vacancy

Forest Warden

Hubert T. White

Tree Warden

Peter B. Bacon

Traffic Commission

Patrick C. Phelps, Chair.
Lawrence R. Higgins
Richard F. Kaley
Carol A. Sears
Edmund Strzepa
Hubert T. White
Christopher F. Cachat, Designee

Sealer of Weights & Measures

Paul K. Vacchina

Regional Transit Authority

Timothy F. Kirby

Regional Planning Commission

Richard F. Ladd
Thomas A. Burgner, Alternate

Emergency Management Director

Kenneth E. Walto

Emergency Management Coordinator

Edward M. Fahey

Dalton Cable Advisory Comm.

Dorothy W. Chapman
Isaac Crawford, Jr.
Thomas D. Fenn
John W. Ostresh
Vacancy

**Central Berkshire 7-Town
Municipal Advisory Committee**

Henry H. Williams III
Thomas S. Szczepaniak

ADA Committee

Mary E. Lamke, Acting Chair
Nancy E. Persson
3 Vacancies

**Housatonic River Restoration
Gov. Council Representative**

Vacancy

Berkshire Retirement Advisory Board

Sharon M. Messenger

Fence Viewer

Vacancy

Memorial Day Committee

James J. McClure, Sr., Chair.
Daniel K. Casey
John H. Ellis
George D. White
5 Vacancies

Waste Management Commission

Peter Cachat
Edward F. Gero
3 Vacancies

Inspector of Animals

Michael L. McClay

Right to Know Coordinator

James L. Noel

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

James L. Noel

Web Site Committee (2 Years)

Denis E. Guyer, Chair (2005)
William E. Chabot (2005)
Robert J. Fox (2005)
Louise H. Frankenberg (2005)
Timothy G. Kiely (2006)
Frank W. McDonald (2005)
Kenneth E. Walto (2005)

Designer Selection Committee

Kenneth E. Walto, Chair
Judith M. Brooks
Lawrence A. Gingras
Robin A. Higgins
Susan P. Jacobs
Doris J. Lamica
Augustus J. Schnopp, Jr.
Mary Ellen D. Shea
Vacancy

Commissioner of Trust Funds	Term
(3 Years)	Expires
Ralph R. Johnson, Jr., Chair.	2005
Joseph S. Haddad	2006
Ronald J. Marcella, Sr.	2007

Conservation Commission	Term
(3 Years)	Expires
Robert W. Bishop, Jr., Chair.	2007
Thomas W. Baker	2007
James S. Duffy	2006
Katherine W. Garcia	2006
Edward F. Gero	2005
Christine A. Holmes	2006
William E. Thompson	2005

Board of Registrars (3 Years)	Term Expires
Elizabeth A. Erb, Chair.	2007
Doreen P. Aleshevich	2006
Judith M. Ladd	2005
Barbara L. Suriner	2006

Mobile Home Park Rent

Control Board (5 Years)	
William E. Chabot, Chair.	2007
Lawrence A. Gingras	2006
Timothy F. Kirby	2005
Thomas S. Szczepaniak	2005
Russell B. Sears	2007

Board of Appeals

(3 Years; Alternate, 1 Year)	
Anthony P. Doyle, Chair.	2007
Robert L. Betit	2005
Edward F. Gero, Alt.	2005
Mary E. Lamke, Alt.	2005
Stephen J. Psutka	2006

**Dalton Development/
Industrial Commission (5 Years)**

Kenneth E. Walto, Chair	2009
Robert M. Alessio	2006
Denis E. Guyer	2008
Charles J. Dooley	2009
Michael J. Ferry	2006
Timothy G. Kiely	2007
Augustus J. Schnopp, Jr.	2007
Stephen A. Sears	2006
William A. Suriner	2005
William R. Wilson, Jr.	2005

**Dalton Development/
Review Committee**

William E. Chabot	2005
Annamarie Chicchetti	2005
Louisa M. Horth	2005
Gail A. Pinna	2005
William A. Suriner	2005
Kenneth E. Walto	2005

Parking Clerk

Kevin J. Bolduc	2006
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Dalton Historical Commission	Term Expires
Mary Ellen Shea, Chair.	2007
Janet E. Barton	2005
Louisa M. Horth	2006
Coralie M. Ingraham	2005
Gail A. Pinna	2006
Mary A. Walsh	2005
George D. White	2005

Dalton Cultural Council
(3 Years)

Margaret G. Plumer	2006
Kathleen A. Desmarais	2006
James J. Ethier	2007
Michele N. Furlong	2007
Marjorie E. Limburg	2005
Monica J. Montferret	2006
Deborah J. Parkington	2005
Donald E. Harris, Jr.	2005
Joan M. Roy	2006
Vacancy	2005

Council on Aging (3 Years)

Anthony P. Doyle, Chair.	2006
Persis B. Caverly	2005
Marcia J. Brophy	2007
Dana A. Becker	2007
Judith M. Brooks	2005
Cora E. Cooney	2005
Sarah J. Frankland	2007
Helga C. Knappe	2006
Joyce F. Lacatell	2007
Marjorie M. Lillpopp	2007
Richard A. Murphy	2005
Richard A. Nicholas	2006
David R. Powell	2006
Naomi K. Rauff	2005
Brian W. Staubach	2006

Dalton Beautification Commission

Annamarie Cicchetti, Chair	2007
Mary Jane Caliento	2005
Dorothy W. Chapman	2007
Allison B. Crane	2006
Doris E. Painter	2005
Deborah D. Smith	2005
Gary Turetsky	2006

SELECT BOARD

William Chabot, Chairman

As in the previous year, FY2004 presented Dalton and the Select Board with a host of challenges. As a result of continued reductions in state aid, our biggest challenge has been the struggle to maintain adequate town services while at the same time controlling the growth in the tax rate. With the assistance and cooperation of our employees and the many civic-minded individuals who staff our various boards and commissions, I believe that we are successfully addressing this challenge.

Our other major challenge is to continue to move forward on necessary infrastructure improvements. Engineering required for the redesign and reconstruction of both South and Housatonic streets continues to make progress and we anticipate that the state will move forward with both of these projects in the very near future. In addition, we continue to advance our plans for the construction of a new Town Library and a Senior Center for our community. The voters of Dalton have expressed a desire to use the site of the former Dalton High School for this project and to reuse the original portion of the high school for the Senior Center. The Library/Senior Center Designer Select Committee has completed preliminary plans for the library and a grant application has been submitted to the state for financial assistance in the cost of construction. If we are successful in bringing these two projects to completion, we believe they will be the first major town facilities, other than schools, since the construction of the current town hall in 1893.

As in the past, addressing all of these challenges and concerns would not have been possible without the support of the other members of the Select Board. I would like to express my gratitude to Lawrence A. Gingras, Timothy F. Kirby, Thomas S. Sczcepaniack and Russell B. Sears for their assistance and cooperation. I would also like to express a special thanks to former board member Denis E. Guyer for his service to this board and for his initiative in establishing a Dalton Web Site Committee. We now have an official Town site (dalton-ma.gov) that will continue to be expanded and updated as necessary.

A special thanks to our Town Manager Ken Walto. Ken has been doing a great job of guiding us through the budget minefield of the last couple of years and of keeping the various capital improvement programs moving in a positive direction despite the financial challenges imposed by decreased state aid. Projects such as the Community Development façade improvements, contract development and negotiations, and the responsibility for the pursuit of new business as the Chairman of the Development and Industrial Commission are but a few of the many day-to-day operations required to run our town smoothly that Ken has done very effectively. Special thanks also to our administrative assistant Debby Merry for her continued cheerful support and to assistant clerk Dawn Fahey for her help in relieving the pressures of an ever-increasing administrative workload.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Select Board, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our faithful town employees for their day-to-day efforts that are so necessary for the smooth operation of the town's government. And, of course, our sincere appreciation to all the many elected and appointed individuals who have given of their time and talent to staff our various boards and com-



*Select Board members Timothy Kirby, Thomas Szczepaniack,
Chairman William E. Chobot, Russell Sears, Lawrence Gingras*

missions. The quality of life for the people of Dalton would be considerably diminished if it were not for their service and commitment. As a final thought, please consider joining us in service to one of our many boards and commissions. You can make a difference and you will find it a rewarding life experience.

INDUSTRY

In the beginnings of the Ashuelot Equivalent 'community,' which started at the base of Washington Mountain Road, there was lumbering, trapping and farming. Pittsfield had been incorporated in 1761, and provided a market and a source of sustenance to the growing settlement. There is a limited source of waterpower in this area, but not like the great Housatonic.

The early settlers were investors and risk-takers from Hatfield, Hadley, Westfield and elsewhere along the Connecticut River valley. The French and Indian Wars were over, and the Indians were now a minimal threat in the county. Many of the settlers were 'of private means,' or otherwise had been 'favoured' by the Crown. These 'newcomers' were loyal Tories. Soon, a different line of settlers arrived. They were a fiercely independent and freedom-loving people in a western provincial frontier. They despised the remoteness and power of those easterners in Boston. Their independence and potency became evident during the Shays' Rebellion in 1786. Their spirit would live on (to this day).

Excerpt from "The Dalton Papers" by R.W. Fischer

TOWN MANAGER

Kenneth E. Walto

The past year saw significant progress being made on the library/senior center project. Eleven sites were considered and four studied in depth. The site of the former Dalton High School was the most viable location. At any of the four primary sites, the 40,000 square foot project was estimated to cost about \$10,000,000. A draft feasibility study was presented to the town in March.

There was clear sentiment to save the high school among those attending the meeting. That option constructs a new library and renovates the First Street wing of the school for the Senior Center and other offices. The Glennon Avenue wing would be demolished for parking. Since renovations will add about 10% more to the project's cost, the Select Board decided to put the question to a vote of the town. At the Annual Election in May, the town voted to save the school. That vote was advisory. The Select Board subsequently voted to proceed with renovations after the feasibility study was completed in September.

Also in March, the town approved borrowing \$700,000 to proceed with final design. At a Special Town Meeting in June, the town formally voted to accept the feasibility study and authorize the Library Trustees to apply for grants to fund the project. The feasibility study contract with Hill Architects was amended to proceed with a "schematic design" in order to apply to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a construction grant. That application, with the additional design work, was nearly complete by the end of the year. Submission of the grant application was scheduled for February of 2005.

2004 was also a year of continuing fiscal difficulty. The budget adopted by the town in May forecast a drop of 1.6 % (\$64,780) in Revenues against a projected 7.1% increase (\$738,075) in Operating Expenses. The decline in revenues was largely due to a drop in state aid of \$71,377 (6.2%). Despite holding the town's operating departments to a 2% increase, there were large unavoidable cost increases for such items as Insurance, Retirement, and Vocational Education. Total town Operating Expenses increased by \$313,126 or 6.7%. The School District expenses were up 7.5%, a \$424,949 increase.

The town managed to stay under its Proposition 2½ levy limit by utilizing a total of \$1.7 million in reserves, free cash and other state reimbursements. Nonetheless, the budget required a tax rate increase of 70 cents. The average homeowner saw a tax increase of 9.7% or \$250 per year. The budget left the town only \$105,600 under its tax levy limit. It seems likely that the coming fiscal year will require either a vote to override the tax levy limit or cuts in services.

The Select Board adopted a \$20,932,000 five-year capital plan in June for Police, Parks/Cemeteries, Highway/Sewers and General Government capital expenses. Approximately sixty percent of the twenty million of projected expenses is expected to come from state and federal sources for the reconstruction of Housatonic and South Streets, the library/senior center project, and the creation of an industrial park.

In June, the town approved funding for the current year of the Capital Plan; \$138,600 of five-year debt and \$35,800 in reserve funds was authorized and appropriated. This was a significant reduction from the prior year due to budgetary constraints. All funding for the town's share of the Capital Budget is de-

rived from reserves so as not to impact the tax rate.

The plans to reconstruct Housatonic and South streets are approaching completion. The MassHighway Department held a “25% design stage hearing” on Housatonic Street in May after having held a similar hearing for South Street the previous year. It is expected that the South Street project will be underway in 2007.

In other significant efforts, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continued its planning assistance to the town with special efforts on behalf of economic development and storm water management projects; a test web site was on the internet thanks to the efforts of the Web Site Committee and volunteer Webmaster Louise Frankenberg; and Health Agent, Ed Fahey assumed new responsibility as Emergency Management Coordinator.

The town and school district completed a first full year of the COPS in Schools program. Through the superior efforts of recently retired Police Chief Dan Filiault, the town was awarded a \$250,000 Federal Grant for the program. Two police officers were hired to replace two who have been placed full time at Nessacus Middle School and Wahconah High School. Dan retired in September 2004 and will be missed as both friend and colleague.

I thank the town’s employees whose continued dedication and cooperation is evident in the smoothly functioning municipal government. Likewise, I thank the volunteers on the town’s many boards and commissions who labor without compensation for love of the community.

I want to especially thank the Select Board for its continued support. The Town Manager form of government cannot work well without the close and continuing collaboration of the Select Board and Town Manager. I also thank the Select Board/Town Manager secretarial staff who continually perform “above and beyond the call of duty.” I have heard it said that competent secretaries really run the world. That is no less true of our town government.

DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Kenneth E. Walto, Chairman

The Dalton Development and Industrial Commission is the town’s economic development agency. The commission was organized following a recommendation of the 2001 Master Plan, and was “accepted” by the town at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting. By law, the commission’s mission is to “promote and develop the industrial resources of the town” and to “investigate and assist in the establishment of educational or commercial projects for the purpose of strengthening the local economy.”

Two Thousand and Four was the second full year of operation for the commission. During its second year, the commission participated in several significant economic development ventures:

Work continued on the creation of an Industrial Park. Of the eight sites originally outlined in the Dalton Business Development Plan, two are actively being considered. SK Design was retained by the town to do a preliminary design for the sites. Both lie between South Street and Hubbard Avenue on undeveloped land. In June, SK Design completed the first study for land just south of the railroad line. The approximately 40-acre parcel would cost \$767,372 to develop

excluding land acquisition. It could be subdivided in up to nine lots of varying sizes. That site, however, is hampered by poor access onto either Hubbard Avenue or South Street. Continued investigation of that site has been put on hold while the second site study progresses. The second site lies just to the north of the rail line. Some of the land lies in the City of Pittsfield and could be developed as a joint project with the city. Once completed the commission must determine which site has the greatest development potential. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will work with the town to prepare a funding strategy for one of the two sites.

The commission participated in the regional planning effort to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, CEDS. Completion of the CEDS is a prerequisite for funding from the Federal Economic Development Administration. The CEDS committee met over several months to develop a regional economic development strategy and a set of priority projects. The Dalton Business Park was listed among the top ten projects.

Pre-construction activities continued for implementation of the downtown building façade and sign improvement project. The project is being funded by the state through a \$250,000 Federal Community Development Block Grant. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission had prepared the grant application on behalf of the town and the town subsequently retained the commission to administer the project. Funding applications were solicited, and nineteen were received. Thus far, nine projects have been approved for \$195,000: Union Block, Post Office, Juice N Java Building, Old Dalton Garage, West Automotive, Jacobs, Center Block, Dalton General Store and, Kelly's. Blue Line Design, a Great Barrington architectural firm, was hired to prepare designs and bid specification and to oversee the construction. As the year ended, grant awards were being made and legal documents finalized. Project bidding and construction will commence in the spring of 2005.

In May the commission conducted a Forum for Town Employers at the Wahconah Country Club with the assistance and sponsorship of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce. Consultant Matthew Kerwood planned the event with the chamber. Approximately 60 participants representing 40 business and other community organizations attended the breakfast meeting. The meeting included presentations about development financing opportunities. The attendees also divided into seven groups to consider and report on priority economic development issues: Zoning, Infrastructure, Taxes, Education, Health Care, Utility Costs and Workforce Concerns.

I thank the commission members for their gift of time to the town. Their selfless efforts will help to ensure the economic health of the community for years to come.

Members of the Commission: Robert M. Alessio, Bryan E. Boeskin (resigned), Charles J. Dooley, Vice-Chair, Michael J. Ferry, Denis E. Guyer (resigned), Timothy Kiley, Robert A. Proskin, Stephen A. Sears, Augustus J. Schnopp, Jr., William A. Suriner, Kenneth E. Walto, Chairman, William R. Wilson, Jr.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER & STATE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Michael McClay

My position as the Dalton Animal Control Officer and State Animal Inspector started in August 2004. Within the last six months there have been many dog/cat issues. Many owners had failed to restrain and license their dogs. There were also many violations regarding pet owners not vaccinating their cats and dogs with the rabies vaccine, which is required by law. Cats were the number 3 carrier of rabies in Massachusetts last year. As a reminder to all pet owners, please do not allow your animal(s) to defecate on public or private property. This offense can carry a fine of up to \$300.00.

I have assisted many pet owners with questions that they had about the care and well-being of their animals. I am also available to help with any wildlife issues or problems that occur. Do not feed or approach any wildlife, as they may become aggressive or carry disease. If you see a sick or injured animal, please call the Dalton Animal Control Office or Police Department.

Please remember that dog licenses are due on January 1, 2005. Late notices will be mailed after April 1, 2005, and there is a \$10.00 late fee, plus a \$25.00 fine for failure to license.

If any town resident has questions or problems, my business hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I am on call for any emergencies. My direct phone number is 413/684-6111, ext. 28.

I look forward to assisting Dalton Town residents with any pet owner questions or problems.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Anthony Doyle, Chairman

The Dalton Board of Appeals (also know as Zoning Board of Appeals) is created by authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A section 12. Board members are not elected; they are appointed by the Select Board for three year terms. The terms are staggered so that the term of one member shall expire each year. Alternate members are appointed annually to a one-year term.

Dalton has a three member board which requires that all favorable decisions be unanimous; otherwise, they are considered denied. In addition to the three regular members, Dalton has two alternate members who will sit on the board in place of a regular member who may be absent or has a conflict of interest with a case before the board.

Current members are:

Anthony P. Doyle	Chairman
Stephen Psutka	Vice-Chairman
Robert Betit	Clerk
Edward Gero	Alternate
Mary Lamke	Alternate

The recording secretary is Bonnie Callaghan.

By statutory authority the board is:

To hear and decide appeals based on inability to obtain a permit or enforcement action from any administrative officer under the provision of MGLA Chapter 40A, by the regional planning agency, or by any person including an officer or board of the town aggrieved by an order or decision of the Inspector of Buildings, or other administrative official.

To hear and decide applications for special permits upon which the board is empowered to act under the by-laws.

To hear and decide petitions for variances as set forth in MGLA Chapter 40A, Section 10.

To hear and decide appeals from decisions of a zoning administrator, in accordance with MGLA Chapter 40A, Section 13.

During the 2004 calendar year the board held nine public hearings. Eight were hearings for special permits and one was a hearing for a variance.

This year saw the departure of longtime board member, Dennis Smith, who transferred out of the area for work purposes. Mary Lamke has been appointed to the board to fill a vacancy after Stephen Psutka was appointed to serve the balance of Dennis Smith's term.

The board generally meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Occasionally a special meeting is held to accommodate scheduling problems. Notice of all board meetings are posted in the town hall. All meetings are open to the public.

DALTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Fran Broderick, Chairperson

The Dalton Board of Assessors as mandated by the State Department of Revenue continues to do yearly interim adjustments to value. These interim adjustments continue to increase values of properties based on the increasing market that predicates these values. We continue to see market prices of homes exceed our assessed values. Values increased from \$428,341,054 for FY'04 to \$447,111,318 for FY'05. However, this year with value increase we saw a tax rate increase of \$.70 for the town for a rate of \$17.64. This caused an increase of approximately \$250 to the average single family home with a value of \$160,350. The Fire District saw a decrease in their rate of \$.03 to \$.54.

Building permits for 2004 saw an additional thirty-one (31) permits for the single family condominium units at Silver Maple Farm, which was the Burgner property. Of the total permits taken out for this project, which will see a total of fifty-nine (59) units, to date twenty-eight (28) are at 100% completion. This project continues to be the sole area of new growth for the town.

The town knows the importance of exploring avenues of development such as an industrial park that would create extremely needed new growth and take the burden off taxpayers because of ever-increasing costs of school and town services.

I would like to thank all members of the Board of Assessors and our clerk Mary Blake for their excellent service to the town.

Frances M. Broderick, M.A.A., Chairperson
Michael J. Britton, M.A.A., R.M.A.
Mary D. Blake, Assessor/Clerk

Statistical Report for the year as follows:

Tax Levy Calculation	Fiscal 2004	Fiscal 2005
Total Amount to be Raised	\$ 11,309,974.87	\$ 12,776,119.89
Total Estimated Receipts and other Revenue Sources	\$ 4,053,877.42	\$ 4,889,076.24
Net Amount to be Raised by Taxes	\$ 7,256,097.45	\$ 7,887,043.65
Assessed Value of Real Estate	\$ 428,341,054.00	\$ 447,111,318.00

Fiscal	Town Tax Rate	Fire District Tax Rate	Valuations	Taxes to be Raised
2005	\$ 17.64	\$ 0.51	\$ 447,111,318.00	\$ 7,887,043.65
2004	\$ 16.94	\$ 0.54	\$ 428,341,054.00	\$ 7,256,097.45
2003	\$ 17.57	\$ 0.60	\$ 384,121,172.00	\$ 6,749,008.99
2002	\$ 18.16	\$ 0.64	\$ 360,849,818.00	\$ 6,553,032.70
2001	\$ 17.74	\$ 0.56	\$ 358,244,578.00	\$ 6,355,258.81
2000	\$ 16.24	\$ 0.58	\$ 338,639,571.00	\$ 6,251,286.48
1999	\$ 18.15	\$ 0.59	\$ 330,873,816.00	\$ 6,005,359.76

Number Assessed on Personal Estate	283
Number Parcels Assessed on Real Estate	2,620
Number Assessed on Farm Animal Excise	1
Number of Acres Land	13,971

Number of Dwellings (Family) Units

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	Condo	24	Total
2004	1,998	183	25	23	2	4	1	64	1	2,301
2003	1,994	187	28	23	2	4	1	50	1	2,290
2002	1,986	187	28	23	2	4	1	50	1	2,282
2001	1,982	186	27	23	2	4	1	50	1	2,276
2000	1,975	187	27	23	2	4	1	50	1	2,270
1999	1,960	189	26	22	4	2	1	50	1	2,254
1998	1,954	189	26	22	4	2	1	50	1	2,249

Number 1 includes 36 Mobile Homes

Motor Vehicle Excise

Year	No of Vehicles	Value	Abatements	Excise
2004	7,427	\$ 34,981,850	\$ 20,497.55	\$ 759,097.92
2003	7,420	\$ 33,507,400	\$ 24,784.26	\$ 723,845.67
2002	7,180	\$ 29,122,450	\$ 17,573.91	\$ 660,850.59
2001	7,081	\$ 29,473,097	\$ 20,036.11	\$ 642,023.62
2000	7,006	\$ 28,781,900	\$ 22,552.21	\$ 623,432.40
1999	6,971	\$ 26,055,750	\$ 21,089.43	\$ 572,638.10
1998	6,846	\$ 24,579,500	\$ 17,173.41	\$ 537,132.92

Exemptions

Fiscal Year	No. Granted	Total
2004	79	\$ 27,600.00
2003	93	\$ 36,175.00
2002	104	\$ 35,125.00
2001	98	\$ 33,475.00
2000	105	\$ 34,750.00
1999	104	\$ 36,937.50

Real & Personal Property Abatements

Fiscal Year	Amount Abated		
2004	\$ 30,605.18	2001	\$ 9,468.29
2003	\$ 7,277.49	2000	\$ 3,997.32
2002	\$ 4,751.66	1999	\$ 5,451.35

TOWN MODERATOR

Ronald J. Marcella

Open Annual and Special Town Meetings is the vehicle Dalton uses to operate its business throughout the year. Town meetings are also what New Englanders conduct each year across the region.

I am always amazed at the usually small turnout of voters at our Annual and Special Town Meetings. I am convinced, however, that the small turnout is a symbol of the confidence and respect our voters have in our elected and volunteer town officials and those responsible in preparing the budgets and articles. We are fortunate to have these dedicated and responsible people who give unselfishly of their time and talents, serving on the Select and Finance boards. Many long hours go into the preparation of the budget and articles. We are equally fortunate to have equally dedicated and qualified town department heads and town hall employees in every area who smoothly run the day to day business of the town. Collectively, all these people do an excellent job in funding and operating our town in spite of the shrinking state aid.

Any voter who takes the time and interest to attend a meeting has the opportunity to speak on a subject at least once. I urge voters to do their homework on a subject they wish to speak about, and prepare a statement prior to their speaking to ensure that they give the most informative data and best present their views. Initiators and supporters of major projects or controversial topics arrive with material in support of their presentation to fortify and ensure the item passes as presented. They encourage supportive voters and advocates to attend the meeting. We should all take a lead from this example and go to meetings prepared.

I encourage everyone, and especially those who haven't attended a Town Meeting in a while, to come and exercise your right to vote and partake in the process of real democracy.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Annamarie Cicchetti, Chair

The Beautification Commission's 2004 projects were many and varied efforts that, hopefully, make Dalton an even more attractive community.

The goal of having the MassHighway Department scrape and repaint the Main Street Bridge was realized in the spring. What had been an eyesore of peeling paint and rusting railing is now painted an attractive blue-gray color selected by the DBC. The Main Street Bridge became a new site for plantings. Six hay trough baskets were purchased to hang on the bridge, planted with a variety of annuals: sweet potato vine, dusty miller, white African daisies, supertunias—all contrasting with vibrant, pink “flying colors.” Unfortunately, one of the baskets was stolen.

Flower boxes filled with white impatiens were placed in front of the library windows, bringing light to the library façade and matching the shade garden planted at the library's entrance. Volunteer Mary “Sis” Kaley maintained this site for the DBC throughout the summer months. Additionally, the DBC continues to plant and maintain perennial and annual gardens at the intersections of North and Main, Main and East and Old Windsor Road, as well as the Main and South intersections. Also, the DBC started this year a small perennial display beneath the Wahconah Regional High School sign at the entrance of Old Windsor Road at East Street.

Throughout the year, the DBC has received extraordinary assistance from the Dalton Highway Department replenishing our planting areas with topsoil in the spring and maintaining the area around the WRHS sign. The Dalton Volunteer Fire Department continues to support the DBC's efforts by watering our floral displays over the summer. Burgner's Farm again donated pine bark mulch to lend a finished touch to our plantings, allowing better retention of moisture and providing a nice background to show our colorful flowers in a more vivid display. Additionally, the Holiday Farm this fall donated and delivered a rich compost which will protect our bulbs and provide a good start to our spring/summer plantings in 2005.

The Dalton Beautification Commission's main funding source is a small stipend from the town. However, the commission is most grateful to the Dalton Rotary, which has supplemented the budget with an generous, annual contribution. The DBC was fortunate this year to receive a grant from the Berkshire Garden Club, greatly assisting us in new projects. Also, donations were received from individual town residents.

In response to a request by the DBC, the Select Board expanded the Beautification Commission's membership from five to seven members. The current DBC members are: Mary Jane Caliento, Dorothy Chapman, Chairperson Annmarie Cicchetti, Secretary Allison Crane-Guyer, Doris “Deb” Painter, Deborah Smith and Gary Turetsky.

The DBC looks forward to attracting more community volunteers to expand our efforts at beautification. During the growing season of May through October, the DBC holds a weekly “Weeding Party,” Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! For more information call 684-6111 Ext. 11, or 684-3966.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Members: Elizabeth A. Erb, *Chair*
 Doreen P. Aleshevich
 Judith M. Ladd
 Barbara L. Suriner, *Clerk*

Barbara L. Suriner, *Town Clerk*
Elections Administrator
Supervisor, Board of Registrars

In 2004, we conducted Special Registration Sessions prior to the March 2 Presidential Primary; the May 3 Annual Town Meeting and the May 10 Annual Town Election; the March 22, June 28, and September 27 Special Town Meetings; and prior to the September 14 State Primary and November 2 Presidential/State/School Election. Also, Special Registration Sessions were held by Assistant Registrar Kathryn Sanders at WRHS just prior to graduation and the fall Presidential Election.

The Board registered and processed 850 new voters plus address changes on existing active and inactive voters, checked several thousand signatures for certification on the 3 Initiative Petitions/Public Policy Questions and 29 Nomination Papers in circulation in 2004; and deleted 614 inactive/moved voters. Our computerized program enabled us to complete this arduous task in a timely and efficient manner, transmitting totals to the Secretary of State automatically. Annual Town Election nomination papers, which will place candidates directly on the May 9, 2005, Annual Town Election ballot, will be available February 1 at the Town Clerk's office. The deadline for submission of papers to the Board of Registrars is 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2005, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 53, §.6. A Special Registration Session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on April 12, the last day to register to vote at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting and May 9 Annual Town Election. All registration sessions are held in the office of the Town Clerk. The place of voting will remain at the Community House for both precincts as there is a ramp and parking for the handicapped located at the rear of the building.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that when signing a nomination paper or a petition, please keep the following in mind: 1. Sign only if you are a registered voter. 2. Sign your name and your residential address (no post office boxes are allowed). 3. If you have poor penmanship, print your name in the same box with your signature as an undistinguishable signature cannot be verified. 4. Do not sign your spouse's name or any name other than your own. Also, if you move, please inform the Town Clerk so that we will change our records and notify you of any precinct changes. If any of your family members are not registered to vote, please encourage them to do so.

We are currently online with the Secretary of State, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and all cities and towns in Massachusetts as part of a computerized Central Voter Registry, the first in the nation. Since 1997, we have used VRIS exclusively for both census and voter registration functions. Mail-in voter registration forms are available at the Post Office, the Library, Wahconah Regional High School, the Council on Aging, as well as at the Town Clerk's office.

Frank A. Slowick of 22 Central Avenue, who was born January 19, 1901, continues to hold the distinction of being our oldest living resident.

We thank Dalton residents for their excellent response in returning the local census forms mailed January of each year. The majority of citizens return in a

prompt and cooperative manner which we greatly appreciate, allowing us to achieve the highest possible level of accuracy.

Statistical figures as of December 31, 2004, are as follows:

REGISTERED VOTERS (Active Status)

Democrats	1,334	(29.68%)
Republicans	615	(13.68%)
Libertarian	25	(0.56%)
Green Rainbow	11	(0.25%)
Inter. 3rd Party*	4	(0.09%)
Unenrolled	2,505	(55.7%)

*(Political Designation)

TOTAL ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	4,353
TOTAL INACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	141
TOTAL POPULATION	7,017

BOARD OF HEALTH

Local boards of health in Massachusetts are required by state statutes and regulations to perform many crucial and important duties relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution.

The Dalton Board of Health consists of five volunteer members. Public meetings are held at 4PM on the first Monday of each month at Town Hall. Current members of the board are Chairman Rich O'Brien, Cora Cooney, Ed Gero, Dr. Dan Doyle and Drew Finn. The town also contracts with the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association to provide health services for the residents of Dalton such as flu immunization clinics and screenings.

HEALTH AGENT

Edward Fahey, Agent

The town employs a part-time Health Agent to act on behalf of the Board of Health. Edward Fahey is responsible for enforcing many state and local regulations for the protection of the public health and the environment. A registered sanitarian licensed by the state of Massachusetts, the Health Agent performs housing inspections, reviews designs and issues permits for the construction and repair of septic systems and private wells. Investigating resident complaints and issuing emergency permits for the trapping of beavers and collecting of birds for West Nile Virus testing are also required duties. The agent also acts as the town's designated noise control officer as well as the emergency management director

Dalton has over 40 business, schools, nursing homes and church organizations that require food establishment inspections twice a year to ensure compliance with all state regulations.

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 8-4; TUESDAY 8-4; WEDNESDAY 8-12

If you have a need to contact the Board of Health please call 684-6111, ext. 20.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Cemetery Trustees

To the citizens of the town of Dalton, we respectfully submit the following report for the calendar year 2004.

There were 81 burials in 2004, 42 memorial foundations poured, 8 flush markers installed, and 11 veterans' markers were put into place.

New lots were assigned to the following 19 families:

Joan Szklasz	Harold Linker	Raymond Roche	Katherine DiPietro
Mary Jane White	Martin Cooney	Robert Herrick	Ralph Rood
Thomas Cornellier	Arthur Dietlin	Marquerite Fox	Michael Ryan
James Ward	Charles Blanchard	Brianna DiCarlo	Florence Henry
Harriet Sabin	Ernest Ingraham	William Biggart	

We thank the Highway/Cemetery Department leadership and staff for their outstanding care of the cemetery landscaping and grounds, for their interest and concern in maintaining our cemeteries in fine condition, and Hazel Turner's valuable assistance in burial and memorial planning, and in record keeping.

Special thanks again goes to Bernie Smith, who voluntarily continues to work to beautify our cemetery grounds and plants.

We also thank Tom Szczepaniak of Variety Trucking for his donation of time and equipment to remove snow and ice from gravesites for winter burials.

Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen Massimiano once again appointed a group of workers to assist us with spring grounds cleanup for which we are thankful.

A second bench and sitting area were built at Ashuelot Cemetery which we hope will be useful to folks visiting there.

New shingle roofing was installed on both the office and garage at Main Street Cemetery.

Monthly trustees meeting were held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Main Street Cemetery office. These are public meetings, and we invite attendance by anyone wishing to speak with the trustees there.

We thank the lot holders, families, friends, and citizens for their cooperation in abiding by the rules and regulations posted in the cemeteries. The complete rules and regulations may be seen at the Main St. Cemetery office.

Town designation of new areas for future cemetery use remains a critical issue in the face of continuing development of the land areas in the town which might be suitable and desirable for cemetery use.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Michael J. Norton, Director

The Communications Center answered 17,802 calls during 2004; of these calls, 1,889 were 911 calls.

The Town is switching over to a new 911 system provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before the end of this calendar year.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Richard G. Haupt, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

There has been a considerable amount of construction here in town this past year and also a good bit of planning for new projects in 2005. The total number of permits is much higher than in previous years, as is the total declared value.

Year 2004	Permits Issued: 306	Declared Value: \$10,589,913
The breakdown of permits issued is as follows:		
New Homes		35
Residential additions and remodeling		166
Accessory Buildings		14
Pools		14
Demolitions		6
Commercial additions and renovations		24
Signs		4
Solid Fuel Stoves		27
Fences		14
New Commercial Building		2

It is unfortunate that during periods of increased construction, unqualified contractors have taken advantage of both homeowners and business owners. If you are planning a project, be aware that the Town of Dalton, in concert with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provides the consumer with considerable protection from fraud. It is incumbent upon the consumers to inform themselves of what permits are needed for any given project and what the qualifications are for the contractors doing the work. The Building Inspector, Plumbing Inspector and the Wiring Inspector are all available to answer questions to ensure a code compliant job.

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 8-4
 Wednesday: 8-12
 Thursday: 8-6

SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Paul K. Vacchina

For the period commencing January 1, 2004, and ending December 31, 2004, inclusive, a report of the Sealer of Weights & Measures has been submitted to the state Division of Standards as per law.

Six 5,000 – 10,000 lb scales were sealed; six under 100 lb scales were sealed. Forty gasoline measuring devices were sealed.

Sealing fees were collected in the sum of \$660.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The past year has been a busy one for the Conservation Commission. The principle reason for this is the increased citizen awareness of both the need to protect the environment and of the function of the commission. Because of this awareness, there has been an increase in both the numbers of Requests for Determinations of Applicability and in the number of reports of violations of the Wetland Protection Act. Consequently, there has been an accompanying increase in the number of site inspections carried out.

The commission has been very busy in monitoring the Silver Maple Farm Development. The commission has been working in conjunction with an environmental specialist to ensure that the wetlands around this development are protected. The completed development of this property is expected to be October 2005.

Membership on the Commission has been relatively stable in 2004.

Commission Members

Robert Bishop, Chairman
 Thomas Baker, Vice-Chairman
 James Duffy
 Katherine Garcia
 Edward Gero
 Christine Holmes
 William Thompson

Statistics for 2004

Determinations of Applicability	6
Hearings for Notices of Intent	4
Certificates of Compliance	1
Extension of Orders of Conditions	1
Field Site Inspections	25
Enforcement Orders	4
Request for Determination of Applicability	6

Recording Secretary

Esther Balardini

COUNCIL ON AGING

Susan P. Jacobs, Director

The Council on Aging is pleased to present its 2004 Annual Report to the residents of Dalton. Our department was established at the 1977 Annual Town Meeting, and has been serving our elders and their families for 28 years.

The Council on Aging is a full-time town office, open Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30 at 400 Main Street in the Dalton CRA. With staff members Patricia Pero, Outreach & Wellness Counselor and Administrative Assistant Beverly Benoit, we oversee our many on- and off-site activities in the community. In addition, we provide information on a wide range of programs and services, such as in-home help, transportation, health insurance and medical bills, leisure and volunteer opportunities. Over the past year, we have received over 5,000 requests for information from our over-60 population and their families.

Statistical Overview

Of Dalton's total population of 7017, 20.4% or 1,431 are age 60 and older. During this reporting year, our office provided 16,147 units of direct service to 608 residents over age 60 (47% of these were age 75 and over), and an additional 270 who were under age 60.

Budget

The challenges of continuing our services on reduced town funds were a hurdle to overcome in planning our FY2005 budget. Faced with a 5.4% cut in town funding, we will be dedicating our entire state grant of \$7,040 to staff time (Director: 2.5 hrs/wk; Clerical: 3 hrs/wk; Outreach: 3 hrs/wk). In addition, we will tap into our two revolving accounts to meet the rest of the shortfall. From the Transportation Account, we will be using \$11,291 for driver and clerical salaries, and \$2,000 will come from Program Donations to cover CRA labor for lunch and program set-ups.

From the Director

Attendance at meetings has become a regular part of my job. Meetings are held both locally for such groups as the Friends of the COA, Triad, COA Board, Sunday Lunch Steering Committee, Emergency Management, Hilltown Assoc., Elder Services Advisory Council, Designer Selection Committee and staff meetings (COA and town depts.), as well as out of the area for MCOA (our statewide COA organization) and WMACA (our regional COA group). Participation in these groups helps to keep me updated on current issues (local and statewide), and gives me access to other COA folks who have developed innovative programs to meet community needs similar to ours.

However, like all of the other 351 councils on aging in the state, our primary focus is on people. Some are clients that we follow on a regular basis; some participate in programs and others are family members and interested residents. The following are excerpts from some of my monthly reports to the COA Board.

"Many clients call with very little in the way of specific problems, but need reassurance. Bev, Pattie and I spend countless hours providing a shoulder and a little boost in confidence. We have some clients who apologize for calling for van service, feeling that there are so many others in more need of this help. Others don't want to 'bother' us for information, but can't seem to find it anywhere else.

“One client calls almost every day after the mail comes. We have never seen anyone receive so many contest offers, requests for money and general ‘junk’ mail! It’s been a very long process to educate this client to throw these things away. Now, instead of saying, “Should I send this in?” we hear, “You should see what I got today! Let me read it to you!” And then, proudly say that it’s going in the waste basket.

“We also offer reassurance for our volunteers. Last summer the private drivers for a long time dialysis patient were very concerned about this client’s health. A stroke followed by hospitalization and then an admission to a nursing home was carefully followed by these dedicated volunteers, who had become more than weekly drivers, but friends.

“Housing questions come fairly often. Dalton has a number of housing options for elderly and disabled folks and we often receive calls asking about them. It’s not unusual to get a call from someone who thinks that we oversee the senior housing. We answer their questions and make the proper referrals, but always ask them to let us know how they make out.”

Dalton Council on Aging Board of Directors

All that we do here at the COA would not be possible without the support and direction of our Board of Directors. They are a group of residents appointed by the Select Board to set the policy and direction of the COA; to help the staff identify community needs and to explore ways to meet those needs; and to educate themselves and our community. They are directly involved in many of our programs, giving freely of their time, talents and patience to improve the quality of life in Dalton.

Our Board is now at full capacity, with fifteen members working actively for the town through this department. The officers are: Tony Doyle, Chairman; Joyce Lacatell, Vice Chair.; Dana Becker, Clerk; and Dave Powell, Treasurer. The other members are Judy Brooks, Persis Caverly, Marjorie Lillpopp, Dick Nicholas, Helga Knappe, Dick Murphy, Marcia Brophy, Cora Cooney, Naomi Rauff, Sarah Frankland and Brian Staubach. When you see any of these wonderful folks, please thank them for their dedication to our town through the COA.

2004 Highlights

Dalton’s “Boston Post Cane” was presented in January to our oldest resident, Dr. Frank Slowick, in time for his 103rd birthday. (The cane is on display in Town Hall in a beautiful case built by Select Board member Tim Kirby).

The April “Candidates Forum and Luncheon” was very well-attended, with ten local candidates participating as well as state candidates Denis Guyer and Dawn Taylor Thompson. All were asked to respond to the following in their statements: the issues that made you decide to run for this particular office; your thoughts on the Library/Senior Center/Museum Project; issues you feel you will face in this office; what you feel is positive about living in and serving Dalton; what state and federal issues will impact our community, and lastly, if you live to be 100, what kind of services do you hope will be available in Dalton? [The 2005 Candidates Luncheon and Forum will be held on May 5, 2005.]

Our annual Volunteer Recognition Event was held on May 18th in the St. Agnes

Parish Hall. Each year, we recognize our volunteers (119 this year) for all of their work in and for our community, and choose one group for special recognition. Our 2004 recipient was the Berkshire Talking Chronicle. Based here in Dalton on Depot Street, this program reaches out to the blind and visually impaired in our community and throughout the county, providing broadcasts of the local newspapers, magazines and other special programs via special radio receivers.

Our Dalton Police Department, with help from Triad presented their first "Citizen's Police Academy" in October and November. With eleven other local residents, I attended the eight week course, graduating on Nov. 23 with a greater understanding of the issues our police officers face on a daily basis. All of us in the class expressed our appreciation for their work in the schools and on the streets to keep our community safe. There are plans to hold another academy in spring, 2005, and I would encourage everyone to consider attending.

Two new events were introduced this year. In September we held a "90+ Birthday Party" in the dining room of the First Congregational Church. When we were putting together the list, we found 73 residents in Dalton in that age group, with the oldest being 103! Then, on November 9th, we invited our local veterans to our first "Veterans Luncheon." Twenty-five attended to receive our thanks for their service, to learn about the Veterans History Project, and to laugh over the list of "G.I. Jive" which included SOS, Hurry up and wait, Grunt, Ruptured ducks, Pin up girls, KP, Mess call, and SNAFU (which got the biggest laugh).

One area of recreation which we have been able to provide despite not having a senior center is a travel group. Dalton Travelers, under the capable direction of Jim and Catherine Rivers had five exceptional trips in 2004. The first was a day trip in March to an Irish Festival. Then in May, a one day excursion to the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY, featured lunch and a program with John Davidson. In June, the group traveled to Montreal and Quebec City for a five day visit, and in October, they enjoyed an eight day trip to Canyon Country featuring Arizona and Utah, visits to three canyons and a two night stay in Vegas. In December, they traveled to Agawam for dinner and a Christmas show at Chez Josef. Plans for 2005 include an Irish Cabaret in March, a four day trip to Washington, DC, in April, and a twelve day trip to Alaska titled, "Voyage of the Glaciers."

Program Review

Our staff and Board of Directors steer the COA in the right direction, but it is our **Volunteers** who provide the energy to make most of the following programs possible. As I stated in the Volunteer Recognition report, we honor these dedicated individuals each May at this annual event. Without their efforts, we would be unable to provide the range of services for which Dalton has become known in the county. Grocery shoppers, friendly visitors, office helpers for mailings, etc., and all of the programs listed below improve the quality of life in our community. If you have talents you would like to share, please call us.

Triad continues to be an active group promoting education and information for our retired residents. Quarterly Public Information Meetings, an Annual Picnic and Safety Fair and regular monthly meetings provide a wealth of information on a wide range of topics which have included Self Defense, House Numbering, Neighborhood Watch, Identity Theft, Internet and other Scams. Meetings are

held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 PM at the Dalton VFW and are advertised in the *Berkshire Eagle*.

Wellness Programs are generally offered on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:45 AM by Pattie Pero, our Outreach and Wellness Counselor. This past year she addressed such topics as Fall Prevention, Heart Health, Stroke Prevention, Medicare Rx Cards, Aids Prevention, and Safe Fun in the Sun. She also did individual "Wellness" assessments (136) and education (155) this past year. In addition to Outreach, Pattie is our SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Information Needs of Elders) counselor, helping many residents resolve their problems with health insurance and billing errors.

Other **Health Clinics** held at the CRA included monthly Blood Pressure Clinics and the annual Flu Shot Clinic held by the Berkshire VNA, and Foot Care provided by Jane Kelley, RN, who retired in April, and Kip Moeller, RN, who has continued this fine service. Foot clinics are held on alternating months at the CRA and Pine Grove Manor on High Street. A total of 34 treatments were done during the CRA clinics.

The popular **Osteoporosis Prevention Exercise Classes** continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cora Cooney leads the Tuesday afternoon group; Marjorie Lillpopp continues to teach on Tuesday nights, and I teach the Tuesday and Thursday morning classes. A total of 91 people participated in the program during 2004. We began offering this class in 1996, and its value is reflected in the numbers of people who continue to attend, and the referrals we continue to receive from area doctors and physical therapists.

The **Senior Meal Site** continues to host a small but dedicated group of folks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Site Director Doris Fiorini, who had overseen the program for 9 years, retired in September with our heartfelt thanks for all her dedication to the program and the people it served. We now have Pricilla "Pat" Higgins and Jane Rozak who serve on Tuesdays, and Mary Anne LeVardi, our new site director, who volunteers on Thursdays. They are continuing the monthly Birthday Parties and Pizza Lunches, and invite local residents to join them. Information on menus and activities are published monthly in *Berkshire Schedules*, and each Monday in the *Berkshire Eagle*.

Sunday Lunch celebrated its 12th anniversary in March 2004. Host groups from the First Congregational Church of Dalton, St. Agnes, Dalton United Methodist, Grace Episcopal, Berkshire First Church of the Nazarene, Hinsdale Congregational and St. Patrick's Churches, Dalton Rotary, Dalton COA Board of Directors and the Boy Scouts continue to serve hot meals every Sunday at 1 PM in the Congregational Church dining room. Many local and area people enjoy the social "Church Dinner" atmosphere instead of eating alone. The program is supported entirely by donations (this past year from Crop Walk, Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, Grace Church Christians in Action, Wal Mart and the voluntary donations of those who come to eat). We also were able to restock our pantry with foods donated through the Letter Carriers Food Drive. This year, 1,615 meals were served by our host groups.

First Tuesdays have proven to be very popular here at the COA, because during the school year a class from St. Agnes School visits at lunch time to share instru-

mental music, poems and/or a song they've learned. Our special thanks go to teacher Karen Blefari and principal Theresa Dudziak for their enthusiastic support of these visits. Over the summer months we invited area leaders, with pharmacist Stan Walczyk and Acting Police Chief Larry Higgins joining us for lunch.

Other **Intergenerational Programs** included Bridges at Craneville School and the weekly Preschool Reading Program held at the Dalton United Methodist Church. The volunteers in these programs really enjoy their time with the children.

John Ostresh, Executive Director at **Dalton Community Cable**, has been a staunch supporter of our "On Track with the Dalton COA" TV program. John never misses a holiday party or other big event, bringing his equipment to tape the activity for showing on channel 16. I have not had as much time to devote to the taping of our interview format programs, but have done Project HEROA with Lori Harrington and Lisa Avery, RMV with Michele Ellicks, and the Elizabeth Freeman Center with Donna Morelli.

Serve New England is a food cooperative-style program that is built on volunteer service. In return for 2 hours of volunteer work (defined as anything you do for someone outside of your immediate family for which you are not paid), and \$20 for a Family Meal Package, you receive an assortment of high quality meats (frozen), fresh vegetables and fruits worth approximately \$35. Each Family Meal Package contains food for 4 meals for 4 people. Serve's monthly newspaper carries meal plans with recipes and serving tips. We also have the Wild Duck Food Cooperative based here which carries a wide selection of bulk organic foods and other supplies. Over the past year, 185 people have taken advantage of these two programs.

LIFE (Living Is For the Elderly) has met twice a month at Craneville Place for ten years. Under the direction of Peri Caverly and Sarah Frankland, COA Board members, LIFE brings Dalton residents together with residents of Craneville Place for a one hour, organized round table discussion and refreshments. One regular participant was Dick Mullins who brought his keyboard and led a sing-along each month. Other community participants included Kay Wood, Betty Clark, Ruth Moody, Harold Booth and Lucile Mason.

Dick Lacatell, working with the **AARP Tax Aide Program** volunteered his services again last year to do taxes for 34 local retirees, several of whom qualified for the Circuit Breaker tax credit. Under the Circuit Breaker law, certain Massachusetts resident homeowners and tenants aged 65 and older may claim a tax credit when filing their state income tax. Qualified taxpayers may take a credit that is equivalent to the amount of real estate (and water/sewer) taxes paid in excess of ten percent of the taxpayer's total income. For a tenant taxpayer, the payment of rent constituting real estate tax payment is 25% of the rent the tenant actually paid during the taxable year. Even if you haven't filed taxes for years, you can file the state form only to get this refund.

The **COA Lift-Van** operates Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM, providing transportation for shopping, medical and other necessary appointments. Last year, 123 elderly and disabled residents received 4,182 van rides, with an additional 207 rides provided by our private drivers who fill in when the van is busy.

Goals

Celebrating the completion of my 20th year at the COA in August has given me an opportunity to look back at my time here, see the changes over the years, and plan for the future of this department. COA Board member Judy Brooks and I continue to work with the Designer Selection Committee toward the realization of a new “Community Center” with a Library, Senior Center and Museum. This is an exciting time for these three departments and for the town, and is a project I am anxious to see through to completion.

A Council on Aging/Senior Center is a community focal point where older adults come together for information, services and activities. It also serves as a resource for the entire community for information on aging, support for family caregivers, advocacy and education. Your COA staff—Sue Jacobs, Bev Benoit and Pattie Pero, along with our van drivers and volunteers—all strive to provide the best services that meet our residents’ needs. If you have a question, or are concerned about an older family member, friend or neighbor, please call us at 684-2000. We are here to help.

DALTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Doris Lamica, Library Director

The planning for an expanded library progressed during 2004 as Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners completed feasibility studies and the Library Trustees and Select Board chose a site for the new library. They decided to construct a new one-story library of approximately 19,000 square feet on the land where the old Dalton High School is located. A small part of the old school will be razed to provide sufficient parking and the rest will be renovated for a senior center and offices for the Historical Commission and a museum. The library will share a common entrance with this other building and will contain sufficient space to meet the library needs of the community for the next twenty years. The facility will have a community meeting room, a children’s room, a section for young adults, a periodical reading room and enough space for the collections of books and audio-visual materials, computer stations, study areas, staff offices and storage. A copy of the preliminary design is available to view at the library. Securing funding is a crucial step in the planning and as the year ended the library director and an architect from Hill Engineering were preparing a grant application for construction funds from the state. The application is due in February 2005 and hopefully will be approved in July 2005. A Building Committee will be formed whose tasks will be to select an architect for the final design, contract with a construction company and oversee the project. A special fund raising committee will be organized to raise money for this project.

The library received a Library Services and Technology Act grant of \$10,000 during the year to expand its collections and services for young children and their parents. A story hour in conjunction with the Central Berkshire Community Partnership is now held on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. The children listen to stories, watch a short video, enjoy a snack, construct a craft project and receive a book to keep. Katherine Hoag, in her role as Children’s Librarian, conducts the program with Wendy Provencher from the Central Berkshire Community

Partnership. Kathy also visits kindergarten and pre-school classes on a monthly basis and the children have come for visits to the library. The grant runs out in September 2005, but we hope to continue parts of this program with funds from the town. Grant monies also have been used to add to our collections of picture books, videos and DVDs, puzzles and other educational games. We have also started a parenting collection and will have a series of lectures and workshops for parents and caregivers in the spring of 2005 with the help of this grant.

More than 200 children participated in the summer reading program in 2004 as they were invited to "Explore Other Worlds @ Your Library." The children helped to decorate the library in a multi-cultural theme by creating Chinese lanterns. Craft and video programs also were held during the summer. The children celebrated the end of the program with a pizza party at a local restaurant, made possible by a patron's donation and the Friends of the Library.

The monthly book group for adults continued during the year, meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend these informal programs. The book to be discussed each month is available to borrow from the library. In conjunction with the Dalton Historical Commission, the Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library sponsored two lectures on Berkshire history by Dr. Carole Owens during the year.

The Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library were again an important source of support throughout the year. Besides providing funds for lectures and the children's pizza party, they also purchased prizes for the summer reading club, some of our newspaper subscriptions and museum passes, books for the discussion group, and a new table and chairs for the children's room. The Friends conduct a book sale in the spring and their membership drive is in the fall. With the prospect of a new library looming in the future, their fundraising activities will be especially important. The officers elected for 2004 - 2005 are: President - Rosemary Crosier, Vice President - Catherine Rivers, Treasurer - Patricia Nixon, Secretary - Betty-Ann Hamm, Membership Chair - Richard Mullins, and Members-at-large - Mary Kaley, Nancy Gardner and Gail Pinna.

The library received a grant from the Katharine L. W. and Winthrop M. Crane 3d Charitable Foundation for funds to improve the parenting collection. Children's DVDs were added to the library and the collections of DVDs for adults and books on CD increased as patrons indicated a desire for these formats. There are now five computers with Internet access available for public use. They are especially busy in the summer when hikers on the Appalachian Trail stop in to check their e-mail.

Even though the library is not a member of CWMARS, the local automated network, because of fiscal constraints in FY-2005, about 80% of our catalog can be viewed online. You can access it by going to: <http://wmars.cwmars.org> and then clicking on "Other Libraries," then "Public Libraries," and then "Dalton Free Public Library." Because the library is not circulating material using this software, all you can learn is whether we own the material or not. Since our records were downloaded in June of 2004 before our membership ran out, our newer acquisitions are not listed. It is hoped that funding will be received from the town for FY2006 so that the library will be able to join CWMARS. Many of the libraries in Berkshire County, including Pittsfield, Lee, Lenox, Clarksburg, North Adams, Adams, Richmond, Sheffield, Florida, Great Barrington and

Williamstown, are members. With membership for our library, our patrons will be able to use the same card in all the member libraries, view their circulation records, and reserve and renew materials online.

I wish to express my appreciation to all the staff who worked at the library during 2004—Katherine Hoag, Lynn Bilotta, Gladys Lofink, Rebecca Foster, Mallory Bessette, Tammi Munn, Patricia Filiault, Jess Winnard, Zachary Pierce, and Clayton Pease, who retired as our janitor after four years of service. Thanks also to the Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library, the Library Trustees, the Designer Selection Committee, the Town Manager and Select Board for their help and support throughout the year.

BRIEN CENTER MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Marjorie Cohan, Executive Director

The Brien Center remains committed to providing high-quality, fully licensed mental health and substance abuse services to Berkshire County, primarily through counseling and treatment centers located in North Adams, Great Barrington and Pittsfield.

Previously known as Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires, the Brien Center represents several mergers and a clinical collaboration with Berkshire Medical Center. The Brien Center is now the largest supplier of such services to the region, providing 10,000 greater Berkshire County residents a year with a continuum of care that includes crisis care, psychiatric services, outpatient therapy, and residential and rehabilitation services.

From July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, we provided services to 395 residents of the Town of Dalton.

While we continue to receive some state funding and allocations from local United Ways, these alone are insufficient to cover the entire costs of the uninsured and underinsured persons who seek our services. For this reason, we count on annual allocations from the cities and towns in Berkshire County to help us fulfill our mission of providing adequate services to all persons in need.

We wish to thank you for your past and continued support. If there are any questions regarding our agency or the services that we provide, please call 413-499-0412.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hubert T. White, Fire Chief

Number of Calls:

Fire	132
Ambulance.	482
Motor Vehicle Accidents	48
Mutual Aid Given	13
Total	675

2004 was another busy year for the Fire Department between training and responding to emergencies. The number of calls decreased slightly last year after two straight years of increases.

Over the past few years, the emergency services have been faced with many challenges. The dedicated men and women of the Dalton Fire Department have met these challenges while moving forward, adapting to advancements in equipment and technology.

I want to thank the officers and members who give so much of their time to provide the citizens of Dalton with emergency service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I would also like to thank the other departments of the town as well as the residents for their continued support and cooperation.

FOREST WARDEN

Hubert T. White, Forest Warden

In 2004 the Dalton Fire Department responded to seven brush fires. Most of these occurred during the spring open burning season when permitted fires got out of control. A reminder to citizens that open burning is allowed from January 15th to April 30th only after obtaining a permit at the Fire Station. The regulations are given out with each permit. Once you have obtained the permit, you must phone the fire station each day you plan to burn. Brush is the only material that is allowed. No demolition materials may be burned. Last year 245 permits were issued.

I wish to thank the citizens of Dalton for their cooperation.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Susan I. Gregory, Executive Director

Board of Commissioners:		Term Expires	
Chairperson	Kathleen Burke	96 Curtis Ave.	2006
Vice Chairperson	Helen McGarry	293 High Street	2005
State Appointee	Robin Higgins	33 Carson Avenue	2006
Member	Florence Cateletti	E. Deming St.	2007
Member	Patricia Stottle	106 Tower Road	2006

Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. The Annual Meeting is held on the second Monday in May.

Current programs are: 40 units at Pomeroy Manor and 28 units at Pinegrove Manor under Chapter 667, low-income elderly/disabled. We also have 6 units under Chapter 705, low-income families.

We have one-bedroom units for the elderly and three-bedrooms for families. These are funded by the Department of Housing & Community Development in Boston. We have a short waiting list for our 667 elderly program; we have an extensive waiting list for our 705 family program.

Eligibility criteria are under requirements adopted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. One person \$34,550. Two person \$39,500.

Our fiscal year is from October 1st to September 30th. Our quarterly report dated September 30, 2004, states the following:

Income	\$296,110.00
Expenses	\$256,552.00
Net	\$ 39,558.00

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Gail A. Pinna, Secretary

The commission's prime objective is still to preserve our local artifacts. We are again grateful for the many donations we received during the past year.

In April and October, Dr. Carole Owens spoke and did a book signing. April's subject was "The Berkshire Cottages" and in October it was "Coach Inns to Cottages." The Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library co-sponsored both events with us.

Also in April, the commission toured old Dalton High School. Wanting to preserve the façade of the old structure at least, a petition was presented to the Select Board regarding the placement of our museum, and requested the question be placed as an warrant article at the May Town Meeting.

Members came before the Dalton Community Cable Association, Inc., showing pictures of local interest and many buildings now gone. We also conveyed our reasons for the Historical Museum being placed in the Library should it move to a new location, and also urged the town to save the Dalton High School building. In October the Select Board voted to save at least the façade of the building.

Members have been doing extensive research on many areas, such as Gulf

Road (Wizard's Glen), the Hoose property, the Main Street Cemetery, a local quarry, Dalton in the Civil War and the Dalton branch of the Mass. State Guard, Co. 5.

Information was also given to the Select Board regarding the Elm Street section of town. A party was interested in buying a parcel of land bordering the Housatonic River. We were concerned about this as the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Area is still working to have Congress designate this area as a National Heritage Area. Members have met with the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. This group will encompass all of Berkshire County; hopefully we may find more information regarding the Underground Railroad going through the Gulf Road.

At our annual Christmas dinner the commission honored Mary Jane Caliento who retired from the commission after forty years of service to the town. The commission presented Mary Jane with a plaque. The Select Board sent a framed Certificate of Appreciation and Shaun Kelly sent a citation from the House of Representatives. Mary Jane will still be an associate member and her constant work with this commission is invaluable. George White has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the commission. The commission welcomes George with his known interest in the history of Dalton and his vast knowledge of the Dalton cemeteries.

We have a seven member Historical Commission and ten associates. We do welcome more associates, so anyone interested may come to one of our meetings. We meet on every second Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 p.m. in the Crane Room at the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Some of us also meet on Thursdays at the Historical Commission Room.

Finishing the year, the Historical Commission and the Beautification Commission again combined their efforts for the Light up the Holidays walk. Both groups placed pictures of the town at Banknorth.

To paraphrase Charles Dickens, *the only thing duller than a person who*



Some friends and members of the Historical Commission during 2004 Light Up the Holidays: l to r: Mary Bartlett, Mary Walsh, Gail A. Pinna, Carolina Galliher, Louisa Horth, Mary Jane Caliento, and Mary Ellen Shea

knows nothing, is one who only knows of one thing to talk about. You will not find that with the Historical Commission, so if you are interested in the history of Dalton or have something that you may want to contribute, please give us a call 684-6111 Ext. 35.

Fund raiser this year is a 2005 calendar.

HIGHWAY AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

James “Cutter” Galliher, Superintendent

The department’s primary mission is the maintenance and improvements of the town’s infrastructure: roads, sewers, drainage, cemeteries and parks. This work is preformed and accomplished by a very dedicated and professional staff, with many years of experience.

It was a five month winter season with snowstorms from mid-November until the end of March. An early season storm was large enough (approx. 18 inches) to trigger a snow emergency from the state and federal governments. That generated a reimbursement of around \$15,000 from the government to help replenish our snow and ice budget. Approximately 80-85 inches of snow fell in our area this past season. A lot of these storms required weekend, holiday, and night work and again our staff showed their dedication and professionalism in keeping our roadways safe and passable. Again this winter season all of our cemeteries remained open and burial arrangements and funerals were completed with only minor adjustments of scheduling. Also, main sidewalks around our school areas were plowed by a private contractor, Variety Trucking, who also generously donated time and equipment to many grave openings in the winter.

Approximently 5,000 tons of sand and salt were needed to keep our streets safe and passable during the year. All of this material must be picked up during the spring season along with any other winter debris that accumulated on the roads during the winter season.

All of the town streets are swept and clean by a combination of a private contractor and the town’s sweeper and personnel. The private contractor sweeps most of the central or residential streets for the town and highway personnel take care of the outskirts of town. Most of the sweeping material is recycled. Some of the sand is mixed with gravel and stone and reapplied to our dirt roads as processed gravel. Some of it is mixed with compost and then screened, and used as loam for the parks, cemeteries, and shoulders of roadways, and some of it is just used for backfill for many of our excavation projects.

In the springtime all of the town’s dirt roads are regraded and cleared of winter debris. Roads are graded to improve any winter damage and improve drainage. Most of our culverts are also cleaned and flushed at this time.

Springtime is also clean-up time for our four cemeteries and four playgrounds. The department tries to have these areas cleaned of winter debris for our Memorial Day observances and the spring and summer sports programs at our town parks, provided by the Dalton Recreation Association. Our department is usually assisted in this clean-up program by Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen Massimiano’s community service program. This program is a great asset to the town and our department. This past year our Babe Ruth diamond was completed

with the assistance of Canterbury Farms, Inc., and will be ready for the baseball season of 2005. A new outfield fence for this diamond was included in the project, along with some fencing for the softball diamond.

There was some vandalism in Greenridge Park this spring that resulted in a fire burning down equipment in a section of the park that was only one year old. Dalton’s community spirit again rose to the challenge. Through the generosity of Crane & Co., which replaced and improved the damaged equipment, labor provided by the General Electric Elfun Society, Dalton Fire Department, and numerous townspeople volunteering manual services and guidance and direction from the C.R.A. and Central Berkshire Community Partnership for Children, and other civic groups and private contractors, a new, improved and larger children’s play area was up and running before the end of the summer. Thanks To All

The sewer and drainage systems were cleaned and flushed on a regular basis. Almost all of the catch basins and waterways and cross drains were done with the department’s high velocity flusher truck. Some of the known problem areas were corrected and repaired or put on a scheduled maintenance program to alleviate blockages or flooding.

Regular maintenance and improvements are preformed by the department during the summer and fall months. Orchard Road, Windsor Road, Grange Hall Road were a few of the streets that required attention this year. Hopefully these streets will be able to be resurfaced in future years. This year the entire length of Dalton Division Road was resurfaced with approximately 2 inches of blacktop. Also, new guardrails were installed, lines painted and drainage was improved along the street.

The department’s capital improvements included a lawn mower for the cemetery, some doors and windows for the highway garage that replaced original equipment and the town is starting a new mapping system for its sewer system. There has been many improvements and additions since the last documentation in the 1950s.

It has been a very positive and productive year for the department, due largely to the staff of the Highway-Cemetery Department, which will continue to provide quality workmanship and safe roadways to the town. I would like to thank the citizens of Dalton, the Select Board, Town Manager, and all town employees and boards for their cooperation, support and guidance for another successful and productive year.

PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTIONS 2004

Stanley A. Greenleaf, Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Total Plumbing Permits	96	Total Gas Permits	85
Residential	67	Residential	79
Commercial	24	Commercial	6
Industrial	5	Industrial	0

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

James J. McClure, Chairman

Once again Dalton had a very successful program in observance of Memorial Day. All veteran's graves were decorated with American flags, thanks to the efforts of Dalton's Troop #4 Boy Scouts of America under the direction of Memorial Day Committeeman John Ellis, and Scout Master Steve Ivanowski, teacher Beverly Favreau with her Grade 3 students at Craneville School.

Participants in the traditional parade were wreath bearers from Troop #475 Girl Scouts, American Legion Post 155 Color Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard Post 9566, Dalton Select Board, Dalton Fire Department, Dalton Police Department, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Cub Scouts and the Berkshire County Sheriffs Association.

Two Dalton Servicemen recently returned from Iraq were of special interest. Lieutenant Colonel David Ellis and Chief Warrant Officer James Slater were warmly received by the crowd along the parade route.

After the parade the customary Memorial Day services were held at the Mound of Unknown Dead in the Main Street Cemetery. The speaker of the day was James Brehio, Department Vice Commander of The Massachusetts Department of the American Legion. Others who participated in the program included Master of Ceremonies John Cooney, and speakers Jessie Powers and James Culliton of Wahconah Regional High School, Representative Shaun Kelly, John Ellis, and Lt. Colonel David Ellis.

The Wahconah orchestra played the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America." The American Legion firing squad fired a three shot salute to the dead followed by "Taps and Echo" played by Joseph Korpiewski of the Wahconah Regional High School Orchestra.

The Invocation and Benediction were by Lt. Col. Ellis, who is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in Quakerstown, Pennsylvania.

Special thanks are extended to all the Dalton residents and friends who honored us with their presence at the Memorial Day services. Special thanks are also extended to Thomas Callahan, Principal of Wahconah Regional High who coordinated all efforts with the school, and lastly gratitude to all members of the Memorial Day Committee.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Debbie Cronin-Brown, Executive Director

The Community Recreation Association, Inc., is pleased to submit to the Town of Dalton its Annual Parks and Recreation Report for the 2004 season.

The role that the CRA provides each year to the town is as a subcontractor that manages recreation and leagues for the town parks systems. The monies received under that budget go solely to the operation and management of these recreational activities. Our parks season starts at the beginning of April (or earlier if the snow and ice has melted) and ends when the snow and ice return some time in December. Line items under this budget include materials and supplies, park leader salaries, sports league allocations, and the administrative costs associated with the operation of the recreation and league activities.

Pinegrove Park – The center of the park system is Pinegrove Park with 7.0 acres, of which every square foot is utilized. It offers two basketball courts, one baseball field, two softball fields, a football field, a pavilion, concession stand, and handicapped accessible bathrooms. There are two playground structures, one designed for preschool-aged children and the other designed for elementary schoolers. A park leader is provided during the months of June, July, and August, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and again from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Capital improvements at Pinegrove Park this year included repairs to the Babe Ruth baseball field and the replacement of an outfield fence.

Chamberlain Park – This park is located on the east side of town with 9.2 acres. It offers a small play area, two baseball fields, a concession stand, handicapped accessible bathrooms, a soccer field, and a half-court for basketball. Chamberlain Park also offers a park leader during the summer to organize children's activities. Capital improvements to this park are planned for the 2005 season and will include the installation of new playground equipment.

Greenridge Park – Greenridge Park is located on the south side of town, with 10.33 acres. It offers a baseball field, a soccer field, a full basketball court, and a small playground area. Capital improvements this year included the installation of new playground equipment. The old equipment was destroyed due to vandalism in the spring. Thanks to a donation from Crane & Co. and the GE Elfuns, a larger structure was installed in the fall. It is truly a tribute to this town when something so destructive happens and everyone works together to find a way to improve the situation.

Crane Park – This is a small pocket park, only about 100' X 100' which is suited to the neighborhood. This park offers a small amount of playground equipment such as swings, a merry-go-round, and a half-court for basketball.

The sports program is a large piece of the recreational services offered at the CRA and by the Town of Dalton. The following is a breakdown of participants in each sport.

Programs	Teams	Participants
Football (fall)		
Flag Football (grades 1-4)	6	60
Pee Wee Football	1	30
Junior Football	1	30
Senior Football	1	30
Totals	9	150
Soccer (fall)		
Pre-School (coed)	6	55
K (coed)	6	62
Instructional Coed (Gr. 1 & 2)	10	110
Midget Boys (Gr. 3-5)	4	52
Midget Girls (Gr. 3-5)	5	65
Junior Boys (Gr. 6-8)	4	52
Junior Girls (Gr. 6-8)	3	40
Totals	38	436
Travel Soccer (fall)		
U-10 Boys	2	24
U-10 Girls	1	12
U-12 Boys	1	18
U-12 Girls	2	30
U-14 Boys	1	20
U-14 Girls	1	24
Totals	8	128
Travel Soccer (spring)		
U-10 Boys	2	24
U-10 Girls	2	24
U-12 Boys	1	18
U-12 Girls	2	36
U-14 Boys	1	20
U-14 Girls	1	24
Totals	9	146
Basketball		
K (coed)	5	40
Instructional Boys (Gr. 1 & 2)	7	70
Instructional Girls (Gr. 1 & 2)	4	36
Pee Wee Boys (Gr. 3 & 4)	6	54
Pee Wee Girls (Gr. 3 & 4)	4	24
Midget Boys (Gr. 5 & 6)	6	60
Midget Girls (Gr. 5 & 6)	4	40
Junior Boys (Gr. 7 & 8)	7	70
Junior Girls (Gr. 7 & 8)	4	48
Jim Duquette Sr. League (Gr. 9-12)	6	42
Totals	55	484

Travel Basketball

Pee Wee Girls	1	10
Pee Wee Boys	1	12
Midget Girls	1	12
Midget Boys	1	12
Junior Girls	1	10
Junior Boys	1	12
Totals	6	66

Baseball/Softball

Robert R. Powell Sr. Bball.(K & 1)	9	110
Coaches Pitch Sball. (Gr. 2 & 3)	4	40
Cimini Bball. (Gr. 2 & 3)	9	110
Midget Girls Sball. (Gr. 4 & 5)	4	50
Junior Girls Sball. (Gr. 7 & 8)	4	55
Mark Galusha Bball. (Gr. 4-7)	5	65
Little League Bball.	10	130
Babe Ruth Bball.	9	126
Bud Hall Coed Adult Sball.	12	140
Totals	66	826

Our mission in providing these services is to offer participation with a safe, educational and positive experience in which the participants learn sportsmanship, teamwork, and techniques of the game. These programs would not be possible without our valued volunteer base of 1,300. Some of these volunteers commit their time and experience in all four sports on a yearly basis. The CRA staff is truly grateful for their time and talent, as we would not be able to provide these services without them.

The other collaboration that makes these services possible is the use of facilities that the CRA is blessed with. The Dalton American Legion makes available their fields for softball and baseball. The Central Berkshire Regional School District is also supportive by allowing us to use their gymnasiums and sports fields. These collaborations are essential, since our number of participants continues to grow.

PLANNING BOARD

Richard F. Ladd, Chairman

The primary purpose of the Dalton Planning Board is to regulate the division and use of land within the town. The Planning Board is composed of five Dalton residents elected by the general public. An additional member is appointed by the Select Board to serve as an associate member. This person may take the place of an elected member in the event of a conflict of interest or other reason an elected member cannot fulfill his or her duties when the Planning Board is considering Special Permit applications. Monthly Planning Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and additional meetings are held as required by the workload. The current quality of life and the “look” of Dalton is a tribute to the hard work by the many people who have donated their time and talents by

serving as members of the Planning Board throughout the past fifty four years.

2004 was a busy year for the Planning Board. In addition to our 12 monthly meetings, a total of 11 other meetings, public hearings and meetings to address specific issues, were conducted. The monthly meeting agendas typically include issues such as land division applications, providing information to the Board of Appeals regarding petitions for special permits and providing information to the public. Ongoing projects such as the PineCrest Estates subdivision, the Silver Maple Farm subdivision, and the Berkshire Concrete Corporation operation off High Street were also agenda items of several meetings. The Planning Board has also been working to develop Zoning Bylaw changes that will further protect the curb appeal of properties in Dalton and help preserve the “small town” aspects of Dalton. The board is hopeful that these changes will be presented at a public hearing early next year and presented for approval by the residents of Dalton later in the year. The Planning Board has also been working with other town officials and boards to improve our business and commercial tax base while preserving the residential character of Dalton.

Congratulations to Russell Sears on his election to the board this year. Former board member Mary Lamke was appointed by the Select Board to fill the vacant Associate member position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Dalton Planning Board for their time and hard work in 2004. Without their help, and the help of many other volunteers serving on numerous other Committees and Boards in the Town of Dalton, our community would not be the special place that it is today.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE

Louise H. Frankenberg, Webmaster

The Web Site Committee was formed to design, develop, and implement an official Town of Dalton Web site. Initial efforts in 2003 lagged due to lack of response from vendors and lack of sufficient input to produce detailed specifications. In 2004, after more volunteers joined the Committee, we decided to purchase an inexpensive software package from Avenet that was designed specifically for small towns and municipalities. The “GovOffice” software enables fast initial prototyping through a Web browser, and facilitates future maintenance by people who do not necessarily have a Web background.

The current Webmaster volunteered to set up purchase contracts and build the initial site. We purchased the software in October, paid for our official “.gov” domain name in November and had our site open to the public by January 2005. You may now visit the Town of Dalton online at **www.dalton-ma.gov**.

Expenses 2004:

GovOffice software (one-time license fee):	\$1,050
1 yr. hosting at Avenet:	\$ 540
Move URL from temp site:	\$ 75
Domain name dalton-ma.gov (annual renewal):	<u>\$ 125</u>
Total:	\$1,790

Web Committee meetings are held irregularly as needed and are open to the public; meeting times are posted in the Town Hall.

Current Committee members: Frank W. McDonald, Chair; Louise H. Frankenberg, Webmaster; William E. Chabot, Recording Secretary; Robert J. Fox, Denis E. Guyer, Timothy G. Kiely, Kenneth E. Walto

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lawrence R. Higgins, Acting Chief of Police

This report is dedicated to Daniel Dwight “Bear” Filiault, who retired after serving our community for the past 24 years. Dan joined the department in 1980 and rose through the ranks, being appointed sergeant in 1986 and chief in 1993. Through his work ethic and dedication to the department and the community, Dan successfully led our department into the new millennium. He was responsible for helping us to keep pace with advances in technology and changes in the law and criminal procedure. We wish him well in his retirement; he will be sorely missed.

The Dalton Police Department continues to work with the citizens of the town to prevent and control crime and to provide a safe environment for all generations. Thanks to the dedication of a fine group of very talented officers and the cooperation of our citizens, we have been able to continue to provide quality services to the community.

This year, the department received grants for community policing, highway safety patrol and education initiatives and for the replacement of our bulletproof vests that were found to be defective. We are in the second year of our COPS in Schools grant and that program, which has received accolades from parents, students and school administration, continues to be expertly led by officers George Adams and John Marley.

This year we purchased new Sig-Sauer pistols, replacing our aging Ruger sidearms. Officers received training and were qualified in their use in November by officers Richard Nicholas and Kevin Miller. We thank our community for helping us to keep up with technology trends.

In November we applied for and received a community policing grant of \$45,600 through the Executive Office of Public Safety. This grant will help to continue our community policing and crime prevention efforts. These efforts include our DARE programs at Craneville and Saint Agnes Schools led by Officer Deanna Strout, the TRIAD program under the guidance of Officer John Thibodeau, Dalton Community Cable, Dalton CRA, the Dalton Civic Arts Council, Dalton Police Explorers, and the Berkshire County Drug task force.

This year we initiated a citizen police academy for the community. Twelve residents attended the 8 week program that gave them a glimpse into the world of law enforcement and gave our officers an opportunity learn from them as well. The program was coordinated by Officer John Thibodeau, and instructors included myself and officers John Bartels, George Adams, Kevin Miller, John Marley, Jeffrey Coe, and Deanna Strout.

In addition to the retirement of Chief Filiault, the two-laid off Springfield offi-

cers that were hired last year were recalled to Springfield. They have been replaced by Christopher Furlong and Dale Gero. These officers were promoted from our reserve officer ranks.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Dalton Police Department for their dedication to duty and to the town. I would also like to thank our administrative assistant Rebecca Whitaker for her help and support throughout the year.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with many dedicated citizens who volunteer their services to the town especially the members of the Dalton Fire and Ambulance departments, the Dalton TRIAD SALT council, the Dalton Traffic Commission, and the Dalton Police Explorers.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS	2002	2003	2004
Business Calls	13,991	15,964	15,265
911 Calls	861	858	912
Crash Data Report Incidents	129	142	148
Traffic Citations	778	958	630
Citation Fines	\$16,488	\$21,575	\$28,015
Parking Tickets	264	172	88
Parking Fines	\$2,485	\$2,780	\$1165
Accident Report Fees	\$600	\$ 785	\$ 513
Firearms Permits/Cards	162	200	145
Firearms/Card fees	\$2,950	\$3,625	\$3,100

SHADE TREE DEPARTMENT

Peter B. Bacon, Tree Warden

The year 2004 was successful despite budget cuts. Dalton received another Mass. ReLeaf grant in the amount of \$1,530 for the planting of 12 trees at various locations along town streets. This is a matching grant and we have been able to purchase quality trees that have an immediate impact. Out of 112 trees planted in the last 6 years, only 2 have had to be replaced.

Dalton received special recognition in Boston for being a Tree City USA for 5 years. This recognition is given at the annual Arbor Day awards ceremony and is co-sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Department of Recreation and Conservation. The town must reapply on an annual basis.

This years Arbor Day tree planting was done by St. Agnes School. Mrs. Bauman's third grade class planted a red maple next to Banknorth on Main Street. This tree replaced a bush that was planted in the memory of Fred Crane.

A total of twenty hazardous trees were removed and over thirty were pruned. Several residents took advantage of splitting the cost of stump removal. If you have had a town tree recently cut down and would also be willing to split the cost of removal please contact this department and I will explain how it works.

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Margaret G. Plumer, Chairperson

The Dalton Cultural Council's mission is to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all residents. We are responsible for allocating funds received from the Massachusetts State Lottery for cultural projects proposed by organizations and individuals for the cultural benefit of the Town of Dalton. These funds are paid out to successful applicants on a reimbursement basis. The Massachusetts Cultural Council keeps our local council informed and updated to this and other cultural programs that are available to the town.

In fiscal year 2004 the following projects received funding:

Music for Seniors Concert – Patty Carpenter

Square Dancing – Cliff Brodeur

Christmas Parade/Summer Concerts – Dalton Civic Arts Committee

Radio Reach Out – Berkshire Talking Chronicle

Playwright Mentoring Project – Barrington Stage Company

When I am old I will wear purple – Alma Rose Center for the Arts

Chamber Music Concerts/Music Education – Music Works in the Berkshires

Nessacus Cultural Enrichment Program – Nessacus P.T.O.

Kreative Kids – Dalton Arts & Crafts Guild

Arrowhead Staged Readings – Berkshire County Historical Society

Ashfield Community Theatre Play Production – Ashfield Community Theatre, Inc.

The Unicorn, the Gorgon & the Manicore – Paula Nuss

Housatonic Rivershed Program – Mass Audubon Society/Berkshires

Senior Citizen Holiday Concert – John Root

Choral Music Performances – Hilltown Choral Society

Writing for Performance Project – Becket Art Center of the Hilltowns

The current members of the Dalton Cultural Council are: Kathleen Desmarais; Michelle Furlong; Donald Harris; Marjorie Limburg; Monica Montferret; Deborah Parkington; Margaret Plumer; and Joan Roy.

POSTAGE REPORT

Jane A. Carman

Expenses

Maintenance	\$ 587.00
Meter Reset	\$ 19.00
Meter Rental	\$ 504.26
Postage	\$ 12,000.00
Mail Permit	\$ 150.00
Office Supplies	\$ 115.57
Other Charges	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 13,375.83

Meter

Meter Balance July 1, 2003	\$ 720.28
Deposits	\$ 12,000.00
Total Postage Available	\$ 12,720.28
Postage Used FY 2004	\$ 11,742.58
Meter Balance June 30, 2004	\$ 977.70

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Patrick C. Phelps, Chairman

The Dalton Traffic Commission is an advisory board to both the Town Manager and the Select Board. The board is responsible for the review of proposed developments/subdivisions and driveways and also handles requests for new signs, speed zoning and truck exclusions, etc., on town roads. We feel that our work has made the town safer for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The commission consists of seven members: five Dalton residents, who are volunteers appointed by the Select Board, and a representative from both the police and fire departments. The Traffic Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Crane Room. The public is welcome to attend any meeting.

This past year the commission reviewed a number of projects. We also reviewed numerous requests for new traffic signs and speed limit signs.

The commission works closely with Highway Superintendent James "Cutter" Gallihier to address traffic problems and to come up with acceptable solutions. We would like to thank Mr. Gallihier for his assistance during the past year.

We also would like to thank recording secretary for the Traffic Commission, Esther Balardini, without whom we would be lost.

If there are any questions, problems or requests a citizen may have, please send them to the Traffic Commission c/o the Town Manager/Select Board Office at 426 Main Street, Dalton MA 01226.

INSPECTOR OF WIRING

John M. Broderick, Inspector

January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004

Services Work	30
Additions	40
New Houses	31
Furnaces	4
Industrial/Commercial	10
Security Systems	24
Swimming Pools/HofTubs	5
Total permits issued	144

TOWN ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Sandra J. Albano, Accountant

I am pleased to submit the 28th Annual Report of the Town Accountant for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2004.

The following schedules are included in this report:

- Schedule 1: Combined Balance Sheet
- Schedule 1A: Special Revenue Funds
- Schedule 1B: Capital Projects Fund
- Schedule 1C: Trust and Agency Funds
- Schedule 2: General Fund Revenues–Budget to Actual
- Schedule 3: General Fund Appropriations, Expenditures and Encumbrances
- Schedule 4: Schedule of Bond Indebtedness
- Schedule 5: Analysis of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance

I would like to express special thanks to Victoria Sedgwick for her help in the Accountant's Office. Her hard work and integrity are a valuable asset to the Town and enables this office to run as smoothly as it does.

Schedule 1: Combined Balance Sheet, June 30, 2004

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			TRUST & AGENCY	LONG TERM DEBT	MEMORANDUM ONLY
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS			
ASSETS						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,125,802	102,939	1,072,012	2,670,921	-	5971,674
Receivables						
Property Taxes	142,375	-	-	-	-	142,375
Excise Taxes	103,490	-	-	-	-	103,490
Tax Liens	242,611	-	-	-	-	242,611
Departmental	3,143	8,287	-	-	-	11,430
User Charges	19,164	-	-	-	-	19,164
Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts	(146,064)	-	-	-	-	(146,064)
Tax Foreclosures	123	-	-	-	-	123
Due From Other Governments	14,611	146,085	130,000	-	-	290,696
Due From Other Agencies	25	-	-	5	-	30
Due From Other Funds	-	-	-	67,000	-	67,000
Amount to be Provided for the Payment of Debt	-	-	-	-	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total Assets:	2,505,280	257,311	1,202,012	2,737,926	1,200,000	7,902,529
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Warrants Payable	103,294	2,484	29,100	606	-	135,484
Accrued Payroll	20,090	855	-	1,430	-	22,375
Accrued Employer Taxes	219	-	-	-	-	219
Employee Withholdings	12,945	-	-	-	-	12,945
Due to Other Governments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due to Other Funds	67,000	-	-	-	-	67,000
Due to Other Agencies	335	-	-	-	-	335
Tax Liens Undistributed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undistributed Receipts	530	-	-	-	-	530

continued

Schedule 1: Combined Balance Sheet, June 30, 2004 continued

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			TRUST & AGENCY	LONG TERM DEBT	MEMORANDUM ONLY
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS			
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY (cont.)						
Unclaimed Items	660	-	-	-	-	660
Prepaid Highway Excavation Fees	2,200	-	-	-	-	2,200
Deferred Revenue						
Property Taxes	(3,690)	-	-	-	-	(3,690)
Tax Liens	242,611	-	-	-	-	242,611
Other	125,920	154,372	130,000	-	-	410,292
BANS Payable	-	-	241,607	-	-	241,607
Bond Indebtedness	-	-	-	-	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total Liabilities:	572,114	157,711	400,707	2,036	1,200,000	2,332,568
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for Encumbrances	180,377	367	-	-	-	180,744
Reserved for Expenses	50,000	-	-	29,000	-	79,000
Reserved for Nonexpendable Trust Principal	-	-	-	125,100	-	125,100
Undesignated	1,702,789	99,233	801,305	2,581,790	-	5,185,117
Total Fund Equity	1,933,166	99,600	801,305	2,735,890	-	5,569,961
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity:	2,505,280	257,311	1,202,012	2,737,926	1,200,000	7,902,529

**Schedule 1-A: Special Revenue Funds
Fund Equity for the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

	Balance 7/1/03	Revenues	Prior Year Corrections	Transfers In	Expenses	Transfers Out	Balance 6/30/04
Animal Kennel Donations	55	-	-	-	-	-	55
Beautification Comm. Donations	323	1,800	-	-	783	-	1,340
CATV Local Broadcasting	180	64,460	-	-	64,640	-	-
Cemetery Vandalism Restitution	1,613	770	-	-	2,000	-	383
COA Formula Grant	3,053	7,040	-	-	7,069	-	3,024
COA Gifts/Donations/Programs	916	5,346	-	-	3,685	-	2,577
COA Hilltown Outreach	843	4,000	-	-	4,273	-	570
COA Incentive Grant FY99	251	-	-	-	-	-	251
COA Transportation Fund	15,037	10,618	-	-	13,311	-	12,344
Community Policing Grant FY03	4,570	-	-	-	4,570	-	-
Community Policing Grant FY04	-	45,600	-	-	29,747	-	15,853
Community Septic Mgt.	18,000	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
Composting Bin Grant	478	-	-	-	4	-	474
Conservation Commission	300	-	-	-	280	-	20
COPS in School Federal Grant*	-	36,666	-	-	56,418	-	(19,752)
Cultural Council	4,192	2,058	-	-	2,945	-	3,305
Dalton Papers	3,145	20	-	-	-	-	3,165
DARE Program Receipts	564	-	-	-	564	-	-
Dog License Revolving	3,000	12625	-	-	293	12,332	3,000
Electric Inspections Revolving	1,925	7,525	-	-	7,925	-	1,525
Extended Polling Hours	-	393	-	-	-	393	-
Grave Digging OT Revolving	2,655	2,200	-	-	1,682	-	3,173
Highway Chapter Funds	-	117,176	-	-	117,176	-	-
Historical Commission	4,954	273	-	-	693	-	4,534
Insurance Claims Under \$10,000	-	2,206	-	-	2,206	-	-
Legal Advertising Revolving	1,056	2,127	-	-	1,731	-	1,452
Library Donations	5,082	1,849	-	-	494	-	6,437
Library Incentive Grant	17,354	8,783	-	73	11,822	-	14,388
MA Releaf Grant †	-	-	-	-	1,530	-	(1,530)
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring Grants/Gifts	20,000	17,200	-	-	34,678	-	2,522
Municipal Recycling Program Grant	614	-	-	-	-	-	614
Parks Maintenance Revolving	40	-	-	-	-	-	40
Planning Board Deposits- BCC Cnslt	2,100	-	-	-	-	-	2,100
Planning Board Deposits- PineCrest	509	3,000	-	-	2,088	-	1,421
Planning Board Deposits- SilverMaple	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Plumbing Inspections Revolving	2,625	11,605	-	-	14,210	-	20
Police Dept Local Gifts	1,099	1,645	-	-	742	-	2,002
Police Outside Detail	4,105	70,080	-	-	72,473	-	1,712
Police Vest Grant ^o	(699)	1,379	-	-	1,681	-	(1,001)
Records Preservation Project	592	-	-	-	-	-	592
Small Cities Grant Recapture	8,671	-	-	-	-	-	8,671
Universal COPS Grant	1,319	-	-	-	-	-	1,319
Total Fund Equity	130,521	443,444	-	73	461,713	12,725	99,600

*Receipt of \$19,752 received from Federal Government on July 6, 2004

†Receipt of \$680 received July 6, 2004, and \$321 received August 18, 2004, from Federal Government.

^oReceipt of \$1,529 received from State on August 25, 2004.

**Schedule 1-B: Capital Projects Fund
Fund Equity for The Year Ended June 30, 2004**

	Balance 7/1/03	Revenues	Transfers In	Expenses	Transfers Out	Fund Equity Balance 6/30/04	Grant Revenues Anticipated	Temporary Borrowing Issued	Projects Authorized Not Complete
Capital Projects FY03	6,751	-	-	6,750	-	1	-	10,000	96,948
Capital Projects FY04	-	-	-	222,607	-	(222,607)	-	231,607	141,393
Capital Projects FY05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128,200
COA Senior Center	800,000	-	-	-	-	800,000	-	-	800,000
Curtis/John Street Project	12,737	-	-	-	-	12,737	-	-	12,737
Landfill Closure	158,978	-	-	7,918	-	151,060	-	-	151,060
Library/Senior Ctr. Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	700,000
South Street Project	98,095	-	-	8,881	-	89,214	-	-	89,214
Housatonic Street Project	(2,300)	16,120	-	42,920	-	(29,100)	29,100	-	100,900
	1,074,261	16,120	-	289,076	-	801,305	29,100	241,607	2,220,452

**Schedule 1-C: Trust and Agency Funds
Fund Equity and Liabilities for the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

FUND EQUITY	Balance 7/1/03	Receipts	Due from Others	Transfers In	Expenses	Transfers Out	Balance 6/30/04
NON-EXPENDABLE TRUSTS:							
Principal-Cemetery	35,100	-	-	-	-	-	35,100
Principal-Library	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Principal-School	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
	125,100	-	-	-	-	-	125,100
EXPENDABLE TRUSTS:							
Cemetery	54,669	2,774	-	-	7,500	-	49,943
Library	130,435	5,787	-	-	3,922	-	132,300
Local Law Enforcement School	781	8	-	-	352	-	437
	55,872	2,537	-	-	-	-	58,409
	241,757	11,106	-	-	11,774	-	241,089
STABILIZATION FUNDS:							
General Stabilization	2,622,039	21,161	37,000	-	-	1,639,880	1,040,320
Capital Stabilization	-	3,533	30,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,033,533
Litigation Stabilization	-	707	-	200,000	-	-	200,707
	2,622,039	25,401	67,000	1,200,000	-	1,639,880	2,274,560
Pension Reserve Fund							
	83,222	1,919	-	10,000	-	-	95,141
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	3,072,118	38,426	67,000	1,210,000	11,774	1,639,880	2,735,890

**Schedule 1-C: Trust and Agency Funds (continued)
Fund Equity and Liabilities for the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

LIABILITIES	Balance 7/1/03	Receipts	Due from Others	Transfers In	Disbursements	Transfers Out	Balance 6/30/04
AGENCY FUNDS:							
Dalton Fire District	817	235,807	-	-	236,018	-	606
Deputy Collector Fees	634	11,239	-	-	11,873	-	-
Parking Clerk Fees	5	220	-	-	225	-	-
Town Clerk Fees	1,120	8,143	-	-	8,143	-	-
Town Collector Fees	288	13,690	5	-	13,385	-	1,430
State Share of Gun Permit Receipts		12,512	-	-	12,800	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,864	281,611	5	-	282,444	-	2,036
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity:	3,074,982	320,037	67,005	1,210,000	294,218	1,639,880	2,737,926

**Schedule 2: General Fund Revenues, Budget to Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

	FY04 Estimated	FY04 Actual	Variance FY04 Budget to FY04 Actual
SEWER OFFSET RECEIPTS			
Sewer Late Fees #4245		2,040	
Sewer User Fees FY03, #4246-03		4,837	
Sewer User Fees FY04, #4246-04		478,487	
Sewer Lien Fees #4247		11,487	
Sewer Hook-Up Charges #4467		2,500	
Pinegrove PILOT in Place of Sewer, #4181		3,921	
Hinsdale Sewer Bill #4746		37,801	
	\$ 483,843	\$ 541,073	\$ 57,230
ESTIMATED LOCAL RECEIPTS:			
Motor Vehicle Excise, #4150			
1999 & Prior		342	
2000		254	
2001		1,402	
2002		4,379	
2003		173,962	
2004		544,457	
	\$ 568,650	\$ 724,796	\$ 156,146
Other Excise			
Farm Animal Excise #4162		150	
Classified Forest Land #4163		0	
Forest Products Tax		1,444	
	\$ 275	\$ 1,594	\$ 1,319
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excise:			
Interest & Penalties on Taxes #4171		18,899	
Interest & Penalties on Tax Titles #4172		66,956	
Interest & Penalties on Sewer User #4173		0	
Interest & Penalties on Other A/R #4174		9	
	\$ 15,000	\$ 85,864	\$ 70,864
Payment in Lieu of Taxes			
Trailer Park Fees #4165		4,992	
Pmts in Lieu of Taxes #4180		1,123	
	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,115	\$ 2,115
Other Charges for Services			
Board of Appeals #4373		600	
Planning Board #4374		3,510	
Zoning #4375		190	
Sealer of Wgths/Measures #4466		935	
	\$ 1,200	\$ 5,235	\$ 4,035

Schedule 2: General Fund Revenues, Budget to Actual (continued)

	FY04 Estimated	FY043 Actual	Variance FY04 Budget to FY04 Actual
Fees			
Registry of Motor Vehicles #4175		4,680	
Municipal Lien Fees #4321		8,150	
Bad Check Fees #4330		225	
Alarm Fees #4331		1,425	
Default Warrant Removal Fee #4332		75	
Collector Late Fees Ch40 S21E #4333		15	
LIHEAPA Application Fee #4381		0	
Duplicate Bill Fee #4382		474	
Communication Center Fees #4810		8,085	
Fees-Pole Hearings #4376		0	
Highway Excavation Fees #4377		900	
SHINE Admin Fees #4379 (were in SRF)		0	
	\$ 21,825	\$ 24,029	\$ 2,204
Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries			
Cemetery #4378		31,612	
	\$ 23,500	\$ 31,612	\$ 8,112
Other Departmental Revenue			
Town Clerk - Street List #4371		75	
Town Clerk - Other #4372		233	
Assessors Maps #4383		1,007	
Assessors' Infor Requests/auth #4384		400	
Dalton Fire District Tax Reimb. #4811			
Photocopies #4391		171	
Town Maps #4393		51	
Recycled Goods #4329		320	
School Census #4841		0	
Charge for Bid Specs #4380		0	
Bicentennial Sales #4394		124	
Police Reports #4397		513	
Police - Outside Detail Admin Fee #4398		3,365	
Town Collector Miscellaneous #4844		181	
	\$ 12,650	\$ 6,440	\$ (6,210)
Licenses & Permits			
All Alcohol Licenses #4411		6,000	
Beer & Wine Licenses #4413		225	
All Other Alcohol Licenses #4414		2,050	
Raffle Permits #4455		80	
Cable TV Franchise #4458		1,204	
Building Permits #4460		56,342	
Health Agent Receipts #4462		4,135	
Police Pistol Permits #4473		4,362	
Other Licenses & Permits #4499		4,525	
Conservation Commission #4389		540	
	\$ 33,900	\$ 79,463	\$ 45,563

Schedule 2: General Fund Revenues, Budget to Actual (continued)

	FY04 Estimated	FY04 Actual	Variance FY04 Budget to FY04 Actual
Fines and Forfeits			
Motor Vehicle Fines #4694		15,903	
District Court Restitution #4698		5,269	
Parking Fines #4771		2,270	
Library Fines #4772		3,352	
Unlicensed Dog Fines #4773		2,697	
Police Fines #4774		222	
	\$ 26,000	\$ 29,713	\$ 3,713
Investment Income			
Earnings on Investment #4820		37,856	
	\$ 65,000	\$ 37,856	\$ (27,144)
Miscellaneous Recurring			
Miscellaneous Revenue #4840		1,191	
Miscellaneous State Revenue #4699		0	
		\$ 1,191	\$ 1,191
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring			
Miscellaneous Federal Revenue #4540		14,611	
Workman's Comp Refund #4843		21,000	
Sales of Equipment #4815		450	
		\$ 36,061	\$ 36,061
TOTAL ESTIMATED LOCAL RECEIPTS:	\$ 772,000	\$1,069,969	\$ 297,969
CHERRY SHEET REVENUE: (NET OF CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS)			
Exemptions:Vets, Blind & Surviving. Spouse #4617	6,400	5,000	(1,400)
Elderly Persons #4616	16,313	15,562	(751)
State Owned Land #4611	7,195	7,195	0
School Aid (Ch70) #4621	229,451	229,451	0
Regional Transportation #4637	0	606	606
Police Career Incentive #4661	34,050	36,060	2,010
Veterans Benefits #4667	0	608	608
Lottery, Beano, Charity #4671	848,429	848,429	0
Highway Fund #4672	0	0	0
	\$1,141,838	\$1,142,911	\$ 1,073
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	\$2,397,681	\$2,753,953	\$ 356,272

**Schedule 3: General Fund Appropriations,
Expenditures and Encumbrances
For the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

Dept. Number	Department Title	Total Final Budget Including FY03 CarryForwards	Salary Expended	Vendor Payments Expended	Year End Department Balance	Amount Encumbered or Carried Forward to FY05	Unencumbered Balance
114	Moderator	419	290	0	129	0	129
122	Select Board	23,375	17,100	3,391	2,884	0	2,884
123	Town Manager	106,024	97,997	3,819	4,208	1800	2,408
131	Finance Committee	150	0	150	0	0	0
132	Reserve Fund (Less Departmental Transfers)	767	0	0	767	0	767
133	Prior Year Bills	1,062	0	1,062	0	0	0
135	Accountant	43,244	32,559	2,788	7,897	7,000	897
138	Group Purchasing	400	0	400	0	0	0
139	Town Audit	11,000	0	10,500	500	0	500
141	Assessors	86,648	73,548	13,063	37	0	37
142	Triennial Revaluation	7,600	0	7,600	0	0	0
143	Town Re-Mapping	0	0	0	0	0	0
145	Treasurer	48,367	30,524	12,045	5,798	272	5,526
146	Town Collector	53,263	44,913	8,304	46	0	46
149	Fixed Asset Inventory	4,250	0	0	4,250	4,250	0
151	Town Counsel	42,500	0	32,666	9,834	0	9,834
152	Telephone	22,060	0	18,472	3,588	0	3,588
154	Recording Secretary	3,210	3,208	0	2	0	2
155	Floating Clerical	63,780	57,516	0	6,264	0	6,264
157	Computer	8,500	0	8,315	185	0	185
158	Postage Meter	14,000	0	13,376	624	0	624
161	Town Clerk	33,487	30,754	1,977	756	0	756
162	Elections	7,154	2,993	2,646	1,515	0	1,515
163	Board of Registrars	6,275	2,178	1,964	2,133	0	2,133

Schedule 3: General Fund Appropriations, (continued)

Dept. Number	Department Title	Total Final Budget Including FY03 Carry Forwards	Salary Expended	Vendor Payments Expended	Year End Department Balance	Amount Encumbered or Carried Forward to FY05	Unencumbered Balance
171	Conservation	2,225	0	592	1,633	0	1,633
174	Appeals/Planning Salaries	17,111	17,111	0	0	0	0
175	Planning Board	805	0	352	453	0	453
176	Board of Appeals	150	0	14	136	0	136
182	Development & Industrial Commission	425	0	412	13	0	13
191	Old Dalton High Maintenance	15,349	992	11,719	2,638	0	2,638
195	Town Report	6,650	0	5,830	820	0	820
196	Town Hall	90,204	33,106	53,411	3,687	0	3,687
210	Police Department	777,988	713,705	59,645	4,638	4,587	51
222	Communications	141,502	138,953	1,094	1,455	596	859
240	Building Inspector	34,444	31,606	1,651	1,187	58	1,129
244	Weights and Measures	1,701	1,051	0	650	0	650
247	Meat & Cattle	970	892	0	78	0	78
292	Animal Control	21,257	14,436	3769	3,052	0	3,052
293	Traffic Commission	1	0	0	1	0	1
294	Forest Warden	3,343	1,485	561	1,297	0	1,297
295	Emergency Management	4,000	458	137	3,405	0	3,405
296	Tree Warden	18,935	1,655	16,949	331	0	331
310	CBRSD	5,645,140	0	5,645,140	0	0	0
320	Vocational Education	191,096	0	179,171	11,925	0	11,925
401	Town Engineer	13,950	0	9,805	4,145	300	3,845
420	Highway	398,463	289,117	95,711	13,635	0	13,635
423	Snow and Ice	122,370	20,157	102,212	1	0	1
424	Street Lights	66,000	0	64,785	1,215	0	1,215
433	Landfill Closure	13,800	0	11,223	2,577	0	2,577
434	Transfer Station	33,312	1,439	27,568	4,305	980	3,325

Schedule 3: General Fund Appropriations (continued)

Dept. Number	Department Title	Total Final Budget Including FY03 Carry Forwards	Salary Expended	Vendor Payments Expended	Year End Department Balance	Amount Encumbered or Carried Forward to FY05	Unencumbered Balance
440	Sewer	21,350	7,644	4,284	9,422	0	9,422
449	Sewer Treatment	458,731	0	415,866	42,865	0	42,865
491	Cemetery	91,291	67,053	17,677	6,561	0	6,561
510	Health Agent/Board	26,761	18,469	6,627	1,665	260	1,405
522	Visiting Nurse Association	11,190	0	11,190	0	0	0
523	Berkshire Mental Health	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
541	Council on Aging	83,601	75,681	5,331	2,589	0	2,589
543	Veterans Services	16,835	5,385	2,928	8,522	0	8,522
591	Berkshire Regional Planning	3,874	0	3,873	1	0	1
610	Library	141,793	103,734	35,762	2,297	28	2,269
630	CRA - Parks Programs	66,289	0	66,289	0	0	0
650	Parks Maintenance	46,404	22,807	17,926	5,671	80	5,591
691	Historical Commission	575	0	460	115	0	115
692	Memorial Day	1,970	0	1,853	117	0	117
693	Cultural Activities	1,700	0	1,700	0	0	0
710	Maturing Debt and Interest	289,510	0	263,116	26,394	0	26,394
820	State Assessments	39,579	0	40,009	(430)	0	(430)
911	Retirement	248,615	0	248,615	0	0	0
913	Unemployment Insurance	10,000	0	1,746	8,254	0	8,254
914	Health Insurance	472,382	0	446,499	25,883	0	25,883
915	Life Insurance	7,560	0	6,880	680	0	680
916	Town Share - Medicare	20,100	0	19,715	385	0	385
919	Fringe Benefits	24,755	6,593	1,215	16,947	0	16,947
930	FY97 Vote - Capital Projects	1,861	0	0	1,861	1,861	0

Schedule 3: General Fund Appropriations (continued)

Depart. Number	Department Title	Total Final Budget Including FY03 Carry Forwards	Salary Expended	Vendor Payments Expended	Year End Department Balance	Amount Encumbered or Carried Forward to FY05	Unencumbered Balance
932	FY00 Vote - Capital Projects	7,133	0	260	6,873	6,873	0
932	FY01 Vote - Capital Projects	45,212	0	35,576	9,636	9,636	0
932	FY03 Vote - Capital Projects	90,000	0	4,259	85,741	85,741	0
932	FY04 Vote - Capital Projects	82,000	0	27,000	55,000	55,000	0
941	Court Judgments & Claims	4,000	0	2,945	1,055	1,055	0
945	Town Insurance Coverage	114,561	0	104,088	10,473	0	10,473
950	Trust Fund Commissioners	255	0	0	255	0	255
998	Pension Fund Transfer to Fund 084	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0
TOTAL:		10,650,613	1,967,109	8,239,978	443,526	180,377	263,149

**Schedule 4: Schedule of Bond Indebtedness
For the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

Description	Interest Rate	Month/ Year Issued	Final Maturity Date	Original Amount Due	Outstanding
Outside Debt Limit:					
Landfill Closure	5.27%	12/15/1996	1/15/2012	\$1,500,000	\$800,000
Inside Debt Limit:					
Capital Projects					
Departmental FY03	3.05%	05/01/2003	05/01/2008	\$502,053	\$400,000
Total:					\$1,200,000

Authorized and Unissued Debt	Date	Amount	Retired	Issued	Unissued
Road Projects	06/21/1999	750,000	225,000	275,000	250,000
Capital Projects					
Departmental FY03	06/24/2002	324,000	0	227,053	96,947
Capital Projects					
Departmental FY04	06/30/2003	364,000	0	0	364,000
Capital Projects					
Departmental FY04	03/22/2004	700,000	0	0	700,000
Capital Projects					
Departmental FY05	06/28/2004	128,200	0	0	128,200
Total Authorized and Unissued Debt		2,266,200	225,000	502,053	1,539,147

A temporary BAN has been issued for FY03 and FY04 Capital in the amount of \$241,607.00 on June 16, 2004.

**Schedule 5: Analysis of
General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance
For the Year Ended June 30, 2004**

Balance, 7/1/03		\$1,375,269
Adjustments:		
FY03 Completed Capital Projects		
Back to Stabilization		
Write off Closed Grants		
Write off Prior Year Old Variances	(1,171)	
		(1,171)
Open:		
Reserve for Encumbrances and Carry Forwards	(180,377)	
Reserve for Expenses	(50,000)	
Reserve for Extraordinary and Unforsee–Current Year	(169,923)	
		(400,300)
Close:		
Appropriated Reserve for Extraordinary and Unforseen–Current Year	169,311	
Unappropriated Reserve for		
Extraordinary and Unforseen	612	
Dog Licenses (Special Revenue)	12,332	
Extended Polling Grant–Unused	393	
Other Financing Sources	739,880	
Other Financing Uses	(377,000)	
Prior Year Excluded Debt Service	9,310	
Prior Year Reserve for Encumbrances and Carry Forwards	193,985	
Prior Year Reserve for Expenses	50,000	
Expenditures	(10,197,087)	
Revenues	10,127,255	
		728,991
Ending Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,702,789
		\$1,702,789

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sharon M. Messenger, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2004 has been a very successful year for the collection of Tax Title delinquencies. In this year alone we have collected \$198,550.65 in tax payments and \$59,668.48 in interest. We have final foreclosure on two properties and an additional eleven properties in the foreclosure process. We intend to continue this process in the upcoming years.

I want to thank the Dalton residents for their continued support, and a special "thank you" to my Assistant Treasurer Victoria Sedgwick for her hard work and diligence throughout the year.

Fiscal 2004

GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES

Personal Property Taxes 2004	189,234.62	
Personal Property Taxes Prior Years	1,553.78	
Real Estate Taxes 2004	6,870,185.94	
Real Estate Taxes Prior Years	99,841.41	
Motor Vehicle Taxes 2004	544,457.16	
Motor Vehicle Taxes 2003	173,962.04	
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes Prior Years	6,376.58	
Farm Animal 2004	150.00	
Forest Products/61 Withdrawal	1,443.69	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	18,898.88	
		\$7,906,104.10

TAX LIENS RECEIVABLES

Tax Liens	198,550.65	
Interest and Penalties	59,668.48	
		\$258,219.13

STATE RECEIPTS (CHERRY SHEET)

Transportation Vocational Students	606.00	
State Owned Land	7,195.00	
Veterans Benefits	608.00	
Abatements, Blind, Surv. Sp, Veterans	5,000.00	
Elderly Persons	15,562.00	
Lottery, Beano, Charity	848,429.00	
Police Career Incentive	36,059.78	
School Aid (Chapter 70)	229,451.00	
		\$1,142,910.78

STATE COMMONWEALTH OF MASS. RECEIPTS

Elections Extended Pol. Hours	393.00
Arts Cultural Council Grant	2,000.00
Community Policing Grants	45,600.00
Council on Aging Formula Grant	7,040.00
Grant Revenue Housatonic St.	16,120.00
Library Incentive Grant	8,855.69

Police Vest Grant	1,379.25	
Motor Vehicle Fines	15,902.50	
Highway Reconstruction	117,175.89	
Miscellaneous State Revenue	1,700.00	
		\$216,166.33

FEDERAL REVENUE

In Lieu of Taxes	1,123.00	
Emergency Management	14,611.43	
Cops in Schools	36,666.20	
		\$52,400.63

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE

Communications Center Services	8,084.73	
Berkshire District Court Restitution	5,269.50	
Hinsdale Sewer Services	37,801.00	
Local Law Enforcement Receipts	1.53	
Council on Aging Hilltown Outreach	4,000.00	
		\$55,156.76

GENERAL GOVERNMENT—CHARGES FOR SERVICES/FEES

Registry of Motor Vehicle Charges	4,680.00	
Trailer Park Fees	4,992.00	
Sewer Late Fees	2,040.00	
Sewer User Fee 2004	478,487.22	
Sewer User Fees Prior Years	4,837.36	
Sewer Liens 2004	11,086.78	
Sewer Liens Prior Years	400.36	
Municipal Lien Fees	8,150.00	
Bad Check Fees	225.00	
Alarm Monitoring Fees	1,425.00	
Sale of Street Lists	75.00	
Highway Excavation Fees	900.00	
Cemetery Charges	31,611.60	
Assessors Maps	1,007.00	
Collector Late Fees (Chap. 40 S 21E)	15.00	
Police Reports	513.00	
Police Outside Detail Administration Fee	3,365.25	
Cable T.V. Franchise Fee	1,204.00	
Sewer Hook-up Charges	2,500.00	
Library Fines	3,351.72	
Unlicensed Dog Fines	2,696.70	
Police Fines	222.50	
Recycled Goods	320.46	
Parking Fines	2,270.00	
Duplicate Bill Charges	474.00	
Assessors Info. Request/Author.	400.00	
Default Warrant Removal Fee	75.00	
		\$567,324.95

GENERAL GOVERNMENT- LICENSES/PERMITS

Interest and Penalties Other	9.66	
Pilot Sewer Pine Grove Manor	3,920.85	
Planning Board	3,510.00	
Zoning Board /Zoning By-Laws	190.00	
Conservation Commission	540.00	
Alcohol Licenses	6,000.00	
Beer and Wine Licenses	225.00	
All other Alcohol Licenses	2,050.00	
Raffle Permits	80.00	
Building Permits	56,341.52	
Health Agent	4,135.00	
Sealer of Weights and Measures	935.00	
Police Pistol Permits	4,362.50	
Board of Appeals Postage	600.00	
All other Licenses and Permits	4,525.00	
		\$87,424.53

MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL REVENUE

Beautification Committee Donations	1,800.00	
Council on Aging-Van Receipts	10,617.50	
Council on Aging Gifts/Donations	5,345.95	
Photo Copies	170.75	
Town Clerk Other	233.04	
Town Maps	51.00	
Bicentennial Sales	124.00	
Grave Digging Overtime	2,200.00	
Sale of Equipment	450.00	
Pinecrest Development	3,000.00	
Police Donations	1,645.00	
Dalton Papers	20.00	
Library Donations	1,849.00	
Town Collector Misc.	180.50	
Silver Maple Farm	5,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,191.00	
Historical Donations	273.00	
Insurance Claims under \$10,000.00	2,205.70	
Miscellaneous Gifts	15,500.00	
		\$51,856.44

AGENCIES

Workers Compensation Refund	21,000.00
Warner Cable T.V. Franchise	64,460.15
Dog Licenses	12,625.49
Legal Advertising	2,127.70
Plumbing Inspections	11,605.00
Electrical Inspections	7,525.00
Deputy Collector Fees	11,239.00
Police Outside Details	70,080.00

Parking Fees	220.00	
Cemetery Vandalism Restitution	770.00	
Fees retained by Town Collector	13,690.00	
Fees Retained by Town Clerk	8,143.16	
		\$223,485.50

EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS

General Funds	37,856.13	
Trust Funds (all)	11,098.34	
Local Law Enforc.	6.59	
Capital Stabilization Int.	3,533.15	
Litigation Stabilization Int.	706.58	
General Stabilization Funds	21,160.88	
Pension Reserve Funds	1,918.58	
Arts Cultural Council	57.86	
		\$76,338.11

TOTAL ALL RECEIPTS 2004 **\$10,637,387.26**

TRUST FUNDS**ARTS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Balance June 30, 2003	2,491.49	
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Grant	2,000.00	
Warrants FY 2000	-2,945.00	
Interest Earned Fy 2004	32.14	
Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,578.63

ARTS CULTURAL COUNCIL MATCHING FUNDS

Balance June 30, 2003	1,700.96	
Interest Earned FY 04	25.72	
Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,726.68

PENSION TRUST FUNDS

Balance June 30, 2003	83,222.48	
Town Meeting Approval	10,000.00	
Interest Earned FY 04	1,918.58	
Balance June 30, 2004		\$95,141.06

STABILIZATION TRUST FUNDS

Balance June 30, 2003	1,919,905.06	
Transfers In	702,133.58	
Transfers Out	-657,880.00	
Transfer Out for Capital Projects payment	-82,000.00	
Transfer Out to Capital Projects Stabiliz'n	-800,000.00	
Transfer Out to Litigation Expense Stabiliz'n	-100,000.00	
Interest FY 04	21,160.88	
Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,003,319.52

Capital Projects Stabilization Transfer in	800,000.00	
Transfer in From Free Cash	200,000.00	
Interest FY 04	\$3,533.15	
		\$1,003,533.15
Litigation Stabilization Transfer In	100,000.00	
Transfer from Free Cash	100,000.00	
Interest FY 04	706.58	
		\$200,706.58
TOTAL ALL STABILIZATION FUNDS		\$2,207,559.25

PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS

Non-Expendable Funds	60,000.00	
Receipts	500.00	
Expendable Funds	54,945.00	
		\$115,445.00
Interest Balance June 30, 2003	74,990.12	
Interest Income FY 04	5,787.35	
Transfers Out	-3,331.00	
		\$77,446.47
Balance June 30, 2004		\$192,891.47

CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS

Non-Expendable Funds	35,100.00	
Expendable Funds	2,955.00	
		\$38,055.00
Interest Balance June 30, 2003	51,713.78	
Warrants FY 04	-7,500.00	
Interest Income FY 04	2,774.41	
		\$46,988.19
Balance June 30, 2004		\$85,043.19

SCHOOL TRUST FUNDS

Non-Expendable Funds	30,000.00	
		\$30,000.00
Interest Balance June 30, 2003	55,871.94	
Interest Income FY 04	2,536.58	
		\$58,408.52
Balance June 30, 2004		\$88,408.52

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Balance June 30, 2003	780.73	
Receipts	1.53	
Interest	6.59	
Warrants	-351.45	
		\$437.40

MATURING DEBT AND INTEREST SCHEDULE FY2004

Type of Issue	Date Issued	Original Amount	Principal Paid	Date Due	Interest Paid	Remaining Principal
15 yr. Landfill Closure	12/15/1996	\$1,500,000	\$600,000 100,000	7/15/2003 1/15/2004	22,625 22,625	900,000 800,000 800,000
Balance as of June 30, 2004						
Capital Projects	5/1/2003	\$227,053	47,053	5/01/2004	2,745	\$180,000
FY 03 Highway Projects	5/1/2003	275,000	55,000	5/01/2004	3,355	\$220,000
Balance as of June 30, 2004						\$400,000
TEMPORARY BORROWING BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES						
BAN	6/07/2004	241,607	0	6/07/2005	0	\$241,607
Balance as of June 30, 2004						\$241,607
OUTSTANDING DEBT AS OF JUNE 30, 2004						\$1,441,607

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Barbara L. Suriner, Town Clerk

As the local arm of the Secretary of State's Office, the Town Clerk serves you as the chief election official, supervising polling places, election officers and the general conduct of all elections. The Clerk directs the preparation of ballots, polling places, voting equipment, voting lists, the certification of nomination papers and initiative petitions; administers campaign finance laws, voter registration and absentee balloting, and prepares, records and reports official election results to the Secretary of State; and serves on and supervises the Board of Registrars. In addition to serving as the liaison for the Federal Census and responsible for any required redistricting, our office conducts the Annual Town Census, preparing and printing in-house all Street Lists, Voter Lists, School Lists, and furnishes the Jury List to the Office of the Jury Commissioner.

The Town Clerk is also responsible for recording and certifying all official actions of the Town, including Town Meeting legislation and appropriations, Planning and Zoning Board decisions, signs all notes for borrowing, keeps the Town Seal, and submits all General and Zoning Bylaws to the Attorney General for approval.

In addition to the above, we recorded State Tax Liens and processed many legal claims as well as preparing search requests for same. We will continue to perform UCC searches and terminations until there are no longer any active statements on file. We issued 83 Cemetery Department Burial Permits; 28 Business Certificates; 3 Professional Registrations; 1,150 dog licenses; 442 fish and game licenses; 6 permits for raffles and bazaars; along with other various state licenses and permits. Chapter 40, Section 21D requires the Town Clerk to collect District Court fines for noncriminal disposition, not limited to but including Animal Control, Junk Car, False Alarm, Snow and Ice Removal, Alcoholic Beverages, Town Parks Playground, Failure to Pay Municipal Charges and Bills, Zoning, Noise Control, Smoking, Hawkers and Peddlers, Uniform Numbering System of Dwellings Bylaws and Board of Health Youth Possession Regulation violations. Under the Animal Control Bylaw adopted December, 1993, dog licenses are due January 1 of each year, with a \$10 late fee effective April 1, and a \$25 per dog Failure to License fine after June 15. In 2003, owners paid fine(s) for 36 unlicensed dogs, 28 unrestrained dogs, 15 failure to vaccinate, in addition to holding fees and miscellaneous fines. Several cases were filed at District Court which adds an additional charge of \$25 to cover the cost of preparing these court cases.

As local Registrar of Vital Statistics, registering all vital events occurring within the community and those events occurring elsewhere to local residents, we recorded and preserved 53 birth, 92 death and 18 marriage records contributing to the basis for the Commonwealth's central vital registration system. In addition, we processed 18 Intentions of Marriage, issuing Marriage Licenses for same; and issued several hundred certified copies of births, deaths and marriages in 2004, as well as notarizing or certifying a multitude of documents.

As Public Records Officer, this office is responsible for administering the oath of office to all elected and appointed members of local committees and boards, keeping all officials informed of the State's Open Meeting and Conflict of

Interest Laws; and is responsible for posting meetings of all governmental bodies. Providing access to public records in compliance with State Records Law and corresponding regulations, we performed innumerable search requests and conducted or assisted with genealogical research for members of the public.

As our accountability includes maintenance, disposition, and preservation of municipal archival records and materials, we have initiated an ongoing restoration project in an effort to preserve and restore Dalton's earliest records which were decomposing daily due to acidic paper and ink which devours these irreplaceable documents until they crumble and/or are illegible. We are therefore compelled to preserve this priceless heritage for posterity, and are pleased to report that a total of eight handwritten volumes plus many individual historical records have been preserved; partially as a result of grants from the Dalton Cultural Council and the donated proceeds of Ray Fischer's book, "The Dalton Papers."

As always, I extend my sincere appreciation to my staff—Assistant Town Clerk Malia Windrow Carlotto and Dawn M. Fahey—for being the kind of personnel everyone desires. They are warm, friendly, sensitive and hardworking, and we are fortunate to have them. Please also let me take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Dalton for their continual support.

DOG LICENSES ISSUED/FINES COLLECTED

Males	112
Neutered Males	432
Females	76
Spayed Females	497
Commercial Kennel	1
Multiple Pet Permit (3 – 4 Dog Permits)	12
Multiple Pet Permit (2 – 5 Dog Permits)	10
Multiple Pet Permit (1 – 6 Dog Permit)	6
Transfer Licenses	4
TOTAL 2004 DOG LICENSES ISSUED	1,150
TOTAL NUMBER LATE FEES ASSESSED	139
TOTAL LICENSE/ LATE FEE AMOUNT PAID TO TOWN TREASURER	\$12,044.26
TOTAL ANIMAL CONTROL/POLICE FINES, COURT FEES & MISC. PAID TO TOWN TREASURER	\$ 3,625.49
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO TOWN TREASURER	\$15,669.75

VITAL STATISTICS

Births	53
Deaths	92
Marriages	18

FISH & WILDLIFE LICENSES ISSUED

Resident Fishing	50
Resident Minor Fishing Ages 15-17	10
Resident Fishing Age 65-69 (HALF PRICE)	6
Resident Fishing Handicapped/Over 70 (FREE)	18
Non-Resident Fishing	4
Non-Resident Fishing (3 Day)	1
Duplicate Fishing	1
Resident Citizen Hunting	12
Resident Citizen Hunting Age 65-69 (HALF PRICE)	1
Non-Resident Hunting (Big Game)	1
Non-Resident Hunting (Small Game)	2
Resident Minor Hunting Age 15-17	1
Resident Citizen Sporting	60
Resident Citizen Sporting Age 65-69 (HALF PRICE)	6
Resident Sporting Age 70 & over (FREE)	48
Duplicate Hunting	1
Archery Stamp	28
Primitive Firearms Stamp	35
Waterfowl Stamp	5
Wildlands Conservation Stamp – Resident	144
Wildlands Conservation Stamp – Non-Resident	8
TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSES/STAMPS ISSUED	442
AMOUNT PAID TO	

2004 BIRTHS

ALEXANDER, JR., SHELDON JOSEPH	KENDALL, ARIANNA ROSE
ALFONSO, OWEN LUKE	KOOMSON, ABIJAH AMOAH
ANNAND, ZACHARIAH SCOTT	LENNON, KEEGAN ELIZABETH-KEARNS
BARRETT, ALEXIS ELIZABETH	MACPHERSON, GEORGE GAVIN
BENCIVENGA, CAMERON ERNESTO	MASSARO, JOSEPH ROCCO
BENLIEN, KENDALL RENEE	MILLER, OWEN DUSTIN
BETIT, KAREN ROSE	NOYES, BENJAMIN TOWER
BIRD, JENNAH ELAINE	NOYES, BRADLEY NOLAN
BOLAND, MAXWELL JAMES	PARROTT, EMMA ROSE
BRODERICK, SAMUEL JOHN	POPLASKI, NIKOLAS JAMES
BROWN, AMBER MARISSA	ROBB, LILY MARIE
BURROWS, JOSHUA DAVID	ROLLINS, GREYSON PATRICK
CARMEL, HANNAH ROSE	SCALISE, DOMINIC JAMES
CHAFFEE, III, ASHLEY GREAME	TEMPONE, DAVID HENRY
DUQUETTE, LEAH CHRISTINA	THIEDE, EMILY ELIZABETH
FARLEY, BRADY DANIEL	TRAGER, PAIGE ELIZABETH
GEORGE, WYATT THOMPSON	WASUK, BRETT JAMES
HANNIGAN, JOSEPH PATRICK	WOLFE, ANDREW STEVEN
HUNT, COLE BRYAN	

TOTAL 53 (INCLUDES 16 IMPOUNDED BIRTH RECORDS NOT LISTED ABOVE)

2004 DEATHS*

BARRAZA, RUTH IRENE	KELLY, RUTH
BENNETT, FLOYD J.	KIRK, MABEL LOUISE
BIGGART, JR., WILLIAM HENRY	LEAB, DOROTHY E.
BIRD, SHERRY ANN	LEONARDO, EVELYN MYRTLE
BLANCHARD, JR., CHARLES R.	LEVARDI, DORIS ELIZABETH
BROYLES, ANNIELEE S.	LEWIS, ESTHER LOUISE
BRUCE, JOSEPH PETER	LEWIS, JOHN REED
BURBANK, ROBERT BARTLETT	LEWIS, JR., HERBERT JOHN
CAFFREY, BERNARD FRANCIS	LINKER, JR., HAROLD JACOB
CAROSSO, DELIA	MAJOR, MARGARET MARY
CHAPMAN, FRANCES E.	MCMAHON, WILLIAM J.
CHARLAND, JEANNETTE FLORENCE	MELOVECK, HELEN K.
CHOJNOWSKI, DIANA MARY	OLES, SR. EVERETT C.
CHRISTOPHER, WILLIAM B.	PARKER, MARY A.
CHYLA, EDWARD	PASQUINI, MARSILIA LUCILLE
CLARK, JAMES G.	PELKEY, NANCY E.
COONEY, MARTIN JOSEPH	POOPOR, EDMUND MARK
CROSSIN, CLARA R.	QUINN, LYDIA B.
CURTIN, MARGUERITE R.	QUINN, WILLIAM P.
DEFOREST, JOY ADELE	RENNIE, CHRISTIANA LUISE
DELPHIA, SUSAN JEAN	ROCHE, RAYMOND MICHAEL
DICARLO, BRIANNA CONSTANCE	ROOD, RALPH LEE
DIETLIN, JR., ARTHUR R.	RYAN, MICHAEL JOHN
DIPIETRO, KATHERINE M.	SABIN, HARRIET E.
FORD, DOROTHY B.	SCOTT, JEAN W.
FOX, MARGUERITE L.	SHEPHERD, DONALD C.
GALLETLY, HELEN A.	SIMPSON, HOWARD DEAN
GARDNER, ANNETTA	SMELZER, WALLACE H.
GEBAROWSKI, BLANCHE VERONICA	SMITH, KATHLEEN G.
GENSLER, JENNIFER G.	SPASYK, ANNE M.
GILLOOLY, GERALDINE	ST. PALLEY, STEPHEN L., SR.
GREENLEAF, SHIRLEY K.	STEELE, ROBERT FREDERICK, SR.
HALL, EDWARD G.	SURINER, IVY ALICE
HARRIS, CATHERINE	SZKLASZ, JOAN MARIE
HARRISON, CHRISTINE ELIZABETH	TEFTS, GEORGE HENRY
HEBERT, PAUL EMILE	THOMAS, ARTHUR L.
HENRY, FLORENCE A.	THOMAS, DOROTHY ANGELICA
HERRICK, ROBERT EUGENE	THOMSON SR, JOHN CHARLES
HICKS, DOROTHY	TORRES, JEAN ELIZABETH
HOUGHTLING, ELIZABETH A.	WALSH, EMILY JANE
HOWE, ANNA E. DANIELS	WARD, JAMES NORRIS
HYNDMAN, JOAN F.	WHITE, MARY JANE
INGRAHAM, ERNEST L.	WHITNEY, EVA R.
JACOBS, MARIANN MAWHINNEY	WINTERS, RAYMOND SAVAGE
KELLAR, ETHEL RITA	WRIGHT, DOROTHY ELIZABETH
KELLY, ROBERT PATRICK	ZIEMLAK, THEODORE JOSEPH
	TOTAL 92

*Not all deaths listed were Dalton residents. Any person whose death occurs while a resident of a Dalton nursing home is included in the Dalton record. Also, some Dalton residents die out of state. Unless the family establishes the death record here by deposition, those deaths are not part of the Dalton record.

VETERANS SERVICE

Daniel K. Casey, Agent

During calendar year 2004, the following activity occurred:

Three bronze burial markers were ordered

One bronze burial marker re-ordered and replaced due to accidental damage.

One granite burial marker ordered for deceased veteran who died in 1965.

State reimbursement (M.G.L.115) totaled \$1068.75.

This reimbursement was for benefits paid out during calendar year 2003.

Again, as in past years, many inquires were made concerning benefit entitlements from the Veterans Affairs Department and the Veterans Services Department. Referrals were made to each Department.

ATTENTION: PERSIAN GULF VETERANS

\$500.00 is awarded to each such Persian Gulf War veteran who performed active service in the Persian Gulf area in OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and STORM and is in receipt of the Southwest Asian Service medal.

\$300.00 is awarded to all other such Persian Gulf veterans who were called to active service in support of said operations as members of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard or as a reservist in the Armed Forces and served in an area other than the Persian Gulf area.

Inquiries can be made at my office. Please bring DD214.

IN MEMORIAM

WORLD WAR II

William A. Culverwell
Marquerite L. Fox
Paul E. Hebert

Robert E. Herrick
Herbert J. Lewis II
William P. Quinn

Stephen L. St. Palley
Leo J. Tower
Raymond S. Winters

KOREA

William J. Biggart Jr.
Bernard F. Caffrey
Martin J. Cooney

Ernest L. Ingraham
Robert P. Kelly
Harold J. Linker

Ralph L. Rood
Wallace Smelzer
Richard A. Street

VIETNAM

James G. Clark
Raymond M. Roche

Michael J. Ryan
Robert F. Steele, Sr

BERKSHIRE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

Eileen Myers, Vice President of Home Care, Berkshire Medical Center

OVERVIEW: The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has provided more than 100 years of service to the residents of Berkshire County. Our public health services are provided with the support of the Boards of Health in Berkshire County. Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association, through the Dalton Board of Health, provides disease prevention and health promotion services throughout the year to the residents of Dalton. These services include regularly scheduled prevention clinics where residents receive personal attention in:

- monitoring blood pressure
- testing blood sugar
- counseling on health related issues and
- referral as necessary to other medical care providers and wellness programs

Immunization clinics are held on request to provide routine immunization to children and adults. These clinics include the annual influenza and pneumonia clinics in the fall. This fall was particularly challenging due to the late arrival of any flu vaccine and the restrictions determining what residents could receive vaccine at any specific time. These restrictions were mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Routine childhood immunizations and lead testing are also available. Communicable disease reporting and tracking is an ongoing part of the Public Health program.

WELLNESS PROMOTION:

- 354 Individuals were served at health promotion clinics in the year 2004
- Clinics were held at 5 different sites (the town hall, community house, and the 3 senior housing sites)
- 535 flu shots were given

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TRACKING: Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires reporting of all communicable diseases. The following incidents were reported, investigated and received follow-up. This includes 2 residents that received daily visits for tuberculosis treatment.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • 1 Campylobacter | • 2 Invasive Streptococcus |
| • 2 Salmonella | • 2 Tuberculosis |
| • 1 Viral Meningitis | • 9 Pertussis |
| • 1 Varicella | |

COLLABORATION: Our Public Health coordinator works with the Dalton Council on Aging to provide coordination of services for residents. Cholesterol/comprehensive health screenings to low income senior residents of the town of Dalton were administered by Accent on Health through a grant provided by Elder Services of Berkshire County. Primary providers, Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities, receive State Department of Public Health vaccines and immunization information. Curtis Manor and Sugar Hill residents were provided administration of flu vaccine. As a member of the community health care continuum of Berkshire Health Systems, collaboration with and referrals to the other

Health Promotion Clinics	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Includes Town Hall, Community House, River Run, Pomeroy Manor, Pines Grove.)													
Number Attended	36	29	30	34	28	28	32	30	42	31	31	31	354
Male	2	3	2	4	3	3	2	4	5	1	2	2	31
Female	36	26	28	30	25	25	30	26	37	30	29	29	323
New	38	6	6	4	7	0	3	2	16	1	2	2	66
Repeat		21	22	30	22	28	29	26	23	30	29	29	252
Blood Pressure > 140/90	14	10	8	2	3	5	6	4	14	4	2	2	72
Blood Sugar screened 2 hr. after eating > 140 random > 200	6	4	2	5	5	5	3	5	19	3	3	3	62
Stress/and screening instruction on Medication	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	21
Diet	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Disease	7		6						16				29
Referral	22	10	8	8	9	6	7	5	16	4	2	2	
Primary Care Physician	19	8	9	5	4	6	5	3	23	2	4	4	
Tobacco Treatment	8	1	6	2	1	2	0	2	5	4	5	5	36
Nutritionist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fasting Blood Work	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	8
Diabetes Specialist	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	8
Early Intervention Cardiac Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Skilled Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mammogram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colonoscopy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Pressure Rethack	11	4	6	0	2	2	5	4	11	1	4	4	60
Communicable Disease Follow up and Reporting													
Tuberculosis Treatment	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Campylobacter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonella	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Viral Meningitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peritonsillitis	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Ventriculitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Invasive Streptococcus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Immunizations													
Influenza													
Pneumonia													
											636		

VNA Statistics for 2004

health care professionals are readily made. During time of illness or disability, BVNA professional home care clinicians provide treatment and health guidance for the entire family. Registered nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech therapists and trained home health aides are part of the team to provide care and assistance in times of illness and family crisis.

Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association wishes to thank the Select Board for the opportunity to serve your residents. Please feel free to call BVNA for information at 1-800-788-2862. We look forward to our continued relationship in maintaining and promoting good health in Dalton.

TOWN COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Jane A. Carman, CMMC

The formula for the Collector's report is: the balance due as of 6/30/2003 PLUS Commitments, MINUS Abatements/Exemptions, PLUS Refunds, MINUS the Amount Received EQUALS the balance due as of 6/30/2004. For Real Estate, the Tax Title figure is also subtracted, and for Sewer, the amount liened to the next year's Real Estate Tax is subtracted.

The following are definitions of the formula components:

Commitments are documents detailing the amounts due from each taxpayer. The members of the Board of Assessors process the assessment formula; the billing and collection is the Collector's responsibility.

Abatements and Exemptions are authorizations for the taxpayer to pay less than the stated tax, or none. The Board of Assessors issues these forms for various reasons, following acceptable application by the taxpayer.

Refunds are the amounts paid back to the taxpayer due to overpayment, abatement or exemption.

The **Amount Received** is the actual dollar amount taken in by the Collector's office.

The **Tax Title** column is subtracted from the Collector's year-end balance because properties in Tax Title are certified to the Treasurer's office for further processing. The interest rate increases to 16%, and the collection method includes foreclosure.

Sewer bills are due October 1st and April 1st. If not paid by the due date a \$5.00 late fee and interest of 14% per annum is added. If the demand is not paid, the entire amount is added to the next year's Real Estate tax bill as a **Sewer Lien**.

You will notice that the figure in the "To Lien" column in the Sewer User FY 2003 row is \$11,933.85. One would expect that this would be the figure carried forward to the Real Estate Sewer Lien for FY 2004. However, the \$5.00 late fee and the interest accrued for each of the accounts must be added, resulting in the Sewer Lien figure of \$13,636.24.

Real Estate, Personal Property, Fire District, and Fire District Personal Property Tax bills are due semi-annually, the first half in November or December, depending on the setting of the Tax Rate. The taxpayer has 30 days from the date of issue to apply for abatement. The second half is due May 1st. If bills are not paid in full by May 1st, a \$5.00 late fee and 14% interest is added. If that amount is not paid within 14 days, the Tax Title process begins. Ten

parcels were taken in Tax Title in FY 2004.

Many mortgage companies and banks pay the taxes through the escrow system. We are happy to provide them with the amounts due when requested; taxpayers are encouraged to send a copy of the bill to their mortgage company as well.

Personal Property and Fire District Personal Property delinquencies are resolved in Small Claims Court when necessary. More often than not, the notification of a court date prompts taxpayers to settle the bill. In FY 2004, the court set a date for nine delinquent taxpayers to appear; eight paid before the court date. The ninth paid shortly after the magistrate ruled in favor of the town.

Motor Vehicle bills are due 30 days from the date of issue. After that, a \$5.00 late fee and 12% interest is added. If the total amount is not paid in 14 days, the bill is forwarded to the Deputy Collector, and an additional \$10.00 is added. For each step in the collection process, additional fees and interest accumulate, culminating in marking at the Registry of Motor Vehicles at \$20.00. Marking at the registry prevents renewal of license and registration.

Assistant Collector Sue Wellspeak and I continue to attend classes for certification by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association. Our reduced budget has set back the timeframe for Sue's completion of classes; my recertification is on track.

Should you have any questions regarding your bill, please call Sue or me, or the Board of Assessors, right away. Don't wait for the late bill to arrive. We are always happy to help you find a solution.

Please see charts on next two pages.



EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS

About 1744, a plat of 9,423 acres of land lying east of and adjoining the Boston township on Housatanuch (Housatonic) River, (was) laid out by Oliver Partridge Esq. & Chainmen on oath, to satisfy a Grant of the General Court to the proprietors of Lower Ashuelot...plat accepted and land confirmed. In 1744, the principals (assumed to be the Proprietors) involved in Ashuelot Equivalent land swaps were Edmund Dwight, Waitstill Hastings, Oliver Partridge, Obediah Dickenson, Samuel Mather and Israel Williams.

In 1749, the (Ashuelot) Equivalent was divided into lots, by the order of the General Court and by action of the Superior Court. There were five Divisions...Ashuelot Equivalent was incorporated by the name of Dalton on March 20, 1784.

The Town was named in the honor of Tristram Dalton, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Afterwards he became a U.S. Senator.

The transfer of 'allegiance' from Windsor to Dalton is suitably described in several manuscripts. Besides the Clevelands, this area was settled by the Cady, Bardin and Booth families. Before the transfer of lands from Windsor to Dalton in 1795, these families were lawfully Windsor inhabitants.

Excerpt from "The Dalton Papers" by R.W. Fischer

Taxes	FY	Balance 6/30/2003	Commitment	Abatement	Exemption	Refunds	Received	Tax Title	Balance 6/30/2004
Real Estate	2004		\$ 7,065,565.93	\$ 27,165.47	\$ 30,200.00	\$ 27,795.90	\$ 6,897,981.84		\$ 136,014.52
Sewer Lien	2004		\$ 13,636.24				\$ 11,066.78		\$ 2,549.46
Water Lien	2004		\$ 487.60				\$ 399.38		\$ 68.22
Real Estate	2003	\$ 176,683.63		\$ 309.23		\$ 323.72	\$ 84,833.39	\$ 91,684.73	\$ -
Sewer Lien	2003	\$ 2,484.88					\$ 400.36	\$ 2,084.52	\$ -
Water Lien	2003	\$ 449.25					\$ -	\$ 449.25	\$ -
Real Estate	2002	\$ 3,234.91					\$ 1,350.42	\$ 1,884.49	\$ -
Real Estate*	1999	\$ 17,483.35					\$ 13,981.32		\$ 3,502.03
Personal Property	2004		\$ 180,531.50	\$ 438.75			\$ 189,234.62		\$ 868.13
Personal Property	2003	\$ 1,213.10		\$ 70.64			\$ -		\$ -
Personal Property	2002	\$ 411.32					\$ 411.32		\$ -
Farm	2004		\$ 150.00				\$ 150.00		\$ -
Forest	2002		\$ 176.00				\$ 176.00		\$ -
Forest	2001		\$ 1,267.69				\$ 1,267.69		\$ -
Motor Vehicle	2004		\$ 638,279.33	\$ 14,639.67		\$ 4,893.28	\$ 549,350.42		\$ 79,182.50
Motor Vehicle	2003	\$ 88,931.39	\$ 111,434.64	\$ 13,581.87		\$ 9,237.32	\$ 183,199.38		\$ 12,822.12
Motor Vehicle	2002	\$ 7,212.33	\$ 1,243.11	\$ 590.97		\$ 525.24	\$ 4,903.88		\$ 3,485.83
Motor Vehicle	2001	\$ 4,104.09					\$ 1,402.31		\$ 2,701.78
Motor Vehicle	2000	\$ 3,201.25					\$ 253.86		\$ 2,947.39
Motor Vehicle	1999	\$ 2,470.84					\$ 120.00		\$ 2,350.84
Motor Vehicle	Prior		\$ 221.77				\$ 221.77		\$ -
Totals		\$ 307,880.14	\$ 8,022,973.81	\$ 56,796.60	\$ 30,200.00	\$ 42,775.44	\$ 7,941,867.18	\$ 96,282.99	\$ 248,482.62
Fire District	2004		\$ 225,230.50	\$ 865.94		\$ 5,067.05	\$ 224,580.67		\$ 4,850.94
Fire District	2003	\$ 7,101.39		\$ 10.56		\$ 135.31	\$ 4,398.22	\$ 2,827.92	\$ -
Fire Personal	2004		\$ 6,073.60	\$ 13.99			\$ 6,031.80		\$ 27.81
Fire Personal	2003	\$ 34.43		\$ 2.41			\$ 32.02		\$ -
Totals		\$ 7,135.82	\$ 231,304.10	\$ 892.90		\$ 5,202.36	\$ 235,042.71	\$ 2,827.92	\$ 4,878.75
* Taxes in Litigation									
									\$ -
									\$ -

	Account #	FY	Balance 6/30/2003	Commitments	Abatements	Refunds	Received	To Lien	Balance 6/30/2004
Police Detail	246R	2004	\$ 16,747.50	\$ 61,620.00			\$ 70,080.00		\$ 8,287.50
Admin Fee	4398	2004	\$ 1,012.50	\$ 2,866.50	\$ 69.00		\$ 3,365.25		\$ 444.75
Sewer User	4246	2004	\$ 495,773.43	\$ 740.00	\$ 521.69		\$ 479,008.91		\$ 16,546.21
Sewer Late Fee	4245	03/04	\$ 16,771.21		\$ 5.99		\$ 4,843.35	\$ 11,933.85	\$ -
Cemetery	4378	2004	\$ 1,426.00	\$ 2,040.00			\$ 2,040.00		\$ -
Other Interest	4174	2004		\$ 31,191.60			\$ 31,611.60		\$ 1,006.00
Interest	4171	2004		\$ 9.66			\$ 9.66		\$ -
Returned Checks	4330	2004		\$ 19,663.54			\$ 19,663.54		\$ -
Late fee Other	4333	2004		\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00		\$ -
Coil's Misc	4844	2004		\$ 15.00			\$ 15.00		\$ -
Demand fees	247D	2004		\$ 180.50			\$ 180.50		\$ -
Warrant fees	247W	2004		\$ 8,660.00			\$ 8,660.00		\$ -
Deputy fees	251R	2004		\$ 5,030.00			\$ 5,030.00		\$ -
RMV fees	4175	2004		\$ 11,239.00			\$ 11,239.00		\$ -
Municipal Lien	4321	2004		\$ 4,680.00			\$ 4,680.00		\$ -
Trailer Park Fee	4165	2004		\$ 8,150.00			\$ 8,150.00		\$ -
Sewer Hook-up	4467	2004		\$ 4,992.00			\$ 4,992.00		\$ -
Highway Excavation	4377	2004		\$ 2,500.00			\$ 2,500.00		\$ -
Town Clerk Census	4841	2004		\$ 650.00			\$ 650.00		\$ -
Alarms Com Ctr	4331	2004		\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
Com Ctr Services	4810	2004		\$ 1,425.00			\$ 1,425.00		\$ -
Hinsdale Sewer	4746	2004		\$ 11,933.95			\$ 6,084.73		\$ 3,849.22
Fire District Reimb	4811	2004		\$ 37,801.00			\$ 37,801.00		\$ -
Interst MM	4820	2004		\$ 7,000.00			\$ -		\$ 7,000.00
Pinegrove Sewer	4181	2004		\$ 1,407.48			\$ 1,407.48		\$ -
Duplicate bill chg	4382	2004		\$ 1,963.53			\$ 3,920.85		\$ -
Hinsdale Calibration	1791	2004		\$ 474.00			\$ 474.00		\$ -
OT Cemetery	245R	2004		\$ 615.00			\$ 615.00		\$ -
Undistributed Receipts	2510	2004		\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00		\$ -
TT Ad Reimbursement	146303	2004		\$ 150.00			\$ 150.00		\$ (150.00)
Totals			\$ 37,920.74	\$ 722,214.37	\$ 809.00	\$ 527.68	\$ 710,936.26	\$ 11,933.85	\$ 36,983.68
Taxes Collected							\$ 7,941,867.18		
Fire District Collected							\$ 235,042.71		
Other Collected							\$ 710,936.26		
Total Collected FY 2004							\$ 8,887,846.15		

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Emergency Calls

For Ambulance Service	911
To Report a Fire	911
For Emergency Police Calls.	911
For Other Fire Dept. Business	684-0500
For Other Police Dept. Business	684-0300

Other Town Services

All Town Hall Departments can be reached by dialing 684-6111 at the following extension numbers:

ACCOUNTANT	Ext. 17
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	Ext. 28
ASSESSORS	Ext. 10
.....	Ext. 22
.....	Ext. 23
BOARD OF APPEALS	Ext. 29
BOARD OF REGISTRARS	Ext. 15
BUILDING INSPECTIONS	Ext. 27
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	Ext. 11
CULTURAL COUNCIL	Ext. 11
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Ext. 11
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Ext. 20
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	Ext. 11
INSPECTOR OF WIRING	Ext. 27
PLANNING BOARD	Ext. 29
PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECT.	Ext. 27
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE	Ext. 20
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES	Ext. 11
SELECT BOARD	Ext. 13
TOWN CLERK	Ext. 14
.....	Ext. 15
.....	Ext. 16
TOWN COLLECTOR	Ext. 24
ASSISTANT TOWN COLLECTOR	Ext. 25
TOWN MANAGER	Ext. 12
TOWN MODERATOR	Ext. 11
TRAFFIC COMMISSION	Ext. 30
TREASURER	Ext. 18
VETERANS' SERVICE	Ext. 19

Meeting Schedule

1st Tues. 7:30 p.m.

4th Tues. 7:30 p.m.

On Chair's call

3rd Wed. 7:00 p.m.

4th Wed. 1:30-3 p.m.

2nd&4th Mon. 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 4-6 PM; Fri. 1-3 p.m.

The following Departments can be reached by dialing the following telephone numbers:

ANIMAL CONTROL .....	.684-0300	24 hours a day
CEMETERY DEPARTMENT .....	.684-6117	24 hours a day
CEMETERY TRUSTEES .....	.684-6117	2nd Wed, 1 p.m. Summer 2nd Thurs., 1 p.m. Winter
CIVIL DEFENSE .....	.684-0020	
COMMUNICATIONS .....	.684-0300	
COMMUNITY HOUSE .....	.684-0260	
COUNCIL ON AGING .....	.684-2000	1st Wed., 7 p.m.
DALTON YOUTH CENTER .....	.684-0120	
FIRE DISTRICT TREASURER .....	.684-6118	
LIBRARY .....	.684-6112	
HIGHWAY/SEWER DEPARTMENT .....	.684-6115	7 AM–3:30 p.m.
FIRE DEPARTMENT .....	.684-0500	24 hours a day
FOREST WARDEN .....	.684-0500	24 hours a day
HOUSING AUTHORITY .....	.684-2493	2nd Wed, 7 p.m.
PARKS AND RECREATION .....	.684-0260	
POLICE DEPARTMENT .....	.684-0300	24 hours a day
POLICE DEPARTMENT FAX .....	.684-6108	
TOWN HALL FAX .....	.684-6107	
WATER DEPARTMENT .....	.684-6118	

Town Hall Hours: 8–4 Mon.-Wed; Thurs. 8–6

Transfer Station Hours: Tues. & Wed., 2–6; Fri. & Sat., 8-4

Boy Scout Bottle Drive: First Saturday each month at the Transfer Station

A REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS—

TOWN HALL HAS EXTENDED ITS THURSDAY HOURS TO 6 PM.

There is a locked drop box located in the first Town Hall entryway on South Carson Avenue for the convenience of residents who cannot make payments, etc., during regular town hall hours.