

2003 Annual Report - Dalton, Massachusetts

TOWN COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Jane A. Carman, CMMC

Sue Wellspeak was appointed Assistant Collector in Fiscal Year 2003. She attended the Annual School of the Massachusetts Collectors & Treasurers Association, taking the first year courses needed to attain her Certification. I value her dedication and professionalism.

I was awarded Certification in 2000, and continue to attend the Annual School at UMASS Amherst for courses required for periodic re-certification.

If a taxpayer fails to pay the Personal Property or Fire District Personal Property Tax, I file a complaint in Small Claims Court. More often than not, the notification of a court date prompts the taxpayer to settle the bill. In FY 2003, only one case (for FY 2002) actually went to court, and the judgement was for the Town. The balance of \$411.32 represents a tax owed by Global Crossing, a company in Bankruptcy. I am confident that this will be paid in FY 2004. The balance of FY 2003 will similarly be paid or in court in FY 2004, for although a tax bill becomes delinquent in May, it is impossible to get a court date before the next fiscal year begins in July.

Twenty-six properties were taken in Tax Title in FY 2003. Upon filing of the lien at the Registry of Deeds, I certified those property accounts to the Treasurer's office for further processing. At that point the interest rate increased to 16%, and the collection process includes foreclosure.

I sincerely appreciate the cooperation and teamwork of the many board members and other officials who supported our efforts to keep the cash flow...
Flowing!

(The printed version of this report also includes 2 pages of detailed statistics.)