

Palmer Massachusetts



Bondsville

Depot Village

Three Rivers

Thorndike

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- Employment, Board & Commission Vacancies
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Annual Report January '05 - June '06

ON THE COVER

Welcome to the Town of Palmer's New Website

The cover of this report is a copy of what our new Town website will look like. The site has been under development for the past three months. Our goal is to improve our customer service to you, the citizens of Palmer. We hope that with the general information, the contact data, and, in the near future, the ability to pay your municipal bills via the Internet, you will find your municipal government more user-friendly. We hope that we have made it easier for you to get the answers to your questions, to get the forms needed, and to reduce the times you will need to actually disrupt your day with a visit to the Town Hall. We are working to integrate all of our assessment data, tax data, and all of our mapping information so you can review or print out information you may need to make decisions. If you have suggestions on how we might make this even better, please do not hesitate to contact us at Palmer Town Hall.

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FACTS ABOUT PALMER

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Route 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	12,750
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	9-member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2006	
TOWN	\$13.95 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$1.37 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$1.86 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$1.51 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,204
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$901,212,742
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32 member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant; Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Patrick O'Connor heads a 34 member call force; Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Jeffrey Jambora heads a 26 member call force, and the Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.
TRANSPORTATION	PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.
POLICE	Well established full time police department and Emergency Dispatch Center headed by Chief of Police, Robert P. Frydryk.
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park, Legion Field. Eager Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers, plus playground and recreational equipment at Three Rivers Common, and Endelson Playground, Bondsville.

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
TOWN OF PALMER**

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward M. Kennedy, Boston

John F. Kerry, Boston

REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. CONGRESS

Second Congressional District

Richard E. Neal

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Councilor District

Dennis P. McManus

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin

and

Hampshire Senatorial District

Stephen M. Brewer

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

First Hampden Representative District

Todd M. Smola

HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

William M. Bennett, Springfield

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF APPEALS (S/5/3)

Antonio Andre, Chairman
Ingrid Thompson
Norman Z. Czech
Gary Doane, Alt.
Dennis Fountain
Walter Solzak, Alt.
Russell Brown

BOARD OF ASSESSORS-(S/3/3)

Lawrence M. Jasak
Michael J. Burns

BOARD OF REGISTRARS-(S/3/3)

Patricia C. Donovan
Genevieve Janosz
Robert Canterbury
Barbara J. Stone

BOARD OF HEALTH-(S/3/3)

Paul Benard, Chairman
John Lukaskiewicz
Jayne Heede

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(S/7/3)

David E. Johnson, Chairman
Donald R. Duffy
Peter Izyk
Harry Johnson
Jane Golas
Robert J. Ring
Theresa Mursick-Meyer

COUNCIL ON AGING (S/11/3)

Genevieve A. Bates, Chairman
Betty Koss
Alice J. Smith
Ervin Smith
Pearl Coyer
Edward Bradlenski
Janice Kucewicz
Mary Hubert
Louise Burnham
Lisa Knowles-Warren

AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE

Jason S. Pare
John A. Banas

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5/1)

Beverly Morin
David Johnson
Alice Davey

ORDINANCE STUDY REVIEW

COMMITTEE (A/9/2)

Resident (John Auchter)
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Fire Chief (Pat O'Connor)
Fire Chief (Jeff Jambora)
Council (2)
Resident (1)

CABLEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE- (A/5/1)

David Backus
Michael Chalue

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

(S/7/5)

Michael Magiera, Chairman
Richard Cartier
William Lizotte
School Rep. (Robert Janasiewicz)
Theresa Niemczura
Library Rep. (Mark Contois)
DPW Rep. (Richard Kaczmarczyk)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (S/13/3)

Emer. Mgt. Director – Steve Sadusky
Officer Kenneth White
Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Fire Chief (Steve Sadusky)
Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)
Dispatcher (Tammy Piechota)
Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)
Hospital Rep. (Vacant)
Palmer Water District (James Ammann)
Thorndike Water District (M. Marciniak)
Three Rivers Water District (J. Sasur Jr.)
Bondsville Water District (Gary Pierce)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (S/X/3)

Members to be determined
FINANCIAL ADVISORY TEAM
Members to be determined

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE (A/5/1)

John Sasur, Chairman
Nicholas Zeo
Board of Health Rep. (Paul Benard)

HANDICAPPED SERVICE COMMITTEE (A/3/1)

Neil Metcalf
Nancy Bauer
Richard Rollet

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

(S/7/3)

Stephen Nowak, Chairman
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer
Lorraine Novak, Secretary
Jane E. Golas
Harold Olson
Rose Riskalla

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP/FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE (S/9/3)

Real Estate Broker - Vacant
Developer - Vacant
Attorney - Vacant
Resident-Margaret Higgins
Resident-
Planning Board-Joseph Slowick
Housing Authority-Jean Leonard
School Committee Rep.
Gerald Madigan

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(A/13/1)

Paraprofessionals/Aides- Melanie Leibold, CMS
Palmer Teachers Association – Deborah Charwick, OMP
Palmer School Nurses/Clerical Workers – Scott Macey
Palmer School Custodial Association – Peter Galica, CMS
Palmer School Cafeteria – Catherine Les, OMP
Palmer D.P.W.- Michael Moynahan
Palmer Police IBPO – Robert Dickson and Paul Lukaskiewicz
School & Town Clerical Workers UFCW #1459 – Scott Macey & Nancy Dranka
Emergency Telecommunicators – Neal Byrne

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS (S/9/1)

Richard L. Fitzgerald
Robert Frydryk
Matthew Lovell
Dennis Gaudreau

Theodore Simard

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (S10/1)

Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)
Conservation Commission (Dave Johnson)
Palmer Ambulance Service (Dave Clark)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)
Three Rivers Water Dept. (John Sasur Jr)
Capt. Palmer Fire Dept. (David Pranaitis)
Palmer Water Superintendent (James Ammann)
Chief of Police (Robert Frydryk)
Emergency Mgt. Director (Steve Sadusky)

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY BOARD (A/5/1)

James Lynch
Attorney Timothy J. Rogers
Robert P. Frydryk

OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMITTEE (S/7/1)

Conservation Agent (Linda Leduc)
Conservation Members (Donald Duffy, Harry Johnson)
Town Planner – Sabine Prather
Planning Board Rep. (M. Marciniac)
Council Rep. (Vacant)

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL (S/15/3)

Deborah Queiros
Lynn Plotczik
Tom Arventos
James Athearn
Mary Bernat
Christine Miarecki
Ann Wright
Kathleen Hood
Alice Smith
Erin Pincince, Chairman
Matthew Lovell – Council Liaison

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY (S/4/4)

Veronica A. Strzemienski, Chairman
Margaret M. Higgins
Ronald W. Lemanski
Mildred Jasak
(Germaine Lefebvre – State Appointee)

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (S/9/1)

Thomas W. Haley
Blake Lamothe
Margaret Higgins
(Michael Pajak – State Appointee)

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S/7/3)

Diana Strzemienski
Ronda Brown
Donna Corbin
Marilyn Barry
Christopher Howlett
DPW Rep. (Richard Kaczmarczyk)

RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S/5/1)

Margaret Higgins, Coordinator
Matthew Christy
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Hazardous Waste Rep. (Jeff Jambora)
Frank Krzynowek
Arthur Biron
Sandra Noonan

SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S/9/1)

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
DPW Director (Richard Kaczmarczyk)
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Pat O'Connor)
Bondsville Fire Chief (Steve Sadusky)
Ambulance Rep. (Vacant)
Ronald Masnicki

TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT REVIEW SUB-
COMMITTEE

John Sasur, Jr.
Keith Parent
John Dinuovo

BY-LAW ORDINANCE SUB-
COMMITTEE

Public Service Division:

Matt Lovell, Chair
Michael Magiera
John Dinuovo

Public Safety Division:

Keith Parent, Chair
Robert Haveles
Peter Pappas

Public Works Division:

John Sasur, Jr. Chair
George Backus
Barbara Barry

NON-TAX REVENUE

SUB-COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Keith Parent
Matt Lovell

TOWN MANAGER GOAL

SUB-COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Keith Parent
Robert Haveles

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

SUB-COMMITTEE

John Dinuovo
Robert Haveles

COMMUNITY EVENTS PLANNING

COMMITTEE

Robert Haveles
Donna Collette
Cathy Les
Robin Lamothe
Paul Burns
Roger Dugay
Ann Bechard
Julie Gromosky
David Whitney
Greg Lesniak
Lisa Remillard
Donna Corbin
Alice Davey

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE

(4-yr. Term ending 2009)

Peter E. Pappas
George A. Backus
John B. Dinuovo
Robert S. Haveles
Michael R. Magiera

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(4-yr. Term ending 2007)

Keith M. Parent, District #1
Barbara A. Barry, District #2
Matthew Lovell, District #3
John L. Sasur, Jr., District #4

TOWN CLERK

Patricia C. Donovan (Exp 2007)

PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)

Michael Marciniac (Exp 2009)
Joseph Slowick (Exp. 2007)
Norman Czech (Exp. 2007)
James Haley (Exp. 2009)
Thomas Skowyra (Exp. 2009)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)

Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2009)
Cynthia Heffernan (Exp. 2007)
James St Amand (Exp. 2007)
David Lynch (Exp. 2009)
Robert Janasiewicz (Exp. 2007)

**PATHFINDER REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2006)
David M. Droz (Exp. 2008)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Accountant	Valerie Bernier
Town Planner	Sabine Prather
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Mark Avis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Associate Town Counsel	Michael Ciota
Town Auctioneer	Kevin Gouvin
Building Inspector	Richard Rollet
Assistant Building Inspector	Leslie Chip Lapointe
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Wire Inspector	Stanley Pietryka
Assistant Wire Inspector	Arthur Miner
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Constable	Norberto Garcia
Constable	James Lynch
Constable	William McCarthy
Constable	Robert Frydryk
Fence Viewer	Joseph Nietupski
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Frederick Guzik
Asst. Animal Inspector/Asst. Dog Officer	Wanda Guzik
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Steve Sadusky
Recycling Coordinator	Margaret Higgins
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Asst. Sealer of Weights & Measures	John L. Auchter
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Patricia A Kennedy
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Richard Rollet
Milk Inspector	Walter J. Swiatlowski
Vermin Inspector	James Chadwick
Director of Public Safety	Robert Frydryk
Treasurer	Roger Brach
Emergency Management Director	Steven Sadusky
Town Assessor	Beverly Morin
Department of Public Works Director	Richard Kaczmarczyk
WWTP Superintendent	Gerald Skowronek
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince
Hampden County Housing Services Advisory Comm.	Jean Leonard
Palmer Public Library Trustee	John DiNuovo
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniac, Commissioner
	Richard Kaczmarczyk, Joint Trans Rep.
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy Advisory Rep.	Jane Golas
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member	James L St. Amand
Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation	Ronald P. Christiansen
Subregional Housing Committee Designee	
Environmental Certifying Officer	David Johnson
Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	Richard L. Fitzgerald

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

I herewith submit the first report of a Town Manager for the Town of Palmer for the period May 16th, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

As the Town's first Manager, I would like to say thanks to the Search Committee and the Town Council for the professional process that each candidate went through; it certainly was a challenging process. Thank you for your confidence in my ability to handle this new position. Throughout the year I have endeavored to show that you were correct in your choice and to show the Citizens of Palmer that the Council/Manager form of government can work for the Town of Palmer.

The first order of business was to prepare the budget. Thanks to Patricia Kennedy and the Town Department Heads, the bulk of the number crunching was complete for the municipal budget. What was left was to consolidate the numbers and compare them against the expected revenue. Unfortunately, that comparison showed that the requested budgets of the School, Municipal and Library were **\$1,285,863** above the expected revenue the Town would receive. In order to bring these budgets into line, **\$447,000** of expected free cash was used and each area was required to further reduce their respective budget by a certain amount. The amount of reduction for each area was determined by determining the % of the total budget that each budget area represented. This resulted in the School reducing its budget by **\$557,842**, the Town by **\$360,461** and the Library by **\$27,632**. This brought the overall budget in line with the expected revenues and totaled **\$30,926,783**. The School and the Library made their own adjustments to their budgets to meet these reductions. For the Municipal Budget to meet the reduction required each department to review and slim down their budget requests. In addition, it was necessary to reduce the total weekly hours of most of the Town employees by 2.5 hours. This resulted in the Town Offices and the DPW and Senior Center to be closed on Friday afternoons. This arrangement was worked out with the unions to preclude having to lay off any individuals for a single department. Once we received our Certified Free Cash, the Town Council voted the funds to reinstate full hours for all employees beginning Jan 1, 2005.

The Council and I began working together as a team to catch up on some of the issues that had been tabled. We looked at Economic Development, Council and Manager Goals, and many of the day-to-day activities that require their support and approval. It was a learning process and we continue to learn as we go forward into areas that have not been addressed previously.

In October, we experienced heavy rains and flooding along the rivers causing Council President Haveles to declare a State of Emergency. We had flooding at the DPW garage, WWTP pump stations and washouts on several roads in Town. All together, we had approximately \$600,000 worth of damage to municipal structures and equipment. Once the area was declared a Federal Disaster Area, we worked with FEMA and MEMA to receive help and funding. As of June 2006, we had received all our funding and the majority of the damage had been repaired and equipment replaced. What remains is to purchase a new trailer for the DPW offices and to replace some equipment in 4 of our Waste Water Pump stations.

We began the process of focusing on Economic Development. We had a great base from the work done by the Jean Bubon of the Planning Department and by the Planning Board. We have held several working sessions with citizens to get a handle on what the Citizens of Palmer want for their community. We hope to have a action plan developed within the first quarter of FY07. We are also participating in the Economic Development Partners as part of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Corporation. This provides Palmer with more exposure to companies and individuals who are looking to relocate their businesses. The Planning Board and Planning Office have been busy with new project submittals. We have several new restaurants on the books and several condo projects in the works that have been the results of several years of behind the scenes activities to get these projects to come to Palmer. Hopefully FY07 will bear the fruit of all these efforts as we continue to promote Palmer as a great place to work.

We have had some turnover in personnel on the Municipal side. Jean Bubon, our Town Planner and 17-year employee, completed her Master's Degree and was offered an outstanding position in the Town of Sturbridge. Her expertise and historically knowledge has certainly been missed, but we wish her well in her new position. The Planning Clerk was offered a position she couldn't refuse and we wish Terry the best also. We hired Sabine Prather as the Town Planner and combined the Planning Clerk and Conservation Agent into a dual position with the hiring of Linda LeDuc. Our Town Accountant left us in September to take a position in Ludlow. We were without one for almost five months until we hired Valerie Bernier. Now we have several charter-driven positions to look to fund and find appropriately trained individuals.

We continue to provide all the services and programs that were available under the Selectmen. This has been a year of change for everyone with Department Heads adjusting to the new form of management, working with and through a manager rather than a board. I believe that the Town of Palmer is very fortunate to have such professional and dedicated Department Heads and all our employees. Each and every one of them gives their best and, in most cases, go above and beyond to get the job done. We are melding as a team and continue to work toward a balance of independent action and managed response. We will only get better.

The budgeting process for FY07 went smoothly with everyone getting involved early in the year and by having some realistic target numbers to work with. But despite everyone's best efforts and a significant increase in state aid, we were still \$1,083,473 short of funds to meet the requested budgets. All three areas of School, Municipal and the Library worked hard to bring their budgets into line. It was done, but only at the cost of personnel and capital items. In reviewing the final FY07 budget, there are approximately \$2 Million dollars worth of projects, manpower and capital items that were not funded that may have an impact on the community in the years to come.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone in Palmer for their help, their phone calls, their recommendations, their complaints and their compliments on how well we are meeting their needs. Without everyone's inputs, we would not know what we are doing well and what we need to improve on. It takes an entire team to make it happen, no one individual is more important than the next, we each have our unique skills to bring to bear to solve any problems and to provide the kinds of services that you, the Citizens of Palmer, have come to expect. So on behalf of all the Municipal employees, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Richard L. Fitzgerald,
Town Manager

TOWN CLERK

WARRANT FOR THE BIENNIEL TOWN ELECTION

**TOWN OF PALMER
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF HAMPDEN**

GREETINGS;

In the name of the Commonwealth, Town of Palmer, you are hereby required to notify the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in the elections to meet at several polling locations in said Palmer, designated by the Council to wit: Precinct #1 at SS Peter & Paul Parish Center 22 67 Main St.; Precinct #2 & #3 at the Converse Middle School, 24 Converse St.; and Precinct 4 at the SS. Peter & Paul Parish Center, 2267 Main St. on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Biennial Town Election as follows:

For a term of four (4) years:

Five (5) Councilors at Large

For a term of four (4) years:

Two (2) School Committee Members
Two Planning Board Members

Question #1

Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, the amount required to pay the bond issued to fund the Palmer Public Library building expansion project as voted at the May 14th, 2001 Annual Town Meeting under Article 11 and the June 16th, 2001 Annual Town Meeting under Article 18 for the purpose of establishing a Town of Palmer Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Stabilization Fund?

Shall the town approve the Charter Amendments proposed by the Town Council as listed below?
(all questions approved re: charter amendments)

Question #2: Section 2-6 (b) (1) Remove “ordinance” from the sentence and replace the “a 2/3 majority of the Town Council.”

Question #3: Section 2-9 (a): Add new section: “Every ordinance, general measure, appropriation order and loan authorization shall be introduced in writing. They shall all go through the following

stages: 1st reading, public hearing, 2nd reading. After the first reading, the Town Council shall cause a synopsis of the proposed ordinance, general measure, appropriation order or loan authorization to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the form passed by the Town Council, together with notice of the time and place when and where the public hearing will be held to the same for final passage at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the public hearing. If the Town Council amends the ordinance, general measure, appropriation order or loan authorization after the public hearing, then it shall cause a synopsis of the amended ordinance to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the new form passed by the Town Council, together with notice of the time and place when and where the public hearing will be held for final passage at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the new public hearing.”

Question #4: Section 2-9 (c) – Remove entire paragraph and replace with: Section 2-9 (d) “ The Town Council shall cause a synopsis of every ordinance, measure, appropriation order or loan authorization to be published in a newspaper of general circulation as well as posted on the Town bulletin board. The ordinance, measure, appropriation order or loan authorization shall be effective twenty (20) days after the date of publication.”

Question #5: Section 2-9 (a) – (c): Renumber (b) – (d)

Question #6: Section 8-7: Add new (o): “Any refinancing of an existing loan authorization for the purpose of achieving a lower rate of repayment.”

Given under our hands this the 5th day of October 2005

PALMER TOWN COUNCIL

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Robert S. Haveles, President | John B. Dinuovo |
| Barbara A. Barry, Vice President | Keith M. Parent |
| John L. Sasur, Jr., Clerk | Matthew Lovell |
| George A. Backus | Peter E. Pappas |
| Sarah Lynn Zundell | |

At the close of registration on October 19,2005 the number of registered voters was 7861.

**TOWN ELECTION RESULTS
NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	TOTAL
COUCILOR at LARGE					
PETER E. PAPPAS	371	360	329	311	1371
GEORGE A. BACKUS	299	321	288	275	1183
RAYMOND F. LABONTE SR.	259	265	181	234	939
PAUL E. BURNS	234	190	153	222	799
JOHN B. DINUOVO	253	311	313	222	1090
ROBERT S. HAVELES	316	371	320	256	1263
MARK D. SHEA	118	96	95	104	413
MICHAEL R. MAGIERA	244	261	219	240	964
RAYMOND P. DOMEY	178	182	115	223	698

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MARY A. SALZMANN	320	321	294	298	1233
DAVID M. LYNCH	398	437	391	391	1617

PLANNING BOARD

THOMAS S. SKOWYRA	375	385	359	347	1466
JAMES J. HALEY	363	386	350	342	1441

QUESTION #1 PROPOSITION 2 ½ EXEMPTION

YES	122	152	183	129	586
NO	420	420	288	367	1495

WARRANT FOR THE BIENNIEL TOWN ELECTION

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF HAMPDEN**

GREETINGS;

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For a term of four (4) years:

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For a term of four (4) years:

Two Planning Board Members

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Question #2: Section 2-6 (b) (1) Remove “ordinance” from the sentence and replace the “a 2/3 majority of the Town Council.”

Question #3: Section 2-9 (a): Add new section: “Every ordinance, general measure, appropriation order and loan authorization shall be introduced in writing. They shall all go through the following stages: 1st reading, public hearing, 2nd reading. After the first reading, the Town Council shall cause a synopsis of the proposed ordinance, general measure, appropriation order or loan authorization to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the form passed by the Town Council, together with notice of the time and place when and where the public hearing will be held to the same for final passage at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the public hearing. If the Town Council amends the ordinance, general measure, appropriation order or loan authorization after the public hearing, then it shall cause a synopsis of the amended ordinance to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the new form passed by the Town Council, together with notice of the time and place when and where the public hearing will be held for final passage at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the new public hearing.”

Question #4: Section 2-9 (c) – Remove entire paragraph and replace with: Section 2-9 (d) “ The Town Council shall cause a synopsis of every ordinance, measure, appropriation order or loan authorization to be published in a newspaper of general circulation as well as posted on the Town bulletin board. The ordinance, measure, appropriation order or loan authorization shall be effective twenty (20) days after the date of publication.”

Question #5: Section 2-9 (a) – (c): Renumber (b) – (d)

Question #6: Section 8-7: Add new (o): “Any refinancing of an existing loan authorization for the purpose of achieving a lower rate of repayment.”

Given under our hands this the 5th day of October 2005

PALMER TOWN COUNCIL

Robert S. Haveles, President

Barbara A. Barry, Vice President

John L. Sasur, Jr., Clerk

George A. Backus

Peter E. Pappas

John B. Dinuovo

Keith M. Parent

Matthew Lovell

Sarah Lynn Zundell

At the close of registration on October 19,2005 the number of registered voters was 7861.

**TOWN ELECTION RESULTS
NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	TOTAL
COUCILOR at LARGE					
PETER E. PAPPAS	371	360	329	311	1371
GEORGE A. BACKUS	299	321	288	275	1183
RAYMOND F. LABONTE SR.	259	265	181	234	939
PAUL E. BURNS	234	190	153	222	799
JOHN B. DINUOVO	253	311	313	222	1090
ROBERT S. HAVELES	316	371	320	256	1263
MARK D. SHEA	118	96	95	104	413
MICHAEL R. MAGIERA	244	261	219	240	964
RAYMOND P. DOMEY	178	182	115	223	698

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MARY A. SALZMANN	320	321	294	298	1233
DAVID M. LYNCH	398	437	391	391	1617

PLANNING BOARD

THOMAS S. SKOWYRA	375	385	359	347	1466
JAMES J. HALEY	363	386	350	342	1441

QUESTION #1 PROPOSITION 2 ½ EXEMPTION

YES	122	152	183	129	586
NO	420	420	288	367	149

TOWN CLERK VITAL RECORDS

BIRTHS - 130
DEATHS - 170
MARRIAGES - 89

DEATHS 2005

JANUARY

5	Kenneth M. Gancorz	32
5	Blanche J. Howe	84
5	Celia T. Swiatlowski	83
5	Ramona L. Fraser	65
6	Jean E. Ryan	80
11	Stephanie Belaire	86
17	Lucille C. Rock	72
17	Catherine E. Skowyra	93
18	Helen I. Belisle	86
19	Marceline A. Noga	80
20	Donna L. Dupre	57
22	Jeannette E. Mondor	87
31	Howard S. McIntosh	76

FEBRUARY

2	Gunnar C. Hermanson	51
2	Marie A. Uliana	85
5	Mary J. Chrusciel	88
8	George C. Gross, Jr.	84
8	Lawrence Oliver	62
8	Kenneth G. Howe	70
9	Roland H. Riel	90
13	Ruth G. Backus	90
17	Brinton A. Baker, Jr.	65
17	Kevin J. Stone	50
18	Anna E. Wilga	86
22	Emma A. Harper	91
23	Trent L. Avery	3
23	Dianne M. Bryant	47
24	Annette B. Przybycien	85
26	Esther L. Moran	56
28	William S. Banach	75

MARCH

1	Anita G. Tetreault	84
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11	Delia Kosciw	93
14	Sharon Christensen	38
14	Edward Fleming III	61
19	Ella Plourd	95
24	Floyd T. Degon	91
28	Robert G. Riley	55
29	Istvan Sera	76
31	Noreen C. O'Connor	71
31	Wade Hall	49

APRIL

1	Fortunata A. Benner	84
5	S. Ann Patnaude	89
5	Frank L. Wdowiak	92
6	Charlotte V. Chapman	94
10	Piotr Lozinski	85
14	Lester W. Goodreau	81
15	Stephen J. Dranka	92
17	Elizabeth J. Primavera	84
19	Mary L. Kersey	86
19	Irene Lewis	85
20	Bertha C. Polanski	74
22	Joseph O. Graveline	82
22	Beatrice M. Munson	96
24	Kevin F. McCarthy	49
25	Kenneth W. Staback	56
26	Alice E. Turley	99
30	John E. Stolar	62
30	David G. Henrichon	67

MAY

7	Edna Zielinski	89
8	Janet Charpentier	77
8	Brian F. Robitaille	89
9	Wiley N. Ashley	71
11	Walter P. Wozniakowski	82
12	Walter Staback	83
15	Madeline A. Staback	82
16	John R. Cantwell	71
16	Hernan R. Rosado	72
19	Edward W. Midura	70
23	Scott D. Clark	42
23	Richard H. Sattler	85
26	William Petraszewicz, Jr.	72

JUNE

2	Enrico Ugucioni	83
6	Charles R. Smith	80

7	John B. Kupiec	79
11	Bruce E. Picotte	54
12	Louise A. Dwyer	92
17	Raymond F. Sabourin	84
19	Antoinette G. Begin	79
24	Sophie S. Carrow	90
27	Veronica S. Murray	89
27	John S. Sakowski	84
28	Robert L. Marier	72
28	Thomas C. Socha	58
29	Arthur C. Gerlach	80
30	John S. Mastalerz	74

JULY

4	Edward A. Albrecht	68
5	Margaret F. Close	76
5	Virginia C. Dougan	81
6	Elizabeth A. Bechard	84
8	Genevieve A. McCollum	81
12	Gertrude R. Dupuis	97
13	Bertha B. Czynodel	80
15	Mildred L. King	84
15	Paul L. Morin	58
16	Rose M. Desmarais	87
21	John E. Golas	85
23	Mark A. Poirier	49
26	William J. Blanchard	43
27	John R. Jones	90
28	Lori A. Bruno	28
30	Emilie Hevey	80

AUGUST

1	Verner T. Barrett	88
3	Charles E. Greenwood	72
7	Anna P. Boudreau	79
9	Ella M. Ruby	87
12	Edward C. Moynahan	72
13	Florence L. Marier	43
17	Jessimond Barrett	88
17	Robert D. Culhane	67
18	Arthur E. Taylor	69
25	Charles E. Roberts	89
28	Gladys M. Ditto	82
31	Carlo A. Grasseti	88

SEPTEMBER

1	June B.S. Blomberg	71
4	Cynthia L. Abbott	61
4	Peter F. Katawicz	94

4	Gladys T. Phelps	95
7	Nora T. Rondeau	89
7	Leatrice M. Grilli	93
7	Louise E. Romaniak	76
8	Dorothy M. Messier	77
9	George W. Walsh	75
9	Bolac E. Wallace	98
10	Gloria J. Silva	64
11	Eleanor M. Wood	82
13	Dennis J. Coderre	48
16	Joseph P. Galica	85
17	Doris W. Roberts	77
21	Mildred A. Paradis	93
24	Timothy McCarthy	82
30	Siegfried K. Ziarno	69

OCTOBER

3	Evariste P. Coache	74
5	James F. Nolan, Jr.	84
11	Anthony S. Zalenski	89
13	Joseph P. Lawless	88
17	Lillian C. Gryszowka	75
17	Rose Kujawski	86
18	Jeanne Festa	66
20	William Naglieri	92
22	Rita B. Blanchette	78
26	Barbara Podolski	67
30	Ilda Carmo	73
30	Arlene Grimes	76

NOVEMBER

1	Mary C. Olender	86
5	Donalea Clark	62
5	Madelaine Gouvin	80
10	Emil J. Boutin	82
10	Doris Cole	78
13	Joan T. Kinnear	73
14	Stanley A. Giza	88
14	Joseph L. Courchesne	80
15	Matthew Koslowski	23
16	Frederick C. Olson	85
16	Joseph Shearer	81
17	Helena D. Keller	95
18	John F. Barszcz	87
21	Richard F. Alden	84
21	George E. McNeill	67
25	Pauline A. Biron	79
28	Edwin L. Knight	50

DECEMBER

1	Vera P. Renaud	85
7	George F. Barton	67
13	David Miner	46
15	Irene M. Hebert	72
18	Claire C. Trudeau	89
25	Helen Pastuszak	92
25	Thomas P. O'Connor ,Jr.	79
29	Joanne Lazarz	57
31	Carol Lynch	63

MARRIAGES 2005

FEBRUARY

12	Alan R. Chase	Ludlow	Louise A. Methot	Palmer
18	Paul M. Dobek	Palmer	Mary C. Perkins	Palmer
19	Hector L. Rolon	Palmer	Soraya Sara	Palmer
20	Joseph J. Malzenski	Wales	Carol A. Blair	Wales

MARCH

7	Jackie S. Wroblecki	Brimfield	Sandra Lee Wool	Palmer
19	Ryan O'Sullivan	Ludlow	Chelsey M. Edgar	Ludlow
19	Gary D. Senecal, Sr.	Palmer	Traci L. Theroux	Palmer
25	David M. Kingsley	Monson	Colleen G. Whalen	Monson

APRIL

1	Kevin J. Delisle	Palmer	Nancy A. Wegiel	Palmer
3	Allen D. Skowyra	Palmer	Amber D. Tuttle	Palmer
9	Norman W. Mackinnon,Jr	Palmer	Rosibel Del Rosario Ruiz Martinez	Palmer
9	William J. Griswold	Palmer	Kara E. Marshall	Palmer
16	Gary E. Allen	Palmer	Sandra L. Ellithorpe	Palmer
17	Michael D. Sedani	Palmer	Heather J. Patnaude	Palmer
29	Leon C. Estell, III	Palmer	Jill M. Evans	Palmer
29	Anibal Toledo, Jr.	Palmer	Laura Rosa Ortiz	Palmer

MAY

1	Christopher J. Flebotte	Palmer	Katie L. Walsh	Palmer
5	Fred V. DeVito	Palmer	Catherine A. Royea	Palmer
7	Shawn D. Prevost	Palmer	Jennifer D. Barber	Palmer
7	David R. Sherman	Monson	Robin I. Besaw	Monson
14	Jay D. Steinmetz	Palmer	Michelle L. Martin	Palmer
17	Thomas J. Sacco	Palmer	Catherine A. Curley	Palmer
21	Carlos F. Gomes	Wilbraham	Angela M. Morin	Wilbraham
25	Thomas E. Nally	Palmer	Rachel A. Rodd	Palmer
28	Henry Berthiaume	W.Spfld.	Jaime L. Morin	W.Splfd.
28	Mariano O. Proto	Brimfield	Rebekah H. Burgess	Monson
29	Christopher J. Long	Easthampton	Jennifer A. Hodgdon	Easthampton

JUNE

3	Richard Gambaccini	Palmer	Gayle L. Henry	N.Carolina
3	Diamantis Tzikas	Ludlow	Regina Loureiro	Ludlow
4	Scott E. Early	Chicopee	Suzanne M. Lacroix	Palmer
4	Scott A. Turner	Palmer	Kimberly M. Broussard	Palmer
11	Robert M. Minnon	Palmer	Tanya C. Thomas	Palmer
11	Joseph J. Robert	Granby	Teri L. Chalue	Granby
11	Andrew R. Warde	Brimfield	Bethany A. Williams	Monson
16	Monique R. Graveline	Palmer	Benjamin M. Belisle	Palmer
18	Michael S. Bourgeois II	Palmer	Kristine J. Dingman	Palmer
18	Andrew J. Martin	Palmer	Sarah K. Henn	Palmer
24	Stephen R. Turner, Jr.	Conn.	Katherine A. Malon	Palmer
25	John R. Emler	Palmer	Nichelle D. Nadeau	Palmer
25	Robert J. Poulin	Palmer	Claire T. Barnett	Palmer
28	Robert P. Noffke	Palmer	Gloria C. Costello	Palmer

JULY

5	Joseph E. Merceri	Palmer	Starr M. Santy	Palmer
9	Keith W. Richardson	Palmer	Heather E. Lusco	Palmer
15	James T. Boleski	Wales	Barbara J. Rice	Wales
17	Ralph E. Aiken	Palmer	Birgit H. Lemoine	Palmer
23	Michael Chamberlain	Palmer	Karen A. Boisvert	Palmer
23	Robert A. Frazier	Palmer	Amy Deliefde	Palmer
24	Gary E. Henry	Palmer	Christine A. Libera	Palmer

AUGUST

6	Chad Abare	Palmer	Dawn M. Basque	Palmer
7	Levi Bycenski	Nebraska	Rosa H. Vargas	Nebraska
20	Robert J. Barker	Palmer	Mary-Laura Norman	Palmer
21	Robert D. Alley III	Palmer	Marie E. Chapin	Palmer
27	Bernard E. Appleby	Palmer	Joan K. Mariani	Palmer
27	Christopher M. Gray	Springfield	Diane R. Armitage	Springfield
27	Thomas R. Mega	Springfield	Deanna M. Leclair	Palmer

SEPTEMBER

2	Adam Lachance	Palmer	Marisa L. McCaughey	Palmer
3	Scott M. Johnson	Ludlow	Lisa Yasafuku	Ludlow
3	Brett S. Purchas	Palmer	Averi S. Church	Palmer
10	Stephen T. Deane	Palmer	Denise M. Johnston	Palmer
10	Craig S. Felice	Palmer	Elena-Maria Floria	Palmer
10	Richard I. Mundel	Palmer	Aimee E. O'Donnell	Palmer
17	Jacey M. Cembura	Ware	Sherri L. Lajzer	Ware
17	An T. Huynh	California	Chantee Salayphonh	California
24	John M. Beston	Palmer	April M. Verrier	Palmer
24	Richard R. Eames, Jr.	Palmer	Heather L. Plante	Palmer
28	Boots Leone	California	Karen Lundquist	Palmer

OCTOBER

1	Jason S. Pare	Palmer	Amanda L. Gliniecki	Palmer
1	Sean D. Snyder	Palmer	Laura C. Willis	Palmer
4	Josh C. Strawcutter	Pennsylvania	Carly M. Bedee	Pennsylvania
8	Chad A. Jewell	Palmer	Tiffany Robinson	Palmer
14	Matthew F. Godin	Palmer	Brandy L. Graveline	Palmer
15	Stanley Zwyrbla, Sr.	Palmer	Joyce E. Sullivan	Palmer
15	John A. Mason	Palmer	MaryJo Eldridge	Palmer
21	Paul M. Smola	Palmer	Barbara L. Doyle	Palmer
22	Randall P. Brooke	Palmer	Bogusia B. Kindberg	Palmer
29	John J. Boutot	Palmer	Jo-Ann E. Davidson	Palmer
29	Christopher M. Matthieu	Palmer	Camilla C. Botta	Northampton
29	John G. Petraszewicz	Palmer	Melissa L. Benard	Palmer
29	Paul E. Smith, Jr.	Palmer	Annmarie M. Charron	Palmer

NOVEMBER

5	Thomas C. Long	New York	Angela M. Russo	New York
19	Harry Kastrinakis	Palmer	Deborah M. Picroski	Palmer
26	William D. Marsh III	Palmer	Joyce M. Skowyra	Palmer
26	Cesar Soares	Chicopee	Sandra D. Jardine	Monson

DECEMBER

3	Thomas W. Rackliffe	Palmer	Tammy A. Trzpit	Palmer
24	William R. Baird	Palmer	Jo Ann Scott	Palmer
24	Steven D. Merrill	Palmer	Lori A. Cadieux	Palmer
31	Roderick D. Spooner	Palmer	Holly S. Picard	Palmer

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 1, 2005 thru June 30, 2006

The Palmer Conservation Commission has seven volunteer members, and a Conservation Agent, who have as their charge the protection of Palmer Township’s natural resources. Over the past 18 months the Commission has acted upon or issued (Tables 1. & 2.):

Table 1. Palmer Conservation Commission Summary for 2005

175 Site Inspections	0 Certificate of Emergency
9 Determinations of Applicability	0 Certificate of Compliance
9 Notices of Intent	0 Warning Notices
8 Orders of Conditions	1 Forest Cutting Plan Reviews
1 Amended Order of Conditions	0 Enforcement Orders

Table 2. Palmer Conservation Commission Summary of January 1 thru June 30, 2006

104 Site Inspections	0 Certificate of Emergency
10 Determinations of Applicability	0 Certificate of Compliance
6 Notices of Intent	1 Warning Notices
6 Orders of Conditions	1 Forest Cutting Plan Reviews
1 Amended Order of Conditions	1 Enforcement Orders

In 2005, the Open Space and Recreation Plan was conditionally approved by the state. This important document is a valuable tool for the town in regards to future land planning and grant funding. Thank you to Jono Neiger, David Johnson, and Jane Golas for their hard work on this project.

The fall and winter of 2005 brought the resignations of Chairperson, Michelle Corbeil-Crawford and member, Grace Sheehan, respectively. The Commission would like to thank them both for their many years of service to the community. As a result of these changes, David Johnson was appointed the new Chairman. The Commission would also like to welcome our two newest members, Robert Ring and Theresa Mursick-Meyer.

Additional administrative changes for the Commission occurred in 2006. The Commission regretfully accepted the resignation of both Jono Neiger, Conservation Agent, and Terry Woods, Principal Clerk. We would like to welcome Linda Leduc, who has filled both positions. She joined us during a very busy 2006 spring season and has already proven to be a strong asset to the Commission.

As a result of the increased development in town, there were many more extensive filings that required extensive research and numerous inspections and meetings. The Commission has, and will, continue to diligently protect the valuable natural resources for the Town of Palmer.

The Commission holds meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month; the meetings begin at 7 PM and are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson, Chairman
 Donald Duffy
 Jane Golas
 Peter Izyk

Harry Johnson
 Robert Ring
 Theresa Mursick-Meyer

PLANNING BOARD

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the eighteen months from January 2005 to June 2006. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff.

	<u>Elected Members</u>
Chairman	Michael S. Marciniac

Vice Chairman	Norman Czech
Clerk	Joseph Slowick Jr.
Member	Thomas Skowyra
Member	James Haley Jr.

	<u>Staff</u>
Town Planner	Sabine Prather
Principal Clerk	Linda Leduc

During the past 18-month period, the Planning Board held thirty regular meetings and two special meetings, as well as numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various meetings, the Board held hearings or acted on fourteen Special Permits, twelve Site Plan Approvals, thirty plans meeting zoning requirements and deemed exempt from subdivision regulations (SANR), two definitive subdivision plans, two Senior Housing Projects, and five Special Permit Renewals for Earth Removal.

Over the past year, the Planning Department has undergone a complete change of staff. Mrs. Jean Bubon left in October 2005 after over sixteen years of service and Ms. Theresa Woods left in March 2006 after over five years of service. The Planning Board wishes to thank them for their years of dedication to the Board and to the Town.

The Board would also like to welcome our new Planning Department staff. Ms. Sabine Prather became the new Town Planner in December 2005 and Ms. Linda Leduc came onboard in April 2006 as Principal Clerk for the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission and Palmer Redevelopment Authority. We wish them much success with their new endeavors.

Over the past eighteen months, the Planning Board has been involved in permitting many new and interesting projects:

Riverwalk, a Planned Senior Housing Development, was permitted in the Three Rivers section of Town. It is anticipated that this project, when completed, will provide 106 residential units, thirty-four acres of green space, and access for Palmer residents to the conservation land along the Chicopee River.

Breckenridge Heights, a Planned Senior Housing Development, was permitted in May 2005 and consists of 64 single family units on 44 acres of land. Almost nine acres of the property is designated for a recreation area and 40% of the acreage is set aside as permanent open space. It is anticipated that construction will proceed once water and sewer service issues are resolved.

Camp Ramah received site plan approval to add a cabin to their camp north of Forest Lake, and began construction in summer 2006.

KSJ Realty received site plan approval to convert Rondeau's Ice House property on Shearer Street to a restaurant with office space. Construction has not yet begun on this project.

Two applicants in the Mapletree Industrial Park have added sales to their current facilities as an adjunct use; Mr. Houle will be storing and selling cars on eBay and Backbay Liquidators will be selling baby equipment. Additionally, New England Wood Pellet from Jaffrey, NH has applied for

site plan approval to lease a building in the Industrial Park for a transfer operation of bulk wood pellets.

Pride Stations received Special Permit and Site Plan Approval for demolition of the Getty Station at Thorndike and Park Streets and construction of a new station, canopy and small convenience store in their plaza. Demolition is due to begin at the beginning of July 2006.

Two major projects have begun the Special Permit process in FY2006. Northeast Realty is planning a mixed-use development on Thorndike Street, which will include a service station, bank, one fast food restaurant, and two regular restaurants. Their mitigation measures will include widening the roadway next to their development and adding a traffic light at Thorndike and Shearer Streets, with that light synchronizing with those at the Turnpike exit and Big Y. Additionally, Sports Car Club of America submitted a preliminary application for a hobby club racetrack in the northeastern section of Palmer. This application is expected to resume in September.

The Planning Board and the Town Planner prepared Palmer's first Commonwealth Capital application in 2005, which gave access to funding sources for various projects. One of these included working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on two possible additions to the Zoning Ordinance. One is the Transfer of Development Rights and the other is Open Space Residential Subdivision. Passing these changes will raise Palmer's score on the Commonwealth Capital application in the future.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. Job losses have been severe over the past several years and have contributed to increased personal property tax rates. The Town Planner has been working with the regional entity, the Economic Development Partners, on matching incoming business to available space in Palmer. Additionally, Planning Board members and the Town Planner have been instrumental in working on public forums for community and economic development, and actively working on committees to identify priorities and timelines for specific actions to improve Palmer's community environment.

Planning Board members and Town staff have also been working together on a vision for a regional lake park to augment or replace Burleigh Park. The Town Council has submitted an offer for a tract of land identified for this purpose, and the Town Planner has been working on applying for funding for acquisition and construction of the park. The Town Council has also approved adding the Community Preservation Act as a ballot item in November, with the Planning Board and Conservation Commission planning public education for this item. The adoption of the CPA will allow the town to leverage funding for open space, historic preservation and housing. This funding can also be used for recreational facilities such as the lake park.

During the fiscal year 2007, the Board will work towards upgrading its Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. The Subdivision Regulations were last updated in 1993 and some of the technical sections must be updated to reflect current construction methods and design guidelines. The Board has revised the zoning by-laws to make them consistent with the new Charter, and the changes will be voted on by the Town Council in FY 2007. Other updates will also be added before the vote takes place.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, Elected Officials, Town Boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Marciniac,
Chairman

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of my activities for the period July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006. Permits were approved, specifications reviewed, and construction monitored for:

New Single Family Dwellings	33
Additions to Residential Buildings	33
Additions to Commercial Building	4
Renovations to Residential Buildings	124
Replace Mobile Home	4
Barns	2
Carports	6
Decks	83
Demolition	23
Garages	16
Gazebo	1
Pools Above Ground	32
Pools In Ground	5
Roofing, Siding and Window Permits	362
Sheds	71
Signs	33
Wood Burning Stove Permits	64
Inspections for Specified Use Groups	1226
Occupancy Permits	175
Electrical Permits	419
Plumbing Permits	220
Gas Permits	<u>124</u>
TOTAL	3,060

Respectfully Submitted

Richard W. Rollet, Building Inspector

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

As plumbing inspector for the Town of Palmer, I hereby submit the following Annual Report for inspections made by me for the year 2005.

New Plumbing Permits	72
Renovations	59
Water Heaters	29

I have also investigated complaints of potentially dangerous plumbing work and also violations of Chapter 142 of the Massachusetts General Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald Nichols, Plumbing Inspector

WIRING INSPECTOR

As Wiring Inspector for the Town of Palmer, I hereby submit the following annual report for inspections made by me for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Residential	298
Commercial	29
Industrial	10
Others	15

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley J. Pietryka
Wiring Inspector

GAS INSPECTOR

As gas inspector for the Town of Palmer, I am responsible for the inspection, testing and issuing of permits in accordance with the codes and regulations of the Massachusetts General Laws. In this capacity about one hundred twenty inspections and permits were made and issued between January 1, 2005 and July 15, 2006.

The second phase of work done by this department includes investigating complaints of old and potentially dangerous gas fitting installations, violations of the law, and hazardous and defective material.

I would like to thank all the personnel involved with the Building Department for their cooperation during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Stahelski, Gas Inspector

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

I hereby submit the annual report for the Department of Weights and Measures. During the year 2005, three hundred fifty six measuring and weighing devices were tested and sealed by this department. A total of 130 various packaged goods were tested. Out of that amount, 114 were found to be correct, 11 were overweight, and 5 were underweight.

In 2005, fees charged amounted to \$2,953.75 with \$2,559.75 turned into the Treasurer's Office leaving an uncollected balance of \$394.00 at the time of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Serrato
Sealer of Weights & Measures

BOARD OF HEALTH

Percolation Test and Septic Designs

The Board of Health witnessed, collected fees and issued permits for 84 Percolation Tests during the year 2005-2006. Septic Designs were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Housing Inspections and Investigations

Ninety two investigations were made by the Board of Health to comply with Regulations and Laws pertaining to Public Health. Violations were corrected to meet the standards of the State Sanitary Code.

Flu Vaccine Clinics

A total of 485 doses of Influenza vaccine were administered to various segments of the citizenry of the town of Palmer and its 3 villages. Immunization clinics were held at the Converse Middle School, Palmer High School, Palmer Town Hall, Palmer Green Estates and at the Wing Memorial Hospital. This total included home-bound citizens in private homes and senior living facilities in town. It also included Emergency Service Personnel from the ambulance, fire and police services.

Tobacco Control Program Grant

The Palmer Board of Health received grant money in the amount of \$2991.91 from the Mass. Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program. New youth regulations have been reviewed and passed by all Board members for the selling of tobacco products to minors. A copy of these regulations can be obtained at the Palmer Board of Health.

Smoke-Free Environment

As of June 1, 2006 the Palmer Board of Health voted and passed to ban smoking in private clubs. Paul Bernard abstained from voting. Regulation letters sent to all clubs including American Legion, Amvets, St Josephs Polish Club, St Mary's Lyceum and St Stans Polish Lyceum. Department of

Environmental protection has been sent the regulations. A copy of these regulations are on file at the Palmer Board of Health.

Hampden County Health Coalition

The Health Coalition has given to the town of Palmer Board of Health \$ 4500.00. The money was allocated for HT1250 display portable radios, refrigerator for flu vaccines and numerous office supplies that are needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul E. Benard, Chairperson
John Lukaskiewicz
Jayne Heede
Mary Watson, Clerk

Communicable Diseases for Year 2005-2006

Animal Bites	22
Campylobactor	2
Chicken Pox	1
Giardiasis	1
Hepatitis Type A	1
Hepatitis Type B	3
Hepatitis Type C	6
Kawasaki Disease	1
Legionellosis	1
Lyme Disease	27
Rabies	1 Animal
Salmonellosis	5
Strep Pneumoniae	11
Tuberculosis	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	87

**Palmer Board of Health
Licenses and Permits issued in 2005-2006**

Animal	23
Body Art Establishment	03
Body Art Practitioner	03
Catering	05
Dumpster	17
Food	160
Ice Cream	08
Frozen Dessert	16
Funeral Director	06
Hauler	23
Installer	54
Massage Therapist	14
Mobile Food Server	02

Mobile Home Park	02
Motel	03
Recreational Camp	04
Tanning	06
Temporary Food	09
Tobacco	<u>70</u>
Total	428

2005 Telephone Log

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Animal			2	4	1	3		8	1	2			21
Apt. Inspection													0
Asbestos			2										2
Body Art												1	1
Clinic	5	1				2		1	7	48	7		73
Complaints	12	9	15	16	20	17	16	25	26	36	10	22	224
D.E.P.													0
Food	7	7	1	3	5	8	4	3	3	4		1	46
Health	2	1			2			1			2		8
Housing	6	3	11	12	1	6	12	13	8	6	1		79
Immunizations								1		1			2
Law/Town Code	1	4		2									7
Lead					3	1					1		5
Massage													
Other	13	15	20	25	23	28	11	24	27	53	18	15	272
Percs				2	11	2		3		2	1		21
Permits	1	3	12		3	2	2	1	1	3		15	43
Rabies													0
Restaurants									2	2			4
Report. Diseases	1	2					4	1	1	1	1		11
Septic	16	8	12	17	9	20	16	12	15	35	13	5	178
Tobacco	1	3	6	2	4	1	2	4	3	5		2	33
Water	7	4		1	1	3	1	2			1		20
Well		1	1	3		2		3	1	3			14
TOTAL	72	61	82	87	83	95	68	102	95	201	55	61	1043

2006 Telephone Log

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Animal	1	1		4	2	5							13
Apt. Inspection						4							4
Asbestos					3								3
Body Art	1												1
Clinic	2					1							3
Complaints	8	17	21	33	26	24							129
D.E.P.				1		1							2
Food	1	1	5	3	9	2							21
Health	2			1	6	5							14
Housing	20	3	7	9		4							43
Immunizations					1								1
Law/Town Code													
Lead													
Massage					3								3
Other	9	30	27	36	49	45							196
Percs					13	5							18
Permits	13		14		13	11							51
Rabies													
Restaurants					1								1
Report. Diseases			1										1
Septic	10	8	13	13	14	7							65
Tobacco	9	3	7		5	6							30
Water	1	1		2	3	2							9
Well		1	3										4
TOTAL	77	65	98	102	148	122							612

MILK INSPECTOR

To the Board of Health and the Citizens of Palmer, MA

I respectfully submit my report on the following licenses issued for the year 2005:

46 Milk Store Licenses @\$5.00

Total.....\$230.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter J. Swiatlowski, Milk Inspector

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Community Development Department is located in Memorial Hall at 1029 Central Street in Depot Village. The office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm. The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies.

Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The primary objective of the statute is "*...to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – and moderate-income persons.*"

The Massachusetts Department of Community Development encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assess needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social service services.

The Community Development Department relies entirely on grant dollars to finance its projects. The Town provides space, heat and electricity for the Community Development Department; all other expenses are funded with grant money.

During 2005 and the first half of 2006 the Community Development Department continued to administer the following Community Development Block Grants:

- FFY03 – During this time \$111,092 was expended to rehabilitate ten (10) living units.
- FFY04 – During this time \$139,399 was expended for grant administration, \$99,713 was expended for Housing Rehabilitation. \$253,364 was expended for infrastructure improvements, and \$29,863 was expended for the Senior Volunteer Program. To date the Housing Rehabilitation Program has provided assistance to 22 people residing in 11 units. To date this grant funded replacement of 905 linear feet of water main on Pearl and Orchard Streets in Depot Village, benefiting 53 residents. To date this grant funded services to 109 senior citizens through the provision of services such as transportation, housework, respite care, yard work, and minor home repairs.
- FFY05 – During this time \$1,157 was expended for grant administration, \$7,195 was expended for Housing Rehabilitation and \$8,213 was expended for Senior Volunteers. Upon completion of this grant it is expected that \$115,000 will be expended to rehabilitate 6 living units occupied by 8 low to moderate income residents, and \$35,000 will be expended to provide 250 services to 50 senior citizens.

MASS HOUSING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

MassHousing was created by state legislation to assist in expanding the supply of affordable housing for people who cannot afford a decent and safe place to live. MassHousing provides financing at reduced interest rates for the production/rehabilitation of decent housing accessible to those who earn low or moderate incomes.

- Get The Lead Out – Provides low-cost financing to owners of 1-4 family properties to remove lead paint from their homes and reduce the possibilities of lead poisoning in children. During this time the Community Development Department administered 2 loans granted by this program.
- Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program – Provides low interest loans to purchase and rehabilitate a home, or make substantial repairs to a home that you already own. Fixed below-market interest rates are available.
- Home Improvement Loan Program – Provides low interest loans to rehabilitate your home.

USDA 504 PROGRAM

The Palmer Community Development Department provides 504 program information and loan processing for Palmer residents.

The Section 504 loan/grant program helps very low-income owner occupants of modest single-family homes in rural areas repairs their homes. Loan funds are available for repairs to improve or modernize a home, make it safe or more sanitary, or remove health and safety hazards. For homeowners 62 and over who cannot repay a loan, grant funds are available to remove health or safety hazards, or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice L. Davey
Community Development Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

The Council on Aging in 2005 & Jan-June 2006 provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population. Of the 2,361 Senior Citizen's, the number of unduplicated elders receiving a direct service from the Council on Aging were 1,200. Eighteen issues of the Senior Center Newsletter were printed and a total of 12,200 newsletters were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, A Health Fair (in conjunction with Wing Hospital, Health screenings, Hearing Screenings, Eye Care, Foot Care, Exercise Programs, Line Dancing & Nutrition Classes were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. 3,096 unduplicated individuals took advantage of these programs. Forty-one speakers engaged to discuss health related

issues with medical equipment available at the Palmer Senior Center to be loaned at no charge as needed. One hundred and seventy individuals took advantage of this program.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through the Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging. 5,118 meals were served. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. Eighty-seven unduplicated elders were contacted by phone on a regular basis through the R-U-O-K program. In Home Meals provided 96 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 16,912 meals.

1,656 Brown Bags were delivered to seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program.

In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 210 unduplicated passengers, including 62 passengers under 60 utilized this service 8,736 trips were taken, totaling 20,424 miles. Total cost to operate this program was \$11,181.82 for oil, tires, repairs and extra driver wages. \$6,913.00 was contributed to this program through rider donations.

Individuals were helped through the Free AARP Income Tax Program. Tax Assistance, Fuel Assistance, Transportation, Information and referrals were also available to the under 60 low-income and disabled population. We held a party for every holiday and our Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon & Annual 90+ Birthday Party.

15,332 signatures were acquired from the Senior Center daily registration sheets. 24,804 phone calls were taken. 2,488 calls were from the under age 60 population.

There are 363 Veterans over 60, 121 Palmer residents in area Nursing Homes, and there were 132 deaths during 2005 thru June 2006.

The Senior Center Building Committee was disbanded due to lack of funds for a new center.

GRANT FUNDING

\$20,788.00 in Formula Grant money was awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in Boston for an Outreach Service Coordinator position. An Outreach Service Coordinator accesses and assesses the 60+ population to all Federal, state and County Programs they may be entitled to. There were 967 unduplicated visits made in the seniors home or at the senior center from Jan. 05-June 06. There were a total of 646 duplicated units of service provided by the Outreach Service Coordinator. There was a total of 749 unduplicated units of service and 3,202 duplicated units of service. This grant also funds the Activities/Program Coordinator position and the Volunteer Coordinator Position.

\$14,798.00 Title IIIB Grant awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from Greater Springfield Senior Services for the Outreach Position for 12 hours/week.

\$52,500.00 was awarded from CDBG Monies for the Volunteer Coordinator and program. 16 volunteers provided 1,750 hours of service to 228 seniors. With those 1,750 hours the volunteers were able to provide 1,438 services.

\$2,000.00 was awarded from Greater Springfield Senior Services for Van transportation.

\$725.00 was awarded from the Palmer Cultural Council Grants for various programs.

\$29,444.80 was awarded from the Executive Office of Transportation toward the purchase of a new van.

\$600.00 was awarded from Greater Springfield Senior Services for Health Promotion.

\$3,000.00 was awarded for the Executive Office of Transportation & Construction for the purchase of two computers and a printer.

\$750.00 was awarded from Greater Springfield Senior Services for 52 First Aid Kits.

\$2,191.00 was awarded from the Wing Foundation to purchase Knox Boxes.

80 volunteers continued to assist in various programs and activities. A total of 8,080 volunteer hours were donated to the Senior Center. If paid at \$6.75 per hour, they contributed \$54,535.00 worth of service.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the board members of the Council on Aging for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for the elders in Palmer.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Pincince, Director

Council on Aging Board Members

Alice J. Smith, Chairperson
Genevieve Bates, 1st Vice Chair
Lisa Knowles-Warren, Secretary
Ervin Smith, Treasurer
Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair
Ed Bradlenski
Janice Kucewicz
Betty Koss
Louise Burnham
Gloria Brouillette
Pearl Coyer

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE

FY 2006, has proven to be a challenging year, as the office of Veterans' Service has seen an increase in activity of people seeking Chapter 115 benefits and filing for VA benefits.

As I mentioned last year the definition of a Veteran here in the Commonwealth was changed to include all Veterans under Chapter 115 guidelines. My budget was cut as were all others in the Town, but I would like to thank the Town Manager and the Town Council for supplementing my budget to fund the increasing numbers which I had on the rolls for benefits.

Due to the increase in NEW Veterans in the Town I have been filing the Welcome home Bonus for those being discharged. When the bonus took effect I took the lead and mailed a copy to

all eligible Veterans. I have seen an increase in the filing of VA forms for Compensation, medical and burial.

During the year I have recorded the following business:

Office visits – 431	Requests for GI Loan Applications – 3
Telephone Calls – 854	Requests for Medals – 6
Requests for Discharge – 54	Requests for Bonus Applications – Vietnam 3
	Iraqi (mailed 44,office 20)
	Total: 62
Applications for Veterans Cemetery – 16	
Applications for headstones – 38	
VA Compensation forms – 27	

My Office hours still seem to be a plus for the older Veterans in Town and I still make appointments for any Veteran/ widow who cannot see me during my normal hours.

Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies went well as the weather once again cooperated and the day was beautiful. I wish to thank the Color Guards, members of AMVETS Post 74, American Legion Post 130, Police Chief Robert Frydryk, his men and the Fire Chiefs and men of the Palmer, Three Rivers and Bondsville Fire departments. I would also like to thank the Boy/Cub Scouts, Brownies/Girl Scouts and of course the ceremonies would have been nothing without the tremendous support of the People of Palmer.

I would like to thank Town Manager Richard Fitzgerald and the Town Council for granting me a year's leave of absence, so I may take the position as Aide to the National Commander of the American Legion. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity and when I return it will help me serve the Veterans of Palmer in more ways.

This Town even in its change in Government is still 100% behind the Veterans' of this community and for that I say Thank you. That dedication makes my job easy and proud to be able to serve the Veterans of Palmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Avis, Director
Veterans' Service Officer
Graves Registration Officer
Burial Agent

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

The Palmer Historical Commission's monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month in the History Room of the Palmer Public Library. At these meetings, which are open to the public, topics of historical significance as they pertain to the Town of Palmer are discussed. In addition, donations of historical items are always welcome and are acknowledged.

Election of Officers took place at the April 27, 2005 and April 26, 2006 meetings:

Stephen M. Nowak, Chairman
Lorraine Y. Novak, Secretary

Marion F. Lis, Treasurer

The Commission is actively seeking the oldest male and female resident of the Town of Palmer in order to award its Historical Cane. Bolac Wallace of Bondsville, previous holder of the Commission's Cane, passed away in September 2005.

The Commission is in the process of moving its historical artifacts to the newly completed History Room at the Palmer Public Library. When this transfer of documents and records is completed, this room will serve as a valuable resource for historical researchers and genealogists.

The Commission has been working with Cher and Dell Bean of 535 Wilbraham Street, Palmer in order to have their home placed on both the Massachusetts and National List of Historical Registers.

Donations received:

- Newspaper clippings donated by Avie Cameron, Palmer.
- Town of Palmer Annual Reports from Peter Warakowski, Thorndike.
- A special thank you is extended to Sue Donald and her class at Pathfinder Regional High School for printing services done for the Commission.

On May 29, 2005 and May 28, 2006, the Historical Commission participated in a Memorial Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery to commemorate the lives of those who once lived in the four towns, which are now covered by the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Sandra Nichols resigned from the Palmer Historical Commission after serving as a member for nearly twenty years. Her unwavering attention to details, love and knowledge of Palmer's history, and vision for the future will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,

PALMER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stephen M. Nowak

Lorraine Y. Novak

Jane Golas

Marion F. Lis

Rose Riskalla

Harold Olson

LICENSE COMMISSION

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2005 calendar year:

All Alcoholic Beverage License:

Inn Holder	1	Fee\$600.00	\$600.00
Club	5	Fee\$500.00	\$2500.00
Retail Package Store	4	Fee\$500.00	\$2000.00
Seasonal	1	Fee\$300.00	\$300.00
Restaurant	12	Fee\$600.00	\$7200.00

Wine and Malt Beverage License:

Retail Package Store	5	Fee\$400.00	\$2000.00
Restaurant	2	Fee\$400.00	\$800.00
Restaurant with Cordials	2	Fee\$435.00	\$870.00

The License Commission had no violations for the 2005 year.

Respectfully submitted,
Palmer License Commission

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

The office and dwelling units under the management of the PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY are located on Fletcher Street. The complex referred to as Laurel Manor consists of 48 one bedroom units for the elderly/handicapped, operating under the State Chapter 667 Program. All rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development which have been adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Applications are accepted at all times in order to maintain a waiting list. A preference is given to local residents and/or local veterans. The current income limits for eligibility is \$34,550 for one person and \$39,500 for two persons and all applicants must be 60 years of age or handicapped to be eligible. For application information contact the office at 283-9311. During the last 18 months 11 vacancies were filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants.

The Board of Commissioners is made up of five members, 4 are appointed by the Town Manager and one is a state appointee. Members meet on the third Wednesday of the each month, in the community room at Laurel Manor, to conduct all regular authority business. All the daily operations are carried out by the part time Executive Director and maintenance man.

The Board of Commissioners and staff are dedicated to providing clean, safe and affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Strzemienski, Chairperson

Ronald Lemanski, Vice Chairperson

Margaret Higgins, Assistant Treasurer

Germaine Lefebvre, State Appointee/Treasurer

Mildred Jasak, Commissioner

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 1, 2005 thru June 30, 2006

2005 and the first half of 2006 brought several challenges to the Palmer Redevelopment Authority (PRA). The first was the continued effort to develop the former Holbrook Building site at Main and Bridge Streets in downtown Palmer, AKA Depot Village, and secondly, the interest in purchasing the Palmer Municipal Airport.

The airport project came to an end as the year of 2005 closed. This resulted from the lack of funding by interested parties and the owners receipt of approval of a subdivision plan for the site.

In the Holbrook site case, the PRA withdrew the preferred developer status of a local developer as funding was not forthcoming for several reasons. The board voted to look into other alternatives for the sale and/or development of the site. This project continues in 2006.

The Holbrook project and all future projects require citizen input and the PRA is looking for help and support. In addition, the PRA intends to actively pursue increasing the number of board members from five to seven. Please come forward if you have any ideas on how to successfully address the projects at hand or are interested in joining the Palmer Redevelopment Authority.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman	Frank Real
Vice Chairman	Blake Lamothe
Treasurer	Thomas Haley
Clerk	Margaret Higgins
State Appointed	Michael Pajak

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals received 10 applications for various transactions to meet the dimensional requirements to the Town of Palmer Zoning Bylaws for the year 2005 through June 30,2006.

The Board held public hearings on all petitions received according to the provisions of Chapter 40-A, Section 11, of the Massachusetts General Laws. As a result of the hearings, 8 variances were filed, and 4 were granted and 4 were denied. Also filed were 2 Findings both of which were granted.

Income from the Board amounted to \$800.00. These fees are collected to cover the expense of the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,	
Antonio Andre, Chairman	Russell Brown, Member
Norman Czech, Vice Chairman	Dennis Fountain, Member
Ingrid Thompson, Clerk	Walter Solzak, Alternate
Gary Doane, Alternate	

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Dept.	Dept. Name	Function	Appropriation	Transfers/ FY 05 Encumb.	Expended	Balance	06 Encumb.	Ending Balance
123	Town Manager	Salaries	\$158,483.00	\$8,801.00	\$163,833.41	\$3,450.59	\$3,449.00	\$1.59
		Expenses	\$46,250.00	\$9316.99	\$46,821.01	\$8,745.98	\$8,058.00	\$687.98
		Capital		\$28,000.00		\$28,000.00		\$28,000.00
132	Reserve		\$19,462.00	\$(19,416.05)		\$45.95		\$45.95
135	Accountant	Salaries	\$70,648.00	\$(11,668.53)	\$53,817.97	\$5,161.50	\$658.97	\$4,502.53
		Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$3,515.00	\$2,673.88	\$1,841.12	\$1,800.00	\$41.12
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	\$123,000.00	\$224,305.00	\$336,410.34	\$10,894.66	\$7,982.12	\$2,912.54
141	Assessors	Salaries	\$67,509.00	\$5,566.00	\$68,293.50	\$4,781.50	\$2,565.25	\$2,216.25
		Expenses	\$5,452.00	\$50,944.00	\$34,602.54	\$21,793.46	\$21,185.75	\$607.71
145	Treasurer	Salaries	\$37,388.00	\$2,332.00	\$38,649.02	\$1,070.98	\$772.28	\$298.70
		Expenses	\$16,200.00		\$23,228.71	\$(7,028.71)		\$(7,028.71)
146	Collector	Salaries	\$94,978.00	\$4,551.00	\$96,429.92	\$3,099.08	\$1,184.53	\$1,914.55
		Expenses	\$3,528.00		\$2,303.65	\$1,224.35		\$1,224.35
151	Laws & Claims	Salaries	\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00			
		Contract	\$10,500.00	\$2,498.10	\$12,458.10	\$540.00	\$540.00	
155	Computer Maint.	Expenses	\$41,923.00	\$1,900.00	\$43,556.20	\$266.80	\$266.80	
161	Town Clerk	Salaries	\$68,565.00	\$3,308.00	\$71,290.02	\$582.98	\$571.90	\$11.08
		Expenses	\$2,390.00	\$631.00	\$3,021.00			
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries	\$10,482.00	\$746.00	\$8,021.10	\$3,206.90		\$3,206.90
		Expenses	\$8,250.00	\$1,304.00	\$7,639.98	\$1,914.02	\$1,914.02	
171	Conservation	Salaries	\$10,268.00	\$476.00	\$9,731.96	\$1,012.04		\$1,012.04
		Expenses	\$2,500.00		\$1,079.32	\$1,420.68	\$834.92	\$585.76
175	Planning Board	Salaries	\$65,152.00	\$300.00	\$61,496.19	\$3,955.81		\$3,955.81
		Expenses	\$12,520.00	\$6,721.00	\$11,327.04	\$7,913.96	\$4,500.00	\$3,413.96
		Misc.	\$2,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$7,293.55	\$6.45		\$6.45
192	Building	Custodian	\$5,345.00	\$1,069.00	\$6,365.25	\$48.75		\$48.75
		Expenses	\$34,800.00	\$(1,278.65)	\$27,794.30	\$5,727.05	\$250.00	\$5,477.05
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian	\$5,345.00	\$535.00	\$4,981.50	\$898.50		\$898.50
		Expenses	\$9,750.00	\$530.00	\$9,269.32	\$1,010.68	\$403.10	\$607.58
195	Town Reports	Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$(3,000.00)				
210	Police	Salaries	\$1,481,000.00	\$57,182.00	\$1,439,764.71	\$98,417.29	\$36,500.00	\$61,917.29
		Expenses	\$57,750.00	\$3,500.00	\$55,282.17	\$5,967.83	\$3,627.92	\$2,339.91

210	Police	Capital		\$111,971.00	\$96,098.88	\$15,872.12		\$15,872.12
220	Forest Warden	Salaries	\$3,765.00	\$314.00	\$3,921.48	\$157.52		\$157.52
		Expenses	\$300.00			\$300.00		\$300.00
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries	\$40,687.00	\$1,828.62	\$42,515.62			
		Expenses	\$150.00		\$85.00	\$65.00		\$65.00
242	Gas Inspector		\$5,907.00	\$493.00	\$3,720.00	\$2,680.00	\$2,680.00	
243	Plumbing Inspec.		\$5,538.00	\$3,000.00	\$8,268.00	\$270.00	\$270.00	
244	Sealer	Salaries	\$2,304.00	\$192.00	\$2,400.48	\$95.52		\$95.52
		Expenses	\$325.00		\$232.29	\$92.71		\$92.71
245	Electrical	Salaries	\$9,230.00	\$770.00	\$9,254.97	\$745.03	\$745.03	
292	Dog Officer	Salaries	\$16,208.00	\$1,352.00	\$16,992.10	\$567.90		\$567.90
		Expenses	\$3,875.00		\$2,780.74	\$1,094.26		\$1,094.26
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	\$1,298.00	\$108.00	\$1,243.82	\$162.18		\$162.18
294	Forestry	Expenses	\$9,000.00		\$9,000.00			
310	Schools	Salaries	\$14,974,412.00	\$(2,172,934.85)	\$11,030,938.92	\$1,770,538.23	\$1,770,538.23	
		Expenses		\$3,893,691.08	\$3,845,513.65	\$48,177.43	\$48,177.43	
320	Pathfinder	Assessment	\$1,021,680.00		\$1,021,680.00			
410	Consulting Eng.	Contract	\$1,000.00	\$(1,000.00)		-		
421	Highway	Salaries	\$376,073.00	\$18,954.86	\$389,374.36	\$5,653.50	\$599.27	\$5,054.23
		Expenses	\$97,300.00	\$5,970.00	\$102,682.40	\$587.60		\$587.60
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime	\$18,000.00		\$45,983.82	\$(27,983.82)		\$(27,983.82)
		Supplies	\$32,000.00		\$168,387.85	\$(136,387.85)		\$(136,387.85)
424	Street Lights	Expenses	\$90,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$93,181.17	\$818.83		\$818.83
425	RR Crossing	Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$435.17	\$3,935.17			
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	\$14,000.00	\$399.19	\$13,945.97	\$453.22	\$453.22	
435	Ground Water	Expenses	\$9,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,790.00	\$5,710.00	\$5,710.00	
441	Gen. Sewer	Expenses	\$40,000.00		\$9,662.05	\$30,337.95		\$30,337.95
443	WWTP	Salaries	\$390,860.00	\$(15,840.00)	\$329,034.82	\$45,985.18	\$9,300.00	\$36,685.18
		Expenses	\$836,965.00	\$46,929.00	\$729,468.60	\$154,425.40	\$82,348.00	\$72,077.40
491	Cemetery	Salaries	\$64,775.00	\$3,374.00	\$66,273.92	\$1,875.08	\$1,626.00	\$249.08
		Expenses	\$12,950.00		\$11,058.15	\$1,891.85	\$708.96	\$1,182.89
510	BOH	Salaries	\$13,912.00	\$1,983.63	\$15,463.98	\$431.65		\$431.65
		Expenses	\$600.00		\$592.98	\$7.02		\$7.02
541	COA	Salaries	\$77,180.00	\$4,949.00	\$80,100.23	\$2,028.77	\$722.80	\$1,305.97
		Expenses	\$3,525.00		\$1,275.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	
543	Veterans	Salaries	\$9,744.00	\$684.00	\$10,182.43	\$245.57		\$245.57
		Expenses	\$1,575.00	\$(1,363.68)	\$211.32			
		Misc. & Ben.	\$40,000.00	\$31,096.16	\$69,930.92	\$1,165.24		\$1,165.24
610	Library	Expenses	\$708,750.00	\$(2,402.70)	\$706,347.30			
630	Recreation	Salaries	\$6,000.00	\$(5,900.00)		\$100.00		\$100.00
		Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$(3,500.00)				
650	Parks	Salaries	\$219,255.00	\$10,561.00	\$223,086.37	\$6,729.63	\$4,262.59	\$2,467.04

		Expenses	\$46,620.00		\$42,609.57	\$4,010.43	\$4,010.43
		Misc.	\$2,500.00		\$250.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
691	Historical	Expenses	\$230.00		\$230.00		
692	Memorial Day	Expenses	\$3,450.00	\$(732.48)	\$2,717.52		
699	Sports Leagues	Expenses	\$15,300.00		\$13,669.09	\$1,630.91	\$1,630.91
710	Debt Principal		\$2,746,127.00		\$2,738,041.45	\$8,085.55	\$8,085.55
851	Debt Interest		\$736,380.00		\$719,448.69	\$16,931.31	\$16,931.31
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	\$1,071,419.00		\$1,071,419.00		
913	Unemployment		\$48,000.00	\$(24,000.00)	\$19,566.74	\$4,433.26	\$4,433.26
914	Group Health Ins		\$3,411,199.00	\$259,777.54	\$3,655,933.58	\$15,042.96	\$15,042.96
915	Group Life Ins.		\$13,659.00		\$12,194.94	\$1,464.06	\$1,464.06
919	Medicare		\$168,000.00	\$12,211.46	\$178,613.46	\$1,598.00	\$1,598.00
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	\$307,339.00	\$534.00	\$293,632.18	\$14,240.82	\$14,240.82
	Cherry Sheet						
	Assess.						
Total			\$30,233,104.00	\$2,578,072.86	\$30,588,376.64	\$2,222,800.22	\$2,027,456.09
							\$195344.13

**TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL
FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2005**

	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$18,875	\$833,361	\$1,306,901	\$2,159,137
Investments	2,888,759	988,151	317,573	4,194,483
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:				
Property Taxes	651,863	-	-	651,863
Deferred Property Taxes	26,451	-	-	26,451
Tax Liens	967,395	-	-	967,395
Excise and Other Taxes	216,543	-	-	216,543
User Charges	269,553	-	-	269,553
Departmental	40,441	-	6,521	46,962
Due from Other Governments	8,900,257	-	910,938	9,811,195
Total Assets	\$13,980,137	\$1,821,512	\$2,541,933	\$18,343,582
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE:				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	\$162,443	\$-	\$121,919	\$284,362
Accrued Payroll	1,707,320	-	-	1,707,320
Payroll Withholdings	35,645	-	-	35,645
Tax Refund Payable	109,737	-	-	109,737
Accrued Interest on Short-Term Debt	28,145	-	-	28,145
Deferred Revenue:				
Property Taxes	460,024	-	-	460,024
Other	10,420,640	-	731,185	11,151,825
Bond Anticipation Notes	-	-	2,990,200	2,990,200
Total Liabilities	12,923,954	-	3,843,304	16,767,258
Fund Balance:				
Reserved For:				
Encumbrances and continuing appropriations	328,403	-	-	328,403
Unreserved:				
Designated for Subsequent Years' Expenditures	-	-	15,000	15,000
Undesignated, reported in:				
General Fund	727,780	-	-	727,780
Special Revenue	-	1,821,512	1,063,690	2,885,202
Capital Projects	-	-	(2,695,252)	(2,695,252)
Permanent Funds	-	-	315,191	315,191
Total Fund Balance	1,056,183	1,821,512	(1,301,371)	1,576,324
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$13,980,137	\$1,821,512	\$2,541,933	\$18,343,582

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
Reconciliation of Revenues and
Expenditures
from Budgetary Basis to GAAP Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

	Revenues	Expenditures
Reported on a Budgetary Basis	\$29,649,170	\$29,917,100
Net Decrease in Revenue from recording Refund Taxes Payable	(61,878)	
Recognition of intergovernmental Revenue - "on behalf payments"	2,131,629	
Recognition of Expenditures - "on behalf payments"		2,131,629
Recording of Expenditure - Teachers Deferral		(38,202)
Net Increase in Expenditures - Accrued Expenses		4,199
Net Increase in Revenue from Recording 60-Day Receipts	110,197	
Reported on a GAAP Basis	----- \$31,829,118	----- \$32,014,726

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance
Sheet
Total Fund Balances to the Statement of Net Assets
For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$1,576,324
Capital Assets (net) used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds	43,593,010
Revenues are recognized on an accrual basis of accounting instead of a modified accrual basis	11,564,139
Long Term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds: Bonds Payable	(21,243,897)
In statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long term debt, whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due	(265,702)
Net Assets of Governmental Activities	----- \$35,223,874

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds		\$(1,782,186)
<p>Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense:</p>		
Capital Outlay Purchases	\$1,929,406	
Capital Contributions	1,086,408	
Depreciation	<u>(2,234,261)</u>	781,553
<p>Revenue in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are fully deferred in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. Therefore, the recognition of revenue for various types of accounts receivable (i.e., real estate and personal property, motor vehicle excise, etc.) differ between the two statements. This amount represents the net change in deferred revenue</p>		
		(1,974,367)
<p>The Issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds and leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets:</p>		
Repayment of Debt Principal		2,687,102
Repayment of Debt Principal		<u>-</u>
<p>Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:</p>		
Net Change in Accrued Interest on Long-Term Debt		<u>27,905</u>
Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities		\$(259,993)

**TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS
JUNE 30, 2005**

	Private Purpose Trust Funds	Agency Funds
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$60,486	\$184,379
Total Assets	60,486	184,379
LIABILITIES		
Warrants Payable	-	2,068
Due to Others	-	24,589
Due to Student Groups	-	79,538
Escrows and Deposits	-	78,184
Total Liabilities	-	184,379
NET ASSETS:		
Held in Trust for Other Purposes	\$60,486	\$-

**TOWN OF PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE
30, 2005**

	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions
Program Revenues				
Primary Government:				
Governmental Activities:				
General Government	\$962,444	\$186,190	\$17,377	\$-
Public Safety	1,925,902	316,467	102,966	-
Public Works (including Sewer)	3,470,467	1,825,717	-	304,199
Education	19,123,960	496,175	11,854,779	-
Health and Human Services	923,277	87,846	730,316	-
Culture and Recreation	1,108,801	22,985	31,023	1,086,408
Employee Benefits and Insurance	6,347,458	-	1,941,240	-
State Assessments	305,453	-	-	-
Interest	1,038,226	-	656,877	-
Total Governmental Activities	35,205,988	2,935,380	15,334,578	1,390,607

Total Primary Government

\$35,205,988

\$2,935,380

\$15,334,578

\$1,390,607

General Revenues:

Property Taxes
Motor vehicle
excise and other
taxes
Penalties &
Interest on Taxes
Grants &
Contributions not
restricted to specific
programs
Unrestricted
Investment Income
Miscellaneous

**Total General
Revenues**

**Change in Net
Assets**

Net Assets:

Beginning of year

End of year

**TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET
ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

**Private
Purpose
Trust Funds**

Additions

Contributions:

Private Donations

\$-

Total Contributions

-

Investment Income:

Interest & Dividends

1,010

Total Investment Earnings

1,010

Total Additions

1,010

Deductions:

Educational Scholarships

865

Total Deductions

865

Change in Net Assets

145

Nets Assets at Beginning of Year

60,341

Nets Assets at End of Year

\$60,486

**TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
JUNE 30, 2005**

	<u>Primary Government</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,159,137
Investments	4,194,483
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Property Taxes	651,863
Deferred Property Taxes	26,451
Tax Liens	967,395
Excise and Other Taxes	216,543
User Charges	269,553
Departmental	46,962
Due from Other Governments	2,535,333
Total current assets	<u>11,067,720</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Due from Other Governments	7,275,862
Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation	
Nondepreciable	802,422
Depreciable	42,790,588
Total noncurrent assets	<u>50,868,872</u>
Total Assets	<u>61,936,592</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants Payable	284,362
Accrued Payroll	1,707,320
Payroll Withholdings	35,645
Tax Refund Payable	109,737
Accrued Interest	293,847
Other	47,710
Bond Anticipation Notes	2,990,200
Bonds Payable	2,708,451
Total current liabilities	<u>8,177,272</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Bonds Payable	18,535,446
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>18,535,446</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>26,712,718</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Invested in Capital Assets, net of related debt	28,259,170
Restricted for:	
Capital Projects	294,948
Federal & State Grants	1,020,481
Permanent Funds:	
Expendable	330,191
Other Purposes	516,226
Unrestricted	4,802,858
Total Net Assets	<u>\$35,223,874</u>

**TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Property Taxes	\$11,845,658	\$-	\$-	\$11,845,658
State Receipts	14,115,466	-	-	14,115,466
Excise and Other Taxes	1,327,899	-	-	1,327,899
Licenses, Permits, Fees	2,298,879	-	-	2,298,879
Interest on Taxes	83,489	-	-	83,489
Interest on Investments	26,098	32,855	21,198	80,151
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fair Value of Investments	-	-	1,428	1,428
Intergovernmental - "On-behalf" Payments	2,131,629	-	-	2,131,629
Grants and Fees	-	-	3,949,355	3,949,355
Total Revenues	31,829,118	32,855	3,971,981	35,833,954
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General Government	908,268	-	52,185	960,453
Public Safety	1,763,422	-	115,687	1,879,109
Public Works (including Sewer)	2,011,411	-	757,922	2,769,333
Education	15,745,650	-	2,465,025	18,210,675
Health and Human Services	241,164	-	653,569	894,733
Culture and Recreation	938,667	-	1,557,026	2,495,693
Employee Benefits and Insurance	6,347,458	-	-	6,347,458
State Assessments	305,453	-	-	305,453
Debt Service:				
Principal	2,687,102	-	-	2,687,102
Interest	1,066,131	-	-	1,066,131
Total Expenditures	32,014,726	-	5,601,414	37,616,140
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(185,608)	32,855	(1,629,433)	(1,782,186)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Operating Transfers In	150,726	-	116,168	266,894
Operating Transfers Out	(116,168)	-	(150,726)	(266,894)
Proceeds of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	34,558	-	(34,558)	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	(151,050)	32,855	(1,663,991)	(1,782,186)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	1,207,233	1,788,657	362,620	3,358,510
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$1,056,183	\$1,821,512	\$(1,301,371)	\$1,576,324

ASSESSOR
FISCAL YEAR 2006

LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$31,433,885.69
Offsets	35,016.00
Revenue Deficits	0
Deferral of Teacher's Pay	229,211.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	168,955.00
State & County Charges	286,395.00
Overlay	167,819.74
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$32,321,282.43

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$12,389,372.00
Massachusetts School Building Authority Payments	2,025,950.00
Local Estimated Receipts	3,802,252.00
Other Available Funds	1,149,781.69
Free Cash	66,000.00
Free Cash to reduce the tax rate	125,000.00
Teacher's Pay Deferral	191,009.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$19,749,364.69
NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$12,571,917.74

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2006

\$12,571,917.74 / 901,212,742 = \$13.95

CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES

	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	82.6337	\$10,388,642.42
OPEN SPACE	0	0

COMMERCIAL	7.7884	979,149.24
INDUSTRIAL	5.4877	689,913.99
PERSONAL PROPERTY		4.0902
		<u>514,212.09</u>
	100.00%	\$12,571,917.74

VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	744,705,550
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	70,189,910
INDUSTRIAL	49,456,200
PERSONAL PROPERTY	36,861,082
TOTAL VALUATION	901,212,742

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BEVERLY A. MORIN
ASSESSOR

TAX COLLECTOR

SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING
RECEIVABLES JUNE 30,2006

REAL ESTATE TAXES	
LEVY OF 2006	\$466,672.42
LEVY OF 2005	\$39,299.68
LEVY OF 2004	\$19,346.45
LEVY OF 2003	\$14,152.18
PRIOR YEARS	\$68,464.34
TOTAL	\$607,935.07

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	
LEVY OF 2006	\$3,840.00
LEVY OF 2005	\$11,918.59
LEVY OF 2004	\$1,032.44
LEVY OF 2003	\$1,639.73
PRIOR YEARS	\$9,225.50
TOTAL	\$27,656.26

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
LEVY OF 2006		\$174,379.01
LEVY OF 2005		\$64,139.21
LEVY OF 2004		\$31,473.64
LEVY OF 2003		\$15,440.35
PRIOR YEARS		\$49,750.70
TOTAL		\$335,182.91

SEWER USE CHARGES		
LEVY OF 2006		\$191,582.09
PRIOR YEARS		\$157,816.94
TOTAL		\$349,399.03

TAX TITLE **\$567,622.88**

OTHER TAXES		
FARM ANIMAL EXCISE		\$939.37
FOREST PRODUCTS TAX		\$405.20

SEWER LIENS ADDED TO TAXES		\$31,824.84
COMMITTED INTEREST ADDED TO TAXES		\$1,671.76

GRAND TOTAL \$1,922,637.32

Respectfully submitted
Roger E. Brach Collector

TOWN TREASURER

**BANK BALANCES
JUNE 30,2006**

BANK	TYPE	AMOUNT
BANK OF AMERICA	GENERAL	\$487,546.50
BANK OF WESTERN MASS	PAYROLL	\$2,192.64
BANK OF WESTERN MASS	HOLDING	\$177,506.19
BANK OF WESTERN MASS	TRUST FUND	\$149,542.84
BANK OF WESTERN MASS	SWEEP ACCT	\$46,020.81
BANK OF WESTERN MASS	STABILIZATION	\$730,000.00
COUNTRY	DIAMOND/CASCADE	\$4,748.21

COUNTRY	ARTS/LOTTERY	\$2,803.32
COUNTRY	COMM. DEVELOP	\$191,330.20
COUNTRY	DOG OFFICER	\$690.36
COUNTRY	REHAB	\$216,947.71
COUNTRY	SCHOOL LUNCH	\$738.63
EASTERN	GENERAL	\$225,710.78
GALAXY	CEMETARY	\$709.55
ING	CEMETARY	\$251,194.76
M.M.D.T.	STABILIZATION	\$1,027,337.46
M.M.D.T.	GENERAL	\$11,967.38
MELLON	VENDOR	\$70,211.55
MFS	CEMETARY	\$82,199.45
NO. BROOKFIELD	GENERAL	\$11,023.13
UNIBANK	TRUST FUND	\$326,444.79
UNIBANK	STUDENT ACTIVITY	\$73,729.67
UNIBANK	GENERAL	\$3,333,079.13
	TOTAL	\$7,423,675.06

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

ROGER E. BRACH TREASURER

PARKING CLERK

Fiscal Year 2006

\$2,115.00 PAID IN FINES ON 86 TICKETS

Respectfully submitted:

Roger E. Brach
Parking clerk

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

From January of 2005 through June of 2006, Palmer Police Department answered approximately 21,650 calls for service. From these calls, 2,356 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 1,213 individuals were arrested and/or summoned to court. More than 3,300 traffic citations were issued and 644 traffic accidents investigated. These accidents resulted in injuries to 247 individuals, including 1 fatality. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 20 full-time and 3 part-time police officers, who are supported by 6 full-time and one part-time non-sworn staff members. The town's bleak fiscal situation has resulted in the loss of one full-time officer and the elimination of part-time police patrols. For these reasons, there were occasions where our response to some calls for service was delayed.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Community Policing Grant (Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety) - \$38,000 to aid in the development, implementation, and maintenance of community policing programs and initiatives. Our programs include citizen and student police academies, bicycle patrols, targeted traffic enforcement patrols, seat belt enforcement and many others. We owe a debt of gratitude to our state senator, Stephen Brewer, and our representative, Reed Hillman, who were instrumental in securing these funds for us.

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Governor's Highway Safety Bureau) - \$8,400 to be used for speed, seat belt, drunk driving and red light enforcement as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink – You Drive – You Lose" campaigns.

I would like to thank the staff of the Police Department for their dedication and commitment to their department and to their community, especially during these tight fiscal times, when resources are scarce, but demands for their services are high.

Thanks, too, to the members of the Town Council, Town Manager Richard Fitzgerald, the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, acting DPW Director Richard Kaczmarczyk and his staff, and all the other town offices and departments for their cooperation throughout the year.

Finally, I want to thank the good citizens of Palmer who continue to support us and appreciate the job we do, particularly in these difficult fiscal times.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Frydryk
Chief of Police

OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP – January 2005 through June 2006

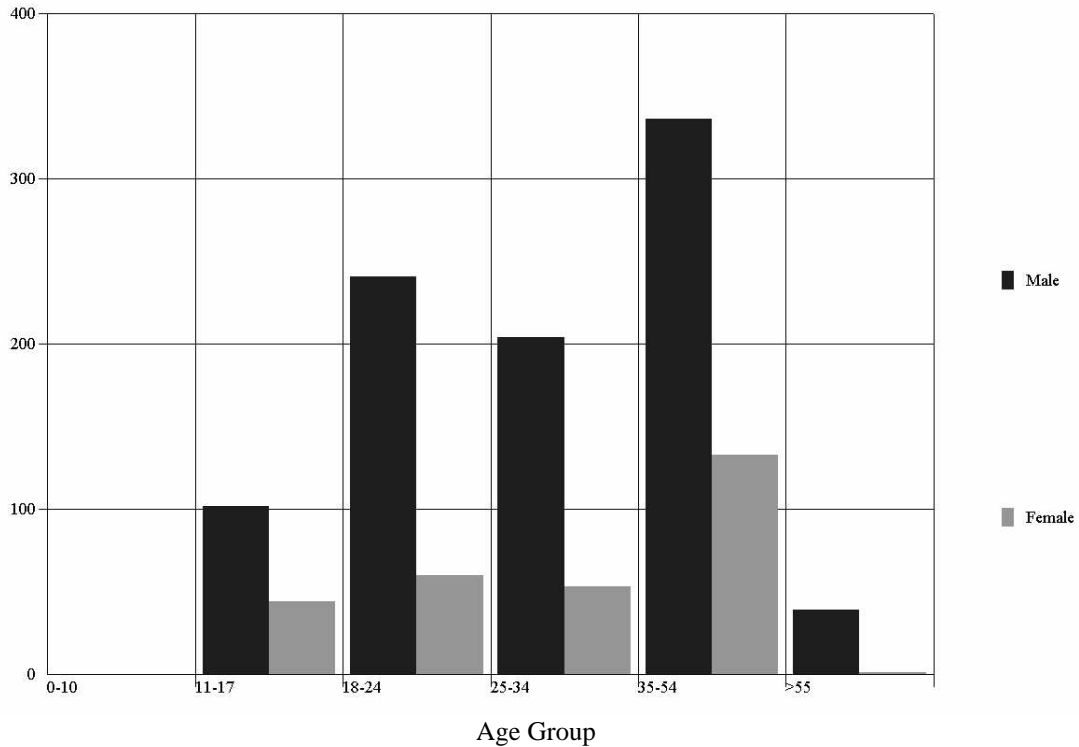
	OFFENDER AGE GROUP						TOTALS
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
ARSON		3	3		4		10
ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED		10	3	8	6	3	30
ASSAULT, SIMPLE		7	31	30	55	3	126
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERI		11	10	5	2		28
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY			2	3	1		6
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER			1				1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM		2	3	6	5		16
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		7	12	7	13		39
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE			8	13	27	5	53
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS		13	18	8	6	1	46
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS			2		1		3
DRUNKENNESS		6	52	53	142	11	264
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE				2	2		4
FORCIBLE FONDLING					1		1
INTIMIDATION		1		3	3		7
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		36	13		2		51
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT				1			1
ROBBERY		1		1	4		6
RUNAWAY		3					3
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT						1	1
SHOPLIFTING			1	2	8		11
STATUTORY RAPE			1				1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		3	4	1	1		9
THEFT FROM BUILDING		1			1		2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE				1		1	2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		14	85	60	97	6	262
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		4	3	8	8		23
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS		2	4		2		8
ALL OTHER LARCENY		4	2	1	2		9
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		18	43	44	76	9	190
TOTALS	0	146	301	257	469	40	1213

WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES – January 2005 through June 2006

Weapon Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	2054	87.11%
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet/Etc)	217	9.20%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	19	0.81%
Other	18	0.76%
Blunt Object	15	0.64%
Handgun	8	0.34%
Shotgun	8	0.34%
Fire/Incendiary Device	3	0.13%
Firearm (Unspecified)	3	0.13%
Motor Vehicle	3	0.13%
Firearm (Unspecified Automatic)	2	0.08%
Handgun (Automatic)	2	0.08%
Other Firearm	2	0.08%
Unknown	2	0.08%
Asphyxiation (Drown/Strangle/Suffocate/Gas)	1	0.04%
Rifle	1	0.04%
Total Occurrences	61	2,358 100.00%

ARRESTEE RACE AND SEX BY AGE – January 2005 through June 2006								Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	TOTALS	
White								
Male	0	101	228	195	320	38	882	25
Female	0	43	60	53	132	1	289	11
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black								
Male	0	0	11	7	15	0	33	5
Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Male	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Male	0	0	1	2	1	1	5	4
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	146	301	257	469	40	1213	45

ARRESTEE BY AGE AND SEX (GRAPH) – January 2005 through June 2006

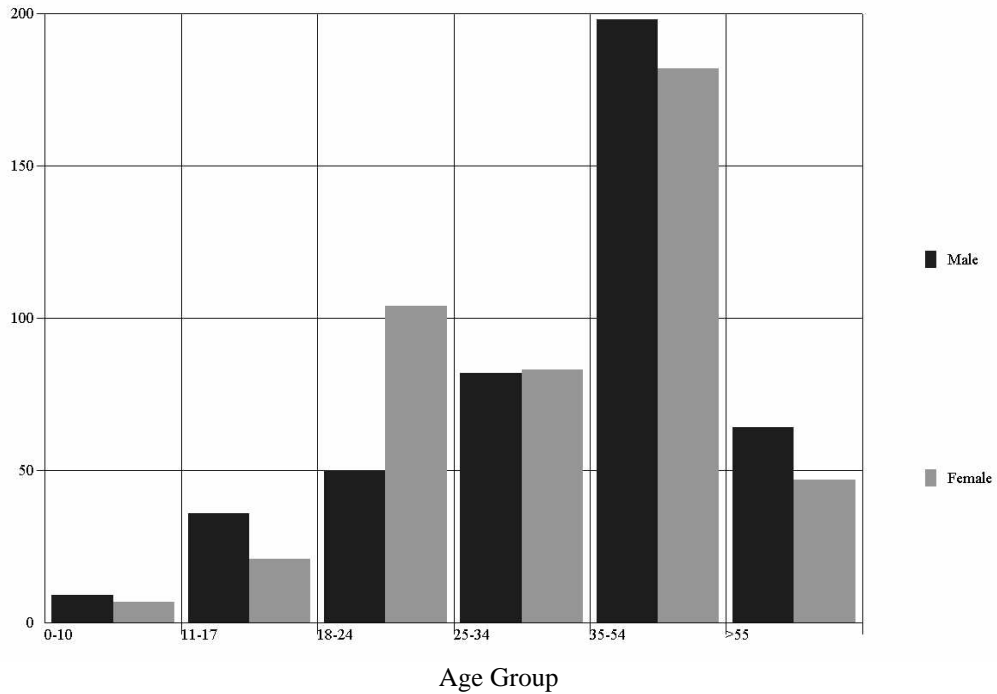


VICTIM BY AGE AND SEX – January 2005 through June 2006

	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	TOTALS	Hispanic
White								
Male	7	36	48	82	192	64	429	9
Female	6	21	104	82	176	47	436	5
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Black								
Male	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
Female	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Male	2	0	0	0	3	0	5	1
Female	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
TOTALS	16	57	154	165	380	114	886	15

VICTIM BY AGE AND SEX (Graph) –

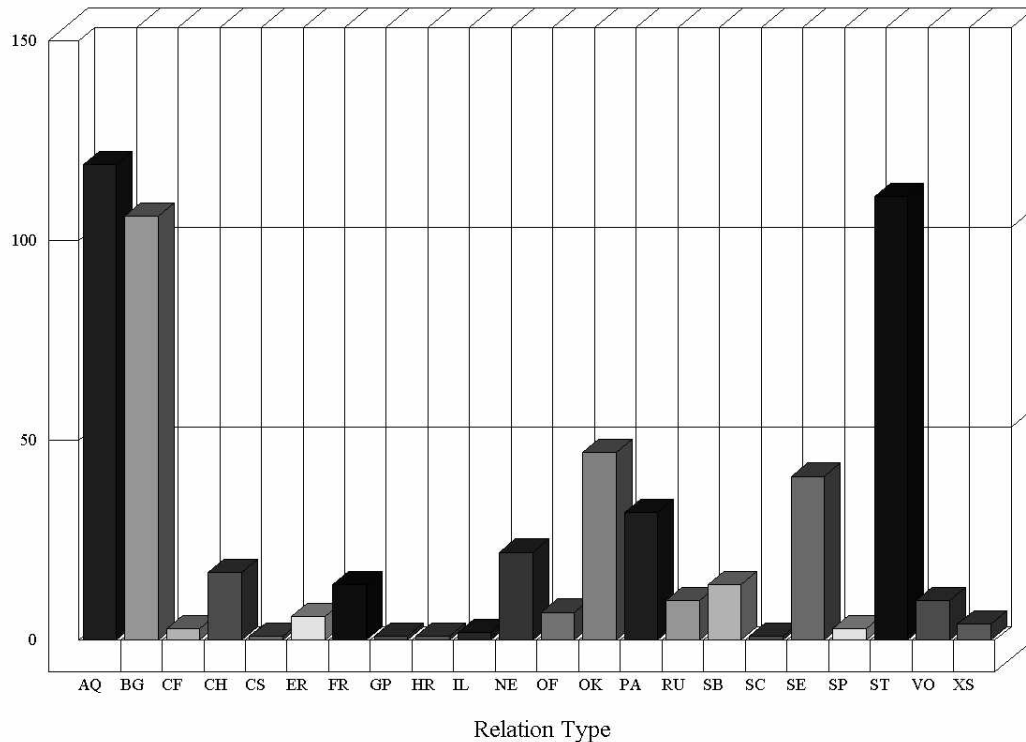
January 2005 through June 2006



RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS – January 2005 through June 2006

CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS	CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS
AQ	Acquaintance	119	NE	Neighbor	22
BE	Babysittee	0	OF	Other Family Member	7
BG	Boy/Girl Friend	106	OK	Otherwise Known	47
CF	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	3	PA	Parent	32
CH	Child	17	RU	Relationship Unknown	10
CS	Common-Law Spouse	1	SB	Sibling	14
EE	Employee	0	SC	Stepchild	1
ER	Employer	6	SE	Spouse	41
FR	Friend	14	SP	Stepparent	3
GC	Grandchild	0	SS	Stepsibling	0
GP	Grandparent	1	ST	Stranger	111
HR	Homosexual Relationship	1	VO	Victim was Offender	10
IL	In-Law	2	XS	Ex-Spouse	4
			TOTALS		572

RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS (GRAPH) – January 2005 thru June 2006



VICTIM INJURIES – January 2005 thru June 2006

Injury Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	149	49.83%
Apparent Minor Injury	140	46.82%
Severe Laceration	4	1.34%
Possible Internal Injuries	3	1.00%
Other Major Injury	2	0.67%
Apparent Broken Bones	1	0.33%
Total Occurrences	299	100.00%

DOG OFFICER

January 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

571 Complaints were received and followed up on

63 Lost dogs and cats were reported

11 Dogs adopted @ \$10.00 each

Burial

8 Cats

5 Deer

2 Skunk

4 Raccoons

2 Beaver

4 Foxes

1 Possum

1 Coyote

Fines issued to dog owners who do not obey the

Palmer Leash Law:

1st Offense \$ 25.00

2nd Offense \$ 35.00

3rd Offense \$ 50.00

In 2005-6 there were: 32 fines issued at \$25.00

1 fines issued at \$35.00

Total fines for 2004: \$835.00

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick J. Guzik

Dog Officer

Wanda Guzik

Assistant Dog Officer

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

I herewith submit my report as Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Palmer for the period January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

There were 94 responses for this period

Incident Type:

Forest, woods or wildland fires:	8
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fires:	16
Grass Fires:	2
Cooking fire contained to container:	12
Unauthorized burning:	7
Authorized controlled burning:	3
Citizen's complaint:	46

I would like to thank our Firefighters and Officers for their response, neighboring fire departments for providing mutual aid, Town Manager Richard Fitzgerald, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, and the Central Emergency Dispatchers for their assistance and cooperation provided during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. Roy
Forest Fire Warden

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater

The newly created Department of Public Works has combined the resources of the Parks, Highway, Cemetery and Wastewater Treatment Plant under one department. These departments however do continue to be operated as divisions of the Public Works Department with all employees able to work in other departments as needed. As the Waste Water Plant operates within an enterprise system they will file a separate report as to their plant and operation. The department is still in the beginning stages and has had two years of budget and personnel reductions to contend with while trying to maintain services to the community.

There have been some setbacks to deal with also. Last July due to budget cuts workers went on a reduced work week to avoid layoffs. The week was cut from 40 to 37.5 hours resulting in a loss of 57.5 man-hours per week within the DPW divisions. The end result was a total loss of 1,157 man-hours before a normal workweek resumed in January of 2006.

During this reduction in hours on Oct 15, 2005 a flood caused extensive damage to the highway garage. Employees risked injury to themselves to rescue equipment, trucks, and office data as the floodwaters continued to rise. The highway division was without a garage for nearly six weeks and it could not have happened at a worse time as it was just when the department was gearing up for snow season. Employees worked hard and in six weeks had the garage up and running. Although some equipment was lost to flood damage, the majority of equipment was saved.

During the last two years our department has done extensive paving and road reconstruction in an effort to improve the roads within the town. Several different methods of road maintenance such as crack sealing and chip sealing have been used to try and protect what roads we can until there are adequate funds available to properly pave these roads. Recently we have embarked on a program of sandblasting and painting of the large trucks to preserve them as long as possible and reduce maintenance cost.

Another area of concern is the storm water collection system. The system has not been able to be cleaned on a yearly basis due to lack of equipment and funds. However this is about to change as we have just recently placed an order for a combination vacuum and sewer line jet rodder truck with delivery expected in the spring of 2007. The primary work of this truck over the next several years will be to clean, flush out lines and inspect all manholes and catch basins within the town.

Other changes have been the use of anti-ice material applied prior to storms to aid in plowing and clearing of roads during and after storms. Also the installation of DTN weather radar which allows up to the minute location of approaching storms as well as other critical information will be useful for snow plowing and treating of surfaces.

Additionally we have had the opportunity to become involved with the Bay State Roads program at UMASS that teaches classes throughout the region in such subjects as road construction, asphalt inspection, small engine repair, chainsaw safety and a host of other construction-related courses. Palmer has twice been host town to these classes and looks forward to hosting more to continue our good relationship with this outstanding program.

Although much has been accomplished, there are still a number of areas which need to be addressed such as removal and planting of new trees, sidewalk repair, a better recycling facility and possibly curbside trash pickup. This would reduce the amount of illegal dumping now occurring throughout the town. The need also exists for the construction of a new DPW garage somewhere other than its present location to house all divisions in one building and eliminate the possibility of a flood to the garage for the third time.

The Park Division as well has gone through some changes. There is no longer a Park Commission as this has been eliminated with the charter change. All field permits and scheduling are handled through the DPW. Another employee has been reduced due to budget cuts. This brings the total to four full time employees or 50% of the work force, which have been eliminated in this division making it one of largest reduction of employees in the municipal side of the budget. There are fewer employees now than there were in the seventies and three times as much area to maintain making it difficult for crews to maintain all areas. Many of the areas are used to the maximum with baseball, soccer and football season lasting longer every year requiring more upkeep with less manpower and limited funds to repair and maintain fields.

The crews have done an excellent job working with what they have. They have been diligent in maintaining equipment with much of the work being done by them to reduce the cost of sending it out for repairs. This past year the baseball and softball fields at Legion field were rehabilitated with in-house personnel. They have been involved with snowplowing of the streets and parking lots and assisting in all the winter storms.

When the flooding occurred last October park personnel were able to save much of the office equipment and records at the highway as they were working through the night with the highway division clearing storm drains and blocking roads and assisting where needed. After the flood, a temporary office at the park garage was set up to enable the DPW secretary to continue to operate until she could move back to the highway.

There are still a number of issues, which need to be addressed on the Park side of the DPW. The wooden bleachers at Legion field need to be replaced as they are rapidly deteriorating and should be reconstructed with some different type of material other than wood. Burleigh Park is in need of major work and irrigation for Chase Memorial Park and Legion Field is also an important issue. The combination skating rink/tennis court at Eager Field can no longer hold water for winter skating as the surface is cracked in many places and the entire berm needs replacement. These are just a few of the projects that need to be addressed as soon as possible to keep our parks and other areas safe and enjoyable for everyone.

The Cemetery Division has also changed their methods of operation. They no longer come under a Board of Cemetery Commissioners but instead are also within the DPW.

This division also had its work force reduced over the last several years. All summer help and one part-time seasonal position and a part-time clerk have all been eliminated and only two full time employees remain. Help is sent from either the Highway or Park departments when available as needed or most recently, the Hampden County Community Service Group has been assisting with various duties when requested and time permits. The groups will work either half or full days once or twice a week doing trimming, trash removal and other chores and we are extremely grateful for their assistance with helping maintain these areas. Cemetery crews are also involved in the towns snowplowing program. Trucks and equipment assist in the plowing of roads and clearing of sidewalks and assist wherever needed.

The town's four cemeteries are in constant need of attention other than mowing and trimming. Tree trimming, fence replacement, water line repair, crack sealing and paving of roads are needed to protect and maintain these areas. In order to accomplish some of these tasks, it has been necessary to increase fees charged for the sale of lots and for services associated with a burial.

We take great pride in all our areas and strive to deliver the best possible service in all areas of the Public Works Department. It has been difficult and challenging these past two years. Many areas have not been able to receive the attention needed. We will continue to try and improve our service and despite setbacks and reductions make Palmer a safe and clean town for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

In closing I wish to thank all the employees of the DPW for their willingness and help in the transition into a Public Works Department and for their efforts during and after the flood when cleaning the garage and repairing the equipment and beating the clock in order to have equipment ready for the winter. To all others who have assisted the department throughout the past year, your help and guidance is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kaczmarczyk
DPW Director

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

The Flood that occurred in October of 2005 caused damages to the Main Plant and 4 of the pump stations at the cost of about \$182,000. Approximately 75% of the costs were recovered from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and 12.5% were recovered from the Mass Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The remaining 12.5% or about \$22,875 will be funded by the WPCF. This project will replace 3 pumps and 4 grinders at the pump stations and also pay for part of the wages and other costs that occurred during the flood.

Some of the major factors for the rate increases is the cost of the chemicals that we use have risen anywhere from 10% to 50%. The major increase in chemicals is due to the fact that they are petroleum based. Other factors include the price of oil to heat the Main Plant and 5 of its 10 pump stations, electricity that is used to power the blowers, pumps and other equipment that runs around the clock 365 days per year and is also used for heat in the remaining pump stations. We continue to update the older equipment at the facilities to ensure that we get the best performance from the equipment at the lowest possible cost.

One way for the community to help in keeping the sewer rate down is to check your property to insure that no sump pumps, roof leaders and floor drains are connected to your sanitary sewer. This will prevent clear water from entering the sewer system that in turn ends up at a pump station that eventually pumps the water to the main plant for treatment. By reducing the amount of water that does not need treating, it saves us money by using less chemicals and also saving electricity.

The USEPA and the MADEP are becoming much more strict with regards to the maintenance of the Town's sewer system. Many years of neglect has put the existing system in need of major maintenance that will lead the Town to purchase a combination sewer jetter/vactor. This purchase is to show the regulating agencies that the Town of Palmer is serious in bringing the sewer system to the level that the EPA and the DEP require.

I would like to thank the other Town departments that have helped us throughout the course of the past year. Lastly, I would like to thank the entire staff at the wastewater treatment plant for their complete commitment to keep the Town in daily compliance with the regulatory agencies, and for their support, cooperation, and professionalism that they display on a daily basis.

THANK YOU!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald Skowronek
Superintendent
Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Anticipation and transition marked the beginning of 2005 as the library prepared to reopen following completion of a \$5.9 million construction project funded through the generosity of the Town of Palmer, a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the gifts of many friends and donors.

In January, prior to the return to 1455 North Main Street from temporary quarters at Schoolhouse Commons, staff and volunteers completed an inventory and weeding of the library collection and then moved, organized, and shelved materials in preparation for the grand opening. An open house on February 13, 2005 introduced Palmer to its expanded library and the doors opened for business on February 22. On May 1, 2005 community members, local and state officials, and library supporters attended a formal dedication ceremony hosted by the Building Expansion Committee.

With the advantage of expanded space, the library continues its service as a community center. The Community Room, as well as the Bondsville, Three Rivers, and Thorndike Rooms, offer considerable meeting opportunities for local organizations, groups and businesses. Approximately 1,226 reservations for meetings were made between March 2005 and June 2006.

Imagination Station, a vibrant Youth Services programming room, invites children, parents, and caregivers to participate in a variety of library programs. Toddler playgroups, pre-school story hours, and craft programs are regularly scheduled throughout the year. The programming room also serves as a play area and learning center that is open to the public when library activities are not in session. In August 2005, the library received a \$2,500 Early Learning Opportunities Act grant funding the purchase of books, toys, audio-visual and other literacy materials that are available for use in Imagination Station. Annual support from the Hampshire Educational Collaborative and private donations help to supply the quality materials available in this early literacy center.

Varied programs designed especially for young adults during this year included Scrapbooking, Game Nights, Food Fear Factor, Battle of the Pizzas, a Drum Circle, and finals week Study Breaks. The Homework Center, providing computer access and reference resources, continues to support the school curriculum. In addition, *Tutor.com*, an on-line tutoring service, offers students one-to-one homework help with expert tutors providing access to information needed to perform better in school and at work. The library also subscribes to an on-line book club, *DearReader.com*, highlighting selections especially for teens. During this introductory year, the book club was promoted through the schools via the Manhattan Virtual Classroom, a web-based program developed with Western New England College to communicate school assignments and information to students and parents.

The annual Summer Reading Program serves all age groups from infants to senior citizens. Following the close of the school year, library activity explodes during July and August, and circulation statistics noticeably increase. Performances by professional storytellers, puppeteers, and musicians entertained hundreds of participants during the 2005 program. The "Going Places" theme was especially suited to the library's railroad motif. 1,055 people registered as summer readers and 1,636 attended programs and activities supported in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council and donations from local businesses and organizations.

The Library strives to provide youth with opportunities for creative expression and the tools to be productive contributors to the community. In February 2005 the library was one of 15 Massachusetts libraries to be selected for the Equal Access Institute, a professional development program of

Libraries for the Future in partnership with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Equal Access provides participants with tools to develop and expand community responsive programs. Through this project, a \$5,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant will support implementation of an after-school technology-based program that fosters literacy and communication skills.

Again in 2005-2006, the Palmer Affiliated Library System (P.A.L.S.) pooled funds to purchase multiple on-line databases at considerable cost savings. The Old Mill Pond Elementary School, Converse Middle School, Palmer High School, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School and Palmer Public Libraries maintained their commitment to on-line resources which are available not only in-house but by remote access through home computers. Extensive coverage includes medical, automotive, literature, history, and science resources.

Based in the library, Top Floor Learning, Inc. and River East School-to-Career, Inc. reinforce the library's commitment to lifelong learning. In addition to Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language, Top Floor Learning offers a multi-faceted program of workshops and classes encompassing health, leisure and life skills. Interests ranging from computer classes and business basics to genealogy to arts and crafts are served through this creative, unique organization. Addressing the needs of students, River East School-to-Career gives participants the academic, technical and employability skills necessary to compete in higher educational and high performance workplaces. The library benefits from the initiatives supported by these innovative organizations.

The work of the Railroad Advisory Board continues to promote Palmer's rich history as the Town of Seven Railroads. The Board has been building the rail history collection housed in the Railroad Research Room and recently created a portable photographic display detailing historic railroad events and places. A \$5,000 grant to the library from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Tourism Program will allow the Board to produce a brochure and to host a lecture series, appropriately titled "All Aboard," featuring prominent railroad experts.

Through its membership in C/W MARS (Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) the library conducts its daily operations, circulating materials throughout Massachusetts. In addition to circulation provided to in-library visitors, staff prepares items for delivery to C/W MARS members beyond Palmer. An average 60-100 Palmer items travel out through the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System delivery service on a daily basis. An equal number of books and materials per day are received by Palmer patrons from other libraries. Through resource sharing, this system-wide holds service allows any C/W MARS cardholder to reserve materials on-line and have those items delivered to the library of choice. From July 2005 to June 2006, the Palmer Library loaned 11,126 items to other libraries and borrowed 8,994 through this system.

C/W MARS offered two exciting new opportunities to libraries and their patrons in 2005-2006. Through the public access catalog audio books can be downloaded to computers, transferred to portable devices, and burned to CD's for reading and listening anywhere, anytime. This additional service is greatly appreciated by audio book enthusiasts. In another co-operative initiative, C/W MARS developed a Digital Treasures Project designed to digitize cultural history collections. Using the theme Industry and Agriculture C/W MARS invited each member library to add 20 images of historical significance to the database. Palmer's collection, viewable at dlib.cwmars.org is now accessible to Internet users.

In 2005, changing library service and an aging vehicle altered Bookmobile services. Purchased in 1972, the Palmer Public Library Bookmobile enjoyed a long history of visits to village neighborhoods, schools, and daycare centers. After traveling over 47,000 miles in 33 years, the Bookmobile was retired in March 2005, but outreach services have continued with deliveries by staff

to the homebound. A 2006 Ford Econoline van, purchased through private donations, arrived in June 2006 and the Rotary Club assisted by generously funding the customization of this new library on wheels.

Fundraising activities continue to support library programming and services. The Library Loft used book store located at Schoolhouse Commons, an October book sale held at the library, and the Annual Palmer Library Bike Races were major fundraisers conducted by volunteers in 2005-2006.

After almost 12 years as Director, Mark J. Contois accepted another library position in February 2006. Under Mark's leadership, the library forged strong community partnerships, introduced innovative programming, raised public awareness of the library's mission, and initiated the building expansion project. The completion of the new Palmer Public Library provides evidence of Mark's direction, energy and vision.

The Palmer Public Library is a busy community center. The success of its diverse programming is accomplished through the dedication, proficiency, and reliability of an experienced staff continually involved in professional development, technology training, and daily interaction with the public. Enhanced services and the library's function as a lifelong learning center require continued implementation of new technologies and services, resource sharing, and attention to the needs of the Palmer community.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Library Board of Trustees,
Nancy Bauer
Library Director

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 2005-2006

One would have to characterize the 2005-2006 school year as a year of changes. Former Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Linda Denault, announced her retirement effective in September 2005. Retired Converse Middle School Principal, Mr. Robert Janasiewicz, served as Interim Superintendent until his retirement earnings required him to vacate. Following Mr. Janasiewicz's stint, Palmer Public Schools Business Manager, Mr. Thomas Charko, served as the Interim Superintendent while the search began for a permanent superintendent of schools. In early December 2005, the Palmer School Committee appointed Dr. Gerald Fournier, formerly Assistant Superintendent for the Hull (MA) Public Schools, to be the Superintendent of the Palmer Public Schools, effective January 2006.

Palmer School Committee member Heidi Drawec resigned in December, and Mr. Robert Janasiewicz was appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council and School Committee to take her place.

Other administrative changes took place as well. Former Converse Middle School Principal Ms. Bonny Rathbone was appointed to replace Mr. James Conro as Palmer High School Principal who left to take a similar position in Wahconah Regional High, Dalton, MA. Mrs. Jennifer Chapin, formerly an acting elementary assistant principal and district-wide specialist in Chicopee, was appointed to replace Mrs. Debora Zablocki as Old Mill Pond Assistant Principal who accepted a position as Principal of Lake Street School in Spencer, MA. Converse Middle School Assistant Principal, Mr. David Stetkiewicz will serve as Interim Principal at Converse Middle School until a permanent replacement can be found. The search will begin in September 2006.

Financially, the 2005-2006 school year was difficult for the Palmer Public Schools because of the increases in fixed costs commencing with a 23.4% increase in health care, and spikes in utilities, transportation, and out-of-district tuitions. Balancing the school department budget for the 2006-2007 school year was equally as difficult resulting in the layoffs of a number of positions, most notably at the high school, in spite of a number of retirements system wide. The first full year under the Town Council form of government brought a concerted and informed two-way dialogue between the School Committee and the Town Council, particularly fiscally, resulting in an increase of \$441,924 or 2.9% for the school department for 2006-2007.

Fiscal matters notwithstanding, the school department continues to provide a sound education value for its students. Once again, for the fourth consecutive year, 100% of the graduating class achieved a competency determination requirement to earn a diploma by the Massachusetts Department of Education by obtaining passing scores in the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (MA) tests of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Additionally, the most notable achievement was observed by the grade 10 students, with 69% scoring at the advance or proficient level in ELA, and an outstanding 81% scoring at similar levels in MA. Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, all students must perform at the proficient or advance levels in both ELA and MA by 2014, the district must have a high test-participation rate, as well as a high student attendance rate. District-wide, the student attendance rate exceeds 96%, more high school students are enrolling in Advance Placement (AP) courses, and approximately 80% of seniors are enrolling in institutions of higher learning.

While students at the elementary and the high schools met adequate yearly progress (AYP) in both ELA and MA on the MCAS test, students at the middle school did so only in ELA. Disaggregating the data suggests the need for more intensive instruction on open response questions, particularly in math, where word problems suggest the need for more critical reading skills among the students. The district has taken numerous approaches to address these deficiencies.

In May the district underwent an independent examination of the Palmer Public Schools for the period of 2002-2005 by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA). This examination applied the standards related to five domains: 1) assessment and evaluation; 2) curriculum and instruction; 3) student academic support services; 4) leadership and governance; and, business and financial management. Two tiers of investigation, source documents and interviews, are used and fifteen standards. The results of this rigorous review should be available by the start of the next school year.

Enrollment declined throughout this school year reaching the smallest number in June of 2,038. A more detailed analysis will be conducted during the next school year to determine whether or not projections are for this trend to continue. The declining enrollment, however, will result in an opportunity for us to review the configuration of each school by grade, namely whether or not it will be feasible in the long-term to have grade 8 return to the middle school, and grade 5 to return to the elementary school.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff are duly proud of our schools and the education provided the students of our district. We remain committed to our mission of continuing to strive to become a community of learners; a partnership among home, school and the community; a source of academic excellence demonstrating a safe, healthy, disciplined environment that meets the needs of all students as they prepare to fulfill their roles in a democratic society. To these ends, we gratefully acknowledge, recognize and appreciate the continued community support.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Mary A. Salzman, Chair
Cynthia R. Heffernan, Vice Chair and Secretary
James St. Amand, Member
David Lynch, Member
Robert Janasiewicz, Member

OLD MILL POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“Community building must become the heart of any school improvement effort.” Thomas Sergiovanni

A strong school community is built through the talents and strengths of everyone. We wish to thank all of the parents and student volunteers who assisted our students and staff in all areas of school life – tutoring, fundraising, parties, field trips, and the parent-teacher organization activities. Volunteers are a critical component to the success of our educational programs. Their work and support has truly enriched our students’ school experiences. Our PTO officers are committed and support the OMP children. We are grateful to Kelly Robbins, Kim McClosky, Janine Andersen, and Becky Cousineau for their countless hours of service.

We acknowledge and thank upon their retirement Ms. Maureen Austin, Ms. Mary Jane Starsiak, and Mr. David Whitney, for their contribution and many, many years of service to the children of Palmer.

We continued to work with Mr. William Atwood of the Collins Education Associates in strengthening mathematics in grades 3 and 4. He will contribute this work across the district next year in order to ensure the continuity and consistency for the improvement in open response answers. Houghton-Mifflin Reading Program representatives provided professional development to staff as they implemented the newest addition of the English Language Arts series.

The OMP School Council was established to represent PK-4 grades. The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 required diverse representation from the home, school and community on the Council. The most important task assigned to the Council is the creation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The following considerations continue to be addressed to ensure the quality of service delivery: integration of technology, nutrition, physical education and communication. Annually, the School Council solicits input through surveys in the evaluation, updating and revision of the SIP. The OMP SIP accurately represents the district’s philosophy and is consistent with the school department’s Pathway to Progress/Strategic Plan. To strengthen the educational foundation of our children, OMP strives to provide: *a positive learning environment, a curriculum to maximize each student’s potential, and a support system for families and community.*

In continuing to strive to improve the educational quality for the betterment of all of our students, the School Council has identified and supported the following this school year:

- 1 Preschool accreditation
- 2 Full-day kindergarten
- 3 A monthly parent newsletter

- 4 Introduction of a Scavenger Hunt for incoming kindergarten students and parents
- 5 Professional development of grade 3 and grade 4 teachers in Writing and Thinking across the Curriculum
- 6 Updated training of kindergarten through grade 4 teachers in Houghton-Mifflin's Reading Series
- 7 Professional development of kindergarten through grade 4 teachers in Investigations in Math
- 8 Training of all staff in Differentiated Instruction
- 9 Installation of new computers within classrooms
- 10 Implementation of new computer software both in the computer lab and the classrooms
- 11 Implementation of Second Steps (Violence Prevention Curriculum)
- 12 Introduction of before and after-school programs with the Scantic Valley YMCA

Grateful thanks and appreciation goes out to the following members of the OMP School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Mary Lou Callahan, Co-Chair, Principal
Paul Burns, Co-Chair, Parent
Debora Zablocki, Ex-Officio, Assistant Principal
Katherine Sasser, Secretary, Teacher
Lisa Kellaher, Teacher
James Lynch, Community Representative
Diane France, Parent
Laurie Stevenson, Parent

We continue our relationship with Pathfinder Regional Vocational School as students work with the children and teachers in the Early Childhood Program. Students from the National Honor Society at Palmer High School gave of their time sharing their expertise as tutors within our classrooms. PHS French students provided an opportunity for grade one students to be introduced to another language. Eighth grade Interact Club students provided enjoyment of reading to our kindergarten students. We are appreciative of everyone's time and talents serving our youngsters.

OMP students had the opportunity to get involved with the Savings Makes Sense Program offered through the Country Bank for Savings. The emphasis of this program was to save money. Children were able to bring their money and passbooks to school on the first and third Tuesday of each month and place it into their savings accounts. Two hundred twenty five students participated in this program and saved a total of \$12, 452.62. Thanks goes out to Jodie Gerulaitis, program coordinator from Country Bank for Savings, and the Country Bank tellers for making this program such a huge success. Some of the children were featured in the Spring/Summer Country kids Newsletter put out by Country Bank for Savings. The program also sponsored Angela Hucles, Olympic Gold Medalist in soccer for Team USA, who visited our classrooms. This project was sponsored through the office of State Treasurer Timothy Cahill.

First grade student Timothy Canning was a state-wide winner of the "My Ideal School" contest sponsored by a project of State Treasurer Timothy Cahill and the Massachusetts School Building Authority. There were 4,000 entries and Timothy Canning was one of 15 recognized as regional winners. Each recipient received a \$100 savings bond. Timothy visited the State House with his family, classroom teacher Mrs. North, and OMP Principal Callahan. He also received recognition from the School Committee where he gave a PowerPoint presentation of his experience. The School Committee presented Timothy with a Certificate of Writing Excellence. The goal of the contest was to promote discussion among students and teachers as to how thoughtful design and construction of schools in Massachusetts supports student learning.

The Grinspoon Foundation recognized Mrs. Carol Robins, our reading specialist, with an Excellence in Teaching award. This award is presented to an individual who possesses professionalism through qualities such as excellence in teaching practices, their own professionalism, good attendance, and ability to demonstrate collaboration and cooperation.

Verizon Telecom Pioneers has recently awarded a grant of \$1,300.10 to OMP, as well as a dictionary for each grade three student, a USA Map Rug presented to the PTO, and a mapping of the universe on the OMP playground. This contribution was presented by Mrs. Joan Carney and Mrs. Diane Rogers who are corporate volunteers.

Many thanks are extended to the School Committee for their ongoing support of OMP. The mutual respect we share has made for an extremely successful relationship. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Robert Janasiewicz for serving as our interim superintendent. We also welcome Dr. Gerald Fournier into his new role as the Superintendent of the Palmer Public Schools.

In closing, our faculty reflect the talents and strengths of our programs. The contributions and presence of each individual faculty member makes a significant difference. Because of them, we are able to successfully offer a welcoming, comfortable and enthusiastic school environment where each of us reflect and celebrate our differences.

CONVERSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 2005-2006 school year saw a continued focus on preparing the students for MCAS testing and on ensuring that the curriculum in all subject areas is aligned with the standards. For the first time, all three grade levels (5, 6, and 7) were administered MCAS tests in reading/ELA and math. Grade 5 students were also tested in science and history/social science (question tryout). Grade 7 students took the Long Composition portion of the ELA test, and the history social science test (question tryout). The students at all three grade levels took the test very seriously, and put forth great effort.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The Jump Up and Go Great is a 3-year grant with a total value of \$9,000. The focus of the grant is to promote and educate the students about healthy choices, including the importance of physical activity.

The Cougars' Den after school program continues to be a successful extension to the school day. Here are a variety of activities offered for the students to participate in. Adequate funding is still a concern, so fundraising and reliance on community support is ongoing. We are most appreciative of the financial support and volunteer services provided to us.

The PTO continues to play a vital role in the educational, social, and cultural life of the students at the school. The yearly fundraiser helps to defray the cost of field trips and cultural activities. The PTO sponsors the "Step-up" ceremony for the 7th graders in June. Each 7th grader is presented with a personalized dictionary. The PTO is also actively involved in the Spring Fling Social and in production of the yearbook. Each May, the PTO treats the staff at Converse to a delicious "Staff Appreciation Luncheon." The staff and students sincerely appreciate the efforts of the PTO members and wish to thank them for their countless hours of volunteer work!

Retiring from Converse Middle School on June 30, 2006 were Susan Brown, Susan Bussell, Patricia Carbone, Michael Marciniac, Charlotte Swienton and Judith Thurston. We thank them for their dedication to the students of Palmer and wish them the best in their retirement years!

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

Our curriculum now offers six Advanced Placement and ten Honors courses! These, no doubt, contributed to the fine effort of the Class of 2006 achieving a 100% success rate in passing both the ELA and math MCAS exams, thereby enabling them to qualify for a diploma.

Parents and community members were afforded the opportunities for many school visits throughout the year, including Open House, an MCAS information session, National Honor Society induction ceremony, Arts Are Academic, and an annual drama presentation, which this year was *Sheherazade*. The music program continues to be strong and it also provided many public performances throughout the year, including Eastern States Exposition (Big E), Fall concert, Festival of Choruses and Bands, QVMEA concert, Spring concert, and the Memorial Day parade.

School spirit was rigorous at the pep rallies held for the fall, winter and spring sports. The freshmen reception, winter semi-formal, freshmen Spring Fling, Junior Prom, and Senior Banquet were well attended and each provided a most enjoyable social occasion. Boosters clubs were very active, celebrating student athletic and musical abilities, hosting numerous banquets to recognize the efforts of our students, and conducting various fundraisers throughout the year.

Many community outreach events were held, including a dodge ball tournament that generated \$1,200 and many presents for Toys for Tots, a senior class volleyball tournament that provided \$200 to the Open Pantry. National Honor Society students volunteered to assist senior citizens in their yard-cleaning projects. Two blood banks were coordinated by Al Murray and student leaders, yielding over 250 pints of blood. A Health and Wellness Fair was offered to all Palmer schools and town employees in April which highlighted bone density screenings, body composition tests, cholesterol/glucose readings, and blood pressure measurements. A massage therapist also provided tension relief. Nutrition information as well as skin damage screenings were available as well.

We applaud the contributions of so many who make a difference in the lives of others!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, Title I programs, home and hospital tutoring, and Chapter 622 (discrimination). The department is also responsible for the screening of all youngsters entering kindergarten as well as three and four year-olds for possible special needs and early intervention programs. We are also responsible for writing many of the school systems state and federal grants.

The Palmer Public Schools is an Early Childhood (integrated preschool special needs) through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels and includes a full range of support services, including speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children, such as vision teacher, services for the hearing impaired children etc. are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

Thanks to the efforts of the Superintendent, the School Committee, the Town Office and the community, we were able to continue a revolving Medicaid Account for medical type services. This account allows us to channel moneys generated by current children enrolled in programs who receive Mass Health Insurance into the contracted service account, thus freeing up funds for general education. A similar practice was established for tuition from special needs youngsters tuitioned into the Palmer Public Schools.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2006 school year was one of continued program growth and development. As of June 2006, we show a decrease in the number of children receiving special education services. Our enrollment is 389 students as opposed to 444 in 2005. This decrease is attributed mostly to our increased efforts for outreach and early identification of young children age 3-5, and our efforts in returning children to the regular classroom through 504 plans or, as the result of re-evaluations, no longer being eligible or requiring special educational assistance and only slightly due to reduced enrollment. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal (#240 (94-142)) Special Education Grant, continues to fully fund the cost of one of our Early Childhood Programs as well as one speech and language pathologist and a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions. The State (#262) Early Childhood Grant provides speech assistance and screening services to children enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. The Federal Title I Grant (#305) continues to provide remedial math services to eligible youngsters in grades 3-7, as well as reading in grades 3-4 at Old Mill Pond School and reading and study skills at the Middle School. The entire grant is committed to staff salaries and instructional materials, including technology. This program provides services to approximately 225 youngsters in the elementary and middle schools.

The Drug Free Schools Grant (#331) continues to provide drug awareness and prevention information to staff, parents and students. This grant funds a Bullying Awareness program at Old Mill Pond School as well as "Guiding Good Choices", a prevention program for parents of children ages 9-14.

This year we have continued our integration of our Early Childhood Program. Both early childhood programs at Old Mill Pond School are national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). A nominal fee is charged for the non-special needs children in the program. An evaluation of this program has shown tremendous support from the parents as well as a great benefit to the children.

The mainstreaming of special education students continues to be an area of emphasis. This year we have been able to mainstream a number of children through the use of one-to-one paraprofessionals, and have received tremendous cooperation and assistance from school administrators and staff.

This past year we have continued our Parent Advisory Council for Special Education. This group of parents and professionals meets three to four times per year and addresses current topics of interest to parents. For more information on these meetings call Neil Metcalf, Director of Special Education at (413) 283-2651.

This year the Department of Special Services, in conjunction with the Palmer High School, has continued the development of the alternative education program for Palmer High School students. This program was returned to Palmer High School from its previous location in Three Rivers. This program increases options to high school students who are at risk of dropping out and help direct them to a more goal-oriented program. It will also provide an option to return some students, currently placed in out-of-district programs, and hopefully avoid the placement of children out of district.

The Department of Special Services continues to advocate for the education of all children in the least restrictive environment and to the maximum degree possible.

FACILITIES

The Facilities' Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals, grounds upkeep, and facility maintenance improvements. The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evenings by many civic and private groups, in addition to the school departments' programs. Although budget constraints forced the elimination of two part-time custodial positions, the facilities department did manage to maintain the buildings in relatively good shape with the remaining work force.

Major projects included the replacement of the intercom system at the high school and 25 classroom univents at the middle school. Shutoff valves for domestic water were installed in various areas of the middle school and the exterior overhang of the building at the northwest corner was rebuilt, maintaining the original character of the building. Science counter tops and sinks were replaced at the school as well. The elementary school had the playground asphalt cracks sealed.

As always, we cannot express enough how grateful we are to the other town departments who provide outstanding support, services and expertise. Special thanks and appreciation goes to the Parks Department for all they do for the school department throughout the year with the school grounds.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

JANUARY 2005-JUNE 2006

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. The Committee continued to consist of nine members – two each from Belchertown and Palmer – and one from each of the communities of Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, and Ware. As 2005 was not a biennial state election year, all members continued to serve.

CURRICULUM

Pathfinder students have continued to make excellent progress and have demonstrated marked improvement in their performance and achievement on the MCAS tests. The number of students who scored in the “Advanced” and “Proficient” ranges as well as the number who attained the minimum passing score increased for the second consecutive year. These results clearly indicate the dedication of the staff, the effectiveness of the extra classes, and the importance and value students now place on their MCAS performance. For the third consecutive cycle, Pathfinder met the standard for “Adequate Yearly Progress” prescribed in the “No Child Left Behind” law.

Following an exceptionally successful pilot year, the after school remedial program developed under the auspices of the *High Schools That Work* initiative was continued in the 2005-06 school year. This program continued to provide a “safety net” by providing course content reinforcement/instruction for any student who was failing a major course.

The Summer Reading *Bridge* program and *Project Adventure*, initially launched in the summer of 2004, were once again offered to all incoming freshmen. Each of these programs is designed to raise expectations and standards while providing students the opportunity to make new friends and become familiar with Pathfinder prior to the opening of school.

Pathfinder continued to build on several of the efforts that were launched during the previous school year, including:

- Expansion of the mandatory portfolio requirement in academic and vocational studies for all freshmen and the continued investigation of the use of digital portfolios.
- Reinstitution of the Renaissance Program and the implementation of the trimester system for 2005-06.
- Continued on-site staff development in cooperation with Westfield State College, including *Reading Across the Curriculum* and *Writing Across the Curriculum*.
- Training in Red Cross CPR and First Aid and OSHA for students and staff as appropriate.

Municipal and community service projects continued to be important components of the Pathfinder curriculum for upper class students; they also constitute a major portion of the school's commitment to local town departments. A sample of such efforts during the past year includes the following:

- Automotive students serviced a police cruiser for the town of Warren and participated in several benefit car washes for local benefits and national charities.
- Auto Body students provided extensive repairs to a van for the town of Palmer, a truck for the town of Granby, and a police cruiser for the town of Warren.
- Auto Reconditioning students regularly serviced vehicles for police, highway, and water departments for member towns, and they, too, participated in a number of benefit car washes.
- Building Service students constructed kitchen cabinets for a Belchertown family, worked with the Monson Food Pantry, and continued to provide custodial services to the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Carpentry students designed, constructed, and installed shelving for the Monson Food Pantry, designed and built cabinets and shelves for the Hardwick Library. Currently the students are in the midst of constructing a much-needed storage facility on the school's campus.
- Computer Assisted Design students created the drawings for the above mentioned storage facility.
- Cosmetology students provided services for the Palmer Senior Center, participated in "Spa Day" for the May Bridal Expo, and performed manicures and hair styling for the Monson Girl Scouts.
- Culinary Arts students planned for and provided meals or refreshments to many local town and civic organizations, charitable fund raisers and benefits--both in-house and on-site.
- Electrical students completed lighting, alarm, and telephone installation for the Ware Parks Department and are currently working on projects for local parks as well as the local fire department.
- Electronics students provided a variety of repair and maintenance services for community public address systems.
- Health Technology students participated in local disaster drills as well as the annual Community Health Fair hosted at the school.
- Office Business students prepared, copied, collated, packaged, and labeled materials such as town reports, school handbooks, and brochures for local towns, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Development Corporation.
- Machine Technology students refurbished/rebuilt the weather vane for the new Palmer Public Library.

- The Construction Cluster of programs--encompassing carpentry, electrical, and HVAC--built a house in Ware as a business/education partnership with the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The school's Cooperative Education Program of alternating weeks of classes at school and paid employment began the year with a strong enrollment of seniors. Discerning employers had previously hired highly qualified students from virtually every program. Eligible junior students began their participation in late January pursuant to state and federal law.

Throughout the year, the 42 Co-op students improved upon their previously established work ethics while at the same time maintaining good academic standing. With employers acting as mentors, the young apprentices earned fair wages and acquired a wide array of technical skills. As the school year progressed, the students enhanced those skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons for dealing with change in both their personal lives and their jobs.

The ultimate compliment to the students, their parents, and to the school is the number of instances where employers elected to place co-op students on permanent status once they graduate. Similarly, the school was pleased to note that all junior co-op students returned in September with the same employers.

Pathfinder was selected by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability for a "Tier II" audit in the spring of 2005. Following an extensive period of preparation, a team of five examiners spent two and one-half days reviewing documents, interviewing school personnel, and meeting with community leaders. Their focus was on the period 2001-2004 with particular emphasis on student performance on MCAS tests, and they composed a draft report with their observations and conclusions late in the fall of 2005. The administration responded to that report, and the Educational Management Audit Council is scheduled to vote on its disposition at their February meeting.

STUDENT BODY

Pathfinder's October 1st enrollment totaled 668 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 76; Granby 28; Hardwick 24; Monson 96; New Braintree 8; Palmer 185; and Ware 122. The remaining 129 students were residents of out-of-district communities.

During this past year, the Guidance Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—received 330 applications for September admissions. Of the applications received, 284 represented applicants for the 175 openings in the 9th grade. Once again, transfer opportunities into the 10th or 11th grades were very limited, and there was a waiting list for vocational offerings in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Parents or students seeking to learn more about Pathfinder or to visit the school had a variety of options available to them throughout the year. Our spring Open House evening featured a free spaghetti dinner and a tour of the facility, including a stop in each vocational area. For students and parents with internet access, Pathfinder's website (www.pathfindertech.org) provides detailed information about our academic and technical programs, sports and extracurricular activities, as well as the application process. Each winter a representative from Pathfinder's Guidance Department visits the schools of our member towns to offer a presentation to the 8th graders about Pathfinder's offerings and how to apply. Students who are interested will then have the opportunity to attend a field trip to Pathfinder to get a first-hand look at our vocational programs and facilities and to interact with current students. This visit also gives them a taste of a typical day at the school. In addition, the summer Youth Enrichment Program and the Afternoon Exploratory Program for middle school students continued to attract large numbers of enthusiastic participants.

The Pathfinder Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society inducted a deserving group of new and existing members in an impressive ceremony. To qualify, students must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and exhibit the qualities of skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. The induction ceremony is held in early spring so that senior inductees can include this recognition on college, scholarship, and work applications. The Chapter continued the practice of inviting underclass students as guests who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who demonstrated potential for induction into the Society.

Pathfinder's Renaissance Program was recently reinstated and has been well received by staff and students alike. A faculty committee chaired by Judy Mercier oversees this popular initiative. Each trimester, the program recognizes and rewards students for academic and vocational accomplishments. Students who earn high honors are eligible for a "Gold Card;" students earning honors receive a "Silver Card;" and students who have made noticeable improvements are awarded "Most Improved Cards." Students who have perfect attendance for the year are also eligible for Renaissance recognition. Each level of card comes with its own perks and rewards ranging from homework passes, to free admission to school dances, to discounts at local businesses. In addition, each trimester Renaissance students earn raffle tickets towards the end of the year drawing for prizes like televisions and video game systems. The Renaissance Program is supported through fundraising efforts as well as generous donations from local businesses.

At the Nineteenth Annual "Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student" awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association, South Hadley resident Talia Coughlin represented Pathfinder. Talia was a member of the National Technical Honor Society, the Pioneer Valley Culinary Associates Junior Chapter & the American Culinary Federation (PVCA & ACF), the cheerleading team, drama club, and was a silver medal winner for Skills USA. She received the Highest Academic Achievement award for her senior year, the Toque Blanche Award for Excellence in Culinary Arts, as well as numerous academic awards. She also received the Presidential Certificate of Merit from the Massachusetts Vocational Association and applied for the Massachusetts Department of Education's Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. Talia graduated as salutatorian of the Class of 2005 with a 3.968 cumulative grade point average. She is currently studying forensic science at Bay Path College and was selected as a Presidential Scholar there.

Shannon McIntyre of Warren was a 2005 Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* Student Achievers Award winner. In addition, she was selected as Pathfinder's nominee for the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators/Massachusetts Vocational Association's Walter J. Markham Award. Shannon was a member of the National Technical Honor Society, the cheerleading squad, Student Council, and a gold medal winner for Skills USA. She received a number of academic awards, participated in Pathfinder's Cooperative Education program, and was the recipient of the "Golden Shears Award" for cosmetology. Shannon earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.80 and is attending American International College for business.

In June 2005, the graduating class of 108 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Approximately 75% of the graduates were working or had plans to continue their education at the post-secondary level, while another 5% had made commitments to serve in the military. Interest in four-year colleges also continued to be a popular option for graduating seniors. Articulation agreements with local colleges continued to have a positive effect on Pathfinder seniors, encouraging them to continue their education with advanced credit. Additionally, two students successfully participated in the Early College program offered through the local community colleges.

Approximately \$40,000 in scholarships was awarded to members of Pathfinder's Class of 2005. Once again, state and local organizations and businesses, post-secondary institutions, as well as private individuals, continued to recognize the ability and potential of Pathfinder graduates in the form of generous donations. The School Committee, administration, and particularly the graduates

are grateful for this support. We are all especially proud of the number of awards that have been made to honor the memory of former Pathfinder students and staff members.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS

Assistant Director Gary Roszkiewicz reported another productive year by Pathfinder's Student Council which included several community involvement efforts. Early in the year they assisted in the annual Red Cross Blood Drive that resulted in the collection of more than 90 pints. The senior members of the Council collected \$100 for the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Research Fund. Always a highlight of the year, the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive resulted in 51 baskets being delivered to the Valley Human Services for local families in need.

Council members continued to be active in the school's recruitment efforts by providing tours and information to groups of potential students. Two members have been elected to the State Student Advisory Council, a group that addresses problems and issues facing Massachusetts high schools and discusses possible solutions.

Pathfinder's athletic program once again experienced a highly successful year. Over 200 students participated in various interscholastic programs, and the potential among incoming freshmen is encouraging. There has been a marked increase in participation in girls' soccer and basketball.

Highlights of the year included the following:

- The varsity baseball team qualified for the Western Massachusetts Tournament. Pitcher Jeff Ramondetta was named to the Springfield *Republican's* All Scholastic 1st Team for the second consecutive year.
- The varsity football team finished the season tied for second place in the Tri County League with a 6-2 record. Seven players were named to the league's All Star Team.
- Senior Corey Day was selected to play in the Western Mass Senior All Star soccer game.
- Jeff Ramondetta and Kara Korzeniowski were named as Outstanding Senior Athletes in the Class of 2005.
- A new gymnasium floor was installed, replacing the original floor that dated back to 1973.
- The Pathfinder Athletic Booster Club was formed and met with immediate success within the school and community. Through their efforts, the school has been able to reward student athletes with a banquet and a suitable recognition program at a local hall.
- Under the direction of Paul Danielovich, Pathfinder has instituted a new Wrestling Club whose participants aspire to varsity status in the next few years.

SPECIAL SERVICES

During 2005, the Special Education Department continued to recognize its responsibility to provide a continuum of special education and related services for eligible students in accordance with the provisions of state and federal regulations. The Department is committed to providing a range of supportive services to maximize student learning.

The Special Education Department strives to address the diverse needs of all learners in grades 9-12 and to students enrolled in the Modified Vocational Instruction Program (MVIP). Through integrated efforts with students, parents, and other student support services, the Department

focuses on promoting each student’s self-awareness, ability to self-advocate, and sense of self sufficiency.

Staff members conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews, and diagnostic reviews for 57 students in the MVIP Program and 142 students in grades 9-12. Approximately 25 additional re-evaluations were completed.

The Department currently includes 15 professionally licensed teachers, 7 paraprofessionals, and a full-time secretary. Licensed specialists include a Speech and Language Pathologist, School Psychologist, and Occupational Therapist.

Pathfinder continued to provide resource room instruction for all major courses offered in grades 9-12. Beginning with grade 9, math and English are offered in the resource room, but the content areas of history and science remain in the mainstream, consistent with an inclusion model approach. The required history and science courses are aligned with the Curriculum Frameworks. Math courses in the resource room featured an integrated approach to algebra and geometry in preparation for the MCAS tests. Resource English included a variety of novels, short stories, and vocabulary exercises—all in preparation for the MCAS. Math, reading, and language arts instruction were supplemented by Title I instruction.

The MVIP Program continued to operate above full capacity with 57 students. All six shops offer instruction closely coordinated with Chapter 74 approved programs in which they are housed. Components of the program included:

- **Office Business:** Students work on printing, duplicating, and collating brochures and mailings for member communities and non-profit groups.
- **Building Services:** Students learn care of interior surfaces and coverings, building exteriors and grounds, and the use of some hand and power tools necessary in this line of work.
- **Horticulture:** Students learn maintenance of greenhouse and vegetable gardens, landscape maintenance, and floral design.
- **Auto Reconditioning:** Students learn the basics of cleaning and polishing cars along with professional workmanship, and they provide this service to the public.
- **Food Services:** Students learn the fundamentals of food preparation and service and assist in the preparation and production of the daily school lunch.
- **Health Occupations:** Students learn to maintain the patients’ environment and to communicate with as well as assist them with various types of care. The students are trained in light housekeeping and shopping duties.

The vocational-technical personnel in the MVIP Program prepare the students for a *support* role in the aligned program area. At graduation exercises in June, 8 MVIP students received their certificates.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Fund code(s)	Program Name	Allocation
140	Improving Educator Quality This program provided additional staffing to improve student teacher ratios	27,032.00

160	<p>Enhanced Education Through Technology These funds were earmarked for purchasing another Kurzweiler (a device that reads material aloud to assist disabled students) for the new <i>Integrated All Aspects of the Trade</i> course offering.</p>	2,186.00
240	<p>SPED 94 – 142 / Program Improvement These monies were used to fund a full-time Language Specialist and full-time Math Language Specialist. Additionally, an aide and a half time monitor were paid through these funds. Funds were also used to assist all building aides to meet or exceed NCLB qualifications.</p>	208,416.00
242	<p>ALT-EV Assessment This small grant enabled the school to purchase digital equipment and train special education staff in alternative assessment.</p>	1,200.00
274	<p>SPED Improvement These funds were utilized to send several SPED teachers to training in <i>New Trends in Assistive Technology</i>.</p>	5,000.00
302	<p>Innovative Programs Title 5 This money went to update the EBSCO databases in the school library.</p>	3,766.00
305	<p>Title I Title I funds were used to support a full time language specialist and a full time math specialist to work with the most disadvantaged students in Reading and Math.</p>	90,489.00
331	<p>Safe and Drug Free Schools This money was used to recertify Pathfinder’s Crisis Prevention instructor.</p>	3,035.00
400	<p>Perkins Act Allocation Funds These funds were earmarked for staff training in <i>Writing across the Curriculum</i>; OSHA training; a Math Remediation Specialist to work with related teachers; materials as well as numerous high cost shop purchases. Additionally, a portion of this money was used to cover start up costs for the evolving pre-engineering program.</p>	81,701.00
413	<p>Perkins State Leadership This fourth installment of funding was assigned to <i>High Schools That Work</i> assessments, conferences, and training.</p>	20,000.00

	Academic Support	16,500.00
625/632	Academic Support monies went to hiring English and Math teachers to work with at risk students on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 10 th graders preparing for their MCAS and a summer program for 9th graders who failed their 8 th grade MCAS.	
592	Competitive Academic Support Pathfinder combined these funds with its Workforce Investment Act grant to create a unique MCAS remediation summer work experience for qualified students.	21,000.00
7948	Workforce Investment Act- Title I Youth Program These funds were used to fund a year- round coordinator, an intensive 5 week work/educational summer program for 26 at risk participants, and to provide year- round counseling and monitoring. Additionally, it provided incentives for all participants to do well in school during the school year.	46,707.00
411	Competitive – Perkins Enhancing Safety These funds were utilized to purchase and install an “air vac” system for the Auto Body shop and to retrofit sanders	25,000
409	Competitive – Perkins Enhance Technology With these funds, the Culinary Arts Department was able to install safety devices on mixers and to purchase two slicers with auto shut-off	14,625
	Tobacco Grant Combined with programs sponsored by the American Cancer Society, these funds enabled Pathfinder to offer an awareness and prevention program that attracted widespread media coverage.	1,400
	Total Grants and Contracts Through 6/30/06	\$627,032.00

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The school committee wishes to give recognition to the following special programs and activities that took place during the year.

The summer Youth Enrichment Program served 142 children between the ages of 9 and 13. The program ran for four one-week sessions during the month of July. The first session consisted of four days and the following three sessions lasted for five days each. Participants had the opportunity to select from the following options: Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electronics, Automotive, Environmental Explorers, Photoshop Fun, and RoboAdventures I and II. The daily schedule placed

participants in their specialty areas in the morning, sports and/or games after lunch, and an hour of free swim in the Palmer High School pool.

The spring and fall Afternoon Enrichment Programs served 118 students. This program met for one day per week for two hours. Each student spent eight weeks in his or her chosen specialty area selected from the following: Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electronics, Roboadventures, and Biodomes—the study of habitats, ecosystems, and other topics in a science-based curriculum.

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Program has been extraordinary. Many students return to the program several times. It serves as an excellent introduction to Pathfinder and its environment.

Pathfinder once again received a grant from the Regional Employment Board under the Workforce Investment Act. A total of 26 participants took advantage of this program of part-time employment, including job counseling, academic support, and intensive follow-up by grant-supported staff.

The academic summer school program was offered during the month of July. It ran Monday through Friday with two morning sessions, each two hours long. Expanding the program through Fridays for the same \$150 fee increased the hours of attendance to 38 and enabled the program to remain competitive with other summer programs in the area. Thirteen academic courses were offered for students in grades 8-12.

Additionally, a vocational summer school program was offered during the last week of June. This program included two offerings: Related Theory and a shop hour workshop. The combined summer school enrollment included 116 students from 10 school districts.

FACULTY AND STAFF

The 2005-06 staff numbers remained essentially unchanged from the previous school year. However, retirements, resignations, military leave, and internal promotions accounted for significant staff movement. Of particular note was the retirement of Assistant Superintendent David Andersen who was replaced by Guidance Director Mark Condon. Pathfinder graduate and Guidance Counselor Brenda Turner was promoted to Director of Guidance. With the departure of Michael Buoniconti to become the superintendent of a neighboring district, Sandra Adams became the new Technology Director. In December, the school celebrated Science Instructor Jack O'Donnell's safe return from Iraq. At year's end, however, the community was saddened by the untimely death of long-time Horticulture Instructor Robert Dowler.

Superintendent Gerald L. Paist continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and on the Board of Directors of the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce. At the annual meeting in November, he was presented with a Captain's Chair in recognition of his term as Chairman of the Board of Directors, a position he previously held in 1984. He also completed his final term as Chairman of the Professional and Legal Services Committee for the Mass. Association of School Superintendents. An active member of the Assn. for Career & Technical Education, he was re-elected to another term as a Region I Director for that organization's National Council of Local Administrators.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Due to a significant increase in in-district enrollment, Pathfinder received \$3,310,654 in Chapter 70 monies, \$748,744 greater than the previous fiscal year. That welcome news enabled the school committee to adopt a budget that was favorable to a majority of the member towns. The FY06 budget that was ultimately approved by all of the seven member communities was \$10,249,226. State

aid and other reductions totaling \$6,075,456 resulted in an assessment of \$4,173,770 to be divided among the member towns according to the regional school budget law and the regional agreement.

**PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASSESSMENTS 2005-2006**

TOWN	MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	SHARE MVIP Program	ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	SHARE OF REGULAR CAPITAL	1 st YR OF 5 YR CAPITAL PLAN	TRANS -POR- TATION	CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	TOTAL
BELCHERTOWN	592,356	35,353	115,957	8,595	33,490	12,530	3,511	801,792
GRANBY	303,272	26,515	38,652	2,865	13,902	4,177	1,458	390,841
HARDWICK	98,153	8,838	41,745	3,094	6,623	4,511	694	163,658
MONSON	519,396	70,705	151,518	11,231	20,367	16,372	2,135	791,724
N. BRAintree	45,907	0	9,277	688	2,386	1,002	250	59,510
PALMER	650,246	53,029	242,737	17,992	28,462	26,229	2,984	1,021,679
WARREN	576,603	141,411	173,163	12,835	19,770	18,711	2,073	944,566
TOTAL	2,785,933	335,851	773,049	57,300	125,000	83,532	13,105	4,173,770

ADDENDUM

This brief addendum is provided to accommodate the town of Palmer's transition to a fiscal year ending on June 30, 2006. It includes highlights of January through June of this year.

Unquestionably, political and financial matters constituted a major portion of the Committee's efforts during this period. Of particular note was the successful campaign to add the town of Warren to the District. With the positive votes of five town meetings and the Palmer Town Council, the amendment to the District Agreement admitting Warren was approved and forwarded to the

Commissioner of Education for his review. As of this writing, the Committee expects his approval effective July 1st. Once official notification is received, the Town Moderator in Warren will appoint an individual to serve on the School Committee through November 2008.

The Committee was also pleased to note that, following intensive negotiations by professional associations, Pathfinder received an increase of \$769,103 in Chapter 70 funds over the previous year. The 23.2% increase was one of the highest among regional vocational schools. The Committee is deeply grateful to our legislative delegation for their unwavering support.

While this infusion of state aid was welcome news, the Committee discovered that it covered only the increase in health insurance, the spike in energy costs, and other mandated expenditures, resulting in significant reductions in other areas of the budget.

The chart below illustrates the FY07 assessments for each of the seven member communities, the majority of which were dramatically affected by enrollment shifts. The additional 22 students from the town of Palmer, together with decreases in other towns resulted, in a major increase in the town's minimum contribution as well as the assessment to Pathfinder.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASSESSMENTS 2005-2006

TOWN	MINI MUM CONT RI- BUTI ON	SHAR E MVIP Progra m	ADDIT ION- AL CONTR I- BUTIO N	SHARE OF REGU LAR CAPIT AL	2 nd YR OF 5 YR CAPIT AL PLAN	TRA NS- POR- TATI ON	CAPIT- TAL ASSE S- MEN T	TOTA L
BELCHE R- TOWN	487,51 2	70,865	117,282	2,508	14,059	21806	0	714,03 3
GRANB Y	217,69 0	42,519	41,296	883	6,240	7,678	0	316,30 7
HARDW ICK	89,169	14,173	37,993	813	2,558	7,064	0	151,76 9
MONSO N	502,93 2	113,38 5	147,015	3,144	8,269	27,33 5	0	802,08 0
N. BRAIN- TREE	45,787	0	13,215	283	993	2,457	0	62,734
PALME R	760,51 0	127,55 8	290,727	6,218	11,062	54,05 5	0	1,250,1 29
WARE	611,25 2	184,25 0	180,052	3,851	8,269	33,47 7	0	1,021,1 52
TOTAL	2,714, 852	552,75 0	827,580	17,700	51,450	153,8 73	0	4,318,2 05

Important additions to Pathfinder's program offerings were also approved by the School Committee and the Department of Education. The Information Technology Program will become two separate programs: Programming & Web Design and Office Technology. The Committee was able to effect these changes with a modest expenditure for equipment but with no additional staff. The Committee also approved the introduction of the nationally acclaimed pre-engineering program *Project Lead the Way*—once again with no additional staff. Selected 9th grade students who have an interest in this field will have the opportunity to enroll in this science track in the fall of 2006.

Pathfinder saw the departure of three longtime members of the faculty through retirement at the end of the school year: John Meacham in Electronics, Susan Donald in Special Education, and Jim Hazard in Cooperative Education. The school also bade farewell to Leigh Estabrooks who relocated to another part of the state.

The Committee is pleased to recognize the recognition and awards earned by Pathfinder students this spring. At the annual dinner sponsored by MAVA and MVA, Horticulture Student Courtney Gilligan was honored as Pathfinder's Outstanding Vocational Student. Three seniors—Joseph Merola, Christine Corrow, and Samantha Mariani—successfully completed the Early College Program at Berkshire, Springfield Technical, and Holyoke Community Colleges, respectively.

The Committee and the administration are especially proud of the progress made and recognition earned in state and national competitions through the student organizations *Skills USA* and *Future Farmers of America*. At the *Skills USA* District events, the following students won medals: Corwin Castonguay (Silver Carpentry); Jeremy Durham (Bronze HVAC); Paul Foucher (Silver Residential Wiring); Catherine Milkowski (Gold Basic Health); and David Smith (Gold CNC Milling). Smith and Milkowski both earned the right to represent Massachusetts at the national competition held in Kansas City. Catherine Milkowski brought honor to the school by winning a bronze medal in Basic Health—the first ever for Pathfinder on the national level. Finally, Horticulture Student Mark Champagne was awarded the “Star Farmer” honor—highest in the state—at the FFA State Convention held in Sturbridge. Four horticulture students will be attending their national convention in Indianapolis in October.

Spring sports at Pathfinder featured another Tri-County League championship by the Varsity Baseball Team as well as a berth in both the Western Mass. and Vocational Tournaments. Five players were named to the All League Team while Kurtis Brown and Nick Aldrich were named to the *Republican* All Scholastic Team. The Varsity Softball Team also qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament and had two members named to the All League Team and one member—Jacqui Wahlers—named to the All Scholastic Team. Individuals on the Varsity Golf Team were similarly honored with Tyler Stafford being named to the *Republican* All-Academic Team. Cory Day qualified for the Western Mass. Division III Tournament, and two members of the team were named to the All League Team. Finally, Seniors Paul Mawaka and Aubrey Morin won top honors locally as the Outstanding Athletes for 2005-2006.

In June 2006, the graduating class of 127 students received diplomas and technical certificates at indoor commencement exercises. Ninety-four percent of the graduates will be working or plan to continue their education at the post-secondary level. Four percent had made commitments to serve in the military. Members of the Class of 2006 were awarded over \$64,000 in scholarship money during the ceremony. Once again, the recognition of Pathfinder graduates as a result of generous donations by state and local organizations, businesses, post-secondary institutions, and private individuals was very much appreciated.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The School Committee is justly proud of the staff and students and of the contributions they have made to the economic health of our District. The committee recognizes that, in this era of accountability and high expectations, many changes need to be made. The increased emphasis on academic skills needs to be maintained without diminishing the quality of students' technical studies.

Throughout 2005 and early in 2006, the Committee continued to be encouraged by signs that the town of Warren had continued to show interest in re-joining the District. Discussions continued throughout 2005, and the effort concluded in May and June with the positive votes of six member towns and Warren itself.

The conclusion of the 2005 year brought continued signs that, despite some signs of economic recovery, budgets for the current year and in the near future will be significantly impacted by the state of the economy, rising costs of health insurance, and energy costs impacted by hurricane damage during the year. The Committee therefore looked forward to FY07 with the caution to which it has become accustomed. It is, however, committed to providing the best educational opportunities for workforce development within the District.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Cavanaugh, Palmer, Chairman
Judith C. Dudek, Belchertown
Michael O'Connor, Belchertown
Elizabeth Desrochers, Granby
Robert J. Dupuis, Hardwick
Barbara L. Beaulieu, Monson
George Castonguay, New Braintree
David Droz, Palmer
M. Barbara Ray, Ware

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director