

2006 ANNUAL REPORT TOWN MANAGER

The May 2006 Annual Town Meeting approved a town operating/capital budget of \$35.7 million, and although it reflected an increase of 4.5% compared to the previous fiscal year, the level of municipal services basically remained the same. Unfortunately, the cost to maintain the current level of municipal services increases \$1 million each year, mostly due to employee cost of living increases and increases in employee health insurance and pension costs.

The Town's five (5) year revenue/expenditure forecast reveals that beginning in fiscal year 2008, it is expected that the growth in town revenues will not keep pace with growth in expenses to maintain a level service budget.

The amount of state aid received by the Town was reduced by \$1.4 million/year back in 2002 and has yet to be fully restored. In fiscal year 2002, annual state aid to Hull was \$7.7 million compared to the current fiscal year state aid amount of \$6.7 million.

Although this fiscal dilemma is not unique to Hull, what does compound Hull's problems is the burden of also paying for the school reconstruction projects.

The goals and objectives that were accomplished this year include the following:

1. Completion of the update on the town wide inventory and assessment of all seawalls and shore protection structures.
2. Reconstructed Cadish Avenue Seawall between K and M Street bayside. Obtained \$168,000 grant from the state to pay 50% of construction cost.
3. Obtained \$412,500 state grant for 50% of costs to reconstruct Green Hill/Summit Avenue Bluff and Seawall.
4. Hired Apex Companies, LLC to provide technical assistance relative to maintenance dredging at the Nantasket Pier Channel. Funded by a \$145,000 state grant.
5. Massachusetts Highway Department confirmed its commitment to finance 58% of the costs to rebuild the West Corner Bridge and Tide Gate with the federal government funding the remaining share..
6. Continued preparation of the Town's application to participate in FEMA's Community Rating Program for flood insurance.

7. Hired Marc Fournier as Director of Public Works after upgrading the job description and salary for the position.
8. Purchased and installed new financial management software program after receiving approval from Town Meeting to expend \$125,000 for this much needed upgrade.
9. Implemented the new quarterly tax billing for real estate and personal property taxes on July 1st after receiving approval by the March 2006 Special Town Meeting to switch from semi-annual to quarterly tax billing. The change improves the Town's cash flow early in the fiscal year when debt service payments are due on the school projects along with the required Town's payment into the Pension Trust Fund.
10. Hired Tom Connolly as Treasurer/Collector in September to replace Arthur Flavin who resigned to become Treasurer/Collector in Malden.
11. Passed papers on the former Bayside Theater Building at 767 Nantasket Avenue and demolished the building after receiving authorization to purchase the property for \$649,000 by the 2005 Annual Town Meeting (actual purchase price was \$455,000).
12. The \$3.5 million Spring Street/Main Street Project was substantially completed in 2006.
13. Implemented a plan to fill in and close approximately twenty (20) un-permitted openings in the Nantasket Beach sand dunes and reconstructed eleven (11) town dune openings with new snow fencing and cedar posts.

I plan to retire from the public sector in April 2007 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Hull for providing me the opportunity to serve as Town Manager for the past four and one half years and as Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen from 1979 – 1989.

The friendships made will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Christopher J. McCabe
Town Manager