

# **2016 Annual Report**

## **Board of Selectmen**

### **Office of the Town Manager**

2016 was a year that saw many changes to the personnel serving the Town. A measure of the vitality and strength of an organization is how it addresses changes in key personnel. The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager's Office navigated the personnel changes without a disruption to services and ultimately selecting new members of the Town's management team that will serve the Town in exemplary fashion for many years to come.

In January Fire Chief Robert Hollingshead and Police Chief Richard Billings announced their retirements. Both men had served the Town for close to three decades each, rising through the ranks of their respective Department's to finish their careers as Chiefs. Both men upheld the long tradition of faithful service to Hull residents and through their efforts insured that the citizens of Hull were protected at all times. The Board and Town Manager expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Town for their service, and wished them well in retirement.

In February the Selectmen, at the request of the School Committee, submitted an application to the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Bureau for exterior masonry repairs to the Memorial Middle School. Town Manger Lemnios submitted the Annual Budget for FY17.

These daily and annual events paled in comparison to the passing of Janet Bennet, Hull's long serving Town Clerk. Ms. Bennet was a person of great dedication and compassion who served the residents of the Hull for over forty years. As Town Clerk Ms. Bennet had a unique view of Hull. Janet recorded the milestones in the lives of Hull residents; births, , marriage, and death as well as many other requests that passed through her office. Through it all Ms. Bennet was accessible and civil. Ms. Bennet's passing was the end of an era and she is and will be missed greatly.

Thankfully, Ms. Bennet had begun to train an Assistant Town Clerk to assume the duties in both the Board of Selectmen's Office and the Town Clerk's responsibilities. In March, the Board of Selectmen appointed Lori West as the Acting Town Clerk until the May election. Ms. West confronted multiple challenges in her first few months. These challenges included administering special state elections, Town Meeting, Town elections, the creation of a complex ballot including state, local and debt-exclusion questions, a recount process associated with the Town election. Through it all Ms. West surpassed all expectations, each process was accomplished with efficiency, accuracy and integrity. In May, in recognition of her skill, Ms. West was overwhelmingly elected Town Clerk.

In April the Capital Outlay Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen support a debt-exclusion ballot question for the May election. The question, which ultimately did not pass, would have provided funds for a significant rehabilitation of the Town's roadways, and recreational infrastructure. Even though the debt-exclusion did not pass in May the Town continues to address other capital needs through a series of grants.

In April the Board of Selectmen interviewed three candidates for Fire Chief. Deputy Fire Chief Chris Russo was chosen to succeed Chief Robert Hollingshead. Chief Russo comes to the position with a wealth of experience. Chief Russo grew up in Town and rose through the ranks

to achieve title of Chief. Chief Russo has demonstrated time and again his professionalism, courage and love for the Town. The Board, Town Manager and staff welcomed Chief Russo's appointment and are confident that Fire Chief Russo will continue to provide excellent service in the tradition of his predecessors in his new position.

In May the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager attended Town Meeting. Town Manager Lemnios presented the FY17 Budget which was adopted without any changes.

Town of Hull					
Fiscal Year 2017 Projected Revenue and Expenditures					
	Revenue Summary	FY16	FY17	Dollar Change	Percent Change
7	Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	26,736,414	27,512,064	775,650	2.90%
11	Projected Net State Aid	6,161,301	6,347,487	186,186	3.02%
20	Total Local Receipts	5,196,773	5,624,716	427,943	8.23%
26	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>38,094,488</b>	<b>39,484,267</b>	<b>1,389,779</b>	<b>3.65%</b>
	Expenditure Summary	FY16	FY17	Dollar Change	Percent Change
31	Total Services Costs	36,326,845	37,359,458	1,032,613	2.84%
36	Other Total:	602,363	792,000	189,637	34.75%
41	Intergovernmental Total	1,165,280	1,332,809	167,529	14.38%
42	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>38,094,488</b>	<b>39,484,267</b>	<b>1,389,779</b>	<b>3.65%</b>
	<b>NET EXCESS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	

The May Town Meeting, which includes the annual budget, as well as many more articles sponsored by the Selectmen and worked on by the administration is the culmination of many months of preparation. Each Article and initiative is rigorously reviewed by the Advisory Board throughout the months of January through May. The Advisory Board, under Chairman David Clinton, continues to provide valued advice and guidance for residents, Boards and Committees and staff.

In May Public Works Director Joseph Stigliani retired after nine years of service to the Town and over thirty years of public service. Director Stigliani performed admirably, often under difficult fiscal circumstances. Director Stigliani brought the Department back into focus and was responsible for creating a more professional and proactive Department. Town Manager Lemnios and Board expressed their appreciation for his service on behalf of the Town's residents.

The May Town election brought a new member, Jennifer Constable to the Board of Selectmen. John Reilly Jr. was re-elected, making Mr. Reilly one of the longest serving members of the Board of Selectmen in Hull's history. Incumbent John Brannon lost his bid for re-election, The Board wished Mr. Brannon well with his future plans.

In June the Police Chief Screening Committee met on several occasion. The Committee worked closely with Mark Morse from MMA Consulting Group. Mr. Morse was contracted to create an

inclusive, rigorous and transparent search process for Hull's new Police Chief. There were over fifty applicants for the position.

In June State Representative Garret Bradley announced his resignation, effective in July. The announcement caught everyone by surprise. Over Representative Bradley's many terms, he was able to effectively promote Hull's interests. The Town lost a strong and skilled legislative advocate. The Board and the Town Manager wishes Representative Bradley well.

In June Town Manager Lemnios reported that Fiscal Year 2016 was closed in good order, without any deficits. The Town's finances have stabilized of the past four years, however Town Manager Lemnios noted that consistent vigilance will be required over the next several Fiscal Years as revenue constraints will continue to conflict with increasing costs.

In July, Town Counsel James Lampke, coordinated on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, a re-dedication of the French monument at Fort Revere. Boston's French Consul General Valéry Freland attended and the ceremony was applauded by all in attendance. Town Counsel Lampke remarked in a not so perfect French accent "*Viva La France, Viva La Hull!*"

In July, Conservation Administrator Anne Herbst left to take a new position with the regional planning agency, MAPC. Ms. Herbst was a great staff member, who consistently brought information and expertise to the Town's environmental challenges. Among Ms. Herbst's many accomplishment was coordination of the Town's flood mitigation program which resulted in significant annual reductions in flood insurance premiums for Hull property owners. Ms. Herbst guided numerous residents through the environmental permitting process with great patience and humor. Town Manager Lemnios noted Ms. Herbst's talent, professionalism and deep commitment will be difficult to replace.

Also in July, Community Development Director Robert Fultz retired. Mr. Fultz was incredibly diligent during his tenure in Hull. Accomplishments of note include the creation of an Overlay Zoning District in the Town's Front Beach Business District. Mr. Fultz helped to secure a 2.2 million dollar grant for the reconstruction of the roads and sidewalks in the Surfside section of Town. There are many other accomplishments under Mr. Fultz's leadership which all demonstrate his deep love and commitment to the residents of Hull. Town Manager Lemnios noted, Mr. Fultz approached his position with precision, passion and deeply held belief that collaborative policy building leads to lasting outcomes. The Board and Town Manager wished Mr. Fultz best wishes in his retirement.

In August, the Board of Selectmen, working with the Hull Redevelopment Authority heard a presentation by the Woodshole Group relative to relief from the skyrocketing flood insurance rates. The Board authorized the Woodshole Group to file for a flood map revision with the Federal Government. The Board wishes to thank the Hull Redevelopment Authority for their participation and cost sharing to contract for the required technical and professional services needed to mount an appeal of the Town's flood insurance rates.

In September Town Manager Lemnios working with staff and representatives from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission interviewed Conservation Administrator and Community Development Director candidates. Ultimately two highly professional candidates were selected, Chris D'Iorio for Community Development Director and Chris Krahforst for Conservation Administrator. Both individuals were welcomed by Town Hall staff, the Selectmen and their respective Board and Commission.

In October the Board of Selectmen interviewed Police Chief Finalists. John Dunn, Police, Deputy Police Chief from Guilford, Connecticut was chosen unanimously for the position. Chief Dunn comes to the position with over twenty-five years of law enforcement service, including an impressive educational background. The Board, Town Manager and staff welcomed Chief Dunn to his new position and expressed an eagerness to work together on public safety issues confronting the community. The Board of Selectmen also expressed their gratitude to Police Captain Robert Sawtelle. Captain Sawtelle was Acting-Police Chief since Chief Billings' retirement in January. Captain Sawtelle did a fine job as Acting Chief and all involved expressed their gratitude. The Board of Selectmen expressed their gratitude to the Police Chief Screening Committee for the careful and substantive work.

In November Town Manger Lemnios provided the Board with a briefing on the FY18 Budget to be presented in February of 2017. In addition, the Hull Redevelopment Authority met with the Board of Selectmen to detail their pending solicitation for development proposals on their site. The Redevelopment Authority appears well positioned to attract a responsive bidder to the last large tract of developable property in Hull.

In December, the Town Manger reported that the Stoney Beach Seawall project had been awarded. The project will rehabilitate the seawall in the Atlantic Ave section of the community. The 6.75 million dollar project received a significant state grant as well as Town Meeting support.

In addition the Town Manger announced that John Struzierry was hired to lead the Sewer Department. Mr. Struzierry comes to the position with close to forty years as a professional civil engineer in waste water applications. In addition Mr. Struzierry served on the Town's Waste Water Commission for many years. The combination of professional expertise and intimate knowledge of Hull's sewer system will serve rate payers for many years to come. All welcomed Mr. Struzierry on-board.

In closing, the Board and Town Manager thanks all Town employees for their continued dedication and thoughtful service. In particular, both the Board of Selectmen and Town Manger Lemnios wish to recognize and thank James Lampke, Nancy Allen, Janet Bennett, Lori West and Kasey Lombardo in the Board of Selectmen/ Town Manager's Office for their tireless assistance throughout the year.

It is an honor to serve the residents of Hull.

Sincerely,

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Kevin Richardson, Chair  
On Behalf of the Board  
Selectmen

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Philip E. Lemnios  
Town Manager

Christopher Mitchell, Vice Chair  
Domenico Sestito, Clerk  
John Reilly, Jr, Member  
Jennifer Constable, Member

