

# **2018 Annual Report**

## **Board of Selectmen ~ Office of the Town Manager**

In January and February, the Board of Selectmen began discussing the ramifications of legalization of recreational marijuana retail sites in the State. Under the recently enacted state laws, Board's of Selectmen could call for a ballot question to ascertain if a community wanted to permit retail marijuana establishments. The Board of Selectmen after several public hearings and discussions called for a Special Town meeting in February to put in place the required zoning by-laws and enforcement by-laws in the event the community approved the establishment of retail recreational marijuana sites. The Board also called for a Special Election for March 26<sup>th</sup> to allow residents to vote if retail marijuana establishments would be permitted to operate in Hull. On March 26<sup>th</sup> residents voted not to permit retail marijuana establishments in Town.

In January, the Board of Selectmen voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools Devine to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) a Statement of Interest Form for repairs to the Hull High School and Memorial Middle School. The two buildings require work associated with the exterior of the building and some HVAC rehabilitation. This will be the second application to for these projects as the first application was not permitted to move forward in the grant process.

In February, Town Manager Lemnios submitted the FY19 Annual Budget to a joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and the Advisory Board. The annual budget projects the operational and financial plan for the community in the next Fiscal Year. The submission of the budget is the beginning of a process that culminates at Town Meeting. The Advisory Board reviews and analyzes the budget in order to make recommendations to Town Meeting.

Fire Chief Russo made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the Town's Emergency Preparedness Plan and operations. Chief Russo, with his staff have done an outstanding job in planning for emergencies that will confront the community.

In March Conservation Administrator Chris Krahforst and MAPC Planner Anne Herbst (former Hull Conservation Administrator) presented an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town. The Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the Plan. For several years, the Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, staff and residents have been participating in a series planning exercises to identify Hull's vulnerabilities as a result of climate change. These efforts are helping to define strategies that will need to be adopted as sea level rise places more of Hull's infrastructure at risk.

In April, preparations for the May Town Meeting and May election were in full swing. The most prominent article at Town meeting was a Roadway Improvement Bond Article for \$10 million dollars that would be supported by a debt-exclusion. The Roadway Improvement Program will begin to improve Hull's aging roadway system over the course of the next five years. The bond issuance and implementation of the improvements must be approved at both Town Meeting and the May election.

In May the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager attended Town Meeting. Town Manager Lemnios presented the FY19 Budget which was adopted without any changes (see below).

Revenue Summary	FY19	FY20	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	29,373,041	30,319,262	946,221	3.22%
Projected Net State Aid	6,491,953	6,554,564	62,611	0.96%
Total Local Receipts	5,933,741	6,040,780	107,039	1.80%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>41,798,735</b>	<b>42,914,606</b>	<b>1,115,871</b>	<b>2.67%</b>
Expenditure Summary	FY19	FY20	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total Services Costs	39,526,399	40,730,908	1,204,509	3.05%
Other Total:	550,000	600,000	50,000	9.09%
Intergovernmental Total	1,722,336	1,583,698	(138,638)	-8.05%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>41,798,735</b>	<b>42,914,606</b>	<b>1,115,871</b>	<b>2.67%</b>
<b>NET EXCESS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

In May the Selectmen welcomed Greg Grey to the Board. The Board bid best wishes to Chris Mitchell for his service and dedication to the Town. Mr. Grey comes to the Board with a strong history of civic involvement, including service on the Town's Park and Recreation Committee.

Additionally, at the May election voters authorized the Roadway Improvement Program to proceed.

In June, the Town of Hingham implemented a lane reduction pilot study Summer Street to the Hingham Rotary. The pilot study ran through the end of July. There was extensive coordination between the Towns of Hull, Hingham and Cohasset, several public meetings and extensive monitoring by the MADOT.

In June Town Manger Lemnios reported that Fiscal Year 2018 (year ending 6-30-18) was closed in good order, without any deficits. The Town's finances have stabilized over the past six years, however Town Manger Lemnios noted that over the next several fiscal years revenue constraints will continue to conflict with increasing costs.

As always summer in Hull is magical, thousands visit to enjoy the quintessential New England summer experience. The Town welcomes all who come, and our staff is quite busy making sure that the beaches are clean, the waterways are well patrolled and safe and that the all our recreational sites are ready for play.

Our Police and Fire Department Police helped to ensure that the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday was safe and enjoyable. Thousands of visitors flocked to Hull to enjoy the ocean breeze, numerous events and fine dining. Another summer of cherished memories for all who visited.

While many residents and visitors were enjoying Hull at its finest; our employees were working hard in the background. The Department of Public Works employees and summer labor force did a great job cleaning the beaches and maintaining ball fields. The Board of Health monitored

beach water quality weekly to ensure that all swimmers had a great environment to enjoy. The Town is fortunate to have many dedicated and hardworking public servants.

In September the Board of Selectmen began reviewing a request from the Hull School Committee to sponsor a May 2019 warrant article to build an artificial turf field at the high school. Ultimately the Board agreed to sponsor the article contingent on the School Department absorbing half the annual bond cost in their budget.

In September and October. The reconstruction of Bay Avenue-East neared completion. The project, valued at \$550,000, installed new sidewalks, rehabilitated the roadway and installed new drainage in the area. The final paving is scheduled for spring 2019.

In October, the Town departments prepare for winter storms. This process includes closing dune crossovers on Beach Ave, cleaning culverts, servicing a variety of vehicles in the Police, Fire and Public Works Department. In addition, staff meets to review status of personnel, equipment, materials and reviews storm plans. All this work has paid off over the years as our staff is well trained and coordinated during emergency events.

In November, the Board of Selectmen, finalized the Town's first medical marijuana license agreement. The agreement would permit a medical license to be operated at a specific location in Town. The license holder, regulated heavily under both state and federal law, can only assist individual with prescription from a Doctor.

In early December, Town Manager Lemnios presented a preview of the FY19 Budget for the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board. The budget preview is an annual presentation at the beginning of the budgetary process to present and affirm the revenue and expenditure assumptions that will be used to create the next fiscal year's budget. It an important step in the process as expectation levels for participants are communicated, which helps lead to a successful conclusion.

In closing, the Board and Town Manager thank 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, 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,

Domenico Sestito, Chair  
On Behalf of the Board  
Selectmen

Philip E. Lemnios  
Town Manager

Jennifer Constable, Vice Chair  
Greg Grey, Clerk

John Reilly, Jr, Member  
Kevin P. Richardson, Member