

Table of Contents

Animal Control	4
Assessor	5
Board of Finance	6
Board of Selectmen	7
Building Department	9
Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals Inc.	29
Housatonic River Commission	31
Housatonic Valley Regional High School	10
Inland Wetlands Commission	13
Kent Center School	14
Kent Memorial Library	32
Lake Waramaug Association	35
Litchfield Hills Probate District #24	37
Management’s Discussion and Analysis/Financials	45
Northwest Connecticut Regional Housing Council	38
Northwest Hills Council of Governments	40
Park and Recreation	16
Planning and Zoning Commission	18
Resident State Trooper	22
Safety Committee.....	23
Social Services	24
Tax Collector	25
Torrington Area Health District	24a
Town Clerk	26
Women’s Support Services	42
Zoning Board of Appeals	27

Reports are printed as received by the Board of Finance

“Signs of the Times” photography by Lesly Ferris

TOWN GOVERNMENT



Kent Animal Control Report, 2020

A total of 15 dogs, along with one rabbit and one pigeon were impounded from July 2019 through June 2020. 12 dogs were redeemed by owners and Three were adopted. The rabbit and pigeon were also adopted.

102 complaints were investigated, including missing pets, roaming dogs, four animal bites, and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

Three infraction tickets were dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$330.00

Donation - \$15.00

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Sohl



October 1, 2018 Grand List Report FY 19-20

TYPE OF ACCOUNTS	FISCAL YR	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	GROSS ASSESSMENT	BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS ADJUST.	TOTAL EXEMPTIONS	TOTAL NET VALUE
REAL ESTATE REGULAR	FY 19-20	1944	545,288,000	91,800	586,890	544,701,110
REAL ESTATE ELDERLY H.O	FY 19-20	28	4,612,900	0	57,000	4,555,900
REAL ESTATE EXEMPT	FY 19-20	213	123,226,400	0	123,226,400	0
REAL ESTATE TOTALS	FY 19-20	2185	673,127,300	91,800	123,870,290	549,257,010
PERSONAL PROPERTY	FY 19-20	372	18,125,579	0	1,561,580	16,563,999
MOTOR VEHICLE	FY 19-20	3156	26,872,070	1,540	847,560	26,024,510
FINAL TOTALS		5713	718,124,949	93,340	126,279,430	591,845,519
2018 GL MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLEMENTAL	FY 19-20	552		BILLED JAN 2020		3,559,625

Respectfully submitted,
 Patricia S. Braislin,
 Assessor

BOARD OF FINANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Both Mark Sebetic and Nancy O’Dea-Wyrick were unanimously re-elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

The KVFD EMS Staffing committee shared information regarding the EMS services provided to the Town and the potential shortage of EMS staff. The KVFD wants the Town to be aware that, while the ambulance staffing is not in a crisis mode today, this could change and the department will have to come to the Town to request funding for paid EMT contractors.

The board voted to appropriate up to \$600,000 for a sewer belt filter press and to fund the expenditure by appropriating \$150,000 from the Kent Sewer Commission’s capital reserve fund and authorizing the issue of \$450,000 financing to be paid from sewer revenues and additionally secured by the town’s general obligation pledge pursuant to section 7-263a of the general statutes.

The Board voted to postpone funding for a year for the Board of Education’s request to allocate \$140,000 of its anticipated surplus in the current budget for the Kent Center School Entryway Security Project. The Board reasoned that whatever amount the school returns to the Town would help the Town maintain the balance in the unassigned general fund during such a unprecedented time concerning COVID-19.

All Board meetings moved to the virtual ZOOM platform for safety in the Spring in response to the COVID-19 virus.

The Board of Selectmen in April voted to empower the Board of Finance to adopt the 2020-2021 budget and set the mill rate. There would, however, be a two-week public comment period prior to the Board of Finance taking any action regarding the budget. Using Survey Monkey, on the Town website, people submitted questions and comments on the proposed budget. Questions and comments were then forwarded to the Board of Finance clerk who forwarded them to the appropriate boards for response. The Board of Finance received all of the questions, responses and comments for review prior to taking any necessary action at a special meeting before its May 19 regular meeting to approve the final budget and set the mill rate.

The Board used \$780,000 from the town’s undesignated funds to hold the mill rate steady and brought the town budget in at \$13,535,103.

The Board set the mill rate for 2020-2021 at 18.61 mills.

Board Members:

Jim Blacketter

Rufus deRham

Ed Epstein

Fran Goodsell

Nancy O’Dea-Wyrick

Mark Sebetic (Chair)

The 2019-20 has been an unprecedented one in the history of our town, our country, our planet.

The town welcomed in a new First Selectman for the first time in ten years, as Bruce Adams decided not to run for another term. Bruce accomplished so much during his tenure and we are all extremely grateful for his long-term service to the Town. Also new to the board was Ed Matson.

While a rabid fox menaced the village at the beginning of the winter, we would face a much larger challenge a few short weeks.

A worldwide pandemic of a contagious virus, called COVID-19, began its march from the Wuhan Province in China, to the shores of the United States, in early February. By March, Kent was welcoming many of our part-time residents fulltime, as they fled the city they so loved while death rates there skyrocketed in a few short weeks. On March 10th, Governor Lamont declared a State public health and civil preparedness emergency; one week later, the First Selectman, with a brand new Emergency Management Team of David Becker and Eric Epstein, declared a local public health and civil preparedness emergency, and closed public access to Town Hall. While this decision was a difficult one, it was necessary to reduce the spread of the virus and keep government running. All town employees worked hard to ensure we continued to deliver all town services seamlessly.

Executive Orders from the Governor's office were issued almost daily at times, to keep government functioning while keeping citizens safe. When it was evident that holding in-person meetings was putting people at risk, the Governor issued an Executive Order to enable municipalities to hold meetings remotely – and the term “Zoom meeting” was born. Churches moved to holding virtual Sunday mass online; restaurants were closed to indoor dining and could only offer takeout; Kent Memorial Library closed to the public to reduce risk of transmission, offering multiple programs online – and everyone became accustomed to something few had ever experienced outside of a hospital operating room before: wearing a mask in public.

Despite the massive challenges of no in-person meetings, The Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance passed a thoughtful, responsible budget, and the Board worked with the Board of Finance to ensure the mill rate remained flat.

While the pandemic loomed in our daily lives, there continued to be many big topics on deck for the Board:

Cell Tower: A cell tower was proposed at one of two locations at the top of Segar Mountain Road. There was a groundswell of opposition and the Town joined with local citizen action groups as “intervenor” to the CT Siting Council hearings in an attempt to make the case to the Council that the negative impacts to our Town far outweighed the applicant's perceived benefit. We were disappointed to learn just a few weeks prior to this printing that the CT Siting Council approved the application.

River Access: Over the summer, Resident Trooper Andrew Fisher was kept extremely busy managing the enormous influx of visitors wanting to escape the stresses of the ongoing pandemic at our many outdoor recreation areas. The numbers of visitors swelled to the point where we had to hire an extra trooper to assist. The Board is already working with Housatonic Valley Association and their RIO Program on solutions for the upcoming season.

Kent Streetscape: A new Streetscape Building Committee was charged and has been working with the engineering firm on the Request For Proposals document. The Town was awarded additional grant funding to support the project. The Streetscape project is on track to begin work in the summer of 2021!

As many Boards before this one have said, it is difficult to capture in words all the work that goes into the 365 days of a year. The Board is always grateful for the experienced and competent employees, elected officials, and of course the volunteers. This distinct group of Kent citizens are so important to keeping town government running; the many commission and committee members who volunteer countless hours attending meetings, conducting research, supporting Town staff – this report would not be complete without including grateful appreciation for them.

Thank you all for perseverance during this unique year.

Stay well.

Chris Garrity
Selectman

Jean C. Speck
First Selectman

Ed Matson
Selectman

BUILDING DEPARTMENT



Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Joseph Manley, Building Official

Following is a five year Construction Activity Comparison Report

Fiscal Year	Permits Issued	Const. Value	# New Dwellings	Fee Value
2015/2016	518	\$19,596,833	2	\$124,391
2016/2017	495	\$18,906,717.72	2	\$122,723
2017/2018	490	\$20,383,462.10	6	\$131,829
2018/2019	490	\$13,281,156	2	\$87,951
2019/2020	424	\$37,773,498	2	\$234,664

Construction for fiscal year 2019/2020

Commercial construction in Kent showed a great increase. Substantial projects included work at Kent School and a large addition to High Watch Recovery Center. Additionally, several large residential alteration and renovation permits were issued.

What's upcoming for 2020-2021

There seems to be a resurgence of residential construction for the start of the 2020/2021 fiscal year with several large new homes being constructed in the upcoming year.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School Regional School District One

Ian Strever
Principal

Steven Schibi
Assistant Principal

246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, Connecticut 06031
Telephone (860) 824-5123
Fax (860) 824-5419

The 2019-2020 school year was an historic and unprecedented experience for everyone involved. Housatonic Valley Regional High School began the year with two goals that were continuations of our work the previous year:

- To have teachers consistently use research-based instructional strategies
- To implement the Regional Teacher Evaluation Plan with fidelity Our experience over the past few years and educational research have substantiated the need for and value of social-emotional learning to equip every member of our community with the wherewithal to address the personal challenges we all face in life. Therefore, our Leadership Team revised our third goal:
- To cultivate an environment of positive social and emotional health, safety, and well-being for all students in order to develop lifelong learners. Consequently, we spent time during our professional learning workshops to explore the ways that schools are addressing not only the social-emotional needs of students but how we can leverage social-emotional strategies to improve instruction and learning. Our ninth-grade team, now coordinated to focus on the needs of our transitioning students, explored how the Habits of Mind that are in place at our elementary and middle schools might be revised for use in the high school, and our renewed focus on effectively transitioning students to the high school resulted in a nurturing environment for those students that will surely result in a more successful experience later in high school.

We also continued to evolve our grading practices toward a standards-based approach. This year, parents were able to see both numerical and alphabetical grades, with plans to migrate to a letter-only system for 20-21. All assignments will be scored with the ten available score points (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, and NYP; for AP and ECE courses the grade scale will be A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, F) using existing rubrics that are aligned to subject-area standards. This paves the way for precise and actionable feedback about student performance

and achievement in a standards-based system. Over the next few years, we will anchor this feedback to the qualities in our Portrait of a Graduate that describe the kind of students we want to develop through our comprehensive program.

We continued to clarify these qualities in our professional work at the beginning and middle of the school year by elaborating our definitions of them and aligning the qualities with experiences in the school that we already offer to develop student proficiency in each area. For instance, part of being a “Communicator” is being able to speak to an audience, and we offer numerous opportunities for students to present material to others and receive feedback about their presentations. Ultimately, we will report this feedback in our standards-based reporting system so that all stakeholders can know their progress toward attaining the values that mean the most to us as a school community.

Unfortunately, much of our work was suspended by the need to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the emergency placed unprecedented demands on schools to design distance learning experiences, our 1-1 Chromebook program, robust network infrastructure, and remarkable staff rose to the challenge almost overnight. Teachers quickly adapted to new technology tools, and many of our teachers who have been using Google Classroom for years were able to practically flip a switch to change the instructional paradigm. Most classes embraced an asynchronous teaching model, assigning learning experiences that students completed with the support of online resources and teacher help sessions over Google Meet.

We carefully tracked students during the quarantine, and while we adopted a Pass/Fail grading system to account for the great disparities in the amount of home support students received, many students struggled to keep pace, especially as the quarantine extended to the end of the year. Our entire adult staff did yeoman’s work to track and connect with students, including home visits and food delivery, but some students continued to struggle without the daily interaction they experienced in school. We are currently developing extensive supports for the 20-21 school year to bring those students into the school building as often as possible.

Graduation for the Class of 2020 was a singular experience that took place off-campus for the first time in our history. The school teamed up with Lime Rock Park to hold an in-person, socially distanced commencement exercise that allowed our student speakers to address their peers who attended in their vehicles. Representative Maria Horn addressed the crowd of over 150 cars, the occupants of which all passed through temperature screening to be allowed into

the park. A car parade brought everyone back to the school to receive their diplomas on the front steps to incorporate a modicum of tradition into an event that no attendee will soon forget.

Planning for the upcoming school year began before the past year had ended, and all of the regional schools participated in the development of a comprehensive plan to open schools safely in the fall. The keystone of the plan is a three-part model for low- moderate- and high-infection returns to the classroom, with all systems oriented toward a full return at some point next year. The difficulty of cohorting high school students and the logistics of providing a safe return have led us to embrace a hybrid model for the fall, in which approximately half of the school would be in the building for two days a week, followed by a distance learning and deep cleaning day, and then the other half of the student population returning for two more days. We are hopeful that infection rates and vaccine development will trend positively in the fall, allowing us to return to a full community as soon as possible. Regardless, Housatonic has demonstrated the capacity to respond to the ever-changing demands of our communities, thanks to our close collaboration with them and the support from families and taxpayers around the region.

Inland Wetlands Commission
Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Lynn Werner, Chairman
Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

Total Fees Collected: \$2050

<u>Inland Wetlands Commission Activities:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
Applications	11
Permit Modifications	2
Permit Extensions	0
Agent Approved	6
Denied	0
Withdrawn	0
Waived	0
Forestry	2

In 1972, the state legislature enacted the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, which requires the regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses of our state. In 1987, the IWWA was amended to declare it is the "public policy of the state" to require municipal regulation of such activities. The Inland Wetlands Commission in Kent is charged with overseeing regulation of such activities.

Inland Wetlands Commission

Appointed by the Board of Selectman for 5-year terms: Alternates serve 3-year terms

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
Lynn Werner	12/2020	Kenneth Johnson	12/2020
Paul Yagid	12/2021	Jonathan Younger	12/2020
Margaret Smith	12/2022		
Fred Hosterman	12/2023		
Ken Deitz	12/2019		

Kent Center School

9 Judd Avenue, Kent, CT

Fiscal Year Report 2019-2020

Michelle Mott, Principal

At the close of this school year, Kent Center School was the elementary school for 213 students in grades Pre-K through 8. Many changes occurred this year at KCS, but we continue to uphold our mission, “The mission of Kent Center School is to ensure active learning and independence through responsibility, respect, and cooperation.” Before leaving Kent Center School, we believe every student should be able to:

- Define and solve problems with (critical/creative) analytical thinking
- Communicate effectively
- Acquire new knowledge and skills independently

Keeping our school mission and the goal of preparing students who are college and career ready, we continue to work on our four building improvement initiatives to find success.

Initiative 1: To implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum tied to comprehensive formative and summative assessments utilizing the Connecticut Core Standards, National Content Standards, and the Instructional Core (student, teacher, content).

Teachers have spent multiple professional learning days this year aligning curriculum/instruction/assessment with the CCSS. A curriculum audit completed for grades K-3 through EdAdvance has helped teachers in these grades to identify priority standards and a scope and sequence for their content areas. Teachers in grades K-5 implemented our new math program, Bridges. We were all very impressed by the progress that students made in math this year. Teachers in grades 6-8 implemented the Illustrative program for math. The middle school teachers were pleased with the level of discourse this program creates within their classes. NGSS based units were gradually implemented beginning in the fall of 2019. In order to provide authentic experiences for students, some of the following field trips and community organizations were held: Sharon Audubon, South Kent Students, Kent Historical Society, Connecticut Science Center, Old State House, Kent Memorial Library, Warner Theater, Fife n’ Drum, The Big E, and many more!

Professional learning was also completed on multiple instructional strategies including Habits of Mind, Instructional coaching, and a focus on our benchmark assessments.

The implementation of the new regional grading practices was in its third year. This year the staff focused on the communication of formative vs. summative assessment. We also worked on “look-fors” for each of our learning practices to give teachers the information they need to make the best assessment of their students in each area.

Initiative 2: To demonstrate improved student achievement as evidenced by multiple data sources, including local, regional, state, and national assessments.

KCS staff continues to use multiple data sources to assess student achievement. Teachers develop individual growth goals and student learning objectives at the start of each year that are based on student data and demonstrate an increase in the number of students who will be

proficient in specific areas. The implementation of a data system this year, Alpine, will assist teachers in organizing and analyzing student data from multiple sources. Teachers also participated in bi-weekly data meetings facilitated by the principal that will include interventionists, special education members, and paraprofessionals. These goal meetings were very beneficial in making sure that teachers were discussing all students' achievement and not just focusing on students with needs or high-achieving students. Student achievement data for benchmark assessments and annual assessments continue to be shared and discussed at leadership team meetings, staff meetings, and Board of Education meetings.

Initiative 3: To continue to implement the regional teacher and school evaluation plans, with precision, fidelity, and purpose, aligned to the district's school improvement goals. This year, school administrators and complementary observers participated in three days of collegial calibrations. During this professional learning, the group observes multiple lessons and discusses formal observation feedback for the teacher. This method helps evaluators align their feedback procedure and work with the continuum of professional practice. This year, we focused on observing Science classrooms and the new NGSS standards.

Initiative 4: To promote positive social and emotional health and well-being for all students. All students in grades K-8 participate in a program that promotes positive social and emotional health. Students in grades K-5 take part in Second Step, a program rooted in social-emotional learning that creates environments where students can be successful. Students in grades 6-8 participate in a prevention program called Botvin Life Skills. In partnership with HYSB and Women's Support Services, we are able to provide these programs for our students. The Safety Committee meets monthly to discuss our Safe School Climate Plan and All Hazards/School Safety and Security Plan.

This summer, the school underwent a large window renovation project. The project was completed by Accurate Door & Windows, LLC. This project was part of the schools' capital plan and totaled \$313,860.00. The project's purpose was to replace 2,000 square feet of failing, non-efficient single pane windows throughout the building. In addition, as part of the project, Friedrich window A/C units were installed in 13 classrooms, as well as interior shades.

We would like to thank the Kent Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Kent community for their continued support. We would also like to thank the KCS PTO for their hard work and effort this year to facilitate fundraisers, events, and activities for our students. We are so thankful for a community that supports its children's education.

It has been a wonderful year, and I look forward to working with everyone again next year.

Park and Recreation

Lesly Ferris, Director

Park and Recreation began the fiscal year offering its traditional programs. Some new field trips augmented Camp Kent's annual offerings: Yard Goats baseball game, "Beauty and the Beast" at Sharon Playhouse, CT Science Center robotics' presentation at the high school. Other summer programs were the Slamma-Jamma basketball camp, five summer concerts, sponsored by Anne Bass, Club Getaway, High Watch Recovery Center, Kent Lions Club, Kent Mobil, Marvelwood School.

Monthly senior citizen bus outings included a pontoon boatripe around Lake Wonoscopomuc in Salisbury, Meadowbrook Farm, Christmas Tree Shops and Hobby Lobby, two trips to Goodspeed Opera House and holiday dinner followed by drive-thru of the holiday light display at Lighthouse Park. These outings and the Friday senior lunches did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Park and Recreation focused on these initiatives:

- Parks' Master Plan Subcommittee presented its RFP/Q for Kent Common and Emery Parks. Some identified objectives include distinguishing between the two parks, access to water, creating/maintaining jobs, a dog park. The RFP/Q went out to bid and the commission chose to work with Studio Park Ave, pending identification of funding for the three-phase project.
- Board of Selectmen transferred to Park and Rec oversight of the ballfields' infields and lease agreement of the playing fields adjacent Kent Center School. Park and Rec reactivated the playing field subcommittee, comprised of a representative of Kent Center School and of Park and Recreation and a community member. The subcommittee was tasked with bringing to the commission a recommendation for maintenance of the ballfields' infields and turf management.
- The commission drafted and approved mission statements that are posted on the Park and Rec website under a new page, "About Us."

New activities introduced were:

- Free chair massages for senior citizens, held at the Senior Center.
- Learn-to-Skate/Hockey Development program at Kent School.
- Pre-school indoor summer basketball program for ages 1-4.
- Corn Hole game with prizes at the Kent Memorial Library's carnival.
- Enlisting help from AmeriCorps volunteers to do park clean-up at Kent Common Park.

COVID-19 impacted Park and Recreation programs beginning in March. The After-School Program closed March 13 when Kent Center School shutdown and remained closed for the rest of the school year. Tai Chi and Tang Soo Do classes, which meet at the Community House, were put on hold with the closure of Town buildings to the public. Beginning Dog Obedience was offered in late June with two classes that met outdoors, observing social distancing and mask wearing. The Region One recreation directors met with representatives of Women's Support Services via Zoom to discuss a possible collaboration to distribute summer goody bags to youngsters. The director posted a weekly take-home test on YouTube and sent hand-written

letters to the After-School Program youngsters. The commission voted just before the close of the fiscal year to cancel its summer day camp program and not to open the Emery Park swimming area, citing an inability to comply with COVID-19 protocols and guidelines and a concern about keeping the public safe.

Park and Recreation Commission members, three-year terms:

Open	expires 1/20/2022	Lynn Harrington	expires 1/21/2021
Blythe Everett	expires 1/19/2023	Michael Perkins	expires 1/20/2022
John Grant	expires 1/19/2023	Abigail Smith Hanby	expires 1/21/2021

Alternates, one-year terms:

Jennifer Calhoun	expires 1/21/2021	Trisha McMahon	expires 1/21/2021
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PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

John Johnson, Chairman (retired December 2019) / Matt Winter, Chairman (beginning Jan 2020)
Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

Zoning Regulations are intended to guide land use activities in Kent in ways that will maintain and enhance community character and protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It is the general purpose and intent of these Regulations to foster the use and development of land in an orderly manner by both private and public interests. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, long time member and chair, John Johnson, retired and the Planning and Zoning Commission welcomed Matt Winter as their new chairman.

Total Fees Collected: \$54,010.72

There were a total of 60 applications submitted. The breakdown is as follows:

Sign Permits	1	Subdivision Approvals	0
Zoning Permits	46	Floodplain	0
Special Permit Approvals	2	Reg. Change Approvals	0
Site Plan Approvals	5	Zone Change Approvals	0
Driveway Permits	4		
Forestry	1		
Temporary	1		

P&Z Commission

Members shall be elected at the biennial elections of the Town for terms of six years. Vacancies in office of members shall be filled by the Commission for the unexpired portion of the term. Alternates are appointed for 2-year terms by the Board of Selectmen.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
John Johnson	11/2023 (Retired Jan.)	Richard Chavka	11/2021
Darrell Cherniske	11/2025	Anne McAndrew	11/2021
Marc Weingarten	11/2023	David Birnbaum	11/2021
Alice Hicks	11/2021		
Karen Casey	11/2025		
Matt Winter	11/2021		
Wes Wyrick	11/2025		
Adam Manes	11/2023 (Alt. to Reg. Jan)		

The Architectural Review Board acted on 1 application for the replacement of a door and window in fiscal year 2018-2019.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Peter Hanby, AIA	8/2022
Ellen Corsel	8/2022
Steve Pener	8/2021
Greg St. John	8/2021
Frank Way	8/2022
Robert McDowel- Alt	7/2020

Region One School District

Each year, we have the opportunity at Region One to reflect upon the events and achievements for the Annual Town Report. The schools of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Housatonic Valley Regional High School are the seven districts that comprise Region One's 275 square miles.

I now have the privilege of serving as the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to follow Dr. Pam Vogel, who worked in Region One for the past five years. While the transition to a new position always presents a learning curve, making the transition to this position in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an altogether new experience for me and for everyone in the Region. We have been forced to change our way of life and consequently, our educational process to ensure the health, safety and emotional well-being of our students and staff while ensuring that students are receiving the best education possible in this new environment. Fortunately, we have strong teams of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers and support staff, who have worked together to create an effective plan for operating our schools.

This report includes information from the 2019-2020 school year. During that time, I was the Assistant Superintendent and was responsible for curriculum development, planning professional learning for teachers and support staff, data collection and analysis, and the management of the federal grant process. Specific accomplishments in these areas throughout the year included:

- Completion of English Language Arts and Math curriculum for grades 4-8;
- Introduction of social emotional learning curriculum for grades Pre-k-12;
- Introduction of the Alpine/Educlimber computer platform to warehouse student achievement data;
- Adoption of a new screening tool that allows for analysis of student reading, writing and math skills in grade K-12 and that also includes a social emotional screener;
- Continuation of the instructional coaching program for certified teachers; and
- Commencement of a curriculum review for English Language Arts, Social Studies and Math for grades 9-12.

This work is all aligned with the Region One Strategic Plan. that includes the following goals:

Goal/Initiative 1: To implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum tied to comprehensive formative and summative assessments utilizing the Connecticut Core Standards, National Content Standards, and the Instructional Core (student, teacher, content).

This includes:

- Alignment of Curriculum to Instruction and Assessment^[SEP] Formative and Summative Assessments Aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards^[SEP]
- Curriculum and Instruction that engages and challenges students to construct new knowledge and skills
- Strategies for Intervention^[SEP]
- Regional Continuum of Professional Practice

Goal/Initiative 2: To improve student achievement, as evidenced by multiple data sources such as local, regional, state, and national assessments.

Goal/Initiative 3: To continue to implement the regional teacher and school leader evaluation plans, with precision, fidelity, and purpose, and aligned to the district's school improvement goals.

Goal/Initiative 4: To promote positive social and emotional health and well-being for all students.

All work was proceeding according to plan until we had to close our schools due to the arrival of COVID-19, a dangerous and highly contagious virus. From March 16 through the end of the school year, all Region One schools functioned as remote learning environments, where all teachers and students were teaching and learning from their homes. Teachers had to instantaneously edit and revise curriculum as well as understand and use digital teaching tools to deliver their instruction. Parents and caregivers had to simultaneously work from home while supervising their children during their online learning. Thus, parents and students had to learn the digital tools and work closely with teachers to understand the schedule and the learning expectations. While the days were long and stressful for all involved, all parties worked hard to ensure that they had access to curriculum and that they could continue learning.

Having an electronic device and access to internet services were important factors necessary to support student success with distance learning. Fortunately, most of our schools are 1:1 and most students have their own computers, so the availability of devices was not an issue. However, the switch to online learning was particularly challenging in Region One due to inconsistent internet access for both teachers and students. We worked with local service providers to ensure that families received financial support when needed. Additionally, we surveyed families to identify areas where access to broadband service is weak so that we could consider the creation of hotspots to improve service. Improving broadband access is an ongoing process and one that will likely continue for several years.

Another challenge that we were able to overcome, was the continuation of food service during the time that our schools were closed. The USDA subsidized the provision of meals to all children between the ages of 3-18 for those schools who participated in the federal lunch program. The White Hart Inn and the Cornwall Social Services group provided food service for the Lee H. Kellogg and Cornwall Consolidated Schools as they do not participate in the federal program. Lunches were delivered to each home by the All Star bus company, which was staffed by Region One support staff to help with dropping off the meals. We are extremely thankful for the assistance provided by all parties involved to ensure the alleviation of any food insecurity in the area.

To keep our schools safe places for learning, both pre- and post- COVID 19, budget and infrastructure needs have been attended to, through the oversight of each Board of Education, Building and Grounds Committees in each school, and Sam Herrick, Regional Shared Services Business Manager.

Sam Herrick oversees the districts' projects. These are the projects that have taken place over the past year:

Cornwall Consolidated School

- Replaced the exterior doors
- Upgraded the heating controls to DDC from pneumatic
- Installed new air conditioning units
- Replaced the floor treads to the back steps to the library

Kent Center School

- Renovated the student locker rooms and replaced all lockers
- Improved the playground safety and drainage issues
- Patched the holes in the parking lots and repaired any sidewalk damage
- Created a student lounge for 7th and 8th graders
- Renovated the Teachers Lounge area

- Updated the gymnasium and replaced all wall mats
- Repaired the maintenance garage and replaced the garage door

Lee H. Kellogg School

- Painted the front exterior of the building
- Replaced the wood shingles at the rear of the building

North Canaan Elementary School

- Renovated the Principal's Office

Salisbury Central School

- Installed air conditioning in the remainder of the upper building (except the gym)
- Refinished the 4th and 5th grade restrooms with new fixtures, ceilings, floors, and paint
- Converted the underutilized science room into two smaller classrooms and a conference room
- Screened and topcoated the gym floor with polyurethane and completed painting in the K-3 wing

Sharon Center School

- Removed asbestos flooring and replaced with new VCT tile (lower and upper levels)
- Removed and replaced the underground storage tank

High School

- Upgraded the heating controls (part of a multi-year project)
- Replaced the exterior steps outside of the Library Reading Room
- Repaired the greenhouse masonry wall
- Installed a drainage pipe at the west bank

These projects were completed pre-pandemic as well as during the time when schools were closed.

It was a complex and challenging year, but with the help of our stakeholders, we managed to work together to continue student learning. We thank our Boards of Education, parents, community members, staff, and everyone who supports our students and the programs that enhance their educational experience in Region One Schools. COVID-19 will remain with us during the 2020-2021 school year, but we now have some experience and understanding of how to work together to ensure that our students continue to learn and grow. At times like this, it truly takes a village and we are fortunate that ours is so strong.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Carter

Resident State Trooper

The Resident Trooper program, offered by the State of Connecticut, has continued to offer a liaison between the State and the Kent town officials, public and private schools, and the public. This program supplements the 24-hour police coverage of Kent by the Connecticut State Police Barracks in Litchfield.

The Resident Trooper's duties include investigation of both reported criminal activities and reported motor vehicle accidents. Motor vehicle laws are enforced to ensure compliance and encourage safe driving. Periodically both the Resident Trooper and patrol Troopers will engage in safety belt (seat belt) and speed enforcement. Trooper Fisher also responds to calls for assistance, as well as help fire and ambulance personnel with medical emergencies.

Trooper Fisher assisted with several community projects such as Halloween Safety (in cooperation with Kent Park and Recreation), toy and turkey drives. Trooper Fisher as incorporation with ECONN assisted with safety at both Kent Falls and Bulls Bridge. Trooper Fisher also assisted with the many complications of COVID-19 throughout the year.

During the fiscal year, Connecticut State Police respond to numerous requests for assistance in the town of Kent. State Troopers assisted Kent Fire Department and Ambulance as well as other State and municipal agencies numerous times. State Troopers also investigated abandoned motor vehicles, assisted citizens with non-criminal issues, serve subpoenas, fingerprinted various types of applicants, removed traffic hazards, respond to roaming animal complaints, lost hikers, patrol checks of residential and business, as well as conducting other caretaking functions.

Trooper First Class Andrew Fisher, Kent Resident Trooper

Town of Kent Safety Committee

The Town of Kent Safety Committee met three times during the fiscal year 2019-20 which included a review of incidents and accidents, when applicable, and Town of Kent Safety Policies. Ms. Ferris attended an Active Shooter/Workplace Violence Workshop. The committee noted the Town Highway Department employees in August received training in Bloodborne Pathogens. The committee at the October meeting thanked outgoing First Selectman Bruce Adams for his service on the committee. Emergency Management Director David Becker participated in the April meeting to update the committee on the Town's response to COVID-19, which includes the creation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Town departments should contact Mr. Becker if they need COVID-related resources. Signs will be posted at the Town's Transfer Station to remind users of items that currently are not accepted.

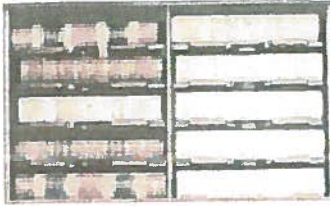
Committee members:

**Bruce Adams (until November 18) Jean Speck (began November 19), Lesly Ferris,
Joyce Kearns, Rich Osborne**

TOWN OF KENT, CONNECTICUT
REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Grand List October 1,	Restated		Lawful Corrections		Suspense		Adjusted		Collections		Total	Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2020
	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2019	Additions	Deductions	Transfers	Taxes Collectible	Taxes	Interest and Lien Fees	Taxes				
2018	\$ 11,018,176	\$ 4,417	\$ 29,217	\$ 3,674	\$ 10,989,702	\$ 10,838,927	\$ 35,837	\$ 10,874,764	\$ 150,775			
2017	138,909	608	2,461	2,768	134,288	57,129	10,989	68,118	77,159			
2016	26,833	-	2	996	25,835	22,008	7,422	29,430	3,827			
2015	12,398	-	-	1,039	11,359	9,534	5,107	14,641	1,825			
2014	8,970	-	-	-	8,970	6,273	4,609	10,882	2,697			
2013	7,472	-	-	-	7,472	5,782	4,554	10,336	1,690			
2012	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	80	78	158	1,120			
2011	758	-	-	-	758	-	-	-	758			
2010	842	-	-	-	842	262	397	659	580			
2009	811	-	-	-	811	259	439	698	552			
2008	281	-	-	-	281	-	-	-	281			
2007	768	-	-	-	768	-	43	43	768			
2006	53	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	53			
2005	43	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	43			
Total	\$ 11,217,514	\$ 5,025	\$ 31,680	\$ 8,477	\$ 11,182,382	\$ 10,940,254	\$ 69,475	\$ 11,009,729	\$ 242,128			

TOWN CLERK & REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS



Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Town Clerk & Registrar: Darlene F. Brady
Assistants: Marie France Corsini

The duties of the Town Clerk are based primarily on State Statutes (in fact Chapter 92 is devoted solely to the position) however we do work with several other state agencies. The statutory responsibilities of the office include; keeping the town seal (§7-101) and records of all votes of the town (§7-23), the recording of instruments and the safekeeping and indexing of records (§7-24, 25), accepting properly prepared maps for filing (§7-31), and collecting the fees for these transactions (§7-34). Liquor permits issued by the Department of Consumer Protection must be filed with the Town Clerk (§30-53) as well as Trade Name Certificates (§35-1). We also record military discharge papers (§1-219). Agendas and meeting minutes of all town boards and commissions must be filed with the Town Clerk pursuant to The Freedom of Information Act (§1-225) which in addition to maintaining files in the office; we also continue to make them accessible on the town's website. Under the guidance of the Secretary of State, we are involved with the processes of notary publics, justices of the peace, and the issuance of absentee ballots for elections. We issue dog licenses and sportsman licenses and collect the revenue for State. The Department of Public Health mandates the Town Clerk's issuing and recording of birth, marriage, and death certificates.

In addition to being open 31 hours a week for walk in business, our land records from 1928 to the present are available on-line 24/7 at searchiqs.com or by following a link from our website townofkentct.org. This allows attorneys and title searchers to access the information they need to handle Kent residents' real estate transactions right from their home or office, and gives residents not able to come in during office hours the ability to directly access their information.

We always welcome comments and suggestions on how to make our office better for our customers. Please feel free to give us a call at 860.927.3433 or email us at townclerk@townofkentct.org with your ideas.

Revenues (Fees Collected)	#	\$	Vital Statistics	
Recordings	517	47429.00	Births	16
Copies		3594.00	Marriages	27
Vital Records		5345.00	Deaths	38
Fish & Game Licenses	79	88.00		
Dog Licenses	252	250.00		
Miscellaneous		435.00		
Conveyance Tax		<u>72,393.00</u>		
Total Revenues		130051.00		

Zoning Board of Appeals
Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Anthony DiPentima, Chairman
Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

Total Fees Collected: \$0

Activities:	Actions:
Variance Applications	1
Appeal	0

The applications were for the following sections:

- One requests for a waiver of area and dimensional requirements (approved)

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board consists of 5 regular members and 3 alternates. All shall be elected at the biennial elections for terms of four years. The Selectmen shall appoint members and alternates to fill vacancies presently existing or hereafter occurring to hold office until the next town election.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
Anthony DiPentima	11/16/2021	Richard Barber	11/21/2023
Nick Downes	11/21/2023	Patricia Oris	11/16/2021
Daniel Murray	11/16/2021	Mike VanValkenburg	11/19/2021
Anne Bisenius	11/21/2023		
John Noneman	11/16/2021		

OUTSIDE AGENCIES



Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends of Greenwoods:

As executives in the community, the past year - with its Covid-19 pandemic, job losses, school disruptions, and rising addictions - has stressed the well-being of Litchfield County residents and families like no other year in recent memory. And as I write, it's not over. Covid fatigue weighs heavily on all of us and we're now in the midst of a second virus surge.

Thanks to your ongoing support, Greenwoods has been able to continue offering services to our community despite the many challenges of this past year. The need has been dire. Counseling sessions alone more than doubled during the time period between February - August, from 724 sessions in 2019 to 1,490 sessions in 2020.

Because of you, we are able to continue to subsidize our services for those clients who demonstrate they can't otherwise afford care, whether because of high deductible insurance, lost jobs or no insurance. You make it possible!

In addition to individual counseling and ongoing intake assessments, Greenwoods' Youth Mental Health Program continues to provide youth services in the Litchfield Public Schools, WAAMGO High School and Older Volunteer Tech. We are also a critical member of the Litchfield County Opioid Task Force where our Executive Director, John Simoncelli, serves on its Executive Committee. Finally, our Community Outreach & Recovery Navigator, Sarah Toomey, works tirelessly in the field, focused on reducing the plague of overdose deaths.

I am proud that Greenwoods has been able to expand its operations in these challenging times and I am deeply grateful to all of you whose generosity makes our work possible.

Regards,

Ted Bant

Financial Highlights

Revenues & Other Support	419,044
Donor Contributions	297,962
Program Services & Fundraising Activities	110,986
Grant Revenues & Other Support	110,097
Expenses	627,547
Direct Program Services	404,137
Administrative & General (Excludes)	223,410
Total Expenses	627,547
Change in Net Assets	201,500
Beginning Net Assets	1,177,369
Ending Net Assets	1,378,869



Board of Trustees, Advisory Council & Staff
Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Officers
Ted Bant, President, Washington, CT
Michael C. Jackson, Vice President, Washington, CT
Peter Aziz, Vice President & Treasurer, Norfolk, CT
Elizabeth Preston DeVos, Secretary, Litchfield, CT

Trustees
Pamela Bowman, Washington, CT
Emily Lullman Esau, Ph.D., Bethelham, CT
Liz Funk, Litchfield, CT
Barbara Gold Morris, CT
Karen Halpern, Morris, CT
Lance Lellen, Goshen, CT
H. Tom O'Connor, Morris, CT
Victoria Sabinkevian Fossland, MD, Warren, CT
Richard C. Sears, Cornwall Bridge, CT

Founder and Trustee Emeritus
The Rev. W. David Dobkins, Jr.

Advisory Council
Jane L. Havemeyer, Litchfield, CT
Arlene J. Highet, Fairfield, CT
Shauna Horman, New Preston, CT
Peter R. Healdin, Washington Depot, CT
Susan Jordan, Litchfield, CT
Akwanna Lukin, Washington, CT
Paul McLaughlin, Torrington, CT
Elyana Mangan, Milford, VT
Eric Sark, M.D., New Preston, CT
Ira D. Smith, Sharon, CT
Patsy Stroble, Sharon, CT
Katherine N. Wick, Kent, CT

Staff
John Simoncelli, LCSW, LADC, MPA - Executive Director
Michele M. Sorrenti, Executive Assistant
Michael J. Pasco, MA, LMFT, MATS - Clinical Coordinator
Ashley Schaefer, Clinical Administrative Assistant
Michael Cervelli, LPC - Intake Clinician
Joseph Lombrook, LPC - Clinician
Cynthia Van, LPC - Clinician
Elizabeth Ganswald, LCSW - Program Manager
Brendan Stack, LPC - Youth Mental Health Program Clinician
Elizabeth Tanner-Horn, LCSW - Youth Mental Health Program Clinician
Sarah Toomey - Community Outreach & Recovery Navigator
Barbara Herbst - Bookkeeper
Maura Johnson - Grants Manager
Lara Silver - Billing Specialist

36 South Street, Upper Offices, 1509 L. Rd. #104, CT 06120
Website: www.greenwoodsmentalhealth.org | Phone: 860-517-4427
Telephone: 860-517-4427



The First Step to
Finding the Help You Need...



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2019-2020

The mission of Greenwoods Counseling & Recovery, Inc. is to promote access to high-quality and affordable mental healthcare and related social services for individuals and families living or visiting Litchfield County.

FY 2019-20 SUPPORTERS

Leadership Circle \$10,000+ Dorothy Armstrong & Benjamin Nickol Foundation The Brennan Jay Cycle Foundation Connecticut Community Foundation Connecticut Community Foundation Department of Mental Health and Autism Services Allyson M. Doherty Foundation for Community Health, Inc. Richard Henley & Sharna Holman The Ruth Family Foundation Schier-Thoss Charitable Trust Ted & Margaret Tobolski Presidents Circle \$5,000+ Anonymous Pam & Scott Bowman Dward & Jane DeLuca Foundation for Community Health, a part of the Northwest Community Foundation Edward & Susan Gendberg Eugene & Louise Hecht Suzanne & Irving Krass Fred Steins Memorial Fund The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, Northeast Danbury Fund The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Lee & Cynthia Vance Concessions Circle \$500+ Alamo Homopex, LLC Archdiocese of Hartford Arthur & Bill Bartel Civic Family Services Ann Marie Crossman Barry & Tom Dumas David & Nancy Deady Richard & Rose Francis Susan & Murray Haber Lynn Perry & Michael Hakova Karen Harpster Kathleen & Audrey Hecchi June Kuan Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn Lewin Susan & John Mager Susan & Pablo Marter Randy & Michelle Nanno William O'Strahm Susan Peckham Charles P. Pomeroy Rosemary Piper Julia & Jim Samaras Richard Sears & Brenda Singer St. Andrew's Church, Kent The Congregational Church of Salisbury Town of Berkhamstead Town of Colerain Town of Rockbury Meredith & Bill Vanden Heuvel	Trustees Circle \$1,000+ (Total \$64,000) George A. & Gerald L. Long Foundation Barbara Cold & Jerry Larrabee John & Virginia Habegger Mary Ann Hadden Peter B. Houlden Kent Vines & Spert Barbara & Gene Kohan Alan Kosac & Nicole Tongue Litchfield Bancorp William G. Mackay Edwina S. Malbyton Nuvone Health R. Devoni Clothier George & Rosemary Foundation, Inc. Hilar Sampson Susan & Stephen Seeger Ken & Edie Seeger Jacqueline & Dave Merrill Suzanne Kline Mr. and Mrs. Jon Stroble William & Margaret Sullivan Tiffany-Thompson Foundation Town of Canton Town of Goshen Town of Morris Town of Westport Lee & Cynthia Vance Concessions Circle \$500+ Alamo Homopex, LLC Archdiocese of Hartford Arthur & Bill Bartel Civic Family Services Ann Marie Crossman Barry & Tom Dumas David & Nancy Deady Richard & Rose Francis Susan & Murray Haber Lynn Perry & Michael Hakova Karen Harpster Kathleen & Audrey Hecchi June Kuan Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn Lewin Susan & John Mager Susan & Pablo Marter Randy & Michelle Nanno William O'Strahm Susan Peckham Charles P. Pomeroy Rosemary Piper Julia & Jim Samaras Richard Sears & Brenda Singer St. Andrew's Church, Kent The Congregational Church of Salisbury Town of Berkhamstead Town of Colerain Town of Rockbury Meredith & Bill Vanden Heuvel
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FY 2019-20 SUPPORTERS

Circle of Friends \$250 - \$488 John & Sarah Adams Willy E. Adams Anonymous Agor Services of CT, Inc. Joe Aslan Carol & Susan Barban Christopher B. Barbons Mr. and Mrs. Russ Bragly Jay & Elizabeth Clark Anita Downing & Peter Howe Kathleen B. Callahan Susan & Michael Eulius Lee & Lisa Eubander FWS Congregational Church, Hartford Dorothy L. Albert Alicia & Jim Hicks Luice & John Jankovic Harold & Janet Karm Edward & Spice Koyte John & Joanna Kozler Sara Kay Langhin Starling & Jeremy Lawrence Linda Landmesser Richard Latta Young Paul Marston Andrew Mattison Tom O'Connor Barbara Page & John Liu Robert Parker & Peter Reagans Roger Payson Estate Pratt Richard & Rosemary Katz Robert & Virginia Reynolds Barbara & Charles Reynolds Royce Chadwick / Morris James & Susan Scott Craig & Leif Snyder Gail P. Sperry St. John's Episcopal Church, New York Blair & Episcopal Church St. Mary's, Westbury Lisa & Scott Stuart Terri & James Vack Katie & James Vack	Circle of Friends \$100-\$249 A New Path Counseling Service Anonymous The Babcock John & Janet Baker Pats & Andy Bauler Carol & Susan Barban Carol & Susan Barban Christopher B. Barbons Mr. and Mrs. Russ Bragly Jay & Elizabeth Clark Anita Downing & Peter Howe Kathleen B. Callahan Susan & Michael Eulius Lee & Lisa Eubander FWS Congregational Church, Hartford Dorothy L. Albert Alicia & Jim Hicks Luice & John Jankovic Harold & Janet Karm Edward & Spice Koyte John & Joanna Kozler Sara Kay Langhin Starling & Jeremy Lawrence Linda Landmesser Richard Latta Young Paul Marston Andrew Mattison Tom O'Connor Barbara Page & John Liu Robert Parker & Peter Reagans Roger Payson Estate Pratt Richard & Rosemary Katz Robert & Virginia Reynolds Barbara & Charles Reynolds Royce Chadwick / Morris James & Susan Scott Craig & Leif Snyder Gail P. Sperry St. John's Episcopal Church, New York Blair & Episcopal Church St. Mary's, Westbury Lisa & Scott Stuart Terri & James Vack Katie & James Vack
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FY 2019-20 SUPPORTERS

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FY 2019-20 SUPPORTERS

Circle of Friends Under \$100 Torrence & Victoria Salsabehan Fossard Dana S. Smory Dani & Larry Soisakul Gary Scano & Bob Burns Nancy Sillien Robert & JoAnn Teitman Richard & Sandra Tomagh Henry Van Wright Parrizo van Bronckhorst & Suani Wurzel Edward & Ruth Ernston Farris G. Gorta, DVM Michael & Michele Gara Edward & Dana Greene Sara Heiler Richard & Patricia Hays Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hill Molly M. Hinckman & Russell Suran James & Robin Hoggin Carl & Janet Hoggin William H. Houlden George & Susan Jacobson Edward & Lu Kinuchi Louisa La Fontain John Legatula Stephen & Nancy Lissat Bernadette Lombardi Aime & Seth Low Frank & Margaret Luza Francesca & Michael Madonena Charles & Carla Marano Bren & Lynne McCormick Dr. and Mrs. Steven R. McCoy Michael McCormick & Mary Lavoie Ann M. McKinley Margaret Mitchell Cecily R. Merriam April Montgomery John & Wendy Murphy Phyllis Natus Phyllis Natus Sara Nelson Susan Peckham Barbara Cold & Jerry Larrabee Michael & Michelle Gorra Janna & Scott Gray Mortey S. Heaton & Dorothy L. Albert Karon Hapert Kath Haisland Teresa Hargrave Jane & William Havermeyer Sara Heiler	Circle of Friends Under \$100 Torrence & Victoria Salsabehan Fossard Dana S. Smory Dani & Larry Soisakul Gary Scano & Bob Burns Nancy Sillien Robert & JoAnn Teitman Richard & Sandra Tomagh Henry Van Wright Parrizo van Bronckhorst & Suani Wurzel Edward & Ruth Ernston Farris G. Gorta, DVM Michael & Michele Gara Edward & Dana Greene Sara Heiler Richard & Patricia Hays Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hill Molly M. Hinckman & Russell Suran James & Robin Hoggin Carl & Janet Hoggin William H. Houlden George & Susan Jacobson Edward & Lu Kinuchi Louisa La Fontain John Legatula Stephen & Nancy Lissat Bernadette Lombardi Aime & Seth Low Frank & Margaret Luza Francesca & Michael Madonena Charles & Carla Marano Bren & Lynne McCormick Dr. and Mrs. Steven R. McCoy Michael McCormick & Mary Lavoie Ann M. McKinley Margaret Mitchell Cecily R. Merriam April Montgomery John & Wendy Murphy Phyllis Natus Phyllis Natus Sara Nelson Susan Peckham Barbara Cold & Jerry Larrabee Michael & Michelle Gorra Janna & Scott Gray Mortey S. Heaton & Dorothy L. Albert Karon Hapert Kath Haisland Teresa Hargrave Jane & William Havermeyer Sara Heiler
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FY 2019-20 SUPPORTERS

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Housatonic River Commission

“to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut”

Annual Report 2019-2020

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 10 regularly scheduled monthly meetings the past year. Meetings took place at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting in April 2020 the HRC meetings were held via Zoom due to the Pandemic. The Commission is made up of representatives appointed by the Board of Selectmen in each of the following towns along the Housatonic River: Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon. The HRC is responsible for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain an environmentally healthy and scenic river corridor. The annual dues requested from each town remain at \$350 per year.

The work of recognizing the Housatonic River through the National Park Service’s (NPS) Wild and Scenic designation continues. Next steps include review and approval from the U.S. Secretary of Interior. Meanwhile quarterly meetings of the Housatonic Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee have continued with representatives from NPS, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Northwest Hills Council of Governments. At these meetings each group provides updates on their work addressing issues in the Housatonic River Management Plan including summer River Steward Program (HVA), angler surveys (CT DEEP) and river access management in the region.

HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the Housatonic River.

As always, land use issues within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a significant concern. We continue to support efforts to address invasive plant species along the waterway, with several members working to monitor and in some cases control troublesome, aggressive invasives in the inner river corridor. Monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use and derailment risk also continue. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on several proposed projects along the River, and all towns are reminded to please be sure that the HRC is notified on any proposed project within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the River. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

Kent Memorial Library

Annual Report to the Town of Kent

Fiscal Year July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

The Kent Memorial Library is a private non-profit association and serves as the principle public library for the Town of Kent. The historic building opened in 1922, and operations in the expanded space are overseen by the Kent Library Association, Inc. The Association raises in excess of two thirds of its operating budget annually as less than one third is provided by the Town of Kent. We are looking forward to our 100th anniversary in 2022, and have been planning a celebration. The mission statements of the Association and the Library are set forth below.

- The mission of the Kent Library Association is to provide the resources and oversight needed to ensure that the Kent Memorial Library accomplishes and adheres to its mission.
- The mission of the Kent Memorial Library is to provide a center for collaborative engagement, education and enrichment for the greater Kent community.

Beginning in July of 2019, the Library was busy with its usual slate of Summer Reading programs, a busy Book Sale and car raffle, a successful Quiz Night, the Kent Carnival, a candidates' debate for the Town Selectman's race, among many other activities. After a working retreat, the Board drafted a new Strategic Plan that will help guide the Library for the next many years. We celebrated our volunteers and our excellent staff, and planned for a huge undertaking in January, the move and long-deferred renovations. This was the most exciting accomplishment of FY '19-'20. Projects included a full painting of the interior, asbestos remediation, and new carpet throughout the building. We moved the Library to a temporary location on Kent Green for three weeks to continue to serve the town during this large undertaking. The grant we received from the Town was crucial to this effort.

Of course, COVID-19 gravely affected all aspects of library usage and service beginning in the late winter. Nevertheless, we have worked to meet the needs of the town with materials and programming, utilizing technology, creative problem solving, and communicating with our users and supporters. We closed on March 13th, and immediately pivoted to virtual programming for adults and children, though we stopped circulating physical materials for weeks. We increased our streaming options and budget to accommodate the increased demand. We opened to curbside check out in late May and by appointment for in-person visits in late June. We began planning to offer programs outside during the summer, and those continued until the weather made them impossible. The table at the end of this report presents statistics for the past two years.

Staffing and Board Oversight

For the FY'19-'20, Library staff had 4.54 FTE. Volunteers worked over 4060 hours and greatly supplemented staff resources. The Board of the Kent Library Association oversees the overall operation of the Library.

Officers

Co-Presidents:	Sandra Edelman and Jim Blackketter
Vice President:	Sharon Hartwick
Treasurer:	John Walker
Secretary:	Michaela Lawrence

Members

Janette Bornn	Sharon Norton	Julie Saxton
Sam Callaway	Ruth O'Meara	Dana Slaughter
Ellen Horvitz	Janet Rivkin	Rick Vizzari
Carol Linn	Eric Roper	John Walker
P.H. Nargeolet	Betty Ruddy	John Youngblood

Friends of the Library Chair: Roz Molho

The Library's finances show the impact of the significant renovation project we undertook during this fiscal plus the lack of usual fundraising in early 2020. We usually generate income over the summer and fall months with the Benefit, the Book Sale and the Car Raffle. In FY '19-'20, we had to cancel all three. These income streams were replaced by a matching fund opportunity that happened in May and June of 2020, raising enough to cover the lost income. In addition, we applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan/grant from the Federal Government. So the income is skewed early compared to our usual calendar.

*Capital and unexpected expenses include

Computer and tech upgrades	\$740
Chimney repair	\$5,300
Asbestos remediation	\$9,324
Carpet removal and new installation	\$33,435
Leaky Skylight removal	\$2,525
Tree work	\$2,317
Interior painting	\$3,600
Moving/storage	\$19,520

Financial report	2018/19	2019/20	% change
Revenue			
Public:			
Federal Paycheck Protection Program		39,800	n/a
Town of Kent	100,500	100,500	0%
State of CT	340	401	18%
Total public funds	100,840	140,701	39.5%
Membership	57,793	64,996	12.5%
Car raffle and garden party	86,571	51,396	-40.6%
Book sale	52,393	46,980	-10.3%
Other, net of fund raising	24,826	99,845	302%
Total private funds	221,583	263,217	18.8%
Grants	9,000	47,800	431%
Total revenue	331,423	451,719	36.3%
	2018/19	2019/20	% change
Expenses			
Staff	181,004	210,730	16.4%
Books and programs	22,435	23,083	2.9%
Utilities	21,561	19,814	8.1%
Technology	26,656	28,827	8.1%
Maintenance and repairs	10,049	89,225	788%
Other	36,384	74,230	104%
Total expenses	298,089	445,909	49.5%
Capital expenditures & unexpected expenses *	10,966	76,761	600%
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenses	22,368	5,810	-74%

	2018-2019	2019-2020	% change
Association Members	298	313	5%
Cardholders	1,173	1153	-2%
Visitors to the Library	45,164	32,685	-27.6%
Circulation:			
Books and audio books	21,353	16182	-24.2%
Downloadable e-books & audiobooks (Overdrive and hoopla)	2642	3391	28.3%
DVD's and videos and hoopla	3145	2384	-24.2%
Streaming video (NEW!)		2186	n/a
Programs (attendees / # of programs):			
Children and young adults	4,161/250	3626/231	-12/9%/-7.6%
Adults	5,487/300	5059/223	-7.8%/-25.7%
Computer usage	4952	3545	-28.4%
Website hits	51,896	51,684	-.4%
Constant Contact Subscribers	1,292	1288	-.3%

Submitted by Sarah Marshall, Director
Kent Memorial Library
32 North Main St.
PO box 127
Kent, CT 06757
smarshall@biblio.org
860-927-3761

LAKE WARAMAUG AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Lake Waramaug Authority was established by ordinance including the Towns of Washington, Warren, and Kent under State of Connecticut statute in 1967. Its primary purpose is to ensure year - round safety and law enforcement for all who enjoy the lake's numerous recreational activities. The lake Authority conducts water patrols on the lake during the summer months, and monitors other safety issues including, but not limited to dock, buoy and float placement, as well as permits and safety patrols for the many rowing regattas. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, sadly, no events took place on the lake. The Towns of Washington and Warren each submit 40 %, and the Town of Kent submits 20% of the costs to financially support the work of the Lake Waramaug Authority.

Under the direction of the Lake Waramaug Authority, the Marine Patrol staff patrols the lake throughout the year, primarily from early spring through October in the Police Boat, which is now in its tenth season. Police and rescue divers are present for special permit activities on the lake such as rowing regattas. The primary function of the Marine Patrol staff is education and enforcement of safe boating practices and Connecticut laws. This summer noted record activity on the lake. Complaints regarding water skiers operating without observers, wake board boaters, and absence of life jackets on paddle boards were addressed. This being the sixth season of implementation, the no wake zone at the north end of the lake between the state park property and the west shore of Arrow Point saw no violations. Non motor craft such as kayaks, canoes and paddleboards saw a large increase of usage. Safety checks were conducted during the random seventeen patrol shifts, logging a total of ninety one officer hours.

The Lake Waramaug Authority notes that both the absence of observers for water skiers and the hazards incurred by wakeboard boats are of great concern. The increased risk of injury for collision for those both on docks and on non-motor craft is indisputable. Docks and floats have seen damage along the shoreline created by wakeboard boats. Swimmers are also exposed to a greater risk. The Authority asks all boaters to be cautious and to be considerate of others while operating their motor crafts. We are currently looking into how this problem is handled on other lakes with similar concerns.

We are pleased to report that the New Preston Boat Launch has successfully inspected all boats entering the lake. Residents have been most cooperative and recognize the importance of these inspections to prevent invasive species from invading the lake. Car top craft launched at the State Park also require inspection, and this continues to be conducted at Dowler's Garage in New Preston when the boat launch site is not open.

Ice rescue drills are conducted throughout the winter months with a team of about a dozen trained members for both under water and under ice rescues. The Lake Authority has provided upgrades in gear for the members throughout the year.

The Town of Warren is represented by Chairman; Ed Berner, Bill Hopkins, and Rebecca Holmes. Kent is represented by Treasurer; Sal Lillenthal, Kevin Brady and Chris Garrity. Washington is represented by Secretary; Sandy Papsin, Ed Matthews and Dean Sarjeant.

The Lake Waramaug Authority extend thanks the Selectman in the three towns for their continued support regarding the operation of the Authority and their response to issues that

may arise throughout the year. We also are most appreciative of all town residents who understand and realize the fragility of the lake, and take measures to continue to protect it and follow the environmental laws and safety measures that have been established throughout the years for the enjoyment of all both in this generation and all subsequent generations who choose to enjoy the beautiful water of the lake.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Papsin
Lake Waramaug Authority Secretary

LITCHFIELD HILLS PROBATE DISTRICT, #24
*Serving Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris,
 Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston and Warren*
www.litchfieldprobate.org

The Honorable Diane S. Blick, Judge

Litchfield Location

Linda F. Riiska, *Chief Clerk*
 Dawn W. Pratt, *Clerk*
 Meegan Buckley, *Asst. Clerk*
 860-567-8065

Kent Location

Judge Blick
 860-927-3729

Canaan Location

Beth L. McGuire, *Clerk*
 Megan M. Williams, *Asst. Clerk*
 860-824-7012

It is with great pleasure that I report to the residents of the Litchfield Hills Probate District the activity of the Probate Court for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and request this report be included in the Town's next published Annual Report.

<u>Type of Matter</u>	<u>2018 – 2019 FY Number of Matters</u>	<u>2019 – 2020 FY Number of Matters</u>
Fee Waivers	55	79
Decedent's Estates	1,219	1,221
Trusts	223	175
Conservators	201	186
Name Changes	30	31
Guardian of the Person & Estate	96	72
Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	94	105
Adult Commitment		2
Children's Matters:		
Adoptions/Termination of Parental Rights and Emancipation of a Minor/Determine Paternity	12	15
Power of Attorney Accounting Matters	5	1
Total probate matters handled	1,935	1,887
Passports processed	131	90

Overall, the number of probate matters handled by the Court decreased slightly due to the fact that from March 16, 2020 to June 16, 2020, each of the Town Halls where our court offices are located were closed to the public due to the Covid 19 pandemic (and to this date remain closed to the public) and only those with an appointment were allowed at the Court. Even during the pandemic, the Court has remained open and all work has been timely processed and hearings scheduled. All hearings are held either by teleconferencing or Webex video conferencing. After June 16, 2020 when pandemic restrictions began to be lifted, the Court saw an increase in the workload and the increase continues to be sustained.

The category Fee Waivers represents the number of matters which were handled by the Court for which no probate filing fee is collected due to the fact that the Petitioner is indigent.

The Court's location in the Litchfield Town Hall is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Court's location in the North Canaan Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. While the Kent Town Hall is closed to the public during the pandemic, I continue to be available to the residents of Kent by telephone or by appointment.

The Court Staff joins me in extending our sincerest appreciation to the town leaders, residents and professionals who utilize the services of the Probate Court for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane S. Blick

Diane S. Blick
 Judge of Probate

Northwest Connecticut Regional Housing Council

Annual Report

Submitted: September 2020

Providing housing options that are affordable for young adults, young families, seniors, and those who work in our towns is critically important to our towns. Creating these housing options is the sole focus of the Northwest Connecticut Regional Housing Council.

The Council is made up of representatives from each town's local housing organization who meet quarterly to report upon and gain valuable information for their town-specific planning and housing development. At meetings, we learn from each other as we share the progress and current hurdles we are encountering in our varied town housing initiatives. Questions raised and hands-on ideas and resources cause attendees to leave the meetings with possible next steps, support, and resources. The Council also advocates for the funding resources critically needed by our local housing organizations to build affordable housing in our towns.

The Housing Council has a website with resources for our local housing organizations and people looking for information about affordable housing in Northwest Connecticut. The site contains links to all the housing organizations in our region, frequently asked questions, photos of the affordable housing in our region and stories from employers and residents about the importance of affordable housing options in our towns. Check it out at: www.nwcthousing.org

We thank David Berto of Housing Enterprises Inc. for attending our meetings and

providing technical assistance to our housing organizations. We thank our member towns for their financial support and NHCOG for hosting our meetings and organizing speakers. Our towns' \$100 annual dues are a cost effective investment in our area's future. For more information on the Regional Housing Council or the local housing organizations which are members, visit www.nwcthousing.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Groody Musselman, Chair (Litchfield Housing Trust)

Chris Sanders, Vice-Chair (Goshen Housing Trust)

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

The COG meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. More information on these and other COG activities is available at: www.northwesthillscog.org.

A major focus area in 2020 was implementing the COG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. Major strategies in the CEDS include expanding access to high speed fiber optic broadband, promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs/innovation.

The COG also initiated an update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for all 21 towns in the region this year. FEMA requires that these plans be updated every 5 years for towns to remain eligible for various FEMA funding programs.

The NHCOG also continued to promote the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by the COG in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public access trails in the region. A statewide CT Trailfinder website is now under development which will further draw attention to the outstanding trail resources we have in the Northwest Hills.

A Corridor Management Study of East Main Street in Torrington is a major transportation planning project that was initiated this year. The purpose of this study is to develop recommendations to enhance the safety, traffic flow, and streetscape of this heavily travelled corridor. The COG also continues to coordinate the popular Rural Independent Transportation Service, which offers trips to the elderly and disabled for medical appointments.

The COG is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects and projects are currently underway in Burlington, Kent, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester. The NHCOG also serves as the oversight agent for about \$350,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for DEMHS Region 5. One of the projects funded with this grant is creation and update of digital parcel mapping for all 43 towns in DEMHS Region 5 to enhance emergency response.

In 2020, the COG continued coordination of a number of popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community

Foundation, a fuel bank program, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program.

The COG also assists a number of organizations in the region including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Recycling Advisory Committee, the Regional Coordination Center for COVID-19 response and recovery, and the Housatonic River Commission. In addition, the COG hosts a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

Serving as officers of the COG in FY 2019-2020 were Don Stein, Chairman; Bob Valentine, Vice Chairman; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Michael Criss, Treasurer. COG staff includes Darlene Krukar, Office Manager; Jocelyn Ayer, Community and Economic Development Director; Janell Mullen, Regional Planner; and Rick Lynn, Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Lynn, AICP
Executive Director

**TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**

The TAHD served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCore to investigate: **8** giardiasis, **26** campylobacteriosis, **28** salmonellosis, and **5** shiga toxin producing organisms. TAHD provided guidance to school nurses, daycares and community members on a variety of health issues. TAHD nurses administered **576** doses of flu vaccine to local residents. TAHD consulted with **31** residents regarding potential rabies exposures which resulted in TAHD submitting **21** specimens to the State of CT Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **62** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

TAHD remains an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. Fit Together awarded mini grants to multiples schools and organizations that promoted healthy eating and active living. A linear fitness park was installed on the Sue Grossman Greenway.

The TAHD continues to be an active member of the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)**. This task force continues to work on strategies and solutions to the heroin/opiate addiction and overdose epidemic. TAHD is in year 3 of the **Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx)** grant; a comprehensive prevention strategy to raise community awareness and bring prescription drug abuse prevention activities and education to communities. This response utilizes the CT statewide *"Change the Script"* campaign to promote awareness and track overdoses in a system called Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). TAHD partnered with other state agencies and local health departments/districts to conduct Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety through 2 modules: CT Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) and Naloxone.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** worked with local providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with CT childhood immunization laws. TAHD had an outstanding rate of **100%** for referrals and children who were successfully updated into CT WiZ, the new CT Immunization System implemented in September 2018. This year's focus was onboarding health care providers and agencies, pharmacists, and hospitals, to using this system so when the COVID vaccine is available every dose will be tracked.

TAHD worked with partner agencies to provide the following **community health programs** however, **all were cancelled in the 2nd half of the year due to COVID:**

MATTER OF BALANCE (MOB):

This program increases personal activity levels to help prevent falls. TAHD partnered with Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and trained staff from area Assisted Living Facilities to become certified in MOB.

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Participants learn strategies to manage diabetes and live healthier lives. One six-week workshop was held. **12** individuals received certificates for completing the workshop.

WALK WITH EASE:

The Arthritis Foundation's six-week program helps people with arthritis reduce pain, increase balance and improve overall health. One community program (ongoing) was offered this past year.

The TAHD **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provided case management for more than **46** children with blood lead levels ($\geq 5\mu\text{d/l}$) as well as provided educational information to more than **100** families. Abatement / Remediation Orders were issued for **4** properties.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **971** food inspections, **744** temporary food permits, **81** new septic systems, **311** repaired septic systems, **191** private well permits, **105** private pool permits, **127** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **451** house addition permits, **273** soil tests, **23** subdivision lots, **22** public pools and beaches were inspected, and **16** daycare centers inspected.

Records show that approximately 340 samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated 227 complaints of various public health concerns; 13 legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

The TAHD-Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program was very active this year. They assisted with Stop the Bleed Train the Trainer sessions. Two members received grant funding to attend Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and then became MHFA trainers. During the COVID response, TAHD members assisted Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (ER staffing, COVID-19 testing, etc.) and helped with regional and local distribution of supplies (Food and personal protective equipment).

The TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program worked with local and regional community partners on emergency protocols and plans. TAHD is also the Region 5 lead health department and coordinates regional preparedness.

COVID-19 – The 2nd half of FY20 was consumed with COVID-19 Planning and Response by all staff of the TAHD. Community and Environmental programs were scaled back.

Highlights of Activities

Jan.-March

Multiple planning meetings and presentation on COVID-19 to our partners: Chief Elected and Public Safety Officials, Public and Private Schools, Vulnerable population groups, Long Term Care facilities, and the public.

March -COVID-19 case follow up and contact tracing implemented for 1st cases within the TAHD

April – June

Full Response to COVID-19. TAHD office closed to public. Majority of staff worked remotely.

Staff participated in weekly planning, consultation, and response meetings with member towns, health officials, Department of Public Health, Long-term care coordination, shelters and vulnerable populations and schools.

TAHD distributed PPE from our preparedness supplies to TAHD providers (Health Care Providers, VNS, EMS, group homes, FQHC's) etc. for COVID-19. This included a total of 10,000 surgical masks, 3000 N-95 masks, 300 Gowns, 300 safety glasses and 30 bottles of hand sanitizer.

April - June TAHD staff organized and distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) from DPH to local and region 5 partners to Region 5 LHD's and providers weekly on Fridays from the TAHD and Region 5 Distribution Site (Doyle's Medical Warehouse located at 500 Technology Park, Torrington).

Case and Contact follow up was provided and as of 6/30/20, TAHD had 1162 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The TAHD partners with Phoenix Labs for its **Water Testing Program**. Phoenix Labs, a full-service lab located in Manchester, CT offers a wide range of testing of drinking water. This partnership allows TAHD to offer a local option for water testing to its member towns. In addition, TAHD offers free technical advice on private drinking water wells, sampling procedures, and water testing results.

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

Women's Support Services Annual Report
01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020
Town of Kent

Next year will be Women's Support Services 40th Anniversary. From humble beginnings in a single room at the Sharon Hospital, to a well-known agency of ten staff members providing an array of support services to victims of domestic violence and their families, WSS has come a long way. One thing that has not changed however, has been the number of victims of domestic violence. Across the country, these statistics have not changed significantly. As we launched our strategic planning process last year, we recognized that if we want to reduce the number of victims in the future, we need to embrace a mission focused on creating change within our community:

We create social change to end interpersonal, relationship violence by challenging attitudes and beliefs about power, control, and gender norms and by advocating for victims and survivors.

In the midst of these exciting developments, COVID-19 struck. While working remotely, we dismantled our major fundraising event, Trade Secrets, and drew upon our partnerships – with town social workers, the state police, area healthcare professionals and the schools, and many, many others, to ensure client support and safety. **Thank you to the Town of Kent for being a partner during this difficult time.**

Despite the curveball thrown at us, there are many positive developments to report:

- Communication and coordination among healthcare providers, emergency services providers and WSS has improved dramatically. With the addition of a second *Community Educator* last year, WSS has been able to engage in consistent outreach, training, and information dissemination. This work was bolstered by the recruitment of a full-time *Family and Child Advocate* and the increase in hours of our *Family Violence Victim Advocate* at court, as well as the training of new cohorts of volunteers.
- Women's Support Services developed a significantly more robust community education program. Our additional outreach position enabled us to focus on outreach to: local medical providers and emergency service providers, area businesses (both the *Main Street Partners* program as well as the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce), elder care facilities and spiritual communities.
- The second *Community Educator*, in collaboration with the *Prevention Education Coordinator*, launched our **Boys + Men** programming in the fall of 2019. During the course of the year, programming was delivered at The Salisbury School, Marvelwood and The Hotchkiss School.
- We have seen significant developments in the relationship of WSS with the Region One schools:
 - The WSS *Prevention Education Coordinator* was asked to deliver human trafficking training to all 7th

and 8th grade classes.

- WSS staff members met regularly throughout the winter with the Principal, Assistant Principal, school counselors, and teachers at Housatonic Valley Regional High School to strategize and more deliberately engage WSS in curriculum development and planning.
- All K-8 faculty (150 educators) were trained on gender awareness. Additionally, faculty in Salisbury and Cornwall received DV101 training and 32 educators received additional training during the Regional Professional Development Day in October 2019. All HVRHS teachers participated in a training on school climate and the foundational context for WSS's work with students during 2019.
- After the schools were closed due to COVID-19, WSS staff members facilitated 7 teacher workshops around SEL (social and emotional learning) needs in April and May. These workshops were available for all K-12 Region One educators, in collaboration with the school counselors and nurses.
- WSS improved our outreach to Latinx community members, working in collaboration with Grace Immigrant Outreach, recruiting bilingual volunteers, and translating our brochures, office signage and other communications materials.

From 01 July 2019 through 30 June 2020, Women's Support Services:

- Provided support services to **635 clients**, 391 of whom were new clients.
- The composition of our new clients includes:
 - 377 adults and 14 children
 - 303 female, 88 male clients
- Responded to **901 hotline crisis requests**.
- Provided **emergency shelter to 32 people for a total of 634 nights** of shelter. This included 20 women, 2 men, and 10 children.
- Provided criminal and civil court advocacy and support to **466 victims of family violence**.
- Conducted **187 prevention workshops** to children and teens in local schools, daycares, and camps.

During this reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a state-wide shutdown in mid-March 2020. Despite the requirement to work remotely and shelter at home, our client numbers did not decrease significantly from last year. More understandably, we did see a decrease in prevention education programming. We had been on track to provide significantly more programming to our students this year over last year. However, we worked closely with the area schools to deliver remote training on social and emotional learning (SEL) and we provided virtual reading sessions for younger students. We were also able to use this time to significantly strengthen our online capabilities and our remote work in the schools this fall has gotten off to a strong start as a result.

Women's Support Services activities in Kent:

- ❖ Kent hosted our Annual Community Vigil, October 2019
- ❖ 22 Clients assisted (19 female and 3 male)
- ❖ 40 Prevention Education programs delivered at: Kent Center School and Marvelwood, with initial outreach to South Kent School
- ❖ Delivered activity bags for children to the Town Park and Recreation Department
- ❖ K – 8 faculty training in inclusivity, the social-emotional development of boys, and social and emotional learning

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

TOWN OF KENT, CONNECTICUT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)

JUNE 30, 2020

The management of the Town of Kent, Connecticut (the "Town"), is pleased to present this overview of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The information presented below should be considered in conjunction with the Town's financial statements that follow:

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

On a government-wide basis, the Town's assets and deferred outflows of \$26,441,468 exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of \$2,405,163 at June 30, 2020, resulting in total net position of \$24,036,305. Of that, \$16,738,986 was invested in capital assets while \$7,239,871 represented unrestricted net position, available to meet ongoing government obligations. The Town's net position increased \$358,441 or 1.5% during the fiscal year.

The Town's governmental funds reported, on a current financial resource basis, a combined ending fund balance of \$6,595,820, an increase of \$437,885 or 7.1%, during the fiscal year. The General Fund operating surplus for this fiscal year was \$233,567. The General Fund balance at June 30, 2020, was \$3,446,197 of which \$780,000 is committed for expenditures in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, \$12,433 is committed for Schaghticoke Litigation expenses, and \$40,244 is committed for Maple Street Debt Service.

The unassigned fund balance of \$2,547,040 of the General Fund represents 20.2% of the General Fund budgeted appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis serves as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide a broad overview of the Town's finances, similar to those used by private-sector businesses. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, which are the government-wide statements, report information about Town finances as a whole. All revenues and charges are reported as soon as the underlying event occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, called "governmental activities" from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges, referred to as "business-type" activities". The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, public works, health and welfare, recreation, sanitation, and education activities. The Kent Sewer Commission operates the Town's only business-type activity.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 11 and 12 of this report.

**Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)**

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain and control accountability over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. In order to comply with finance-related legal requirements, the Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting. All of the Town's funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements, that is, the Town's most basic services. Unlike the government-wide financial statements, however, the funds focus on the current year's cash receipts and expenditures and the balances of expendable resources at the end of the year. Consequently, the governmental fund statements provide a near or short-term view of the Town's finances that may be useful in evaluating the Town's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. This comparison is facilitated by a reconciliation schedule of both statements, found on pages 14 and 16 of this report.

The Town maintains various governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund Balance Sheet and in the governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the General Fund and the Capital Projects Fund, each of which is considered to be a major fund. The remaining 14 governmental funds are combined into a single aggregated presentation in the governmental fund financial statements as other funds.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided on page 17 of this report to demonstrate compliance with the authorized budget.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 13 to 17 of this report.

Proprietary Funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The information provided for proprietary funds is the same type as for government-wide financial statements but in more detail.

The proprietary fund statements provide separate information for the Kent Sewer Operating Fund, the Town's enterprise fund.

The proprietary fund financial statements can be found on pages 18 to 20 of this report.

Fiduciary Funds are used to account for resources held by the Town for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to provide services to the Town. The accounting used for fiduciary fund is much like that used for proprietary funds.

The basic fiduciary fund financial statements can be found on pages 21 and 22 of this report.

Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)

Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 23 to 48 of this report.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net position may serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The Town's net position was \$24,036,305 at June 30, 2020.

	Net Position					
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Assets						
Current assets	\$ 7,016,478	\$ 6,867,678	\$ 730,970	\$ 691,429	\$ 7,747,448	\$ 7,559,107
Capital assets	15,189,669	15,487,298	3,271,008	3,391,555	18,460,677	18,878,853
Noncurrent assets	-	-	221,400	220,558	221,400	220,558
	<u>22,206,147</u>	<u>22,354,976</u>	<u>4,223,378</u>	<u>4,303,542</u>	<u>26,429,525</u>	<u>26,658,518</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>11,943</u>	<u>26,271</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,943</u>	<u>26,271</u>
Liabilities						
Current liabilities	731,587	946,956	25,528	28,581	757,115	975,537
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>117,373</u>	<u>479,033</u>	<u>1,530,675</u>	<u>1,552,355</u>	<u>1,648,048</u>	<u>2,031,388</u>
	<u>848,960</u>	<u>1,425,989</u>	<u>1,556,203</u>	<u>1,580,936</u>	<u>2,405,163</u>	<u>3,006,925</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net position						
Net investment in capital assets	14,799,759	14,696,492	1,939,227	2,037,268	16,738,986	16,733,760
Restricted	57,448	58,272	-	-	57,448	58,272
Unrestricted	<u>6,511,923</u>	<u>6,200,494</u>	<u>727,948</u>	<u>685,338</u>	<u>7,239,871</u>	<u>6,885,832</u>
	<u>\$ 21,369,130</u>	<u>\$ 20,955,258</u>	<u>\$ 2,667,175</u>	<u>\$ 2,722,606</u>	<u>\$ 24,036,305</u>	<u>\$ 23,677,864</u>

The largest portion of the Town's net position (70%) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and infrastructure assets), which is reported net of any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; consequently those assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. Unrestricted net position increased \$354,039 or 5.1% to \$7,239,871 during the fiscal year and is 30% of the total net position.

Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)

	Changes in Net Position					
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Program revenues						
Charges for services	\$ 600,581	\$ 385,848	\$ 338,834	\$ 354,668	\$ 939,415	\$ 740,516
Operating grants and contributions	1,440,128	717,384	-	-	1,440,128	717,384
Capital grants and contributions	-	31,472	-	-	-	31,472
General revenues						
Property taxes	11,037,920	11,257,338	-	-	11,037,920	11,257,338
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	109,284	217,988	-	-	109,284	217,988
Investment income	110,030	134,812	337	427	110,367	135,239
Miscellaneous	34,452	48,036	-	-	34,452	48,036
Total revenues	13,332,395	12,792,878	339,171	355,095	13,671,566	13,147,973
Expenses						
General government	1,707,366	1,163,578	-	-	1,707,366	1,163,578
Public safety	402,031	377,278	-	-	402,031	377,278
Public works	1,970,556	1,916,622	-	-	1,970,556	1,916,622
Health and welfare	177,564	159,537	-	-	177,564	159,537
Recreation	243,944	239,504	-	-	243,944	239,504
Sanitation	130,003	115,597	421,965	480,493	551,968	596,090
Education	8,225,070	7,760,765	-	-	8,225,070	7,760,765
Interest on long-term debt	34,626	6,696	-	-	34,626	6,696
Transfers	27,363	21,232	(27,363)	(21,232)	-	-
Total expenses	12,918,523	11,760,809	394,602	459,261	13,313,125	12,220,070
Change in net position	413,872	1,032,069	(55,431)	(104,166)	358,441	927,903
Net position, July 1	20,955,258	19,923,189	2,722,606	2,826,772	26,677,864	22,749,961
Net position, June 30	\$ 21,369,130	\$ 20,955,258	\$ 2,667,175	\$ 2,722,606	\$ 24,036,305	\$ 23,677,864

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities increased the Town's net position by \$413,872. The largest portion of the Town's governmental activities revenues, 83%, was derived from property taxes, 11% from operating grants and contributions, 4.5% from charges for services, 0.82% from grants and contributions, and 1.08% from all other sources.

Revenues of governmental activities increased \$539,517, or 4.2% from the previous year. This change was primarily due to *Operating Grants and Contributions* (up \$722,744) and *Charges for Services* (up \$214,733) which were offset in part by decreases in *Capital Grants* (down \$31,472), *Property Taxes* (down \$219,418) and *Investment Income* (down \$24,782).

Expenses increased \$1,157,714 or 9.8% from the previous year. All categories reflect increased costs and spending with the largest increases in *General Government* (up \$543,788) and *Education* (up \$464,305).

**Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)**

Business-Type Activities

Business-type activities decreased the Town's net position by \$55,431 principally related to the reduced collection of user charges and increased depreciation expense on fixed assets.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS

The Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds: The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. The unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

At June 30, 2020, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$6,595,820. Of this amount, \$68,335 was nonspendable and held in permanent funds; \$3,027,853 was restricted for capital projects; \$35,909 was restricted by permanent funds; \$84,006 was committed through special revenue funds; and \$832,677 was committed for specific purposes. The remaining \$2,547,040 was unassigned.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. The General Fund's unassigned fund balance of \$2,547,040 represented 23.1% of total general fund budgetary basis expenditures. The General Fund's total fund balance of \$3,446,197 represented 31.3% of total General Fund budgetary basis expenditures. For the fiscal year, the General Fund's fund balance increased \$233,567. See "General Fund Budgetary Highlights" for further discussion.

The fund balance of the capital projects fund was \$3,027,853 at June 30, 2020, an increase of \$190,823 from the previous fiscal year.

Proprietary Funds: The Town's proprietary fund provides the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. Net position of the Sewer Commission's fund was \$2,667,175 at June 30, 2020. The factors affecting the funds are discussed in the Business-Type Activities section of this report.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The fund balance of the Town's General Fund increased by \$233,567 or 7.3% during the fiscal year. The original budget proposed and adopted in May 2019 included an appropriation of \$515,000 from the available fund balance. Actual revenues did not meet budgetary estimates by \$212,261 and actual expenditures were \$471,025 less than appropriations. As a result, \$0 of the General Fund balance was used to balance the budget.

It is important to note that the State of Connecticut entered into an Emergency Declaration in early March. The Kent Municipal offices were closed to the public shortly thereafter and remained closed to the public throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)**

The primary factors contributing to the budget surplus included tax collection, interest and lien fees which resulted in a positive variance of \$184,948. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the tax collection rate was only down 0.13% from the prior FY.

Intergovernmental revenues resulted in a positive variance of \$5,575 and departmental revenues resulted in a positive variance of \$89,225. However, offsetting the positive variances, other revenues resulted in a negative variance of \$488,580 and due to lower interest rates impacted by government Federal rate cuts in response to Covid-19, investment income resulted in a negative variance of \$3,429.

For the most part, expenditures were principally aligned with budgeted amounts. Public works had a variance of 104,497 due to reduced costs associated with winter road maintenance, Recreation had a variance of \$19,724 primarily related to restrictions placed on seasonal programs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Board of Education variance was the largest at \$265,449. The Covid-19 pandemic directly influenced the Educational variance as Governor Ned Lamont ordered all public schools to close in March and on 5/5/20 Governor Ned Lamont ordered in-person classes at all K-12 public school facilities in Connecticut to remain canceled for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and continue providing distance learning during this period.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of June 30, 2020, amounted to \$18,460,676 (net of accumulated depreciation). The investment in capital assets included land, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment, vehicles, and infrastructure. The decrease in the Town's investment in capital assets for the fiscal year was \$418,177.

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Land	\$ 1,378,530	\$ 1,378,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,378,530	\$ 1,378,530
Construction in progress	28,828	554,187	-	-	28,828	554,187
Buildings and improvements	6,908,116	7,311,950	1,023,312	1,082,522	7,931,428	8,394,472
Land improvements	59,525	68,055	-	-	59,525	68,055
Machinery and equipment	132,697	142,660	237,085	258,833	369,782	401,493
Vehicles	450,828	569,038	-	-	450,828	569,038
Infrastructure	6,231,145	5,462,878	2,010,610	2,050,200	8,241,755	7,513,078
	<u>\$ 15,189,669</u>	<u>\$ 15,487,298</u>	<u>\$ 3,271,007</u>	<u>\$ 3,391,555</u>	<u>\$ 18,460,676</u>	<u>\$ 18,878,853</u>

Major capital asset additions during FY 2019-2020 include a Zero Turn Mower to be used by the Highway department, Infrastructure improvements on Carter Road and Kenico Road and the replacement of Circulator pumps at the Kent Center School facility.

**Town of Kent, Connecticut
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2020 (continued)**

Debt Administration

At June 30, 2020, the Town's long-term debt included general obligation bond debt outstanding totaling \$385,000. The Town's general obligation debt is backed by the full faith and credit of the Town. General obligation bonds totaling \$395,000 were repaid during the fiscal year.

Including \$827,335 of Regional School District No. 1 debt, for which the Town is contingently liable, the Town's outstanding debt is significantly below the statutory debt limit of \$78,410,304 (seven times the base for debt limitation computation).

Additional information on the Town's long-term obligations can be found in Note 8 of the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

While there were no changes to the budget preparation process due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were several changes to the budget approval process. All meetings were held via Zoom teleconferencing including the annual Public Hearing to present the proposed budgets. The Board of Finance operated under an executive order from the Governor and approved the budgets and mil rate without holding a budget referendum. The Board of Finance anticipate returning to a normal budget approval process when Covid-19 pandemic restrictions are lifted.

The Town's elected officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal year 2021 budget and property tax rates.

- Uncertainty directly related to the Covid-19 local, state and national emergency declarations.
- The overwhelming reliance on property taxes as it relates to the Town's income stream.
- Keeping the Mil rate flat to provide stability to the taxpayers.
- Changing enrollment at Kent Center School.
- The continued threat of unfunded teacher pension liabilities being levied on the Town by the State of Connecticut.
- Future funding for the KCS Entryway Security project as well as the Streetscape/Sidewalk project.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report, or requests for additional financial information, should be addressed to the Board of Selectmen at 41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757.

TOWN OF KENT, CONNECTICUT

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2020**

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Building Inspection Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
<u>Assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,109,868	\$ 2,971,317	\$ 179,657	\$ 107,119	\$ 6,367,961
Investments	277,735	-	-	-	277,735
Receivables	330,168	10,000	-	19,727	359,895
Due from other funds	183,506	262,500	-	-	446,006
Prepaid expenses and inventory	10,101	-	-	786	10,887
Total assets	\$ 3,911,378	\$ 3,243,817	\$ 179,657	\$ 127,632	\$ 7,462,484
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Accounts and other payables	\$ 39,399	\$ 215,964	\$ -	\$ 2,013	\$ 257,376
Due to other funds	262,500	-	179,657	3,849	446,006
Due to Sewer Operating Fund	31,494	-	-	-	31,494
Unearned revenue	47,875	-	-	-	47,875
Other liabilities	1,323	-	-	-	1,323
Total liabilities	382,591	215,964	179,657	5,862	784,074
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>					
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	82,590	-	-	-	82,590
Total deferred inflows of resources	82,590	-	-	-	82,590
<u>Fund Balances</u>					
Nonspendable	66,480	-	-	1,855	68,335
Restricted	-	3,027,853	-	35,909	3,063,762
Committed	832,677	-	-	84,006	916,683
Unassigned	2,547,040	-	-	-	2,547,040
Total fund balances	3,446,197	3,027,853	-	121,770	6,595,820
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	\$ 3,911,378	\$ 3,243,817	\$ 179,657	\$ 127,632	\$ 7,462,484

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.