

TOWN of
Manrae
MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Front Cover

Photograph courtesy of the Monroe Historical Society

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
TOWN OFFICERS
of the
Town of Monroe
Massachusetts

For the Calender Year Ending
December 31, 2025

TOWN DATA

Population - 115 (2024 Massachusetts Report)
Registered Voters - 90 (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us>)

LOCATION of TOWN HALL

42 Deg. 31 Min. 20 Sec. North
75 Deg. 56 Min. 25 Sec. West

ELEVATIONS at:

Upper Town Garage 1,945 Ft.
Lower Town Garage 1,125 Ft.

ACREAGE and ROADS

Taxable – 3,960 Acres
State Owned – 2,698 Acres
Town Owned – 104 Acres

Total Acreage – 6,762 Acres (39.8% State Owned)
Total Road Miles – 18.8 miles (2018 Massachusetts Data)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Government

UNITED STATES SENATORS FOR MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Warren	Boston
Edward J. Markey	Boston

UNITED STATES CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT ONE

Richard Neal

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

Maura Healey

MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT

**State Senator for
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties:**

Paul Mark

State Representative, representing the 1st Franklin District:

Natalie Blais

FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (FRCOG)

Executive Director

Linda Dunlavy

Executive Committee

Jay DiPucchio, Chair
Bee Jacque, Clerk
Emily Johnson
Jane Peirce, Vice Chair
Virginia Desorgher

FRCOG Council & Committee Members for Monroe:

Carla Davis
Alice Houghtaling, Alternate

Town of Monroe Government

Elected Town Officers as of May 5, 2025

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Select Board / Planning Board / Board of Health	
<u>(3-year term)</u>	
David Nash, Chair	2027
Carla Davis	2028
Alice Houghtaling	2026
<u>School Committee (3-year term)</u>	
Carla Davis, Chair	2028
Kimberly Oakes	2026
Michael Thoresen	2027
<u>Finance Committee (3-year term)</u>	
Sharon Oakes	2028
Joann Bingham	2026
Kimberly Oakes	2027
<u>Library Trustees (3-year term)</u>	
Danielle Oakes-Pierce	2028
Sandra Goodermote, Chair	2026
Betsy Bizarro	2027
<u>Constable (3-year term)</u>	
Brian Lynch	2028
Joseph Cashman	2026
Carla Davis	2027
<u>Moderator (1-year term)</u>	
Joe Cashmen	2026
<u>Town Clerk (1-year term)</u>	
Molly K. Lynch	2026
<u>Auditor (1-year term)</u>	
Sharon Oakes	2026
<u>Tree Warden (1-year term)</u>	
Brian Lynch	2026

Town of Monroe Government Other & Appointed Town Officers for Calendar Year 2025

Fence Viewers – Chosen at Town Meeting

Clifford Oakes

Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Measurers of Wood & Bark - Chosen at Town Meeting

Clifford Oakes

Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Measurers of Lumber – Chosen at Town Meeting

Clifford Oakes

Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Field Drivers – Chosen at Town Meeting

Clifford Oakes

Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Superintendent of Highways

Clifford Oakes

Inspector of Animals

Joseph Cashman

Forest Warden

Robin Hart

Town Forest Committee

Selectboard

Board of Registrars

Molly K. Lynch

David Nash

Lucy Passardi

Marcella Stafford Gore

Director of Civil Defense

Select Board Chair

Fire Chief

Bruce Lescarbeau

Pound Keepers – Chosen at Town Meeting

Clifford Oakes

Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Cemetery Commission

Marcella Stafford Gore

David Nash

Russell Oakes

Burial Agent:

Marcella Stafford Gore

Town of Monroe Government Other & Appointed Town Officers for Calendar Year 2025

Town Counsel

Donna MacNicol, Esq.

Animal Control Officer

Kyle Dragon of FRCOG

Treasurer/Accountant

David Fiero

Tax Collector

Marcella Stafford Gore

Assistant Tax Collector

Lucy Passardi

Assessor

Jacob Oakes

Assistant Town Clerk

Marcella Stafford Gore

Conservation Commission

Select Board

Licensing Authority

Select Board

Board of Appeals

Unfilled

Board of Appeals Alternates

Select Board

Building Inspector

BJ Church – bchurch123@gmail.com

Plumbing Inspector

John Vareschi – jvareschi@gmail.com

Wiring Inspector

Carl Marchegiani – canangel5@hotmail.com – 802-423-7674

General Town Information for the Calendar Year 2026

1. The Select Board/Board of Health/Planning Board/Licensing Authority meets every other Monday evening, beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the Town Hall. Anyone can attend those meetings. If the meeting is cancelled or changed, notice will be given by physical post on the town bulletin boards.
2. The Town Hall office is open on Mondays 1 PM – 6 PM and Tuesdays 9 AM – 3 PM.
3. Town Hall is located at 3C School Street. The two bulletin boards are located at: 3C School Street (outside the Town Hall Building, front doors) and at the Town Garage/Fire station on Kingsley Hill Road.
4. Until such time as Town Information Technology updates permit, it is the responsibility of the residents to frequently check either bulletin board for notice postings, Town Election and Meeting Warrants, and other information that may affect voters and residents.
5. On each Tuesday morning, beginning at 7:00 a.m., the Monroe Highway Department is responsible for collecting trash and recyclables that will be left curbside throughout the town. In the event of a significant snowstorm or other unforeseen emergency, trash pickup will be delayed to Wednesday. If the emergency continues on Wednesday, trash pickup will be delayed to the following Tuesday. Guidelines to having trash picked up include:
 - a. Residents must separate trash from recyclable materials. Residents may obtain lists of appropriate recyclable paper, plastics, metal, and glass from the Town Office. Please place recyclable paper in one container (i.e. a small plastic bag), and recyclable glass, cans, bottles and plastics in a separate container.
 - b. Full trash bags/cans weighing more than 40 pounds will not be collected.
 - c. Building materials will not be collected.
 - d. Televisions, computer monitors or any other items containing a cathode ray tube will not be collected or accepted at the Town Compactor site. (Goodwill Industries or other local facilities will accept these items for a disposal fee).

- e. Mattresses and textiles are no longer accepted for trash pick-up. Sofas may still be left curbside, but a disposal fee of \$25 must be collected at the time of pickup. Please make a check out to the Town Of Monroe and have it ready at the time of pickup or drop off at the Town Hall office before the scheduled pick up.
 - f. Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners will not be accepted at the Town Compactor site. Please dispose of them properly through other facilities that accept items containing coolants for a disposal fee.
 - g. The Monroe Highway Department is not responsible for picking up trash that is not in a proper container. If any items are scattered about for any reason, it is the responsibility of the resident to clean up the area.
6. The Town of Monroe is a member of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District and residents can access special bulky waste, electronics, and scrap metal collections, confidential shredding, and hazardous waste events in neighboring towns in the district. For dates and locations please visit [**https://www.nbswmd.com/special-events**](https://www.nbswmd.com/special-events) or check out the flyers in the Monroe Town Hall entryway. Monroe residents may access the City of North Adams' Center for Hard to Recycle Materials. The purchase of a permit (day or annual) is required, and disposal fees will apply.
- For additional information on this transfer station along with a complete list of items they take along with hours of operation and contact info please visit: [**https://recyclesmartma.org/location/1-e-street-north-adams-ma-usa-town-of-monroe-residents-north-adams-regional-center-transfer-station/**](https://recyclesmartma.org/location/1-e-street-north-adams-ma-usa-town-of-monroe-residents-north-adams-regional-center-transfer-station/)
- 7. Burning of Brush (no garbage, tires, leaves) is allowed from January 15th through May 1st. A burn permit is required. The Fire Chief does not allow online permitting. Please call Chief Bruce Lescarbeau for a burn permit a day ahead of the planned clean up. All burns must be 75 ft. away from any building.
 - 8. The Fire Chief kindly asks that you check any fire hydrant local to your residence is clear of any snow and debris after storms.
 - 9. Residents are reminded that during and after snowstorms, please do not shovel, plow, or blow snow across or into town roads.
 - 10. Kinglsey Hill Road is closed during the winter to through traffic from November 1 through April 1 (weather dependent).

11. Residents of the Village area of Monroe without mail service delivery can acquire a PO Box located at the Town Hall by visiting the Charlemont Post Office located at 90 Main Street, Charlemont, MA 01339. Please check online for hours or call (800) 275-8777.
12. Until such time as Town Information Technology permits, in order to contact individual Town Officers or Boards for any permit applications, and for general town information please use the following resources.
 - a. **Town Hall**
(Select Board, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Burial Agent, etc.)
3C School Street, Monroe, MA 01350
Phone 413-424-5272
MonroeTownOffice01350@gmail.com
 - b. **Fire Chief**
bruce6951@gmail.com – 413-652-5756
 - c. **Monroe Highway Department**
Monroehwy@hotmail.com
 - d. **Monroe Town Assessor**
Monroe_assessors@verizon.net
 - e. **Monroe Treasurer/Accountant**
Monroe.treasurer01350@gmail.com
 - f. **Monroe Building Inspector**
BJ Church
Bchurch123@gmail.com
 - g. **Monroe Plumbing Inspector**
John Vareschi
jvareschi@gmail.com
 - h. **Monroe Wiring/Electrical Inspector**
Carl Marchegiani
canangel5@hotmail.com – 802-423-7674

Select Board

Annual Report FY 2025

The Select Board is pleased to present its report for FY 2025. Over the course of the year, the Board put their focus on maintaining essential town services, addressing infrastructure needs, and planning for Monroe's long-term sustainability.

A central priority throughout the year was the condition of the Town Hall. Several significant issues required attention like mold remediation in the basement, asbestos tile removal, general repairs, and preparations for continued restoration. The Board worked closely with vendors and insurers to manage the costs, securing around \$25,000 in coverage to offset a portion of the remediation expenses.

As with any restoration project on aging buildings, additional needs were identified reflecting the challenges of maintaining older municipal buildings. Improvements will continue in phases, with the goal of preserving and strengthening this important town asset. A notable contribution from the Historical Society was the installation of display cases showcasing the building's history as the local school. We encourage you to visit during meeting hours to gain valuable insight into the town's heritage.

The Kingsley Hill project represented one of the town's largest infrastructure investments for FY 2025. Following a competitive bidding process, construction moved forward with steady progress despite some weather-related delays. By the end of the fiscal year, the project was largely complete, resulting in improved road conditions on almost 50% of the roadway and increased safety for residents and visitors.

The Board continued its support of the Highway Department, recognizing the importance of maintaining Monroe's roadways and equipment for day-to-day maintenance as well as the challenging weather conditions that are often presented to a hill town in the winter. Routine maintenance and seasonal work remained a constant with discussions through the year about replacing aging equipment and utilizing Chapter 90 funding. These efforts reflect our proactive approach to sustaining critical town services.

Careful use of town funds remained a priority. In addition to insurance reimbursements, the town received revenues and credits from sources such as Avangrid from the wind farm project and our insurance

partner MIIA. The Board carefully reviewed these funds and applied them strategically to help manage town expenses. At the same time, the town began exploring potential new revenue streams, including the option to tax short-term rentals, which may be considered in the future.

The Board continued to engage in regional partnerships and initiatives through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on grants, public health services, and planning efforts. Participation in programs such as the Rural Communities Naloxone Initiative and discussions regarding regional emergency services highlight Monroe's commitment to collaboration and public safety.

Looking ahead, the Board explored future-oriented opportunities, including a proposed solar energy project and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning. While the solar project did not move forward these efforts reflect a thoughtful approach to sustainability and resilience.

During FY 2025 the Board addressed a range of community concerns, from building conditions and road safety to internet reliability and water system updates. Improvements to Town Hall connectivity, including the addition of a secondary internet source will support more reliable operations and services.

Overall, Fiscal Year 2025 was marked by a strong emphasis on infrastructure stabilization requiring careful coordination and phased solutions. The Select Board remains committed to responsible management, continued improvements of town facilities, fiscal awareness, and open communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted,

The Monroe Select Board

Other Officers' Reports for Calendar Year 2025

Due to staffing issues or little to no activity reported in the following departments, information was not gathered for FY 2025. If you have any questions about the departments that concern the fiscal year please email Town Hall at: monroetownoffice01350@gmail.com.

Board of Appeals Report

Board of Health Report

Cemetery Commission Report

Civil Defense Director's Report

Conservation Commission Report

Forest Fire Department Report

Planning Board Report

School Committee Report.

Please see the Gabriel Abbott Memorial School / North Berkshire School Union Report and the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (McCann) Report.

P.E. Hodgdon Education Fund

Tree Warden

All other town officer's reports are as follows.

Annual (Tax) Assessment/Classification
Report as of Jan 1, 2025

Annual Assessment Report	
FY25 LA4:	Monroe
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	TOWN
DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES	
BUREAU OF LOCAL ASSESSMENT	

ASSESSMENT/CLASSIFICATION REPORT as of January 1, 2025
Fiscal Year 2026

Property Type	Parcel Count	Class 1 Residential	Class 2 Open Space	Class 3 Commercial	Class 4 Industrial	Class 5 Pers. Prop.
101	67	12,296,600				
102	0	0				
MISC 103,109	4	1,343,400				
104	1	20,000				
105	1	145,500				
111-125	1	197,500				
130-32, 106	77	4,099,000				
200-231	0		0			
300-393	1			212,200		
400-442	6				372,600	
450-452	6				14,034,550	
CH 61 LAND	2 3		0	41,220		
CH 61A LAND	0 0		0	0		
CH 61B LAND	1 3		0	50,065		
012-043	2	350,927	0	528,356	304,798	
501	19					49,211
502	2					743
503	0					0
504	2					2,800,200
505	2					224,100
506	0					0
508	0					0
550-552	1					248,618
TOTALS	201	18,452,927	0	831,841	14,711,948	3,322,872
Real and Personal Property Total Value						37,319,588
Exempt Parcel Count & Value					21	3,082,134

For CH 61, 61A and 61B Land: enter the mixed use parcel count in the left-hand box,
and enter the 100% Chapter land parcel count in the right-hand box.

Signatures

Board of Assessors
Jacob Oakes, Assessor, Monroe, monroe_assessors@verizon.net
413-424-5272 10/8/2025

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

- Ia. Total amount to be raised (from IIe) 1,155,972.05
 Ib. Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from IIIe) 525,677.37
 Ie. Tax Levy (Ia minus Ib) 630,294.68
 Id. Distribution of Tax Rates and Levies

CLASS	(b) Levy % (from LA-5)	(c) Ic above times each % in col (b)	(d) Valuation by class by class (from LA5)	(e) Tax Rates (c) / (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by Class (d) x (e) / 1000
Residential	29.667413	186,992.12	18,452,927.00	10.13	186,928.15
Net of Exempt					
Open Space	0.000000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commercial	3.101001	19,545.44	831,841.00	23.50	19,548.26
Net of Exempt					
Industrial	54.844329	345,680.89	14,711,948.00	23.50	345,730.78
SUBTOTAL	87.612743		33,996,716.00		552,207.19
Personal	12.387257	78,076.22	3,322,872.00	23.50	78,087.49
TOTAL	100.000000		37,319,588.00		630,294.68

How you are billed:

The value of your property is divided by 1000 and then multiplied by \$10.13. If your property is commercial, industrial, or personal it is multiplied by \$23.50. That value is then split in half to be paid twice in the year.

Example 1

A residential property has a value of \$150,000:
 $150,000 / 1,000 = 150 \times 10.13 = 1,519.50 / 2 =$ Two payments of \$759.75

Example 2

A commercial property has a value of \$500,000:
 $500,000 / 1,000 = 500 \times 23.50 = 11,750.00 / 2 =$ Two payments of \$5,875.00

Example 3

A tractor has a value of \$5,000:
 $5,000 / 1,000 = 5 \times 23.50 = 117.50 / 2 =$ Two payments of \$58.75

With any questions or concerns please contact:

Jacob Oakes, Town Assessor

Email: monroe_assessors@verizon.net

Auditor's Report

I have examined the Fiscal Year 2025 accounts of the Treasurer and to the best of my knowledge, have found them to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Oakes

Monroe Town Auditor

Town of Monroe Revenue and Expenses

July 2024 through June 2025

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Transfers from GF	15,000.00	
1 General Fund		
01-1450 · Treasurer Department		
Interest on PEH	978.00	
Interest on Stabilization Acct	20,740.43	
Total 01-1450 · Treasurer Department	21,718.43	
01-1451 · Taxes		
FY25 PP Taxes	78,090.87	
FY25 RE Taxes	424,091.64	
FY25 MV Excise	14,450.39	
FY25 Sewer Fees	23,815.46	
FY24 PP Taxes	360.08	
FY24 RE Taxes	13,449.00	
FY24 MV Excise	2,502.24	
FY23 RE Taxes	2,889.87	
FY23 MV Excise	220.87	
FY22 RE Taxes	1,430.03	
FY21 MV Excise (FY21 MV Excise)	72.70	
Sewer Liens A/R	4,391.96	
Total 01-1451 · Taxes	565,765.11	
01-1452 · Bank Interest		
Interest on General Cash	18,700.48	
Total 01-1452 · Bank Interest	18,700.48	
01-1453 · Interest on Taxes and Fees		
Interest on MV Excise	145.87	
Fines/Penalties	240.20	
Interest on Taxes	43.53	
Interest on Real Estate Taxes	1,970.27	
Interest on Sewer Fees	188.17	
Interest on Pers. Prop. Taxes	14.52	
Total 01-1453 · Interest on Taxes and Fees	2,602.56	
01-1455 · Fees		
Municipal Lien Fees	275.00	
RMV Fees (Collector)	160.00	
Collector Fees	30.00	
01-1455 · Fees - Other	25.00	
Total 01-1455 · Fees	490.00	

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
01-1610 · Town Clerk		
RDP Grant	1,470.00	
Town Clerk Fees	461.75	
Total 01-1610 · Town Clerk	1,931.75	
01-1650 · Licenses		
Firearms Permits	25.00	
LTC Cards	100.00	
Total 01-1650 · Licenses	125.00	
01-4310 · Trash Disposal Fee		
(Fee of \$25 for mattress, couches, etc)	25.00	
01-4910 · Cemetery Account		
Burial Agent Fee	50.00	
Total 01-4910 · Cemetery Account	50.00	
01-5100 · Code Enforcement Department		
Building Inspection Fees	1,020.60	
Building Permits	98.61	
Gas/Plumbing Permits	110.00	
Wiring Permits	270.00	
Total 01-5100 · Code Enforcement Department	1,499.21	
01-5700 · Miscellaneous		
In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT payments)		
Avangrid PILOT	164,497.92	
Total In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT payments)	164,497.92	
Insurance Claim	2,604.73	
Total 01-5700 · Miscellaneous	167,102.65	
01-8300 · Cherry Sheet		
Air Pollution Assessment	-48.00	
Chapter 70	140,535.00	
Exemptions Vets, Blind, Surv Sp	825.00	
Reg of MV Non-Renewal Surcharge	-140.00	
School Aid Lottery	3,384.00	
School Choice Assessment	-58,658.00	
State Owned Land	14,465.00	
Unrestricted General Gov't Aid	22,640.00	
Total 01-8300 · Cherry Sheet	123,003.00	
01-9999 · Refunds		
Misc. Refunds	2,698.81	
Total 01-9999 · Refunds	2,698.81	
TOTAL 1 GENERAL FUND	905,712.00	

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
TOTAL INCOME	920,712.00	
GROSS PROFIT	920,712.00	
Expense		
Clarksburg NBSU Retirement Asse	1,139.95	
Tax Collector Fees		
MLC Fees	0.00	
Total Tax Collector Fees	0.00	
Administration		
Treasurer's Software	1,486.44	
Deeds	4.00	
Mileage Reimbursement	14.40	
Misc. Reimbursement	787.12	
Office Supplies	1,826.25	12,500.00
Postage	146.00	
Telephone	2,774.85	
Total Administration	7,039.06	12,500.00
Assessor's Account		
Miscellaneous Expense	16,690.33	16,000.00
Total Assessor's Account	16,690.33	16,000.00
Capital Improvements		
Total Capital Improvements	125,067.97	149,514.18
Cemetery		
Burial Agent	150.00	
Total Cemetery	150.00	
Central Vets Assessment	459.28	459.28
Debt		
Interest on LTD	3,924.99	
Interest on Short Term Debt	0.00	5,000.00
Principal Paydown	52,154.20	54,198.18
Total Debt	56,079.19	59,198.18
Engineering/Legal Services	3,322.50	10,000.00
Fire Department		
Fire Department Expenses	17,738.54	18,000.00
Fire Department - Other	61.11	
Total Fire Department	17,799.65	18,000.00
Fishing & Hunting Licenses	0.00	
FRCOG Core Assessment		
REPC-Reg Emcy Planning Commit (FRCOG Assessment-\$100 per year)	515.75	
FRCOG Core Assessment - Other	947.25	1,463.00
Total FRCOG Core Assessment	1,463.00	1,463.00

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
FRCOG Regional Health Services	2,302.00	2,302.00
FRCOG Animal Control Assessment	2,341.00	2,341.00
Highways		
Bridges & Railings	1,444.43	2,000.00
Highway Fuel Account	19,449.90	0.00
Hwy Road Repr/Maintenance	33,450.33	32,000.00
Snow Removal	29,777.31	30,000.00
Total Highways	84,121.97	64,000.00
Inspection Fees		
Building Inspector	1,104.21	500.00
Gas & Plumbing Inspector	0.00	
Wiring Inspector	270.00	
Total Inspection Fees	1,374.21	500.00
Insurance		
BCBS-Town Share	51,037.45	80,000.00
Liability	27,500.00	
Life	163.30	
MIIA-Worker's Comp	8,191.00	
Total Insurance	86,891.75	80,000.00
Library Expenses		
Library	196.90	700.00
Librarian	600.00	600.00
Total Library Expenses	796.90	1,300.00
Machinery	59,426.24	55,000.00
Office Equipmnt Maint & Upgrade (Maintenance & Upgrades)	764.68	5,000.00
Officer's Salaries		
Administrative Assistant	5,419.54	10,400.00
Animal Inspector	0.00	60.00
Assessor	7,200.00	7,200.00
Auditor	130.00	
Board of Health	0.00	
Board of Registrar's Chair	70.00	70.00
Civil Defense	60.00	60.00
Collector	6,545.43	7,200.00
Constable	224.00	4,000.00
FID Administrator	500.00	500.00
Fire Chief	125.00	250.00
School Committee	1,050.00	1,050.00
Selector	5,700.00	5,700.00
Teller	2,321.00	
Town Clerk	3,300.00	3,300.00
Treasurer	23,343.16	26,388.00
Total Officer's Salaries	55,988.13	66,178.00

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
Officer's Expense		
Services Purchased	1,013.20	
Bonds	400.00	
Dues & Memberships	1,302.50	
Mileage Reimbursement	14.40	
Office Supplies	3,752.32	7,000.00
Total Officer's Expense	6,482.42	7,000.00
Reserve Fund	0.00	10,000.00
NBVRSD		
Transportation	623.00	
NBVRSD Assessment Paid	21,197.00	21,903.00
Total NBVRSD	21,820.00	21,903.00
Schools		
NBSU Expenses	77,786.51	291,504.81
Tuition City of North Adams	28,524.00	
Tuition Town of Florida	168,547.05	
Total Schools	274,857.56	291,504.81
Sewer Expenses		
Sewer Operators' Salaries	39,954.00	30,880.00
Sewer Preplanning Account (Deficit account for spending until loan comes in)	0.00	0.00
Sewer Repair & Maintenance	50,343.55	58,000.00
Total Sewer Expenses	90,297.55	88,880.00
Solid Waste Department		
Solid Waste Removal	10,927.87	15,000.00
NBSWMD Fees	937.75	437.75
Solid Waste Department - Other	2,725.09	
Total Solid Waste Department	14,590.71	15,437.75
Street Lights	6,455.47	5,000.00
Town Hall		
Repair and Maintenance	3,883.76	7,000.00
Total Town Hall	3,883.76	7,000.00
Transfers To		
Sewer Plant Capital Improvement	25,000.00	25,000.00
Fire/Highway Muni Building	5,000.00	5,000.00
Highway Vehicle Stabilization	5,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer to Stabilization Acct	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Transfers to	40,000.00	40,000.00
Payroll Expenses		
Highway Overtime	9,149.82	10,000.00

	July 2024 - June 2025	Budget
DUA Unemployment Tax	221.63	250.00
Franklin County Retirement Sys	32,699.40	31,927.00
Highway Driver's Salary	51,313.60	51,307.00
Hwy Superintendent's Salary	55,972.80	55,963.00
Medicare Match	2,709.49	2,650.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	117.80	
Total Payroll Expenses	152,184.54	152,097.00
18 Grant Special Expenses		
Grants		
Chapter 90	0.00	0.00
Total Grants	0.00	0.00
TOTAL 18 GRANT SPECIAL EXPENSES	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,133,789.82	1,182,578.20
Net Ordinary Income	-213,077.82	-1,182,578.20
Net Income	-213,077.82	-1,182,578.20

Tax Collector Report - Fiscal Year 2025

Tax Type	Tax Year	Out-standing	Refunds	Sewer Lien	Tax Taking	Collected	Abate ments	Balance	Interest
REAL ESTATE									
Prior Years 2009-2021		(2,562.48)						(2,562.48)	
	2022	2,214.00				1,430.03		783.97	461.84
	2023	3,782.52				2,889.87		892.65	888.22
	2024	24,846.79				13,449.00		11,397.79	885.70
	2025	486,613.82	1,666.16		4,147.81	426,924.12	1,000.00	56,208.05	0.00
Total Real Estate		514,894.65	1,666.16	0.00	4,147.81	444,693.02	1,000.00	66,719.98	2,235.76
PERSONAL PROPERTY									
Prior Years 2009-2022		211.22						211.22	
	2023	73.83						73.83	
	2024	350.08				360.08		(10.00)	14.09
	2025	78,396.81				78,090.87		305.94	
Totals Personal Property		79,031.94	0.00	0.00		78,450.95	0.00	580.99	14.09

Tax Collector Report - Fiscal Year 2025 (continued)

Tax Type	Tax Year	Out-standing	Sewer Refunds	Tax Lien	Abate Taking	Collected	ments	Balance	Interest
MOTOR VEHICLE									
Prior Years 1997-2021		8,034.74				0.00		8,034.74	
	2022	2,189.24						2,189.24	
	2023	2,038.00				220.87		1,817.13	49.41
	2024	5,291.35	102.80			2,576.20	102.80	2,715.15	103.39
	2025	23,309.54				14,450.39	68.00	8,791.15	
Totals Motor Vehicle		40,862.87	102.80	0.00	0.00	17,247.46	170.80	23,547.41	21.35
SEWER USERS' FEE									
	2025	30,879.75		7,042.65		23,662.35		174.65	20.29
Total Sewer Users' Fee		30,879.75	0.00	7,042.65	0.00	23,662.35	0.00	174.65	20.29
Grand Totals		665,669.21	1,768.96	7,042.65	4,147.81	564,053.78	1,170.80	91,023.03	2,291.49
Demand Fees	2025	385.00							

Respectfully submitted,
Marcella Stafford Gore
Monroe Tax Collector

Town of Monroe - General Fund Balance Sheet - FY 2025 6/30/2025

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
		Warrants Payable	(37.89)
			(37.89)
Cash General	519,715.84	Accrued Liabilities	-
	519,715.84		
RE Receivable 2009	198.87	Deferred Sewer Demand Fees	100.00
RE Receivable 2010	337.72	Due to Deputy Collector	59.23
RE Receivable 2011	54.45	Due to Collector	155.00
RE Receivable 2012	22.90	Due to WWTP Trust FY24	25,000.00
RE Receivable 2013	(87.09)	Fair Share Highway	43,365.00
RE Receivable 2014	(409.68)	Earnmark Public Safety & Homeland	6,000.00
RE Receivable 2015	348.74	Kingsley Phase 2	-
RE Receivable 2016	38.16	Due to Other	1,867.70
RE Receivable 2017	(2,061.65)	Due to Town Clerk	43.00
RE Receivable 2018	11.06	Due to DOJ	-
RE Receivable 2019	(15.39)		76,589.93
RE Receivable 2020	(275.98)	Deferred Tax Title	197,583.15
RE Receivable 2021	(3,007.22)	Deferred Sewer Liens Interest	5,438.87
RE Receivable 2022	783.97	Deferred Sewer Lien	15,569.00
RE Receivable 2023	892.65	Deferred Sewer Charges	8,872.09
RE Receivable 2024	11,397.79	Deferred MV	26,690.43
RE Receivable 2025	58,706.69	Deferred Revenue Chapter 90	364,138.74
	66,935.99		

Town of Monroe - General Fund Balance Sheet - FY 2025 6/30/2025 (continued)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Accrued Pilot			618,292.28
Demands Receivable	30.00		
Prepaid Employee Benefits	4,435.14	Employee Reimbursements Owed	
Sewer Demands Receivable	100.00	Payroll Liabilities	36,774.62
Sewer Charges Receivable 2012	2.83		36,774.62
Sewer Charges Receivable 2017	-	Long Term Debt MWPAT	87,325.15
Sewer Charges Receivable 2019	-	Long Term Debt WWTP	837,834.00
Sewer Charges Receivable 2020	(3.84)	Long Term Debt New F550	43,262.01
Sewer Charges Receivable 2021	(0.08)		968,421.16
Sewer Charges Receivable 2022	53.37		
Sewer Charges Receivable 2023	(6.58)	Long Term Debt MWPAT Offset	(87,325.15)
Sewer Charges Receivable 2024	8,484.74	Long Term Debt WWTP Offset	(837,834.00)
Sewer Charges Receivable 2025	341.65	Long Term Debt New F550 Offset	(43,262.01)
Tax Liens Receivable	197,583.15		(968,421.16)
Sewer Liens Interest Receivable	5,438.87		
Sewer Liens Receivable	15,569.00		
	232,028.25		
PP Receivable 2005	30.38		
PP Receivable 2007	31.11		
PP Receivable 2010	27.75		
PP Receivable 2013	0.03		
PP Receivable 2015	11.79		
PP Receivable 2017	0.01		

Town of Monroe - General Fund Balance Sheet - FY 2025 6/30/2025 (continued)

PP Receivable 2018	(2.00)		
PP Receivable 2019	(27.27)		
PP Receivable 2021	122.84		
PP Receivable 2022	2.39		
PP Receivable 2023	73.83		
PP Receivable 2024	(10.00)		
PP Receivable 2025	305.94		
			Fund Balance
		State Recycling Grant Prior Year	2,300.00
	566.80	State Recycling Grant Prior Year FY24	1,960.00
Overlay Allowance	(90,985.18)	ARPA Funds Reserved	17,187.14
Overlay Allowance Total	(90,985.18)	ARPA Funds Re-reserved	-
		Fire Donations	1,660.00
MV Receivable 1997	27.74	MEMA Performance Grant Reserve	2,000.00
MV Receivable 1998	28.75	Prior Year Carryover: Electronic Voting Machine	798.05
MV Receivable 1999	97.18	Prior Year Carryover: Demo Two Houses 10.29.19 STM	
MV Receivable 2003	82.47	Prior Year Carryover: Town Hall Siding 10.29.19 STM	2,437.50
MV Receivable 2004	86.98	Prior Year Carryover: River Road Engineering	3,598.28
MV Receivable 2005	34.81	Prior Year Carryover: Town Hall Repair & Maintenance (Regular Budget)	3,993.38

Town of Monroe - General Fund Balance Sheet - FY 2025 6/30/2025 (continued)

MV Receivable 2006	177.23	Art 22 Sewer Overflow	2,950.00
MV Receivable 2007	228.85	FY25 Historical Society Building Repair	8,250.00
MV Receivable 2009	92.92	FY25 FD Pass Through Entrance Door	6,890.00
MV Receivable 2010	288.44		
MV Receivable 2011	226.52		54,024.35
MV Receivable 2012	59.26		
MV Receivable 2013	0.50	Receipts Reserved - Machinery Earnings	6,116.09
MV Receivable 2014	1,006.46	Receipts Reserved - Sale of Lots	2,400.00
MV Receivable 2015	3,337.98		8,516.09
MV Receivable 2016	456.31		
MV Receivable 2017	725.25		
MV Receivable 2018	2,069.52		
MV Receivable 2019	627.89		-
MV Receivable 2020	449.36	Sewer Plant Capital Improvement FY25	25,000.00
MV Receivable 2021	1,069.69	Fire/Highway Muni Building	5,000.00
MV Receivable 2022	2,189.24	Highway Vehicle Stabilization	5,000.00
MV Receivable 2023	1,817.13	Transfer to Stabilization Acct	5,000.00
MV Receivable 2024	2,718.80	Debt Paydown	53,658.37
MV Receivable 2025	8,791.15		
	26,690.43		93,658.37

Town of Monroe - General Fund Balance Sheet - FY 2025 6/30/2025 (continued)

NSF Checks Checks	6,025.70		
Berkshire Bank Credit Card		6,025.70	-
Chapter 90 Receivable	364,138.74		237,298.82
		364,138.74	237,298.82
Total General Fund Assets	1,125,116.57	1,125,116.57	Total General Fund Liabilities and Equity 1,125,116.57 1,125,116.57

Town of Monroe Trust Fund Balance Sheet FY 2025 - 6/30/2025

Trust Fund Cash		Trust Fund Equity	
Cash: MMDT-Trust-Stabilization	108,700.73	Trust Funds: Stabilization Fund	108,700.73
Cash: MMDT-Trust- PEH	20,767.92	Trust Funds:P.E. Hodgdon Trust	20,767.92
Cash: MMDT-Municipal Building	251,437.34	Trust Funds: Muni Building Stabilization	251,437.34
Cash: MMDT-Municipal Vehicle	38,216.46	Trust Funds: Muni Vehicle Stabilization	38,216.46
			419,122.45
Due From Trust			
Total Trust Fund Assets	419,122.45	Total Trust Fund Liabilities and Equity	419,122.45 419,122.45

Abbott Memorial School

Annual Report of the Superintendent:

John Franzoni
Superintendent

Griffin Labbanca
Principal

The current school year of 2025-2026 at Abbott Memorial School has been moving along quickly, and the big news to report is that we have a new school leader this year. Griffin Labbanca was hired as the new Abbott Memorial School principal in the summer of 2025 to replace Dr. Martin McEvoy, who left the school district for a teaching job opportunity closer to his home in south county.

Abbott Memorial School students continue to make progress toward meeting the district goals set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science on the annual state assessments, commonly known as the MCAS. Monroe resident students attend either Drury High School or McCann Technical School after they graduate from grade eight at Abbott, and these students continue to be successful at the high school level.

The teachers, staff, and administration continue to provide a high-quality education to the entire student body of eighty-one students at Abbott Memorial in grades pre-kindergarten through grade eight. There are also many fun learning activities both during and after school hours, including the numerous field trips, as well as the ski club on Friday afternoons in January and February. We would like to thank the teachers and parents for collaborating effectively to motivate better engagement and learning in school by the students.

Monroe has been included in the effort to develop a regionalization study for nine North Berkshire County towns: Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Lanesboro, Monroe, North Adams, Savoy, and Williamstown. This study will begin in the summer of 2026 thanks to \$125,000 in state grant funding supported by both Representative John Barrett III and Senator Paul Mark. There is a sixteen-member Steering Committee that is leading this work, along with a consultant that will be hired in June of 2026 to lead the initial study focused on community engagement and the analysis of recent data for these nine towns representing their respective school districts: Hoosac Valley Regional School District, Mt. Greylock Regional School District, North Adams Public Schools, and the four participating districts from the North Berkshire School Union (Clarksburg, Florida, Monroe, and Savoy).

We would like to recognize and thank the dedicated teachers and staff members at Abbott Memorial School for their ongoing efforts to educate the students in a safe, supportive environment each day at the school. Thanks as well to the Monroe School Committee members and town leaders for supporting the continued tuition agreement with Florida in order to educate the students in prekindergarten through grade eight at Abbott Memorial School.

Respectfully submitted,

John Franzoni
Superintendent

Griffin Labbance,
Principal

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

McCann Technical School 2025 Annual Report

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2025 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

Respect for self, others, and the learning environment promotes a positive learning experience for all students.

Effort - is demonstrated through an applied work ethic that includes punctuality, improvement, and a determination to succeed.

Accountability - develops personal responsibility for both behavior and learning.

Communication facilitates collaboration, promotes self-advocacy, and develops positive relationships.

Honor - requires students to act with integrity, honesty, positivity, and empathy for others.

McCann continues to offer high quality vocational and academic education. The faculty and staff pride themselves on meeting the needs of all of our learners as the best practices in teaching and education are constantly being developed and refined. Our vocational programs are updated annually to the latest industry recognized techniques and equipment. Academic programs consistently implement updated and relevant material for their disciplines. The support from our member towns is integral in creating this culture of learning which is reflected in our students' accomplishments. We are excited to announce that we have submitted a statement of interest, SOI, to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA, for the replacement of our 29-year-old roof, the replacement of our original, 1961, single pane exterior glass, and other modifications to the facility to make it ADA accessible. The MSBA has accepted our SOI and their Board will decide its outcome at its August 2025 meeting.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning. The class of 2025 was the twenty-first class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department

of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). 132 graduates of the class of 2025 saw 45% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 52% enter the workforce, and 2% proudly enter into military service. In 2025 we once again held our commencement exercises at MCLA with 132 graduates and a full campus center audience.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year competency determination is no longer based on MCAS scores as a result of the 2024 election results. Competency determination guidance and regulations from the state are forthcoming pending the decision of the Commonwealth's graduation council. In the meantime, districts have set placeholder competency determination measures with McCann choosing to determine competency based on student's performance relative to a schoolwide common set of standards for each course and grade level. The class of 2025 was the 21st class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination under the previous MCAS requirements.

Beginning in 2025-2026 McCann will accept students consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's regulations for vocational admissions. These regulations require the use of a lottery system as the means for acceptance. McCann will use a weighted lottery system providing students with good attendance records a second lottery entry to increase their chances of acceptance.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to complete the furnishing and equipping of the new HVAC/R facility. We installed new ventilation systems in our cafeteria kitchen and culinary areas.

In the spring of 2025 McCann hosted a District Review visit from Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, DESE. The results were positive with DESE providing valuable feedback to continue moving our programs forward.

Our HVAC/R program moves closer to graduating its first class. 2025-2026 will mark the first junior class with 2027 being the year our first HVAC/R graduates enter the workforce. We added our second HVAC/R instructor this year.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We used our Perkins Grant to continue our upgrade of software in all of our technical areas. We replaced approximately 155 computer systems both desktop and laptops to ensure all systems are Microsoft Windows 11 compliant. We installed 4 new Smartboards throughout the building to enhance the use of the latest educational technology.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 442,000 student and teacher members working to ensure America has a skilled workforce. McCann is a 100% participation member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment, and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. McCann's chapter officers attended the annual Fall State Leadership Conference in Marlborough, MA in November to hone their leadership skills. The 2025 SkillsUSA District Competition was proctored virtually at McCann, with students reporting to the library for either a morning or afternoon testing session. McCann students earned fifteen gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Carpentry, CNC 3-Axis Milling Programming, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Information Technology Services, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer applications, Technical Drafting, Web Design, and Welding. Ten silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Carpentry, Cnc 3-Axis Milling Programming, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Industrial Motor Control, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, and Technical Drafting. Sixteen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Automated Manufacturing, Carpentry, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Industrial Motor Control, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer applications, and Web Design.

The 2025 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA in May. McCann students earned five gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Carpentry, Cosmetology, and Dental Assisting. Two silver medals were awarded to McCann's competitors in Dental Assisting and Sheet Metal. Two bronze medals were also earned by our Additive Manufacturing team. The gold medal winners advanced to the National Skills & Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. McCann earned a bronze medal in Dental Assisting. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in Business Management, Information Technology, Finance, Office Administration, Health Administration and other related career fields and prepares students to succeed and assess real-world business skills and problem-solving abilities. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service.

With 45,000 members in over 1,800 chapters across 25 states and Puerto Rico, as well as an international presence in China, Haiti and Peru, BPA is an organization that supports business and information technology educators by offering co-curricular exercises based on national standards. Members participate to accomplish its goals of self-improvement, leadership development, professionalism, community service, career development, public relations, student cooperation and safety and health. This organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

At the 2025 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, McCann BPA members earned three 1st place, two 2nd place, three 3rd place, six 5th place awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management, Marketing and Communications. Qualifiers traveled to Orlando, FL for the National Leadership Conference in May where they had a strong showing placing 1st and 2nd in Interviewing Skills and one 7th place in Fundamental Spreadsheets.

Cooperative education is a program of vocational technical education for students who, through a cooperative arrangement between the school and employers, receive instruction, including related vocational instruction, by the alternating of study in school with a job in the occupation field. Such instruction shall be planned and supervised by the school and the employer so that each contributes to the student's education and employability. Work periods will be on alternate weeks during the school year. The experiences gained through cooperative education are critically beneficial to graduates entering the workforce, continuing their collegiate education or entering into military service.

During the 2025 school year there were fifty-four seniors placed in co-op positions with thirty-two of our cooperative education industry partners. The senior placement rate was 40% of the senior class during this time period. The junior placement from March-June was thirty-nine placements with twenty-eight of our cooperative education industry partners. The junior placement rate was 30% of the junior class during this time period.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. All of our sophomores school-wide earned their OSHA-10 certifications. Industry-recognized credentials such as these are prevalent in all of our vocational programming and offer our students a competitive advantage when entering the workforce.

The Culinary Arts Department had 7 students from the class of 2024-2025 achieve the Certified Fundamental Cook Certification from the American Culinary Federation and 5 students achieved ServSafe Certification from the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation. These are national certifications recognized across the country.

Fifty-one of the Business Technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Word Expert.

Advanced Manufacturing Technology students continued to excel as evidenced by their performance on the MACWIC exams. MACWIC is an industry-recognized credential that provides students with certifications demonstrating their proficiency in the manufacturing industry. 8 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 7 of our upperclassmen received level 2 certification which includes the Massachusetts Department of Labor pre-apprentice status.

Our computer assisted Design Drafting students were similarly successful in a variety of certifications as follows:

- Certiport Autodesk Certified User certifications:
AutoCAD 9, Revit 18, Maya 4, Inventor 7.
- OnShape Certifications:
Certified OnShape Associate 3,
Certified OnShape Professional 1.
- Creo:
Certified User Exam 1 (This is an exam geared
towards industry professionals with at least
10 years of experience)
- SolidWorks:
Certified Associate 2.

All of our Automotive Technology seniors achieved the following certifications through the NC3 Snap-On program: EHP System V tire and wheel service; B2000P Wheel Balancing; Pro 42 wheel alignment and the 504 multimeter certification.

One Metal Fabrication senior, one junior and one sophomore received a total of four welding certifications in various processes and positions. All sophomore students earned their Massachusetts Hot Work Certification.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

McCann athletic programs continued their proud tradition of representing the school well. Students were able to learn valuable, life-long skills through their participation on various sports teams. Highlighting the year were the golf team's undefeated season, the football team's victory of in-town rival Drury in front of over 1,000 spectators, and the installation of a "jumbotron" video screen in the gym to increase fan participation and attendance at winter sporting events.

The District continues to operate on sound financial management principles and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$55,842.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The District continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

Our Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians 8 module (600 hour) Journeyman Electrical program continues to expand with 101 electricians completing modules in 2024-2025.

James J. Brosnan
Superintendent

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FY25 Budgeted Revenues	Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$ 3,906,707.00	\$ 3,906,707.00
Capital	15,105.00	15,105.00
Transportation	155,756.00	155,756.00
Municipal Assessment	269,382.00	269,382.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	380,612.00	436,454.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	7,033,395.00	7,034,602.00
Tuitions	316,186.00	316,186.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	15,743.00	14,536.00
Total Revenue Received	12,092,886.00	12,148,728.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(55,842.00)
	\$ 12,092,886.00	\$ 12,092,886.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$ 156,818.58
Fed	Title I	128,359.93
Fed	Title II A	16,845.00
Fed	Title IV	10,000.00
Fed	Perkins	75,610.11
Fed	Perkins Postsecondary Reserve	5,058.00
Fed	ESSER III	7,225.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
REAP		44,050.00
(State Grants)		
MyCap		4,679.00
Workforce Skills Capital		600,000.00
Workforce Skills Capital & Technology		84,150.00
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities		5,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: College & Career		2,600.00
MassStep Culinary Arts NAPS		53,197.54
MA Cultural Council		1,144.77
CTI Planning		44,716.32
CTI Implementation		110,860.42
(Private)		
Private	Olmsted	5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	General Dynamics	2,000.00
Private	Mass MoCA Teen Invitational	800.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)	18,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 1,378,114.67

Building Department

Calendar year 2025 has been a busy and productive year for the Building Department. There were several permits for window replacements, weatherization and rooftop solar projects.

Looking ahead, the Department anticipates that 2026 will be an active year for new residential construction.

We continue to strive for excellence by ensuring that the permitting process remains as smooth and convenient as possible for all contractors, residents, and business owners. The Building Department looks forward to providing high quality service for all building and inspectional needs in the coming year.

I would like to thank all the inspectors, Electrical Inspector; Plumbing/Gas Inspector; for all their hard work and extreme dedication.

Respectfully,

BJ Church

Building Commissioner

Monroe Fire and Rescue

Annual Report 2025

Greetings:

Monroe Fire and Rescue responded to 16 calls in 2025. We conducted 10 training drills. As always we remind everyone to change batteries in smoke detectors and CO alarms on a regular basis. We always welcome anyone wishing to join and help out their town. All of us at the Fire house wish everyone a happy, healthy 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Bruce Lescarbeau
Monroe Fire and Rescue

Franklin County Regional Animal Control Program

To the Select Board and residents:

In 2019, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne joined to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide Full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (20) towns in Franklin County, with the Towns of Deerfield, Montague, Shutesbury, Warwick, and the City of Greenfield joining the program in 2025.

During 2025, ACO Gower departed our agency. ACO Sonn was transition to full-time and we added (2) additional full-time officers - Hillary Szteliga and Kyle Sweeney.

During 2025, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 1,173 total events for service between January 1st and December 31st.

Calls for Service:

- 70 Animal Bite Reports.
- 643 Animal Complaints or Concerns.
(Domestic, Livestock, and Wildlife)
- 120 Investigations.
- 175 Found or Lost animals.
- 35 Inspections.
- 101 Assistance to other agencies.
- 29 Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that were received, this only highlights to majorities.*

Breakdown of calls by Town:

Bernardston: 56	Greenfield: 425	Northfield: 75
Buckland: 46	Heath: 47	Shelburne: 56
Charlemont: 27	Leyden: 19	Shutesbury: 21
Colrain: 49	Leverett: 45	Warwick: 13
Conway: 36	Monroe: 7	Wendell: 29
Deerfield: 106	Montague: 233	Whately: 34
Gill: 54	New Salem: 35	Other*: 126

In the spring of 2025, with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Rob Schmidt and Jaimie Remillard, we were able to host rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath.

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animalcontrol@fcsoma.us or by phone at **413-774-7340 x2**.

If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully submitted,
**Franklin County Regional
Animal Control Program**

Kyle Dragon
Lead Regional
Animal Control Officer

Heather Sonn
Regional
Animal Control Officer

Hillary Szteliga
Regional
Animal Control Officer

Kyle Sweeney
Regional
Animal Control Officer

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Monroe in 2025

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department helps municipalities plan for the future regarding transportation, livability, economic development, climate resilience and land use, while also working on regional-scale projects as well; the Emergency Preparedness Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

We report on highlights of regional effort and impacts each year with our organizational annual report; recent year's reports can be found at <https://frcog.org/publications/frcog-annual-report/>. The 2025 Annual Report will be available by March 2026. The most extensive list of current and past projects and services can always be found at the FRCOG web site.

The following pages list services specific to Monroe.

Community Health

- Staff supported the Town in spending its opioid settlement funds regionally to bring addiction recovery support to residents and hosted a regional listening session to ensure compliance with the state settlement agreement.
- To help the Town meet mandated Massachusetts workforce standards, staff mentored and offered training opportunities to CPHS public health inspectors who serve Monroe. They gave technical assistance, reviewed documents, developed and distributed job aids, maintained resource and lending libraries, and taught multi-session courses leading to certification.

Economic Development

- Funded initial environmental site assessment research for a former mill site through the FRCOG.

Shared Municipal Services

- Monroe is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which conducts all the town's public health work. CPHS staff:
 - Gave 288 Flu and 285 COVID vaccinations at district drop-in nursing hours and home visits and served the region with regional clinics at Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional as well.
 - Attended the CFCE of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School District Trinity Church Playgroup monthly, connecting with 24 west county parents in 54 contacts.
 - Provided screenings, referrals, and vaccines to 48 West County residents in 131 client contacts at Hilltown Churches Food Pantry.
 - Responded to complicated health - and safety-related housing complaints in Monroe and collaborated with owners, occupants, Housing Court, and community resources to resolve them.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including 2 Monroe cases.
 - Provided SHINE Medicare insurance counseling to 30 CPHS residents, including Monroe residents.
 - Reviewed 8 Monroe permit applications, including 1 for a short-term rental property, and 7 related to septic systems.
 - Distributed naloxone (Narcan) throughout CPHS towns via 11 community naloxone cabinets, including one at Monroe's Highway Garage.

Training and Education

The following is a list of the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions offered to public officials, staff, and residents of all Franklin County municipalities in 2025.

Emergency Preparedness & Homeland Security

- WRHSAC De-escalation Training
- SkyWarn Weather Watch (REPC)

Healthy Youth Partnership

- Active Bystander Training
- Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

Local Officials Continuing Education Series

- State Contracts & Available Services
- Selectboard 101
- Highway Program Roundtable
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

Planning, Conservation & Development

- Floodplain Maps Workshop
- Resilient Watershed Association Tour

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age-Friendly Symposium
- Dementia Friendly Communities
- Narcan Training
- Budget Advocacy
- Legislative Advocacy
- ServSafe Training
- Battery Energy Storage System Safety
- Mass in Motion
- Addressing Hate in Schools/Communities
- Community Health Needs Assessment

Transportation

- Facilitated the installation of information kiosks at trail heads on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.

Franklin County Regional Housing Authority

Annual Report (FY 2025) *October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025*

For over 50 years, the Housing Authority (HRA) has supported housing and community development needs across Franklin County and the North Quabbin. In FY 2025, HRA continued to provide critical assistance despite increasing demand, limited housing supply, and reductions in state and federal funding.

Key Highlights

- Distributed **\$1.55 million in RAFT assistance** to over 500 households to prevent homelessness.
- Provided **\$1.43 million in housing rehabilitation loans** to 32 homeowners in 12 communities.
- Assisted **1,003 households** with housing search, counseling, and support services.
- Administered **645 rental vouchers** through state and federal programs.
- Funded **home accessibility improvements** for 6 households through the Home Modification Loan Program.
- Completed **3 capital improvement projects**, with 6 additional projects underway.
- Continued development efforts to create **58 new affordable housing units** in Greenfield and Erving.

Housing Services

HRA's Housing Consumer Education Center offers housing counseling, education, and homelessness prevention services. Demand remains high, with a **1.3% rental vacancy rate**, the lowest in Western Massachusetts. Programs such as RAFT and HomeBASE continue to stabilize families, though funding cuts have reduced staffing and resources.

Property Management

HRA manages **290 affordable housing units** and several commercial properties. Overall occupancy remains strong at approximately **97%**, despite challenges related to tenant placement system changes and unit turnover. Supportive housing services continue to be successful, particularly for senior and special populations.

Community Development

HRA administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs supporting housing rehabilitation, infrastructure, and social services. In FY2025:

- Completed or advanced **multiple infrastructure and housing projects** across 13 towns.
- Administered **8 active CDBG grants** totaling several million dollars.
- Continued operation of a revolving loan fund to support ongoing housing improvements.

Development Activities

Through its affiliate, Rural Development, Inc. (RDI), HRA advanced several affordable housing initiatives, including:

- New construction projects in Greenfield and Erving.
- First-time homebuyer opportunities through the Rural Homes program.
- Ongoing preservation and renovation of existing affordable housing properties.

Financial & Operational Overview

- FY 2024 audit showed a **net position increase of \$275,295** with no findings.
- Staffing decreased modestly due to funding reductions.
- Transitioned to a **cloud-based system** to improve efficiency and collaboration.

Ongoing Challenges

Housing demand continues to outpace supply, with extremely low vacancy rates and increasing pressure on assistance programs. Funding reductions at both state and federal levels may further limit services.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Govoni
Executive Director
October 27, 2025

Franklin Regional Retirement System

The Franklin Regional Retirement System completed its annual actuarial reporting under GASB Statements 67 and 68 for the measurement date of December 31, 2024. Total pension liability increased to \$262.9 million, while fiduciary net position increased to \$206.3 million. As a result, the system's net pension liability decreased from \$62.0 million in 2023 to \$56.6 million in 2024. The funded ratio improved from 75.6% to 78.5%.

Plan membership increased slightly to 2,614 total members, including 1,064 active employees, 717 retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits, and 833 inactive vested members. Covered payroll increased to \$37.8 million.

The retirement system's assets grew from \$192.3 million to \$206.3 million during 2024. Employer contributions totaled \$9.1 million, member contributions totaled \$5.0 million, and net investment income was \$16.9 million. Benefit payments were \$16.3 million and administrative expenses were \$732,177. The system earned a 9.02% money-weighted rate of return for the year.

For the Town of Monroe, the 2025 employer retirement assessment was \$31,927, representing 0.35% of total employer contributions to the system.

Highway Department

2025

The year 2025 began with snowfall on New Year's Day, followed by consistent winter weather through the end of February. Conditions became more intermittent throughout March, with the final measurable snowfall occurring on April 12, when approximately six inches accumulated.

The most significant winter weather event took place between February 13 and February 18. This storm brought a combination of snow and sleet, followed by high winds exceeding 80 mph and sustained cold temperatures. As a result, the area experienced a three-day power outage and widespread damage from downed trees and limbs. Cleanup efforts from this event extended well into the spring months.

Throughout the spring and summer, the Department focused on routine maintenance activities, including cemetery mowing and clean-up, grading of unpaved roads, patching paved surfaces, and roadside mowing. A deteriorated steel culvert on Turner Hill Road was replaced with a plastic culvert, which is expected to provide improved longevity and performance.

Fall operations included final grading of gravel roads in preparation for winter, as well as clearing leaves from ditches and catch basins to help mitigate potential drainage issues during snowmelt and heavy rains. Seasonal preparations also involved servicing winter equipment and stocking approximately 300 tons each of sand and salt, which typically meets the town's needs for the winter season.

Winter conditions returned on November 11 and continued steadily through the end of the year.

The Department's equipment fleet continues to age, resulting in an increase in maintenance and repair costs. Notably, the 2014 Ford F-550 required significant repairs to its steering system. While other repairs were less substantial, rising costs for parts and labor remain a concern.

A planned resurfacing project for sections of Main Road and Kingsley Hill Road was postponed due to contractor scheduling constraints and will now be completed in spring 2026.

The Highway Department also collaborated with the Historical Society during a one-day workshop at West Cemetery to assist in the cleaning and resetting of several headstones in need of repair.

In addition, the Department has been working with Jeff Bellino of Bellino Engineering (Shelburne Falls, MA) to pursue grant funding for the replacement of three culverts along Phelps Brook, located on Main Road, Kingsley Hill Road, and River Road near the Kingsley Hill intersection. The town has been awarded funding for the initial phase, which includes field studies and data collection. Plans are underway to apply for the next phase of funding to support the design and replacement of the Main Road culvert, which is currently in the most critical condition.

Looking ahead to 2026, priorities include completing the postponed road resurfacing projects and pursuing the replacement of aging equipment, specifically the 2014 Ford F-550 truck and the 2007 John Deere 310 backhoe, in order to reduce maintenance costs and improve operational reliability.

Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Oakes
Highway Superintendent
Town of Monroe

Historical Society

Annual Report for the Town of Monroe 2025

The Monroe Historical Society held regular quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October 2025. We planned several other activities for 2025, and so decided to take a year off from sponsoring and organizing a third Town Block Party for 2025.

Beginning in May, we joined Wilmington, Whitingham, Readsboro, and Marlboro (VT) Historical Societies and together, we launched a Passport Program designed to help people learn more about shared small-town history. Toward that end, we opened our Room Above the Garage on a regular basis during the summer/fall season of 2025. (The third Saturdays of each month, 11 am – 2 pm). We welcomed approximately 10-15 people that were interested in our history and learning more about our town. We also created new displays for the Community Building Hallway, and re-vamped our space above the garage. Now, you'll find most school displays in the hallway at Town Hall, and paper mill, town life, railroad and other memorabilia in the Room Above the Garage.

In August, we provided to the town a free "History and Music Program" by Jon and Li Waterman. It was a great success, with 18 attendees, and beverages and snacks for all. The Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire provided the grant that allowed the performers to come to Monroe for no charge, and we listened to some interesting tales of global history and original music. They even premiered a new song – with a specific mention of our town! Monroe attendees were the first venue to learn about the artists' new album release and follow-up conversations with the musicians confirmed that Monroe was their favorite venue of the year!

The Monroe Historical Society also hosted a free workshop for Historic Gravestone Preservation on Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025. Historic Gravestone Services provided all the tools and supplies, and each participant received a preservation information packet. MHS provided lunch and beverages and paid all fees associated with the program. HGS carried the liability insurance for the workshop, which began at 10 am and finished up at about 3 pm. We were able to get several stones at the West Cemetery cleaned, straightened, and re-cemented, and now have the capability to continue work on both West and Ballou locations. More to come in 2026!

Sandy Goodermote was re-elected as Secretary at our meeting on October 18th, and her term will now expire in October 2028. Other officers are: Gloria Richard, President; Lucy Passardi, Treasurer; and Sharon Oakes, Communications Officer.

We always offer the Monroe Historical Society Newsletter free of charge to anyone wishing to receive it. If you don't receive it and would like to, please contact any of our officers, or email us at:

monroema2022@gmail.com

You can also visit the Monroe Historical Society page on Facebook, which is updated every few weeks and showcases some of our old photos or items we display in our Room Above the Garage. For anyone wishing to become a member of the Monroe Historical Society, dues are \$2.00 per year or \$25 for a lifetime membership but will increase in 2026.

On June 24, 2024 at the Town of Monroe's Annual Meeting (for FY 2025 appropriations), the use of \$8,250 from Free Cash for additional repairs to the roof on the Room Above the Garage was approved. No work has yet been completed on the project as of December 2025.

Lastly, we express our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Mary Havreluk, died at 95 years of age, on June 3, 2025. She taught for many years at Monroe Elementary School and under her direction, the school and its students flourished and gained state-wide recognition with positive stories presented about our educational programs by major newspapers across the region, including the Boston Globe. Survivors include her sister Eugena (Jeanne) of Lee, MA. She was predeceased by brothers Edmund, Anthony and Carrol, and sisters Catherine, Melvina, and Margaret.

Betsy Ellen Butts, passed away on July 18, 2025. She was the daughter of Russell and Margaret Eccher Hubley. Russell has been a life-long supporter of the Monroe Historical Society and resided here in his childhood. Betsy also leaves her husband, 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 sisters, and a brother.

Kimball Chambers, passed from this life on December 5, 2025. He and his two sisters, Elizabeth (Pennigton) and Ethel (Dillensneider) grew up in Monroe. His parents were Kimball A. and Charlotte Chambers. He married Sherry (Braham) Chambers of Florida, MA in 1977. In addition to his wife, he leaves 4 children and 16 grandchildren.

Margaret (Eccher) Hubley, 92, died peacefully on December 15, 2025. She was born in Readsboro, VT. graduated from the former St. Joseph High School in North Adams, and married Russell Hubley, Jr. in 1955. They lived in Springfield for many years and then resided at their current home in Longmeadow since 1963. She leaves her husband, daughters Cynthia (Galuska), Beverly (Melchiorri), son Russell, and son-in-law, Thomas Butts. Her daughter Betsy predeceased her on July 18th.

Inspector of Animals Report

The primary responsibility of the animal inspector in Monroe is barn inspections as the Franklin County Animal Control Officer handles all domestic animals and rabies issues.

Barn inspections are designed to get a census of animals in town, ensure that the animals appear to be in good health, and ensure ample food and housing are provided. Currently, there are only two barns to inspect in the Town of Monroe.

Inspections are annual. Both barns and all animals appeared to meet standards. Results were sent to the Department of Agriculture Resources Division of Animal Health.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph E. Cashman
Inspector of Animals

Monroe Public Library

Greetings to all townspeople and patrons
of the Monroe Public Library:

We've seen some new faces at the library this year. Always a welcome sight! We are hopeful it continues.

We have recently subscribed to The Epoch Times newspaper, keeping us up to date with events around the world.

Just a reminder; we have coloring books and puzzles on hand if you are looking for a few moments of relaxation.

Our plan is to continue purchasing movies, books, and magazines for our patrons to enjoy.

We are always open for any new ideas or purchases that may help the library become an even better place to visit.

Monroe Public Library is open Mondays at 7 PM.

As always, we thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,

Monroe Public Library:

Carla Davis

Librarian

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

CY 2025

What is the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District?

The NBSWMD was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. The 14 member-towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown.

Linda Cernik is the Program Director, and each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board. Board Officers for 2025 were: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough); Doug McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle (Savoy), Treasurer.

Services

In 2025, NBSWMD towns benefitted from the following services:

- Annual transfer station compliance inspections by a third-party Inspector from MassDEP pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018.
- Bid administration for the hauling and processing of waste and recyclables resulting in awarding of a three-year contract with Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
- Coordination of special collections that are open to all 14 member-towns.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, and swap shops.
- Outreach to local schools promoting the MassDEP “Green Team” educational program.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grant applications to the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), and all reporting.
- Facilitating waste reduction and reuse via textile collection.

Special Collections and Reuse Opportunities

- **Hazardous Waste:** Over 150 residential households had the opportunity to attend a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste collection in April of 2025. This enabled residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products.
- **Bulky Waste and Electronics:** Collections were held in four communities to collect and recycle electronics, scrap metal, carpets, furniture, and other miscellaneous materials.
- **Shredding:** Confidential paper shredding days were held in Cheshire, Williamstown, and Dalton to offer residents a safe way to recycle secure documents. Donations that were collected from these events benefited the Town of Cheshire Food Pantry and Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown Council on Aging, and Town of Dalton Council on Aging.
- **Compost bins:** The District also offered member-town residents subsidized Home Composting bins, allowing food waste, leaves, and brush to be composted at home.
- **Northern Berkshire Solid Waste “year of giving”** donated to the following organizations through our 2025 events. Town of Adams Scholarship fund, Town of Cheshire Food Pantry, Town of Cheshire Council on Aging, Town of Dalton Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown Council on Aging, Town of Lanesboro Council on Aging, and Town of Clarksburg Volunteer Fire Department. Total Donations were \$4,355.00
- Visit our website at ***www.nbswmd.com*** for a calendar of all of our Special Collections and events, and to view our 2026 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle guide and resources.

Management, Administration and Community Assessments

Day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Program Director Linda Cernik. Monthly Board meetings are a combination of in-person, hybrid and remote.

The NBSWMD has an annual operations budget that is approved by the district’s Board of Commissioners, and town assessments are based on the current census 2020. The combined assessments for all fourteen towns were \$135,630. The assessments are for operating costs, special collections, subsidized home composting units, six universal waste collections sites, all outreach and educational services, inspectional services under 310.CMR.19.018, and professional Waste management Services.

Grant Funding Awarded to Towns

In 2026, NBSWMD member-towns received grants from the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) totaling \$64,826 to further enhance recycling programming.

Waste Diversion through Recycling

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively diverted 880 tons of Dual Stream recyclable materials to the Casella Waste Systems, Inc., Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Auburn, MA, MRF.

NEW CY 2025

The Town of Dalton started a Food Waste Diversion program at their town Transfer Station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, under Equipment Drop-Off, the town was awarded a \$6,000 grant. They have contracted with Tommy's Compost for the food pick-up and composting at a local farm.

The Town of Cheshire installed a paper compactor using some Grant funds Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, under Recycling Dividends Grants funds. This will allow the town to reduce the number of hauls per year to our recycling facility. Paper and cardboard is sorted and bailed at the Cheshire Casella Waste Facility and then sent out to a buyer. Prior to the compactor, the Transfer Station attendants had to hand-pack the container with approximately 2 tons before a swap-out. Now with the compactor, the average is 5 to 6 tons before swapping out. This helps reduce the number of hauls monthly, down to one per month.

The Town of Peru obtained a grant through Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment Drop-Off for a Swap Shop. The value of the grant was \$6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle of materials. Residents can donate, shop at no cost, and enjoy Reuse.

The Town of Savoy obtained a grant through Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment Drop-Off for a new Swap Shop. The value of the grant was \$6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle materials. Residents can donate, shop at no cost, and enjoy Reuse.

The Town of Windsor started a Food Waste Diversion program at their town Transfer Station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, Recycling Dividends grant program, the town purchased a Bear-proof cage area for the storage of the totes for the Food Collection. They have contracted Second Chance Composting Services.

Shared Services

Shared services are CHARM recycling materials that are prohibited from being disposed of in Household Trash, Waste Ban regulations 310. CMR.19.017. These services can be located under recycling resources at www.nbsmwd.com, for residential use only. You don't need a transfer station permit to access shared services, such as Universal Waste, Tire, the Mattress and Box Spring hub, or also to utilize our special events 2026. No permit is required. See all details on our website.

Thank you to: all of the Town Transfer Station Attendants, the heart of the Facility for maintaining compliance, excellent customer service, and understanding the importance of the Board of Health; DPW; all the District's contracted haulers and processors, all the District volunteers, and the residents of all the member-towns for your continued support of waste reduction, composting and recycling.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cernik
NBSWMD
Director of Programs

Plumbing Inspector

I am the Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the Town of Monroe and licensed as such by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have completed all necessary continuing education as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Plumbing & Gas Inspectors.

2025 Activity

Gas Inspections.....3

Plumbing Inspections.....2

All above Inspections were completed.

No re-inspections were required.

No violations identified

Types of work observed in 2025

Permits for renovations4

Permit for new gas line.....1

Coordination

Due to a conflict of interest for 3 permits that my son pulled, I contacted the Plumbing Inspector for Adams who reviewed the plumbing and gas work performed.

Goals

1. Fee Increase
2. Continue to inspect plumbing and gas projects in the Town of Monroe

Additional Comments

The current Inspection Fee does not cover my time to drive to Monroe for these inspections. I am suggesting a fee increase. A \$60 Application Fee (this would include a \$10.00 fee for Town Admin charges), a \$60 re-inspection fee, and \$10 for each Appliance/Fixture.

As a reminder, the fee is paid by the Property Owner or Licensed Installer with the check made Payable to the Town of Monroe, but mailed to me with the permit application. I then send the check, the permit application, and an invoice to the Town for my Inspection Fee. I do the inspection when the plumber or gas fitter calls me for an inspection.

Sincerely,

John Vareschi

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Town of Monroe

Town Clerk’s Report

To the Townspeople of Monroe:

Herewith is my report as Town Clerk
for the year ending December 31, 2025.

Dog Licenses

0	Spayed Females	@ \$ 5.00	\$ 0.00
0	Female	@ 10.00	0.00
0	Neutered Males	@ 5.00	0.00
1	Males	@ 10.00	10.00
TOTAL			\$ 10.00
Paid to Town Treasurer			\$ 9.75
Paid to Town Clerk Fees			1.25
TOTAL			\$ 10.00

**One (1) license issued at no fee
for neutered male services dog.**

**ALL RESIDENT DOG OWNERS MUST OBTAIN LICENSES.
FAILURE TO DO SO
MAY RESULT IN FINES AND PENALTIES.**

VITAL STATISTICS 2025

No births, deaths or marriages recorded with this office in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly K. Lynch
Town Clerk

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District

Member Towns

Ashfield	Greenfield	Plainfield
Bernardston	Hawley	Rowe
Buckland	Heath	Shelburne
Charlemont	Leverett	Shutesbury
Colrain	Leyden	Sunderland
Conway	Monroe	Warwick
Deerfield	Montague	Wendell
Erving	New Salem	Whately
Gill	Northfield	

Annual Report CY25

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State, and Federal levels.

The Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have recently started to see a slowdown to the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to the record number of claims we processed due to the PACT Act signing of August 2022.

- District now brings in \$2,186,859.54 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation, and Death Pension. This is an increase of \$126,234.11 from CY24.
- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- We are now covering outreach in the following towns once a month:
 - Ashfield..... Town Hall
 - Bernardston Senior Center
 - Erving..... Senior Center
 - Deerfield Town Hall
 - Leverett Leverett Co-op
 - Montague Senior Center
 - Northfield Town Hall/Senior Center
 - Shelburne Senior Center
 - Wendell Town Offices

- Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control
- We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 26 budget while continuing to expand services in 2027. Main increase will be retiree and employee health insurance costs.
- We have increased the number of VA Healthcare applications since the change in eligibility for VA Healthcare.

Christopher Demars
Director
Upper Pioneer Valley
Veterans' Services District

Department of Veteran Services
Greenfield, MA
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

On behalf of the Monroe WWTP, the following 2025 Annual Report includes an overview of the Town’s Collection System Infiltration and Inflow (I/I), Capacity, Management, and Operation & Maintenance (CMOM) in accordance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This 2025 Annual Report includes recent work and efforts, ongoing projects, and upcoming/planned needs in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Town owns and operates a wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that serves approximately 90 sewer customers. The Monroe WWTP is permitted for a capacity of 15,000 gallons per day (GPD). The Town’s collection system includes approximately 4,446 linear feet (LF) (~0.84 miles) of sewer mains, 6,764 LF (~1.3 miles) of low-pressure sewer mains, 36 manholes, and three (3) pump stations and their respective force mains. The collection system is comprised of 8-inch diameter AC and PVC gravity sewer, and 4-inch diameter PVC low pressure sewer. A summary of the Monroe Collection System by pipe type and pipe diameter is summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Monroe Collection System Composition

Pipe Type	Diameter (in)	Length (LF)	% of Total System
AC (Gravity)	8 inch	2,295	21%
PVC (Gravity)	8 inch	2,151	19%
PVC (Low Pressure)	4 inch	6,764	60%
Total		11,210	100%

NPDES REQUIREMENT

The Monroe WWTP was issued a Final NPDES Permit (MAG580019) in April 2022. The permit includes requirements for the operation and maintenance of the sewer system. Included in the requirements are adequate maintenance staff, preventive maintenance, control of I/I, development of Collection System mapping within 30 months of the effective date of the permit, development of a Collection System Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan within 24 months of the effective date of the permit. The Town with the help of DPC Engineering, LLC completed Collection System Mapping and the Collection System O&M Plan in December 2022.

WWTP FLOW DATA

The average daily flow at the Monroe WWTP for CY 2024 was 10,887 GPD. The average annual I/I component of wastewater flows for CY 2025 was estimated by comparing the average total daily wastewater flows recorded at the Monroe WWTP to the base sanitary flow. The base

sanitary flow was estimated at approximately 2,000 GPD. Comparison of the average daily flow at the Monroe WWTP to the base sanitary flow concludes that approximately 82% of the CY2025 wastewater flows through the Monroe WWTP was I/I. A summary of the CY2025 average daily flows, by month, as well as the estimated percent of flows from I/I, are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Monroe WWTP Average Monthly Flows (CY2025)

Month	Average Daily Flow (GPD)	Estimated Percent of Flow from I/I
January	9,356	79%
February	3,772	47%
March	21,530	91%
April	20,225	90%
May	23,795	92%
June	13,773	85%
July	2,223	10%
August	2,432	18%
September	2,702	26%
October	4,869	59%
November	15,383	87%
December	10,466	81%
Average	10,877	82%

SEWER UPGRADE AND MAINTENANCE EFFORTS

In 2025, the Town performed routine maintenance on the treatment plant equipment, inspected all three pump stations and the collection system. The Town discovered manholes on Kingsley Hill Road and River Road that are in need of repair, as well as the 4-inch line from the storage tank at the top of Kingsley Hill to the respective manhole. These repairs were scheduled to take place in 2025; however, funding was not approved. The Town hopes to advance the work in 2026.

REMAINING/PENDING TASKS

The Town of Monroe plans to continue to implement its multi-year Collection System I/I and CMOM programs. These programs could include annual CCTV inspection, manhole inspections, and rehabilitation of manholes and sewer mains. The goal of the programs is to implement rehabilitation recommendations from the prior year, while continuously evaluating areas of the collection system each year. Periodic flow monitoring will help guide follow-up evaluations.

Wiring Inspector

2024 Report

There were 4 wiring inspections in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Marchegiani
Wiring Inspector

2025 Report

There were 5 wiring inspections in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Marchegiani
Wiring Inspector

Annual Town Election Results - May 5th, 2025

Select Board / Planning Board / Board of Health, Three Years

Carla Davis,
Candidate for Re-election ... 11
Total Votes..... 11

School Committee, Three Years

Carla Davis,
Candidate for Re-election ... 11
Total Votes..... 11

Finance Committee, Three Years

Sharon Oakes, *Elected* 1
Others 3
Blank 7
Total Votes..... 11

Library Trustee, Three Years

Danielle Oakes-Pierce, *Elected*...1
Others 3
Blank 7
Total Votes..... 11

Constable, Three Years

Brian Lynch, *Elected* 2
Others 4
Blank 5
Total Votes..... 11

Moderator, One Year

Joe Cashman, *Elected* 5
Others 3
Blank 3
Total Votes..... 11

Town Clerk, One Year

Molly Lynch,
Candidate for Re-election ... 11
Total Votes..... 11

Auditor, One Year

Sharon Oakes,
Candidate for Re-election ... 11
Total Votes..... 11

Tree Warden, One Year

Brian Lynch,
Candidate for Re-election ... 11
Total Votes..... 11

Persons Listed are the elected officials.

Official results with the list of individuals who received votes are posted on bulletin boards at upper Monroe garage and the Town Hall building.

Annual Town Meeting - June 30, 2025

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Franklin S.S.

To either of the constables of the Town of Monroe in the County of Franklin:

Greeting,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Monroe, qualified to vote in town elections and in town affairs, to meet at the TOWN HALL in MONROE on MONDAY, the THIRTIETH OF JUNE NEXT, at 6:15 in the AFTERNOON, then and there to act on the following articles:

Meeting took place at the Town Hall. Called to order at 6:30 PM. Fourteen (14) voters present. Lucy Passardi and Jo-ann Bingham served as tellers. Joesph Cashman as Moderator. Meeting closed at 7:33 PM.

Article 1: To hear the reports of the town officers and act thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 2: To choose town officers not elected by ballot.

Fence Viewers - Clifford Oakes and Douglas Oakes, Jr.

**Measurers of
Wood and Bark - Clifford Oakes and Douglas Oakes, Jr.**

Field Drivers - Clifford Oakes and Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Pound Keepers - Clifford Oakes and Douglas Oakes, Jr.

Officers elected

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$294,440.73 to operate the *School System* for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$30,066.00 to pay Monroe's share of the operating expenses of the *Northern Berkshire Vocational School District*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$31,127.00 to pay the *Franklin Regional County Retirement System* for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$1,455.00 to pay Monroe's share of the *Statutory Charges and Core Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$2,360.00 to pay for the *Franklin Regional Council of Governments Regional Health Agent* services for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$2,341.00 to pay for the *Franklin Regional Council of Governments Regional Animal Control Officer* services for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$472.55 to pay the *Central Franklin County District Department of Veterans' Services* for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$437.75 to pay for the participant fee of *Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sums that affix *Salaries and Compensations* of elected and appointed *Officers* according to the following schedule, or take any other action thereon.

Selectors	(3) @ \$1,957.00 ea.	\$ 5,871.00
Assessor		7,416.00
Tax Collector		7,416.00
School Committee	(3) @ \$361.00 ea.	1,083.00
Town Clerk		3,400.00
Administrative Assistant		10,712.00
Fire Chief		258.00
FID Administrator		515.00
Building Inspector		515.00
Civil Defense Director		62.00
Board of Registrars Chair		72.00
Inspector of Animals		62.00
Moderator	@ 25.00 per meeting	
Tellers	@ 16.48 per hour	
Constables	@ 16.48 per hour	4,000.00
Totals		\$ 41,382.00

Passed unanimously

Article 12: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$26,388.00 to pay Monroe's portion of the *Shared Accountant Services*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year 2025, and issue a note or notes therefore payable within one year in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 17 of the General Laws, or take any other action thereon

Passed unanimously

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$10,000.00 to be used as a *Reserve Fund* for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon

Passed unanimously

Article 15: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$5,000.00 to pay for the *Maintenance and Upgrade of Office Equipment*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$20,000.00 to pay for the *Operation Expenses* of the *Assessor's Office* or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 17: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the following sums of money for the *Operation of Various Departments* for the ensuing year, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Administration</i>	\$ 12,500.00
<i>Bridges & Railings</i>	2,000.00
<i>Engineering & Legal Services</i>	10,000.00
<i>Fire Department</i>	18,000.00
<i>Fuel</i>	23,000.00
<i>Highway Superintendent's Salary</i>	57,642.00
<i>Highway Driver's Salary</i>	52,846.00
<i>Insurance</i>	88,000.00
<i>Library</i>	1,300.00
<i>Machinery Account</i>	45,000.00
<i>Officers Expense</i>	7,000.00
<i>Solid Waste Disposal</i>	15,000.00
<i>Snow Removal</i>	30,000.00
<i>Street Lights</i>	6,000.00
<i>Town Share Medicare</i>	3,000.00
<i>Town Hall</i>	7,000.00
<i>Unemployment Insurance</i>	250.00
<i>Highway Department Overtime Pay</i>	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 388,538.00

Passed unanimously

Article 18: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$39,933.00 to pay the *Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Salaries* for the ensuing year, said sum to be returned from user fees, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 19: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$60,000.00 to pay for *Sewer Treatment Plant Operations, Maintenance and Repair*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 20: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Free Cash* the sum of \$53,658.37 to pay the *Principal and Interest* on notes and bonds issued in relation to the *USDA Waste Water Disposal Loan / Grant for Rural Communities*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 21: To see if the town will vote to *Raise and Appropriate* the sum of \$32,000.00 to be used for the *Construction, Maintenance and Repair of Town Roads*, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 22: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Free Cash* the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed into the *Sewer Plant Capital Improvements Stabilization Account*, or take any other action thereon.

(this article requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Passed unanimously

Article 23: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Free Cash* the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the *Highway Department Vehicles Stabilization Account*, or take any other action thereon.

(this article requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Passed unanimously

Article 24: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Free Cash* the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the *Fire / Highway Department Municipal Building Stabilization Account*, or take any other action thereon.

(this article requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Passed unanimously

Article 25: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Free Cash* the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the *General Stabilization Account*, or take any other action thereon.

(this article requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Passed unanimously

Article 26: To see if the town will vote to transfer from *Reserve Funds* the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed into the *Machinery Account* to cover funds from FY25, or take any other action thereon.

(this article requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Passed unanimously

Article 27: To see if the town will vote to use a *Building Inspector Fees Revolving Fund* pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the MGLs, for the purpose of collecting and dispensing building inspection fees, said account not to exceed \$5000.00, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 28: To see if the town will vote to use a *Plumbing Inspector Fees Revolving Fund* pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the MGLs, for the purpose of collecting and dispensing plumbing inspection fees, said account not to exceed \$5000.00, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Article 29: To see if the town will vote to use an *Electrical Inspector Fees Revolving Fund* pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the MGLs, for the purpose of collecting and dispensing electrical inspection fees, said account not to exceed \$5000.00, or take any other action thereon.

Passed unanimously

Official 2025 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Certified:

***Molly K. Lynch
Monroe Town Clerk***

Notes

[illegible]

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