

# Annual Report July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON

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## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Administration & Finance Officer: Christine Dias

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 119

Accounting Generalist: Susan Pike

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 111

Administrative Assistant: Ivanna Hugo

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 110

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Bob Carlson, 1 <sup>st</sup> Selectman	
Brett Mastroianni, Selectman	Nicole Porter, Selectwoman

The fiscal year 2021-2022 was a little quieter than in recent years. Although the pandemic was still with us, we were all learning to live with it. Meetings were still held on Zoom or in a hybrid format. The Administration of Mike Urgo, Nita Kincaid and Bob Carlson was starting to wind down as a new administration would be elected in November of 2021. Questions persisted on how the Town would use the ARPA Funds that we had received and what would become of the “298 Building”, the old Middle/High School Building. The Wheeler Library had informed the Town on their plan to start a large renovation project that would start in 2023. A new PDZO started with us in October (Nathan Reichert), and a new Administrative Assistant in November (Ivanna Hugo). With the help from the Town’s Conservation Commission, a new Kayak Trail was established on the Pawcatuck River with North Stonington having its own put-in off Boombridge Rd.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a new Board of Selectmen were sworn in by Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro. Bob Carlson was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman with Brett Mastroianni and Nicole Porter as Selectmen. With little time to get adjusted, Budget Season was just around the corner. With a feeling of increased transparency, the budget passed on the first try, and the Mill Rate was lowered from 28.6 to 28.45. There were two drive - thru events to pass out Covid-19 test kits in December and January as the pandemic seemed to be coming back in the cold weather months. The BOS, our Town’s Troopers and the EMD worked at these events. There was an 8.5 mega-watt solar array project approved by the CT Siting Council to be built on Providence N/L Turnpike.

With this new administration, came a large to-do list. Starting with a Community Conversation held on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the uses for ARPA Funds and the demolition of the old middle school. This was done in a hybrid format to increase attendance since we were back in a pandemic mode. Roughly 60 residents attended either online or in person. The consensus was to demo the old middle school and use one million dollars of ARPA Funds so the taxpayers would not need to absorb the cost of the project. The demolition would be starting in the Fall of 2022.

Other changes in town were the addition of a new Farmer’s Market held on one Sunday per month at the Hewitt Farm throughout the summer and a decision to put “Speed Humps” in the village. The Town also will be renting out the John Dean Gallup House at Hewitt Farm after approximately 3 years of being empty. New windows will be ordered as well as other upgrades will be made to this future residence. Speaking of Hewitt Farm, a theater group staged an outdoor performance of the play “The Last 5 Years”. The Town also approved the purchase of a 16’ x 20’ stage that could be used for many future events around Town.

The Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education agreed to revisit holding Quarterly Tri-board meetings starting in the Fall of 2022. Another quarterly meeting group was established consisting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen from N. Stonington, Preston, Voluntown, Griswold and

Sterling, to better understand the issues that small rural towns are confronted with and to share possible solutions.

As the fiscal year ended, the BOS was looking forward to a busy 2022 Fall and then a return to the Budget Season after the holidays. Some items that will be discussed will be the appointment of a Tax Relief Committee, the instituting of fees at the Transfer Station and the Tax Collector's position becoming full time as well as any possible changes to the PDZO Position. During the fiscal year 2022 – 2023, the writing of our new POCD will begin having a due date of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B1.06</b>	Selectmens Expenses	\$2,450	\$1,518.08
<b>B1.08</b>	CT Council of Small Towns	\$1,075	\$1,075
<b>B1.09</b>	Certifications/Seminars	\$2,500	\$355
<b>B1.10</b>	SE CT Council of Governments	\$2,913	\$2,913

BOARD OF FINANCE

Paul Simonds, Chairperson	Michael Anderson, Vice Chair
Gary Annino, Member	Carl Johnston, Member
Sarah Nelson, Member	Daniel Smith, Member
Winona Berdine, Alternate	Amy Friend, Alternate

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor: Darryl L. Del Grosso, CCMA II

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 123

Administrative Assistant: Cecile McGrath

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 124

The Assessor's Office is responsible for assessments on real estate, motor vehicles, and personal property.

As many residences of Connecticut now know, Motor Vehicle values increased dramatically because of the problem the motor vehicle industry had in producing new vehicles. The amount of change from Grand List Year 2020 to Grand List Year 2021 showed an increase \$14,357,180 of assessed value. The percentage increase was 27.2%. That is a dramatic increase when in a normal year the value of a used motor vehicle decreases.

Many of our residence have heard that the State of Connecticut placed a cap on the mill rate for motor vehicles for the July 2022 payment. The new State cap on the mill rate for motor vehicles was set at 32.46. Since our mill rate is 28.45, there was no benefit in North Stonington. The cap on the motor vehicle mill rate appears to benefit those who live in the larger cities and towns in Connecticut.

### REAL ESTATE SALES INFORMATION

The real estate sales market showed real growth between July 1, 2021, thru June 30, 2022.

There were 123 sales recorded in North Stonington. Since for most people their home is the one asset they own with the highest value, I have compiled little information on sale price of the various style homes in North Stonington for the time-period beginning July 1, 2021, thru June 30, 2022.

There were (16) Cape style homes sold with an average sale price of \$356,203

There were (23) Colonial style homes sold with an average sale price of \$553,330

There were (8) Raised Ranch style homes sold with an average sale price of \$325,959

There were (25) Ranch style homes sold with an average sale price of \$282,320

There were (4) Split Level style homes sold with an average sale price of \$302,250

There were (7) Contemporary style homes sold with an average sale price of \$532,857

There were (5) Old style homes sold with an average sale price of \$400,200

There were (2) Log Home style homes sold with an average sale price of \$366,822

There were (3) Cottage style homes sold with an average sale price of \$119,333

There were (4) Conventional style homes sold with an average sale price of \$505,200

There were (3) sales of commercial property, a gas station, apartment building and a hotel.

Lastly, as a sign of new development to come, the Town of North Stonington had (23) land sales at a total sale price of \$2,243,500.

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>A5.11</b>	Assessors Office	\$350	\$12,346
	Property cards fee		\$100.00
	Penalty -early exit from P A 490		\$12,246.00

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B4.023</b>	Postage		\$835.53
<b>B4.024</b>	Supplies		\$95.24
<b>B4.025</b>	Miscellaneous		\$1,170.80
	Office expenses	\$2,050.00	\$2,101.57 Over budget <b>\$51.57</b>

The Assessor's Office collected \$ 12,246.00 in penalty fees for early withdrawal from the P.A. 490 program which is also called the farm forestry or open space program. Participants in the program agree to continue farming and/or forestry management for a minimum of 10 years. The penalty is for failure to comply with the requirements of the program.

The reason that the assessor's office went over budget on office expenditures is that the pricing guides used for the valuation of motor vehicles increased in cost by \$100.00.

The main office expense is for the production and mailing of personal declaration forms. The forms are mailed to all farming and business owners. The Town of North Stonington has over 560 forms that we process.

#### BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Paula Woodward, Chairperson	Lisa Mazzella, Member
Candy Palmer, Member	Cecile McGrath, Secretary

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B5.00</b>	BAA Expenses	\$860.00	\$640.44

September 2021 – MVS only – no applications

March 2022 - Personal Property – 2 applications

Real Estate – 1 application

All applications approved as presented

## TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector: Donna Spelman

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 120

The Tax Collector's office is responsible for the administration and the collection of revenue in conformity with the Connecticut State Statutes, town ordinances, and established policy.

The percentage of the current adjusted tax levy (2020 Grand List) collected as of June 30, 2022, was 98.05%. The total collection rate including all taxes collected, current and prior years, interest and lien fees was 100.3%, \$53,082.20 more was collected than budgeted for total tax revenue.

The following is a breakdown of total collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022:

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022										
TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON										
TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT										
FOR YEAR TO DATE										
Grand List Year	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2020	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Transfers to Suspense	Adjusted Taxes Collectible	Collections			Uncollected Taxes JUNE 30, 2021
			Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total	
2020		16,491,652.03	16,647.26	-100,403.10	0.00	16,407,896.19	16,087,968.40	57,454.56	16,145,422.96	319,927.79
2019	317035.52		4,762.72	-3641.69	0.00	318,156.55	199,480.90	44,101.27	243,582.17	118,675.65
2018	63,000.07		0	-685.85	0.00	62,314.22	28,090.51	14,222.87	42,313.38	34,223.71
2017	34,638.13		0	0.00	0.00	34,638.13	12,256.32	11,017.10	23,273.42	22,381.81
2016	24,663.36		0	0.00	14271.73	24,663.36	5,625.89	1,484.24	7,110.13	19,037.47
2015	11,556.58		0	0.00	6156.70	11,556.58	786.56	942.80	1,729.36	10,770.02
2014	7,721.80		0	0.00	3528.80	7,721.80	-200.00	0.00	-200.00	7,921.80
2013	12,790.95		0	-1820.36	8143.29	10,970.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,970.59
2012	5,747.58		0	-1802.76	1677.91	3,944.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,944.82
2011	4,899.35		0	-1672.48	1451.43	3,226.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,226.87
2010	6,149.99		0	-3760.96	1184.60	2,389.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,389.03
2009	2,508.51		0	0.00	0.00	2,508.51	0.54	1.05	1.59	2,507.97
2008	1,183.67		0	0.00	0.00	1,183.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,183.67
2007	1,157.55		0	0.00	0.00	1,157.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,157.55
2006	945.26		3447.7	-3447.70	0.00	945.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	945.26
Total	493,998.32	16,491,652.03	24,857.68	-117,234.90	36,414.46	16,893,273.13	16,334,009.12	129,223.89	16,463,233.01	559,264.01

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B6.02</b>	Office Expenses	\$9,000	\$10,119.99
<b>B6.03</b>	Computer Expenses	\$7,357	\$4,443.91
<b>B6.04</b>	Travel Expenses	\$700	\$85.68

## TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk: Antoinette Pancaro, MMC, MCTC, CCMO

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 121

Assistant Town Clerk: Cheryl Konsavitch

The Town Clerk's Office handles a wide variety of tasks involving vital records, land records, licensing, elections, and records management. Birth, marriage, and death certificates are issued and filed in the office, as well as burial and cremation permits. Marriage licenses are issued for couples being married in North Stonington. The recording and indexing of land records, issuance of trade name certificates, and filing of maps, military discharges (DD-214s), and liquor permits are a significant portion of the Town Clerk's job. The office registers Justices of the Peace and Notaries. Meeting agendas and minutes are

filed in the office. The Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining the official record of ordinances, oaths of office, appointments, resignations, and petitions. Sporting licenses, such as hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, can also be purchased in the Town Clerk's Office and online at [www.ct.gov/deep/](http://www.ct.gov/deep/). These licenses may be purchased throughout the year and are valid for the calendar year only. The Town Clerk has Hunting & Trapping, Fishing, Boating, and Migratory Bird Guides available in the office. This information is also available online at [www.ct.gov/deep/](http://www.ct.gov/deep/). The Town Clerk issues dog and kennel licenses. These licenses expire June 30th, and a new license must be procured on or before June 30th or a penalty of \$1.00 per month will be imposed. The fee for an unaltered dog is \$19.00 and for a neutered or spayed dog is \$8.00. In order to obtain a dog license, a rabies vaccination certificate must be presented, as well as a neutering or spaying certificate, if applicable. The fee for a kennel license for a kennel with 10 dogs or less (10 kennel dog tags) is \$51.00 and for a kennel with 11 to 20 dogs (20 kennel dog tags) is \$102.00. The business hours for the Town Clerk's Office are 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

The Town Clerk also has the important duty of issuing absentee ballots for elections, primaries, and referendums, as well as compiling and keeping election records. All Connecticut town halls were sent secure ballot drop boxes (Official Ballot Drop Box) for absentee ballots to be received by the close of the polls (8:00 PM). The North Stonington Official Ballot Drop Box is located in front of New Town Hall at 40 Main Street, North Stonington. Therefore, absentee ballots can be returned by mail, by dropping off in the Official Ballot Drop Box, or by bringing in person to the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

#### **Town Election Results November 2, 2021**

First Selectman	Bob Carlson (Republican)	1,253
Selectman	K. Nicole Porter (Democratic)	701
	Toula Balestracci (Democratic)	691
	Brett Mastroianni (Republican)	1,001
Town Treasurer	Mustapha Ratib (Democratic)	724
	Shawn P. Murphy (Republican)	878
Board of Finance (Full Term)	Sarah Nelson (Democratic)	605
	Gary Annino (Republican)	945
Board of Finance (To Fill Vacancy for Four Years)	Carl R. Johnston, Jr. (Republican)	1,150
Board of Finance Alternate	Winona Berdine (Democratic)	563
	Amy Friend (Republican)	941
Board of Education (Full Term)	Stanley "Chet" Stefanowicz (Democratic)	571
	Jamie Towle-Weicksel (Democratic)	562
	Lisa Mazzella (Republican)	961
	Christine Wagner (Republican)	952
Board of Education (To Fill Vacancy for Two Years)	Jennifer M. Welborn (Democratic)	795



Board of Assessment Appeals	Lisa Mazzella (Republican)	1,151
Economic Development Commission	Christopher J. Friday (Democratic)	591
	Salvatore E. Cherenzia, IV (Republican)	1,046
	Stefan Grufstedt (Republican)	1,034
Economic Development Commission Alternate	Emily Lewis (Republican)	1,155
Planning and Zoning Commission	Anthony Mazzella (Democratic)	674
	Wayne M. Wilkinson (Republican)	1,008
	Priscilla Lewis (Republican)	970
Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate	Robert Mazzella (Republican)	1,107
	Robert Kappes (Republican)	1,030
Zoning Board of Appeals	Mark S. Perkins, Jr. (Republican)	1,090
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate	Amy Friend (Republican)	1,084
	Daniel Smith (Republican)	1,024
	William Mason (Republican)	1,002

**May 16, 2022  
Referendum Results**

The May 2, 2022 Annual Town/Budget Meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022 by Town Meeting Moderator Lisa Mazzella following the Referendum. The results were read by the Referendum Moderator Pat Turner:

1. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the Annual Budget including General Government Operating: \$5,319,361; Redemption of Debt: \$1,382,949; and Capital: \$408,655; for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, in the total amount of \$7,110,965?

260 Yes                      133 No

2. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual Board of Education budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$14,527,467?

260 Yes                      132 No

3. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to replace lost public sector revenue and fund a portion of the demolition of the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?

266 Yes                      125 No

4. Shall the Town of North Stonington approve an ordinance creating a municipal park and recreation capital and non-recurring expense fund and amend the existing ordinance Recreation Commission Section

14-1 (c) and for the Town Clerk to be allowed to publish an abbreviated version of the legal ad regarding the Notice of Passage of these ordinances?

279 Yes

109 No

**Distribution Report  
North Stonington Town Clerk  
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>ACCOUNT TOTAL</u></b>
State Conveyance Tax	\$362,343.83
Dog License – Population Control Fund	\$ 1,520.00
Dog License – State	\$ 4,318.00
State Farm Fund	\$ 32,976.00
Marriage License – State	\$ 2,380.00
Sportsman License – State	\$ 3,502.00
State Restoration	\$ 7,328.00
State Treasurer – MERS	\$ 29,150.00
<b>STATE TOTAL: \$443,517.83</b>	
Town Conveyance Tax	\$113,410.96
Dog License – Town	\$ 632.00
Land Record Copies	\$ 2,230.75
Liquor Permits	\$ 180.00
Map Recordings	\$ 1,060.00
Portal Online Copies	\$ 5,442.00
Marriage License – Town	\$ 1,120.00
Notary Public Filing Fee/Certification	\$ 180.00
Recordings – Legal Documents	\$ 41,285.00
Sportsman License – Town	\$ 89.00
Town Clerk Farm Fund	\$ 2,296.00
Trade Names	\$ 160.00
Vital Copies	\$ 6,230.00
<b>TOWN TOTAL: \$174,315.71</b>	
LOCIP	\$ 2,748.00
Town Restoration	\$ 1,832.00
<b>TOTAL: \$4,580.00</b>	
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL: \$622,413.54</u></b>	

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>See Distribution Report for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022</b>			

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B10.00</b>	Town Clerk	\$51,242.55	\$51,439.47
<b>B10.01</b>	Assistant	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>B10.02</b>	Office Expenses	\$4,032.00	\$4,241.33
<b>B10.03</b>	Land Records	\$10,949.00	\$10,293
<b>B10.04</b>	Records Restoration Grant	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
<b>B10.05</b>	Ordinances	\$1,800.00	\$1,822.92

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Registrar of Voters: Connie Berardi

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 113

Registrar of Voters: Emily Lewis

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 113

2022 started with some new changes for the Registrar of Voters. It was decided that it was important to relocate the office of the Registrar of Voters back to the Town Hall. This move allows the Registrars and Town Clerk to work closely together as their jobs are connected to ensure Election Registrations and Elections are accurate. This move also gives better visibility for those residents who wish to come in person for new registrations, changes, etc. The second update was a resignation of the Republican Registrar of Voters. In February 2022 we welcomed Emily Lewis to this position.

The Voting location remains at the Education Building at 298 Norwich Westerly Road.

The duties of the Registrar of Voters continue to support the residents of North Stonington with updates, address changes and new voter registrations. This year the Registrars oversaw the following elections; Referendums, State Primary, and Town Meetings. The Registrars attended both the Spring and Fall ROVAC Conferences, one held in Hartford and the other in Southbury.

As a requirement by the Secretary of State, the newly appointed Registrars are required to obtain their Registrar Certification within two years from taking office. We are pleased to announce that Connie Berardi, Democratic Registrar of Voters has received her Certification.

Office hours have been updated to Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-12pm.

## INFORMATON TECHNOLOGY/GIS

IT/GIS Manager: Jim Russell

Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 133

The IT/GIS Department is responsible for the management of Town Computer Software-Hardware, Project Coordination for Technological Initiatives, Management of the GIS System and GIS Map Production. This department supports all departments - boards and commissions in the Town of North Stonington.

**Some of the projects completed in the 2021-2022 fiscal year were:**

- Moved all town historical documents to SharePoint for more accessibility for all town employees.
- Installed security cameras at Transfer Station.
- Upgraded audio and video capabilities at the North Stonington Education Center. Now have 10 fully working microphones for all larger meetings.
- Began the process of moving Land Use Permitting to be online through iWorQ (current permit software). Will be completed in early FY23.
- Upgraded all town PC's to Windows 11 for increased security.
- Moved Tax Collector to new office at town hall.
- Began process of looking into adding security cameras to the Rec area on Rocky Hollow Road.
- Began implementation of ESO fire software the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company. This will be fully completed in FY23.

**Upcoming projects or goals for FY23 are:**

- Finish Online permitting for Land Use.
- Upgrade several PC's around town buildings, including CES building.
- Finish adding security cameras to Recreation area.
- Upgrade camera system at town hall buildings.
- Upgrade Wi-Fi at Highway Garage for better coverage for employees.
- Continue work on making online forms fillable for better resident access.
- Work with EDC to create an online business directory for the EDC webpage.

**Expenditures:**

<b>Line Item Number</b>	<b>Line Item Name</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Actual Spent</b>
<b>B25.01</b>	Office Expenses	\$300.00	\$163.00
<b>B25.02</b>	Digitized Maintenance	\$33,800.00	\$29,996.79
<b>B25.03</b>	Professional Services	\$15,785.00	\$14,459.70

# PUBLIC WORKS

Highway Foreman: Donald Hill

Contact: 860 535-0924

Assistant Foreman: Alan Ladd

Contact: 860 535-0924

The Town of North Stonington covers fifty-five square miles with sixty-four miles of roadway to maintain. The Public Works Department also operates the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste Area located on Wintechog Hill Road.

Some of the projects the Highway Department performed this fiscal year:

- 13 Weather related events, from August 22, 2021 to February 25, 2022. (Tropical Storms Henri, IDA and 2 major snow storm events)
- Materials purchased this fiscal year Asphalt 144.88 tons, Loam 19 cubic yards, 223.90 yards processed gravel, 186.13 tons Stone, 248.29 tons road salt, 507.10 tons sand and 105 Bags of cold patch.
- The town produced 3585 tons of household garbage, transfer station collected 324.39 tons of recyclables, 3250 gallons of used oil, 465 tires, 10.16 tons of electronics, 88.14 tons of metal, 413 appliances, 1057 pounds of florescent light bulbs, 432 mattresses, 242 pieces of furniture, 4500 pounds of paint and 136 pounds of propane. Gross income was \$14,496.55.
- House hold hazardous waste day was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> with 406 citizens utilizing the event which include paper shredding.
- 119.00 man hours were utilized at the town halls property consisting of building repairs, building/grounds maintenance and weekly trash removal.
- 152.00 man hours were utilized at the Recreation department consisting of building repairs, building/grounds maintenance and weekly trash removal.
- 91.00 man hours were utilized at the Hewitt Property consisting of building repairs and maintenance, grounds maintenance.
- 153.50 man hours were utilized at the Wheeler school property consisting of removal and install of wood chips (new playground) and painting.
- 112.00 man hours were utilized at the Center for Emergency Services building consisting of building repairs, building/grounds maintenance and weekly trash removal.
- 211.00 man hours were utilized at the Senior Center building consisting of building repairs, building/grounds maintenance.
- 14.00 man hours were utilized at the Grange property for requested help covid prevented fair.
- 116.50 man hours were utilized at the 298 Norwich/Westerly Rd building consisting of building repairs, building/grounds maintenance.
- Responded to 15 emergency calls for aid to include icy roads, tree removal and roadway closure issues.
- 76 trees removed by 62 Highway department and 14 large trees by Asplundh tree service.
- The highway foreman responded to 11 calls for assistance. 6 from Connecticut State Police / Groton emergency dispatch, 5 call outs from Wheeler schools for icy parking lots, Road patrol during 13 weather events, attended 4 meeting after normal hours.
- Phase 3 of the milling and paving of the Kingswood/Meadowood and Cedar Development continued with Oak Dr, Hickory LN, Cedar Dr, Forest Dr, Cedar Crest Dr, Rhonda Ln and Kingswood Dr completed.
- Installation of 4 speed humps were complete on Main St.
- Upgrades were made to the highway garage with installation of the Generator from the school

building project, New pneumatic Oil, Hydraulic Oil and Grease applicators, New Truck ramps meeting OSHA requirements. Purchase of a new F-350 utility truck and sale of truck at auction.

The Department's routine annual projects include road sweeping, basin and waterway drainage cleaning, roadside mowing, placing, replacing signs, painting of stop-bars and center lines, cutting and trimming trees and brush, maintenance of many of the town's cemeteries and chipping brush at the Transfer Station.

The Public Works Department Garage is located at 11 Wyassup Road. The staff works routinely between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. If you need to contact us, please feel free to do so at (860) 535-0924 or email [highway@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:highway@northstoningtonct.gov).

The Transfer Station is located at 215 Wintechog Hill Road. The staff works routinely Tuesday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Wednesdays thru Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you need to contact the transfer station please feel free to do so at (860) 535-1048.

Transfer station is open to the public:

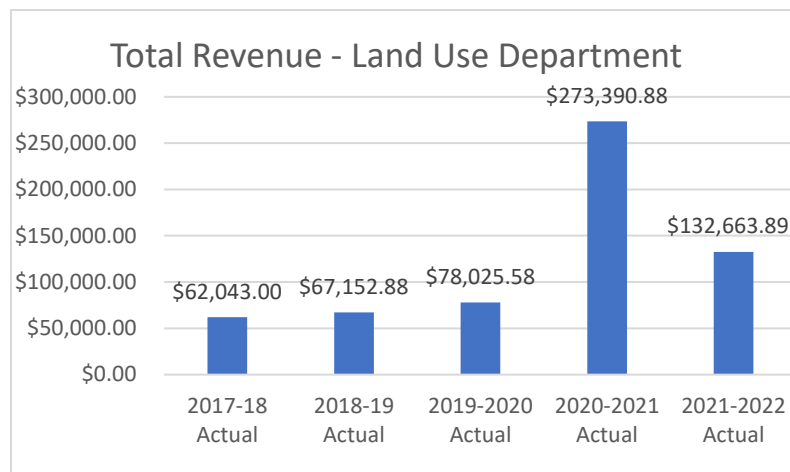
Wednesday, Friday 12:15 to 3:45

Thursday, Saturday 8:15 to 3:45

Budget #	PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET	Approved 2020 / 2021	Approved 2021 / 2022	Actual 2021 / 2022	Over / Under Budget
27.00	Local Capital Improvements	\$49,158.00	\$98,039.00	\$98,039.00	\$0.00
27.01	State Aided- Improved Town Roads	\$240,036.00	\$236,600.00	\$236,600.00	\$0.00
27.02	Town Road Maintenance	\$283,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$182,200.00	\$7,200.00
27.03	Town Garage Expense	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$15,688.24	\$6,811.76
27.04	Machinery / Maintenance & Repairs	\$68,000.00	\$68,000.00	\$59,481.90	\$8,518.10
27.05	Street Lights	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,610.00	\$4,390.00
27.06	Salary; Highway Foreman	\$78,603.00	\$80,175.00	\$80,405.56	\$230.56
27.08	Diesel & Gas (Gen Government)	\$52,250.00	\$52,250.00	\$74,902.48	\$22,652.48
27.09	Labor	\$530,099.00	\$538,786.75	\$484,833.61	\$53,953.14
27.081	Highway Overtime / Snow Removal	\$56,100.00	\$56,100.00	\$40,363.29	\$15,736.71
27.08	Highway Overtime / Other	\$7,650.00	\$7,650.00	\$8,578.39	\$928.39
27.09	Supplies	\$36,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$33,648.70	\$6,351.30
27.10	Town Property - Maintenance	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,354.25	\$2,145.75
27.11	Town Property Maintenance / Labor	\$17,160.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,759.97	\$6,240.03
27.12	Contractual Services / Highway	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$19,165.09	\$2,165.09
27.13	Hewitt Farm	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,849.49	\$2,150.51
27.14	Tree Maintenance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,654.86	\$9,345.14
27.15	Tree Warden Salary	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,317.35	\$182.65
<b>Highway Subtotal</b>		<b>\$1,503,556.00</b>	<b>\$1,448,100.75</b>	<b>\$1,365,452.18</b>	<b>\$82,648.57</b>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
	Storm Damage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Infrastructure Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TRANSFER STATION / BULKY WASTE</b>					
27.17	Transfer Station Labor	\$128,072.00	\$131,974.74	\$126,883.84	\$5,090.90
27.17A	Transfer Station Overtime	\$15,500.00	\$15,810.00	\$14,793.69	\$1,016.31
27.19	State Mandated Surveys	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,200.00	\$700.00
27.20	State License Fees	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,365.00	\$835.00
27.21	SCRRRA / Tipping Fee	\$189,000.00	\$209,000.00	\$194,449.38	\$14,550.62
27.22	SCRRRA / Recycling Fee	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
27.23	Hazardous Waste Collection	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$2,034.36	\$1,534.36
27.24	Water Sampling / Lab Testing	\$16,128.00	\$18,000.00	\$17,999.99	\$0.01
27.25	Transfer Station Expenses	\$11,200.00	\$11,200.00	\$9,253.01	\$1,946.99
27.26	Contractual Services	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$18,606.43	\$3,393.57
<b>Transfer Station Subtotal</b>		<b>\$390,600.00</b>	<b>\$414,684.74</b>	<b>\$389,585.70</b>	<b>\$25,099.04</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>\$1,894,156.00</b>	<b>\$1,862,785.49</b>	<b>\$1,755,037.88</b>	<b>\$107,747.61</b>

## LAND USE COMMISSION & DEPARTMENTS

Planning, Development & Zoning Official: Nathan Reichert	Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 127
Land Use Assistant: Cheryl Konsavitch	Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 126
Building Official: Tim Brennan	Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 118
Wetlands Enforcement Officer: Wayne Berardi	Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 126
Water & Sewer Consultant: Bill Warzecha	Contact: 860 535-2877 Ext 126



The Land Use Department staff manages the daily operations of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, the Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, The Conservation Commission, the Affordable Housing Committee, and the Water Pollution Control Authority. Much of the work that

is completed by the Land Use Boards and Commissions is done by individuals who volunteer their time and energy to the Town. Without the close coordination and commitment of the volunteer members of the Commissions, Committees and Authority North Stonington's land use initiatives, building and conservation efforts would be significantly negatively impacted. Further, the cost to taxpayers would be significantly impacted if staff is not supplemented by countless volunteers helping make the Town of North Stonington's operations work.

The Land Use staff manages the daily administrative operations of Building Code permitting and inspection, Zoning approvals and enforcement, Wetlands approvals and enforcement, as well as consulting with residents and developers on topics of development. Land Use operations are completed by the professional staff on a day-to-day basis. Demand has been rigorous for permits, and inspections. 2021-22 set a record for small permit processing and implementation narrowly edging out the 2020-21 record after removing the anomaly of several large solar permits. The 2021-22 permit volume represents a 70.03% increase from 2019-20 and a 7.5% increase from the record setting 2020-21 numbers. Permit revenue and tempo has continued at a record pace despite inflation and the Federal Reserve's attempts to slow the housing market with interest rate hikes. North Stonington's construction market continues to be strong.



2020-21 TOTAL BUILDING PERMIT REVENUE

\$123,405.62

\$149,985.26

	2020-21 Total Building Permit Revenue
■ 2020-21 General Permit Revenue	\$123,405.62
■ 2020-21 Large Solar Permit Revenue	\$149,985.26

2020-21 TOTAL BUILDING PERMIT REVENUE

\$132,663.89

	2020-21 Total Building Permit Revenue
■ 2021-2022 General Permit Revenue	\$132,663.89
■ 2021-22 Large Solar Permit Revenue	0

#### Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>A5.03</b>	Zoning Enforcement Officer	\$6,500.00	\$6,809.00
<b>A5.04</b>	Inland Wetlands	\$600.00	\$1,436.00
<b>A5.05</b>	Planning & Zoning	\$3,000.00	\$3,393.00

#### Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.00</b>	Attorney	\$12,500.00	\$8,258.89
<b>B34.01</b>	Office Expense	\$4,500.00	\$440.78
<b>B34.02</b>	Advertising	\$4,400.00	\$2,312.45

## PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Louis Steinbrecher, Chairman	Wayne Wilkinson, Vice Chairman
Priscilla Lewis, Secretary	Edward Learned, Member
Mark Leonard, Member	Robert Kappes, Member
Robert Mazzella, Member	

In FY 2021-2022 the PZC held 15 Regular Meetings. 8 Meetings were cancelled.

LAND USE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED		TOTAL
<b>PZC COMMISSION REVIEW</b>		
	Site Plans/Modification	<b>4</b>
	Subdivisions/ReSubdivision	<b>2</b>
	Special Permits	<b>2</b>
	Excavation Special Permits	<b>0</b>
	Regulation/Map Amendments	<b>2</b>
	8-24 Review	<b>0</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ZONING PERMITS</b>		
	Single Family/Duplex Residences	<b>15</b>
	Lot Line Adjustment	<b>2</b>
	Free Split	<b>2</b>
	Home Occupation	<b>2</b>
	Change Of Use/User	<b>1</b>
	Land Disturbance	<b>2</b>
	Accessory Use/Structure	<b>48</b>
	Sign	<b>1</b>
	Agriculture	<b>0</b>
	Wetlands	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL LAND USE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FY 2021-2022</b>		<b>88</b>

### The Planning and Zoning Commission :

The Planning and Zoning Commission had a steady, yet busy year. Meeting primarily on the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the month and canceling the second meeting was the standard operation procedure. The Commission met 15 times and canceled 8 times. Key applications and initiatives including:

1. An 8 lot 8-30g subdivision off Lake of Isles Road that started in June 2022.
2. Permitting the expansion of the North Stonington Bible Church
3. A Landing Strip
4. An Excavation Permit renewal
5. Finalizing a Winery plan amendment.
6. Discussing the implementation policy changes in response to Connecticut Legislative Changes in the Planning and Zoning enabling acts.
7. Passing Recreational Use Cannabis regulations.
8. Beginning the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.033</b>	Travel Expenses	\$400.00	\$0
<b>B34.034</b>	Contracted Consulting	\$2,500.00	\$875.00
<b>B34.035</b>	Membership Dues	\$300.00	\$509.00
<b>B34.036</b>	Training/Seminars	\$500.00	\$0

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Candy Palmer, Chairman	Shawn Murphy, Vice Chairman
Joan Kepler, Secretary	Mark Perkins, Jr, Member
Bruce Smith, Member	Amy Friend, Member
Dan Smith, Member	

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not hold a meeting from July 1st 2021 – June 30th 2022.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.06</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$100	\$0

## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Zoning enforcement had a light year. Given the rigor of the Planning and Zoning Applications taking priority for staff time Enforcement was handled on a complaint only basis. Often when a complaint was received a simple discussion with the party resolved the matter. No additional court cases were originated by the Town. Several older enforcement cases were resolved in the courts. Several lawsuits were filed against the Town attempting to overturn a Planning Board approval. The Cases were initially dismissed by the courts; however, the plaintiff has persisted with their appeals. Enforcement has been primarily informal with personal discussions leading to compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

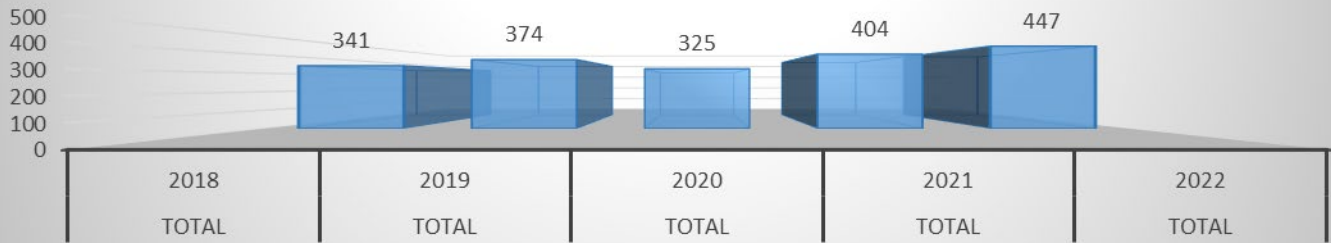
<b>Cases opened in FY 2021 - 2022</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Informally Resolved</b>	<b>15</b>
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## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Timothy Brennan continues to provide part-time hours. Inspection days have been shifted from Tuesday and Thursday evenings. To Monday and Wednesday evenings. The shift allows for greater operational flexibility as well as a more efficient approval process for permits.

2021-2022 was a record year for permits. Construction continues to be brisk. Operationally the permitting numbers were up due to jump in Mechanical permits. New LP heating conversions lead the way with HVAC equipment upgrades due to increasing energy prices due to electrical price increases and a massive spike in oil prices. Consequently, a record number of permits were issued along with a record amount of revenue being generated by standard permits. Large solar permits fell off year over year and the overall Building Permit Revenue number dropped off. Additional large solar permit work is moving towards approval in the next fiscal year.

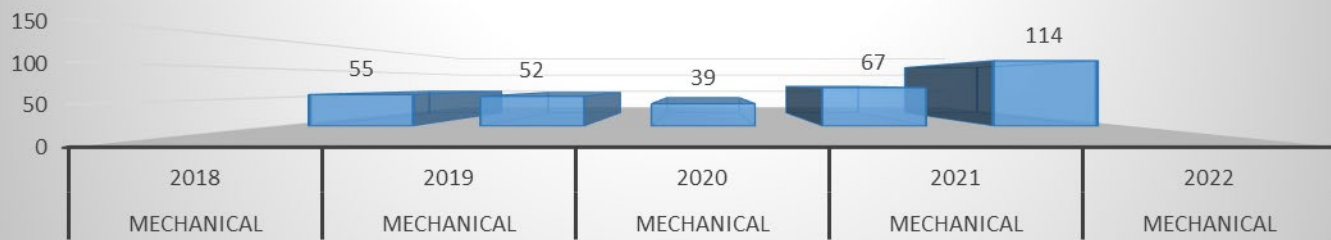
## Total Permits



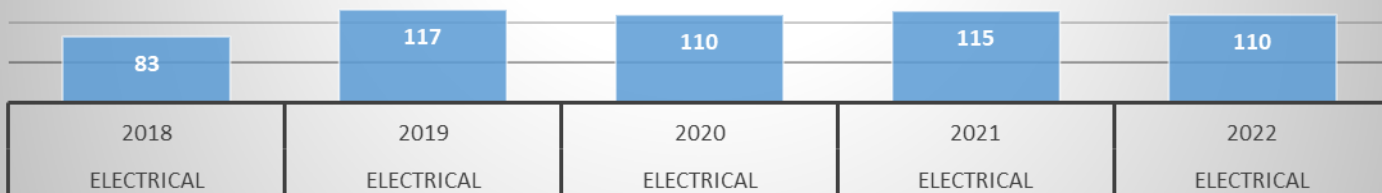
## Building Permits



## Mechanical Permits



## Electrical Permits



## Plumbing Permits



Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
A4.02	Building Official	\$85,000.00	\$119,885.89

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
B34.043	Membership Dues	\$1	\$0
B34.044	Training	\$50.00	\$0
B34.045	Travel Expenses	\$50.00	\$0
B34.046	Misc/Operating Expense	\$1,000.00	\$0

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Salvatore Cherenzia, IV, Chairman	Christopher Anderson, Vice Chairman
Emily Lewis, Secretary	William Mason, Treasurer
Jennifer Anderson, Member	Christopher Friday, Member
Stefan Grufstedt, Member	Mariah Pfiffner, Member

## Accomplishments and Initiatives for Economic Development Commission for FY22

- North Stonington Works program – Putting money in the hands of businesses that need employees but cannot offer hiring bonuses. This was done with the help of seCTer and funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. The program will end on December 31, 2022.
- North Stonington Covid-19 Small Business Assistance Program – This allows businesses to apply for money that they need due to additional cost incurred during the pandemic. We set up guidelines for businesses to follow that staff would review and present to EDC the ones that met all criteria. We were able to secure \$100,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act town fund to fund this initiative. The program will be ongoing until the funds are used or the EDC votes to end the program.
- Petitioned the Board of Finance to allow EDC to add another staff member to the team. This was approved and we were able to start the process earlier with additional funds that were not used for the fiscal year.
  - This additional staff, Ivana Hugo, has been integral in creating a new local business list for the Town of North Stonington, that will eventually be linked to the EDC web page and other social media platforms.

- She has also been in charge of the mailers for the two programs noted above.
- Plan to reboot the EDC website is in the very beginning phase
- Set up an all boards and commission gathering at Buon Appetito held on June 6, 2022. This was great event that was long overdue since the pandemic we have not been able to do this. We feel this is a great event for all boards and commissions to talk and go over the direction of the town, in hopes we can all be on the same page.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B15.00</b>	Operating Expenses	\$3,400.00	\$1,620.31
<b>B15.01</b>	CT Region Economic Development/Memberships	\$2,165.00	\$2,454.95
<b>B15.02</b>	Consulting/Economic Devel Coord	\$1,500.00	\$1,440.00

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

William Mason, Chairman	Denise Hawk, Secretary
Margaret Leonard, Member	Patrick Colgan, Member
Brian Rathbun, Member	Cheryl Haase, Member

This year we began identifying some of the town owned properties that might be suitable for affordable Housing projects.

We held an event to try and grow our Committee. It did not accomplish that goal, but we did receive some feedback from those who attended.

We grew our Committee to 5 active and attending members, and we got everyone using their town email accounts.

We decided to focus on helping people and not focus on state mandates for the amount of affordable Housing units.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.09</b>	Affordable Housing	\$500.00	\$277.87

## CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Bill Ricker, Chairman	Bob Degoursey, Vice Chair
Steve Colgan, Treasurer	Mike Charnetski
Doug Farrand	Jason Mancini
Arnie Vlieks	

**Maintenance:** The 5-hiking trails, Pocket Park and monitoring of some 27 open space and conservation easement (CE) properties is a time-consuming yearly responsibility.

**Major Initiatives:** Our Conservation Commission took the lead among three other neighboring towns in completing the “Lower Pawcatuck River Quad-Town Kayak/Canoe Trail”. Our Commission created, had published and distributed a color brochure of the trail and held a “Grand Opening” September 19<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 40 kayakers and bystanders participated. A \$1,000 grant was secured for expenses for its completion.

We have begun the process of creating a biking trail brochure. Recognizing the numerous bikers using our roads, and concerned about the number of unregistered motorbikes on our roads, we are working to identify biking loops for bikers to enjoy, complete with elevations, time factors, and degree of difficulty. We also want off-road motorized bikers to stay on accepted state Enduro trails. This will be a 2-year initiative to complete properly.

We are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of taking legal step to modify a court judgement encumbering the town to monitor a 35-acre CE twice yearly in perpetuity. The Conservation Commission and the landowners have worked well together these past 5 years and both parties believe these modifications are warranted.

As the 2023 Plan of Conservation & Development is fast approaching, and as the Conservation Commission has a major chapter, we have and will continue to work monthly on researching and updating our portion of that 10-year state required document.

**Education:** We developed, printed and sold-out our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Community Calendar: “Our Farms, Big and Small”. Nearly all expenses are returned to the town’s general fund.

We contribute articles summarizing our activities to The North Stonington Quarterly each season. We had coverage in both The Sun and The Day for our kayak trail opening and brochure. We continue to reproduce our four hiking trail brochures as the public asks for and makes use of the numerous municipal, private and state trails in town.

In conjunction with the Historical Society, we have used the “Historic Hiking Trail” brochure to lead Middle School & High School students through Main Street educating them on the historic aspects of their town.

We supported the Connecticut Forest & Parks’ sponsorship of CT Trails Day and introduced many hikers to Tri-town Preserve off Miller Rd. During a dual-state Wild & Scenic River Festival on June 26<sup>th</sup> we led another group of hikers through Hewitt Farm.

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
A5.06	Conservation Commission (Calendar Sales)	\$1,200	\$1,160

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
B34.08	Conservation Commission	\$2,050	\$2,391.86

## INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Mark Grigg, Chairman	Marvin Chase, Jr, Member
Ronald Lewis, Member	Kevin Geary, Member
Cody Bill, Member	Eric Offen, Member
Adam Vernott, Member	

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission held 9 Regular Meetings. They reviewed 8 applications.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.072</b>	Misc/Operating	\$0	\$305.80

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Bradford Currier, Chairman	Carl Johnston, Vice Chair
Robert Boissevain, Member	Ryan Mason, Member
Andrea Sadowski, Member	

In October of 2021, a part-time water and sewer analyst, Bill Warzecha, was hired to serve the WPCA. The main responsibility of the analyst is to, among other things, prepare an update to its Sewer Plan, which was last updated by the WPCA in 2013. A draft was completed in the spring of 2022 and will be finalized pending review and approval by town officials, land use commissions, and the WPCA. The WPCA has also amended in the spring of 2022 the WPCA regulations to allow consideration for a second sewer district in resort commercially zoned area. Once it is reviewed by Town counsel, it will be shared with town officials, town commissions, and the public before being finalized. A plan to conduct surface water testing in Town was developed in the early summer of 2022 and approved by the WPCA. It will help to determine if there are any impacts from failing septic systems or direct discharges of sewage to the Town's watercourses. The sampling plan coincides with sampling done for the WPCA in the 1970s. WPCA staff is also drafting documents for residents regarding the maintenance and operation of on-site sewage disposal systems to avoid costly repairs and proper operation and a guidance document outlining the process and application for an on-site, community well. Staff of the WPCA works on technical issues regarding land-use, drinking water and sewage disposal brought to him from Authority members, town planner and selectman.

Bill Warzecha, WPCA Water & Sewer Analyst

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B34.05</b>	Misc/Planning	\$500.00	\$0

## HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

Ed Harasimowitz, Chairman	Nita Kincaid, Treasurer
Deidre Tavares, Secretary	Tim Chokas, Member
Brian Banker, Member	Bob Dunn, Alternate



The Hewitt Farm with its open space continues to draw folks. The clean air and the many trails are very popular and we are glad to see visitors of all ages.

The Community Garden is in its 10th year of operation and continues to be successful.

Work is continuing on the John Dean Gallup house. The fence at the front entrance was in need of rebuilding. Several volunteers repaired and painted the fence sections and it has greatly enhanced the appearance of the house. New windows have been ordered and will arrive shortly. Installation will take place within the month and will improve the heating efficiency.

A tenant has been selected and is residing in the house.

The Hewitt Farm pavilion can now be scheduled through the Recreation Department on-line. There are reservation fees. Resident fee is \$30 and non-resident is \$40. Scheduling is in 4 hour booking increments.

The Hewitt Farm held its first ever series of Artisan Farm Markets. Starting in May and continuing into October there were 6 events on the green. It was a very enjoyable experience.

Theater at the Hewitt Farm-“The Last 5 Years” (musical) was performed in July at the Hewitt Farm Amphitheater. Some difficulties were encountered with power and sound but was enjoyed by all and was a success.

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>A5.15</b>	Property Rent Total	\$54,694.53	\$33,126.39
<b>5.153</b>	SCWA		\$6,201.39
<b>5.154</b>	Buon Appetito		\$26,424.00
<b>5.156</b>	Hayfield Agreement		\$501.00

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B27.13</b>	Hewitt Farm	\$5,000	\$1,594.03
<b>C3.35</b>	1750 Farm House	\$30,000	\$15,000

# HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Director: Gary Baron

Contact: 860 912-0004

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I participated in numerous active shooter and related lock-down exercises and fire drills conducted at North Stonington Schools. These included actual live drills that were attended by several area law enforcement agencies. I also provided guidance to various North Stonington Schools regarding personal and physical security issues.

I held several meetings with the new North Stonington School Superintendent and Principal regarding school security and the duties of the EMD.

I monitored and disseminated daily weather reports on social media and posted tropical and weather hurricane reports/warnings on the official North Stonington Town Website. I also posted storm mitigation measures on this website, as well as recommendations for all North Stonington residents to enroll in "CTAlert." I participated in "NO STO Fest" and enrolled residents in the "CTAlert program."

I activated the North Stonington Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during storms and power outages; I serve as the primary point of contact for all Eversource power loss issues for the North Stonington Municipality. I attend numerous meetings with Eversource representatives and its liaison officers to discuss various issues to improve upon.

I managed and directed a multi-state drill in the EOC regarding an ostensible major hurricane event for North Stonington. This drill was sponsored by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

I made adjustments and repairs to the EMD radio systems. I conducted live radio tests with Region 4 Headquarters on the EMD 8TAC and high band radios.

I requisitioned from DEMHS and distributed hundreds of rapid COVID test kits to residents (with the First Selectman and Resident CSP Trooper).

I submitted quarterly EMD reports to the "North Stonington Quarterly Report" concerning town weather and security information. These reports included hurricane/storm mitigation self-help efforts.

I participated in numerous zoom and webinar meetings related to emergency management.

I registered the North Stonington Agricultural Fair as a "mass gathering event" with DEMHS. I attended several meetings with the Fair committee regarding a potential electrical hazard.

I attended an annual meeting with the North Stonington First Selectman, where I received my annual swearing-in as EMD.

I was nominated by the North Stonington municipality and recognized by the Deputy Commissioner of DEMHS as the "Connecticut Emergency Manager of the Year" candidate award.

In summation, I expect that our weather will continue to become more unpredictable and more severe (by all reporting). I anticipate that the EMD budget material needs and necessities will also increase.

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>A3.29</b>	Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$5,000	\$5,000

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B26.05</b>	Civil Preparedness Stipend	\$7,074.74	\$7,074.74
<b>B26.06</b>	Civil Preparedness Operating	\$5,000	\$2,036.05

## NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Board Members:

Kathy Bond	Charles Steinhart V
Jason Tagg	Larry Chappell
Erik Caster	Greg Howell
Andrew Leary	Charles Steinhart IV
Nathan Browning	Jon Carner
Mike White	

Alternates:

Carolyn Howell	Phil Allen
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During the fiscal year 2021-2022 NSVFC responded to 435 calls. With that being said this is the highest call volume we have had in the history of NSVFC. The calls for service continue to climb and show no change in that trend. This while our members continue to meet all training requirements to provide the best level of service to town and surrounding communities.

NSVFC continues to provide supplemental medical responses to the town. This service ensures a medical response is always available even when our EMS crew is already on a call.

Per Diem Staffing has shown that the program ensures rapid response during the days with a reduction in response time. These firefighters have responded to many incidents that only 1 minute would have made a big difference. Like a structure fire they were able to stop and allow the owner to rebuild or the medical call when a child was having an allergic reaction. The firefighters were able to administer medication to stop the reaction and stabilize the child till the ambulance arrived. These firefighters are

critical to ensure the safety of all our residents. This is only two examples of the many calls these firefighters have made a difference in.

During this budget no large purchases were budgeted or made. This was due to the previous purchase of the new Tanker. The Tanker has been in service and has provided service to our town as well as many other towns around us.

With this budget closeout NSVFC will be returning the remaining funds not spent during the year. This year giveback to the Town will be \$15.38.

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B20.01</b>	VFC Insurance	28,840.00	28,957.76
<b>B20.07</b>	VFC Longevity Award	35,360.00	35,360.00
<b>B20.08</b>	VFC Activity Stipend	58,000.00	57,988.73
<b>B26.01</b>	NSVFC	139,800.00	139,795.89
<b>B26.14</b>	NSVFC Per Diem Staff	55,000.00	56,269.21
<b>C3.07</b>	VFC Turnout Gear	21,000.00	21,000.00

#### NORTH STONINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

James Tuttle, President	Charles Steinhart V, Vice President
Kyle Bergel, Captain	Logan Taylor, Administrator

#### Board of Trustees

Phil Allen	Jason Tagg
Stephen Sadowski	Thomas Marsh

North Stonington Ambulance Association(NSAA) currently has eight full-time and 17 per-diem employees providing 24-hour/7-day a week ambulance coverage to the Town. This staff is supplemented by nine volunteer members who also assist in filling administrative/board roles.

NSAA received 851 requests for service during the 2021-22 FY. This marks the largest call volume in the Association's history.

As with all EMS agencies, maintaining staffing was the largest area of difficulty for the Association. In the earlier half of the fiscal year, COVID remained an added obstacle to staffing. However, NSAA continued to provide coverage and hold community service events such as blood pressure clinics at the Senior Center, first-aid/EMS coverage for the North Stonington Agricultural Fair, and EMS standby coverage for other small events in town. Staffing issues had been addressed and we are now called upon frequently by surrounding towns as a reliable mutual aid partner.

NSAA has also had to manage with the reductions in reimbursement rates from Medicare/Medicaid as the costs of staffing, supplies, vehicles, and equipment have risen. Though our call volume and billing income have increased, this spiral of increasing operating expenses remains a challenge.

NSAA continues to work on projects such as; Heart Safe Community certification, Fall Risk Assessments for elder residents, and youth outreach. Despite the hardships, NSAA will continue to provide the prompt, professional service to the residents of the Town along with assisting our mutual aid partners in the area.

**Income:**

*101 Insurance: 210,785.60*

*102 Collections: 1,557.59*

*103 Interest: 9.73*

*201 Town Operating: 250,000.00*

**Expense:**

*500 Utilities: 1,585.68 571 Training: 800.00*

*511 Administration: 36,022.63 581 Personnel: 7,277.61*

*521 Facilities: 718.63 591 Vol. Appreciation: 236.44*

*531 Vehicles: 5,916.81 601 Payroll Expenses: 393,060.58*

*541 Communications: 1,691.48*

*551 Service Delivery: 10,341.55*

*561 Community Involvement: 1,571.68*

# HUMAN SERVICES

## RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Director: Tom Fabian

Contact: 860 535-2162

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### Commission Members:

Megan Perkins, Chairman	Emily Mastroianni, Secretary
Matthew Broneill, Member	LoriAnn Umphlett, Member
James Holdridge, Jr, Member	Heath Dugas, Member
Michael Stark, Member	

The North Stonington Recreation Commission normally holds regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Recreation building (Old Firehouse) located at #267 Norwich Westerly Road and the public is welcome to attend. The meetings begin at 6:15 pm and generally last for about two hours. The agendas and “meeting minutes” are posted with the Town Clerk.

The Recreation Commission makes every effort to offer multiple programs and activities for both adults and children of North Stonington as well as non-residents from the surrounding communities.

This fiscal year 2021 / 2022 reflected a transition from the Covid 19 Pandemic difficulties to an almost back to normal conditions. Many programs started to see an increase in participation which were down substantially the previous eighteen months during the height of the Pandemic.

There were approximately thirty-six (36) programs / activities offered via the recreation website throughout this fiscal year. Pre-Pandemic we would offer fifty-plus programs annually. The **2021 Summer Playground Camp** had another great year with the number of campers increasing once again under the direction and leadership of **Camp Director Lori Umphlett** and her staff.

The school buildings remained unavailable for recreational programs / activities per the School Superintendent (Peter Nero) until January 2022, which made it difficult to offer some programs. This was especially problematic with regard to holding practices for our many youth basketball teams. Luckily, the Grace Fellowship Church allowed our teams to hold weekly practices in their tiny gym which was much appreciated by the youth basketball coaches.

The Recreation Commission, once again, organized and / or participated in several events / activities this year. Members of the Rec Commission worked hard to create a Holiday Float that participated in three different Holiday Light parades in both North Stonington and Westerly. A photo of the Recreation Commission float even made the front page of the Westerly Sun. Other events included the annual *Halloween Egg Hunt*, *Meet & Greet Santa at the Rec*, three *Family Skate Nights* were well attended, and the *Easter Parade* in which Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny were escorted throughout the town by the Resident Troopers and the NSVFC.

This fiscal year was the seventh full year in which programs and activities were offered via our recreation website **[www.northstoningtonrec.com](http://www.northstoningtonrec.com)** and there were **510 credit card transactions** made in the total amount of **\$54,423**. In comparison, during the previous fiscal year 2020 / 2021 there were 394 credit card transactions in the amount of \$36,788 (note that the Coronavirus negatively impacted these figures). In the pre-pandemic fiscal year 2018 / 2019 there were 471 credit card transactions in the total amount of \$37,797. It should be noted that some participants still register for programs in the traditional way by completing a Registration / Medical form and attaching a personal check or cash,

however this was a much smaller percentage of the recreation transactions. This fiscal year (2021 / 2022) there were a total of **119 non-credit card transactions** (checks or cash) totaling **\$13,760** which gave the recreation department a **revenue total of \$68,183 for this fiscal year...**

For the fourth consecutive Spring, the soccer fields at the Rocky Hollow recreation area were aerated, over-seeded, and fertilized by **volunteer Wayne Coats**. Sutherland's Organic Solutions continues to do seasonal monthly treatments to the soccer fields in order to eradicate weeds and strengthen grass roots. For the second year in a row, one of the basketball hoops had to be replaced after the glass backboard was shattered by vandals in the Spring. It was replaced with a more durable acrylic backboard which is less likely to shatter per distributor.

The Recreation Commission would like to thank the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance, the Highway Public Works Department, the North Stonington Public Schools Staff and Administration, as well as the Town Hall employees for their continued support. Additionally, thank you to the citizens of North Stonington for participating in and supporting the recreation programs.

Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
<b>A4.01</b>	Recreation Commission	\$52,355	\$69,954.47

Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
<b>B16.01</b>	Program Expense	\$52,735	\$52,520
<b>B16.02</b>	Maintenance Expense	\$5,000	\$1,537
<b>B16.03</b>	Salaries- Camps & Officials	\$15,477.17	\$14,962.50
<b>B16.04</b>	Administrative Expenses	\$12,995	\$9,809.28
<b>B16.05</b>	Rec Center	\$10,230	\$10,166.39

## SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director & Agent for the Elderly:  
Teresa Pensis

Contact: 860 535-8188

Senior Center Hours Monday-Friday 9:30 am-2:00 pm and by appointment

### Activities:

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
<b>MONDAY</b>	1pm-2pm	Tai Chi (Free)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	10am-2:30pm	Quilting Class Full
	11:00am	Bread delivery
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Noon	Lunch is served at noon please call a week ahead for reservation (\$4.00)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	11:00am	Chair Yoga (Free)
	12:30pm	Quilting (Free)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9:30am-11:30am	Painting (\$5.00) per class

### Services Provided at or through the Senior Center

- Medicare/Medicaid and insurance counseling  
Medicare Savings Program may be filed any time during the year  
Open enrollment Nov. 15- Dec.7,2021 I helped 13 people.
- Dial A- Ride medical transportation service provided by ECTC  
Applications may be filed at the Senior Center or by mail. There is no cost for the program this year. There were 21 applications this past fiscal year.
- Social Security Sign up Part A and B I processed 2 this year.
- SNAP (food stamps) Three application filed this fiscal year.
- Heating applications through TVCCA. 49 were processed this year.

### Trips

- July 2021 Mama Mia at the Theater By The Sea
- August Lunch at Aunt Carrie's and a visit to the Coast Guard Lighthouse.
- October we went to visit The Witch House at Salem, MA and had a great lunch at Salem's Retreat LLC.

### Revenue:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Collected
A5.22	Senior Center	\$5,000	\$3,006.61

### Expenditures:

Line Item Number	Line Item Name	Budgeted Amount	Actual Spent
B29.01	Agent for the Elderly Expenses	\$400	\$0
B29.03	Senior Center Expenses	\$32,336	\$32,159.53



## EDUCATION



# Annual Report



## North Stonington Public Schools 2021-2022

### **Board of Education Members**

Christine Wagner – Chair  
Alex Karpinski – Vice Chair  
Jennifer Welborn – Secretary  
Stephanie Mastroianni  
Lisa Mazzella  
Philip Mendolia  
Jamie Towle-Weicksel  
Chet Stefanowicz

### **Administration**

#### ***Central Office***

Peter L. Nero – Superintendent  
Roberta McCarthy – Administrative Assistant  
Deborah Martin – Business Manager  
Suzanne Michaud – Bookkeeper  
Gregory Pont – Director of Technology/  
Security/MIS  
Guy Boucher – Director of Facilities

#### ***Wheeler Middle/High School***

Kristen St. Germain – Principal  
Allison Reyes – Associate Principal

#### ***North Stonington Elementary School***

Robert Cillino – Principal  
Sue Costa- Assistant Principal/Special Services  
Director

Prior to COVID-19, we are also pleased to report that North Stonington Elementary School, for the second time in five-years, received recognition by Governor Lamont as a **Connecticut School of Distinction** which ranks the school in the **top 10% of all elementary schools in Connecticut!**

### **Introduction**

This was our first normal, post-pandemic school year. We were pleased to offer students a full range of school experiences including catch-up opportunities. Our safe, family-like atmosphere continues in each school and “yes” our scores continue to impress as you will see in this report.

### **The Annual Report**

Notwithstanding the pandemic, over the last several years, there have been dramatic changes to public education on the state and federal level. The Board of Education (BOE) Annual Report also demonstrates the dedication of the district staff that is committed to academic excellence. With that stated the BOE and the school district administration want to thank the Town of North Stonington and its citizenry for its commitment to the education of its children.

In the spring of 2020, *U.S News and World Report* announced that Wheeler High School made their list of **Best High Schools in the United States**. There is a tremendous degree of difficulty for small high schools making the list which makes this achievement special.

We also would like to thank the North Stonington Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the North Stonington Education Foundation (NSEF) for donating their valuable time and energies to North Stonington Public Schools. In addition, the PTO and the NSEF continually raise and donate thousands of dollars annually to support a wide variety of

activities for students and staff as well as innovative programs normally not funded through the annual budget.

We believe that North Stonington Public Schools are safe, and student-centered, where teachers and students clearly want to be. Students are challenged by their teachers and their instructional methodology is diversified for all ability levels and learning styles.

The new state-of-the art middle/high school will serve our students and teachers well with our technological needs, which meet all Department of Administrative Services (DAS) “high performance standards,” a requirement for state approval and reimbursement for the modernization project.

Please keep in mind as you peruse through the Annual Report and our standardized test scores, while the results are excellent, they are just one of several indicators used to measure a child, teacher, or school’s performance. One only has to walk through the corridors of any one of our schools to sense the warm and nurturing environment that exists and the wonderful relationships between our students, teachers and administrators to realize the high level of education taking place.

In an effort to provide all our students with every opportunity to achieve success in the CSS, the budgets developed over the last eight-years have included funding for the necessary resources. Some of the resources have included, but were not limited to, new up-to-date printed/text materials, computer hardware and software and online programs. Personnel have been added as well to include specialists in math and literacy in 2013-2014 and again in 2015-2016. The specialists teach in our elementary and middle/high school. The positions have provided individual, intensive instruction to those students identified with particular needs. They also provide small group and whole-classroom instruction which is beneficial to all our students. Most importantly, our specialists, through ongoing PD, provide model lessons as they work with teachers and students in the classrooms.

### **Technology in the Classrooms & School Security**

In order to provide and ensure safe internet access and use by students and staff, the BOE, under the direction of the Director of Technology, developed a

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) to school policy. The BYOD policy provides regulations and guidelines for all to follow.

All of our exterior doors are magnetically locked. All faculty and staff have security badges with key fobs. When the fob is scanned at the point of entry, the door will unlock for the staff member to enter the building; after entry, the door will relock. Visitors to school, once identified via a video system, are buzzed into the building.

A new video surveillance software and camera system was installed as part of the middle/high school and elementary projects.

All our buildings’ main offices have the Raptor Visitor Management System®. The Raptor system allows for the main office staff to scan any visitor license/ID prior to the visitor attending meetings. The Raptor system scans IDs and matches the person to a *National Sex Offender Database*. It also determines if the visitor has been involved in any criminal activity that may warrant non-entry into our schools. The Raptor database system is updated weekly. All the new security measures along with the Volunteer Policy passed by the BOE have helped to make our schools significantly safer.

Finally, the district purchased a one-to-one Chromebook program for all students in grades 9-12, 430 altogether. In addition, through a state grant, we received an additional 308 Chromebooks. Our one-to-one program was extended throughout the entire middle/high school. The remainder of the Chromebooks are being utilized on mobile carts throughout the elementary school.

### **NEASC Accreditation**

Wheeler remains fully accredited by NEASC as a result of an accreditation visit in 2014. Wheeler is presently preparing for its next evaluation cycle, scheduled to start in 2024 with a collaborative conference and then a decennial visit in 2026.

## **Mandated Standardized State Testing**

### **North Stonington Elementary School**

The CT State Department of Education has mandated the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test for both English Language Arts and Math. Beginning in 2019 the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment was administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.

The Smarter Balanced assessments measure student progress based on the CT Core Standards, or learning expectations, for Grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The scores are used as a ruler to measure the skills acquired throughout the school year. It provides information about achievement in the current grade and growth from year to year. More importantly, the results on the SBAC guides our efforts to improve instruction and learning for our students.

Due to the COVID Pandemic, state testing was suspended for the 2019-2020 school year. Testing resumed in the 2020-2021 school year. However, those testing results were not reported out on the state level. Throughout the state there were many different variations of learning models implemented for varied amounts of time. Some districts remained Hybrid for the entire year while others went back full-in, but none at the same time. For these reasons, it isn't possible to get an accurate comparison between districts as we have done in the past.

Below are the achievement scores for grades three through five for the past two years before COVID, and in 2021 on the SBAC:

### **SBAC Percentage of Students (rounded) in Grades 3 – 5 at goal or above**

Grade	ELA 2018	ELA 2019	ELA 2021		Math 2018	Math 2019	Math 2021
	% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above		% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above
3	79	79	53		93	89	76
4	77	82	78		88	88	81
5	84	82	68		81	89	54

## **Next Generation Science Standards**

**Assessments aligned to the Next** Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were administered to students in Connecticut at Grades 5, 8 and 11 starting in the spring of 2019. The tests assessed students' understanding of the NGSS standards and application of concepts taught.

### **Grade 5: 2019 and 2021 Performance on NGSS Summative Science Test**

Grade 5	% (rounded) at goal or above
2019	79
2021	62

### **Wheeler Middle/High School**

The SBAC test is used to measure student progress based on the Connecticut Core Standards for Grades 7-8 in ELA and Math. The Next Generation Science Assessment is given to all students in Grades 8 and 11 to measure student progress on the Next Generation Science Standards. The scores are used to measure skills acquired throughout the school year. Most importantly, results on the SBAC and NGSS assessment provide our schools and educators the direction to improve instruction and learning for our students.

SAT School Day allows our school to offer the SAT to all juniors, on a weekday, expanding access to a globally recognized college admission test that's accepted at all U.S. colleges.

Listed are the achievement scores for previous years (2019 and 2021). There was no standardized testing given in 2020 and we have not included the data for last year due to COVID.

### **SBAC Percentage (rounded) of Students At/Above Goal**

Grade	ELA 2019	ELA 2021	MATH 2019	MATH 2021
	% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above
7	85	77	64	71
8	79	77	66	56

Currently, our Wheeler Middle School students are outperforming most of the ECC schools in ELA and Math. In all areas and in all grades, we are well-



above the State averages and we continue to show significant growth each year in English and Math. Much of this success comes from a strong SRBI program as well as the implementation of Literacy and Numeracy interventionists.

#### NGSS Percentage (rounded) of Students At/Above Goal

Grade	NGSS 2019	NGSS 2021
	% goal or above	% goal or above
8	82	87*
11	80	75

\*highest in the state

**In 2019, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students scored fifth in the State of Connecticut and our 11<sup>th</sup> grade class also scored much higher than all other high schools in the ECC Conference as well as within our DRG. In 2021, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students scored first in the State of Connecticut.**

#### Percentage (rounded) of Students Meeting or Exceeding Goal SAT – Spring- 2019, 2021

Grade	SAT ELA 2019	SAT ELA 2021	SAT Math 2019	SAT Math 2021
	% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above	% goal or above
11	80	86	66	52

Our SAT success is largely due to the fact that our high school staff is committed to using Khan Academy as part of their work within their disciplines. Wheeler utilizes this free resource to give students multiple opportunities to work on their PSAT/SAT growth during their entire 9-12 experience.

Wheeler also offers the PSAT test in the fall each year to all 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders to help prepare them for the SAT test. Wheeler uses these PSAT scores to help guide instruction and provide ELA and math support where needed.

***Wheeler continues to offer Advanced Placement (AP)/Early College Experience (ECE) courses. Wheeler still offers classes in AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP/ECE English, AP Comp, AP Psych, AP Biology, AP World History, AP Government***

***and Politics as well as other student-selected AP classes through the Virtual High School, BYU online and Keystone Academy.***

31 students took the AP exams last year. 46 total exams were taken in all and 65% of those exams taken earned college credit.

#### Special Education

(State Special Education data is reported one year in arrears.)

The District Profile and Performance Report for school year 2019-20 indicates a prevalence rate of 10.4% which is below the State prevalence rate of 15.6%. There is a balance between the number of students identified for special education each year and the number of students exited from services. The SRBI model continues to provide appropriate interventions that enable students to meet grade level standards and reduce the number of referrals to special education.

The Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan (SSP) for school year 2019-20 indicates that North Stonington meets the State target requirements for the following SSP indicators:

- *Increase placement and time with nondisabled peers (TWNDP).*
- *84.21% of our special education students are in the general education setting 80-100% of the time which is significantly above the State target of 68.2%.*
- *0.00% special education students are in separate schools, residential or other settings (State target: 8.3%).*
- *Increase time in early childhood educational environments.*
- *100% of special education students are in regular early childhood placements 80%-100% of the time which is above the State target of 78%. No students are in segregated placements.*
- *Transition: IEPs by Age 3.*
- *100% compliance met for identifying students and implementing IEPs by age 3.*
- *Determine Eligibility in Accordance with State Established Timelines.*
- *100% compliance met for determining students' eligibility for special education within required timelines.*

## **North Stonington Elementary School**

### **Accomplishments**

The North Stonington Elementary School Mission:

*In a partnership with family, school, and community our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel as lifelong learners and to reach their highest potential as they aspire to become responsible, respectful, and honest members of society.*

- All instruction at North Stonington Elementary School is aligned with the CT Core Standards (CCS). Instructional shifts continue to be made for both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math with enhancement of instructional strategies.



- Instruction at the elementary school continually meets the needs of our students with high quality planning, instruction, and assessment in all academic areas to ensure students are learning at their appropriate level as well as developing emotional and social skills.

- Programs in reading and math strive to meet the needs of every child. All grade levels implemented the Daily Five program which supports small group instruction and encourages independence in learning.

- The use of Renaissance Learning STAR Benchmark assessments was implemented to analyze student progress and provide instruction to meet each child's specific needs.

- The Student Assistance Team (SAT) process utilizes the state mandated Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) model to provide teachers and students with support at the first indication of difficulties academically or behaviorally. Regular education and special education staff worked together to better support instruction, modification of expectations, and student learning.

- The after-school Homework Club provides additional support, especially in the math and language arts areas for students in grades 3, 4, and 5, and teaches study skills to all students. This program was suspended due to COVID for this year.

- A bi-monthly newsletter was published and distributed to families to support communication between home and school.

- The NSPTO continues to sponsor cultural programs for our students as well as the Artist in

Residence program, two book fairs, support for field trips, teachers' grants and much more.

North Stonington Elementary School students and staff are enormously grateful to the parents, guardians, grandparents, the NSPTO, the NSEF, and all community members who continue to volunteer in the classrooms and support our school.

### **Wheeler Middle/High School Accomplishments**

- Wheeler started the school year with a hybrid model, seeing half of our population each day in person while the others were online and streaming into their classrooms.

- In February, all students returned to school for in person learning.

- Wheeler provided a weekly support team to monitor students struggling due to the pandemic. This team consisted of teachers, guidance staff and administration.

- Wheeler administration created a modified block schedule to better support students during the pandemic.

- Wheeler administration created "Support Day Wednesday," to better identify and support students needing in person learning. Wheeler para professionals came in on those days to support identified students struggling each week.

- Wheeler continues to provide programs for our students on the dangers of substance abuse as well as internet safety presentations. Every three years, all grade 7-11 students participate in the Southeastern Regional Action Council survey about drugs, alcohol and other mental health issues. Results from this valuable survey continue to be shared with our staff and community. Our last survey in 2019 continues to allow us to support our students' health, social and emotional well-being. Our next survey will be in 2022.

- Our Counseling Department continued the tradition of preparing students for the various experiences at and beyond Wheeler, such as: transition activities for the parents and students moving from Grade 6 to Grade 7, and from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Due to the pandemic, these programs were run virtually. Financial aid evenings are also held to help educate our parents and students about paying for college in a difficult economic climate. The last three years, our counselors have been getting our students and staff acclimated to Naviance. Counselors and continued to support students virtually on college applications and Common App.

- The Wheeler school counselors and support services personnel offer classes to help support our middle school and high school students in areas such as study skills. They also teach developmental guidance lessons in our middle school classrooms as well as work with juniors and seniors to help them navigate Common

App and other important initiatives such as their SSPs. Last year these SSPs moved to Naviance so they are all online and accessible between home and school.

- Wheeler's Peer Mentoring Program matches high school students with younger students in grades 3-8, with the purpose of helping with school work and serving as role models. Some of the mentors work individually with students; others volunteer in a whole classroom, and others do both. The selection process for a student to become a mentor includes an application, recommendations, and an interview with members of the counseling department. Once selected, mentors are trained by the counseling department with training sessions, focusing on mentoring skills and responsibilities. After successfully completing the training, the mentor/tutor will be matched with a student and weekly meetings will begin. These meetings will take place during lunch, study hall, or after school throughout the remainder of the year. Families of students in grades 3-8 who wish to have their children matched with a mentor provide permission to the social worker at the elementary school or the counseling department at the middle school.

- The PRIDE PROGRAM (PBIS) continues at the middle school level and receives positive responses from students, faculty and families. Each quarter students are earning PRIDE points and shouts-outs that they receive from their grades or their adherence to our social/civic expectations. Through this program, students have numerous opportunities to earn their way into our end-of-the-year celebratory event. Changes were made to move away from quarterly celebrations so that more students have the opportunity to find success even when they fall down on occasion. Each week on our morning news program, students can be recognized for SHOUT OUTS from their teachers for modeling our social/civic expectations.

- Our School Counseling Department hosted another Alumni visit for all Wheeler High School students. Over 25 alumni returned for this presentation that was created to share information about the college application process as well as to answer questions about life after high school.

- Parents, students and teachers are offered the opportunity to complete a variety of surveys that provide feedback to help us improve our practices at Wheeler. In years past we have used these surveys to make changes within our school handbook as well as within the structure of our school day. Along with the climate questions we ask, we also surveyed parents and students on potential pathway opportunities that were brought to Wheeler. Those pathways chosen were business and engineering. Our survey in the Spring of 2021 focused also on virtual learning and streaming.

- As part of our continued health awareness, the Wheeler Food Committee, made up of students, health teacher, superintendent, business manager, and the food service provider, Aramark, met four times per year to discuss the nutrition and food choices that Aramark provides. Since the committee has formed, the food has improved by having fresh fruits and veggies instead of canned. They have looked at farm-to-table for some of these veggies and fruits from local farms. Through this committee, some menu items were eliminated because students explained that they were not popular items because of the food choices. The students wanted more options, so a Panini maker was added and served twice a week as well as a build-your-own sandwich bar, twice a month. Salads are also now available every day.

- CPR/First-Aid/AED training was given to all 9th and 11th grade students through their health classes. These students go through the training to learn the basic skills to be able to help someone in need. Wheeler staff members continue to provide this training to coaches within our Wheeler community on a yearly basis.

- Last year our staff worked hard to align classroom assessments to our school-wide academic expectations. This work was done to support our new academic expectation assessments scheduled for January 2022 and Spring of 2022.

- New courses continue to be developed to better meet the needs of all of the students, many of which centered on the UCONN/ECE program which allowed Wheeler students the opportunity to earn transferable college credit. We now have year-long Agri-Science 1 and 2 classes, as well as an AP Psychology class. At the middle school level we have added a coding and library media class. We are currently looking to add more elective opportunities at Wheeler as we have aligned our graduation requirements to better fit the 21st Century Learning Expectations that the State has recommended.

- 31 students took the AP exams last year. 46 total exams were taken in all and 65% of those exams taken earned college credit.

- All juniors and seniors who wanted to take the SAT were still afforded the opportunity to do so during the pandemic and our hybrid model.

- All students in grades 6-8 took the SBAC test in reading and math and all juniors took the NGSS assessment although scores are not being reported due to the pandemic. As a district, we continue to support our students in the areas of ELA and Math in our SRBI and tiered interventions and will also use our in-house assessments to continue to monitor for gaps in their learning due to the pandemic.

- In regards to analyzing our performance, we have created various data teams that consist of administration, guidance and faculty and staff. This team analyzes the variety of data points we use, including SBAC, AP, ECE,

SAT, PSAT and Performance Series, to assess our students' growth which allows us to use the data to make informative changes to our instruction and curriculum.

- Many students received CIAC-CAS awards. Two middle school students were honored at the Aqua Turf in Southington as Scholar Leaders, and two high school students were honored as Scholar Athletes. We also sent one student to compete in the Governor's Scholar program.

- We continue to fill all of our VHS (Virtual High School) seats each year. This year we have also had students taking online courses in BYU Online as well as Keystone Academy. These opportunities continue to allow our students to take courses that we are unable to offer due to scheduling conflicts that arise. Last year's courses included AP Music Theory, AP Physics, AP Psychology, Honors Anatomy and Physiology, French, Honors Philosophy, Kindergarten Apprentice Teacher, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Number Theory and many others.

- Our math department continues to bring diverse math offerings at Wheeler to better align to the CT Core Standards. Freshmen now start with Geometry and move into Algebra I, II and then Precalculus and Calculus. Middle School students can also earn high school credit by taking Geometry as 8th graders. The schedule is aligned so students can travel up a level in math each day so all of our students now have opportunities to participate in accelerated math courses each day. In addition to these changes, the middle school program is now fully aligned to the core and offers an online component of their math program. We continue to provide advanced opportunities for our middle school students to give them opportunities to get on the advanced track whenever possible.

- The Middle School continues to offer a solid SRBI program to incorporate interventions to students in need. Every day there is an SRBI period where students can receive interventions in math and reading as well as enrichment opportunities that reinforce literacy and numeracy skills. Students in interventions are monitored to show gains and losses in math and reading each year. At the high school level, we have also added academic support classes in ELA and Math to better support students continuing to need support in high school.

- The MS continues to use an SRBI calendar that schedules intervention sessions to better allow staff members to share students that might need interventions in both areas of reading and math. This calendar allows more effective scheduling to take place with our staff members and interventionists.

- Our Middle School "at-risk" population is provided with opportunities to make up or finish work that they did not complete each quarter through our Middle School Academy program. This is a way for our staff members to truly hold students accountable who are

capable but making poor decisions in regard to class or homework. Academy takes place every SRBI session as well as during our midterm and final exam weeks at Wheeler. Last year due to the pandemic we also created a MS summer school program to better support students impacted by the pandemic.

- Our Student Study Center (SSC) is now staffed full time with a Wheeler faculty member and a paraprofessional. This faculty member is available to assist high school students who need extra help or organizational help during their school day. Students can now be scheduled into this option during the year as a supervised study hall. Those students scheduled in can receive a .5 credit if they stay there all year.

- Wheeler uses a full-time math position to serve as the middle school math interventionist/coach as well as teach one high school math section. This teacher works with Tier 3 middle school students two periods a day, pushes into three middle school math classes as a math coach, and teaches one section of high school geometry. As the middle school math program transitioned to a new program and model this year, the position has transitioned from strictly math interventionist to both interventionist and coach to support all three middle school math teachers as much as possible.

- Many out-of-the-classroom opportunities were planned which met the various educational needs of the students and provided experiences that the students may not normally have been able to experience within the walls of their classroom. For example, high school biology students received a tour of the Whole Foods Production Company. Middle School students traveled to the Waterford Country School for the Ropes Course Challenge, Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA, the Human Body Exhibit in Providence, RI, and the Connecticut River Museum. 8th graders took a historical tour of Boston and high school AP Literature Students took a tour of UCONN to use their library database. We also sent high school females to the Women in Science program at Pfizer as well as other tech events that promote technology education. Many teachers attended virtual conferences, such as NEASC to support students in the pandemic, PERFORMANCE MATTERS, SEL and numerous conferences still held virtually around the state. Teachers continue to use professional development to bring back new ideas and activities to share with their students and other department members.

- Students in both the Middle and High School participate in an Advisory program virtually and in person where they are able to connect with faculty members. Through their advisory program they also participate in numerous charitable opportunities where they are giving back to their communities and practicing our Social/Civic Expectations: Respect, Responsibility and Resiliency.



- Our Wheeler GIVE BACK TEAM took a group of five-Wheeler students to Texas to help victims recover from the hurricane devastation that took place there. These same students made multiple presentations to the public on what they did, as well as raised money to cover the expenses of their trip. Our Senior Project continues to match up high school seniors with members of the North Stonington and neighboring communities. This capstone project allows students to practice and fine tune their 21st century presentation skills, as each senior presents on a chosen topic of interest. Last year we had students' study on college campus laboratories, compete in a national horse show, rebuild a truck and tractor, compose music for a theater production and a variety of real-life hands-on experiences that allow them to explore and fine tune their personal interests. The program at Wheeler is often visited by other school districts for the exemplary programs in place.

- The Wheeler debate team competed in the Great Debate, a state-wide competition and placed for the third year in a row. They continue to expand their competition platform and compete against schools in the ECC to prepare for this important competition.

- Wheeler students participated in the Apprentice Challenge and competed against neighboring schools to create a business plan for a local business. Wheeler High School business students have won the championship for three consecutive years. This and the Money Madness trip allow our students to practice their personal finance skills as well as their business skills on a real-world platform. We had another successful summer reading program last year. We read the book, "Inkling," by Kenneth Oppel. We celebrated our summer readers by hosting a breakfast for them in September. Wheeler Middle School students were also afforded the opportunity to SKYPE with the author.

- Our Middle School and High School literacy coaches hold book clubs for students in grades 7-12. These book clubs are voluntary and students meet during their lunch waves to participate.

- Wheeler still participates in the Perkins program and has received a variety of technology to supplement and increase participation in our CTE programs. Grant money was used to purchase new computers to better support our engineering programs.

- Wheeler students and faculty donated food, canned goods, etc. to our in-house food bank to be donated to local families for the holiday seasons. They continue to donate holiday baskets as well as gift cards to local supermarkets.

- Our High School Band and Chorus participate in several events, with performances at The Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, the annual North Stonington Tree Lighting, the North Stonington Festival and the Wheeler

Arts Symposium. Students from grades 9-12 marched in the annual North Stonington Memorial Day Parade.

- Last year our Wheeler Drama department and our Wheeler band combined for their performances of Rumors. Over 70 students from our middle school and high school were involved in these performances. Two students were nominated for accomplishments in the areas of Art and Music and were honored at the AquaTurf in Southington, sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. The High School Concert Band and Choir provided some of the ceremony music for senior graduation along with about 20-Wheeler alumni in the annual alumni band. Our band and chorus concerts, as well as art shows, were huge successes and were very impressive for both their quality and for the high number of students participating.

- Last year, some of our middle school students were accepted into the Eastern Region Music Festival, a regional honors festival where top students from the region performed advanced repertoire under renowned conductors.

- Wheeler High School students were accepted into the Eastern Region Music Festival, a regional honors festival where top students from the region performed advanced repertoire under renowned conductors at the UConn music facility. Students went on to audition at the all-state level.

- The Music Boosters awarded a college scholarship to a student who has gone on to major in music. They also sponsored a Talent Show that showcased diverse talents from our students in grades 7-12.

- The Wheeler Music Program earned gold medals across the board for its performances at the Great East Festival in May of 2019. Each year, the 7th/8th Band & Chorus and the HS Band & Chorus prepare a program for adjudication. They receive scores, comments, and a brief clinic from judges. All four Wheeler ensembles were awarded gold medals.

- The Wheeler band and chorus performed at the North Stonington Tree Lighting and the Wheeler Band performed at NoSto Fest and Memorial Day Parade.

- Many of our art students participated in a virtual art show last year and we also added an AP Art program and a National Art Honor Society program at Wheeler.

- Although the pandemic drastically impacted sports, Wheeler was able to host all three sports seasons with modifications from our local health district.

- Wheeler purchased cameras to live stream our basketball games during the pandemic. We also used the cameras to broadcast our awards nights in the spring.

- Wheeler athletics continue to take part in the Class Act School program sponsored by CIAC. The CIAC's Class Act Schools initiative is designed to empower schools and particularly students to take

ownership for all issues related to sportsmanship within the athletics department.

- Our club offerings continue to expand and include opportunities for students to participate three times a month during the school day in the following clubs: Farm and Garden Club, American Sign Language, Give Back Club, Film Club, International Club, Book Club, Scrapbooking Club, Photography, National Honor Society, Unified Sports, Drama Club, WBC News, Student Government, Math Team, Science Bowl and a variety of other offerings.

- In the Agri-Science I & II class students have explored a variety of agricultural topics and concepts, including: plant morphology, landscape design, sustainability practices / challenges, the aquaculture industry, and macro/micro nutrient cycling. Students have been busy at work applying the topics towards a cumulative aquaponics lab experience.

- Wheeler continues to forge a relationship with the Westerly Education Center that now allows our high school students to participate in training that will allow them an opportunity to work at Electric Boat in the future. This training is in the area of sheet metal and will also be offered to seniors next year during the school year for partial credit. Wheeler students may also enroll in art courses that run at the Westerly Education Center on weekends.

- Wheeler High School's Student Government continues to focus on involvement in the Wheeler and North Stonington communities. The group organizes voter registration events at the school where people ages

17+ can register to vote. Students work as volunteers at the North Stonington polls and also continue to organize a yearly school-wide spirit week that includes days to support Relay for Life (a purple-out) and honor Memorial Day (red, white and blue day).

- Wheeler administration sponsors a "Why Wheeler" program, targeted at 8th grade students with the idea that it might keep more 8th graders in house at Wheeler in the future as opposed to going to other schools of choice. They also open this program up to students in Voluntown and Preston who now can select Wheeler as a School of Choice for their high school experience.

- Wheeler's Annual Give Back Day continues to provide support to our local and surrounding communities. Students host a holiday collection of items that are donated to the local food bank as well as to the Joshua Center and other local organizations.

- NHS students continued to provide meaningful services to our community, by creating local video segments to promote businesses. Proceeds from raffles also support our school wide streaming initiative.

### **In Summary:**

We can sum-up the 2021-2022 school year for our students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators and our Board of Education in one word: resiliency!

**STAFF PROFILE 2021-2022 (October 1, 2020 Data)**

POSITION	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL (1)	CENTRAL OFFICE	TOTALS
Certified Staff Members	41.6	42.94		84.54
Student Support Services (1)	0.8	0.2		1
Administrators	1	1.9	2	4.9
Business Manager			1	1
Network Administrator & Technician			2	2
Administrative Support/Secretaries	1	2.8	3	6.8
Nurses	1	1		2
Health Aide	0.5	0.5		1
Paraprofessionals/ Assistants (3)	15.96	5		20.96
Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds	3.5	4.5	1.75	9.75
Total				133.95

1. Occupational Therapist

2. The numbers include full-time  
and part-time assistants.

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2021-2022**

SCHOOL	Pre- K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Elementary School	39	56	50	58	53	57	60	66							439
High School (2)									62	51	67	44	54	50	328
Out-of-District															0
TOTALS	39	56	50	58	53	57	60	66	62	51	67	44	54	50	767

1. Based on October 1, 2021, enrollment data

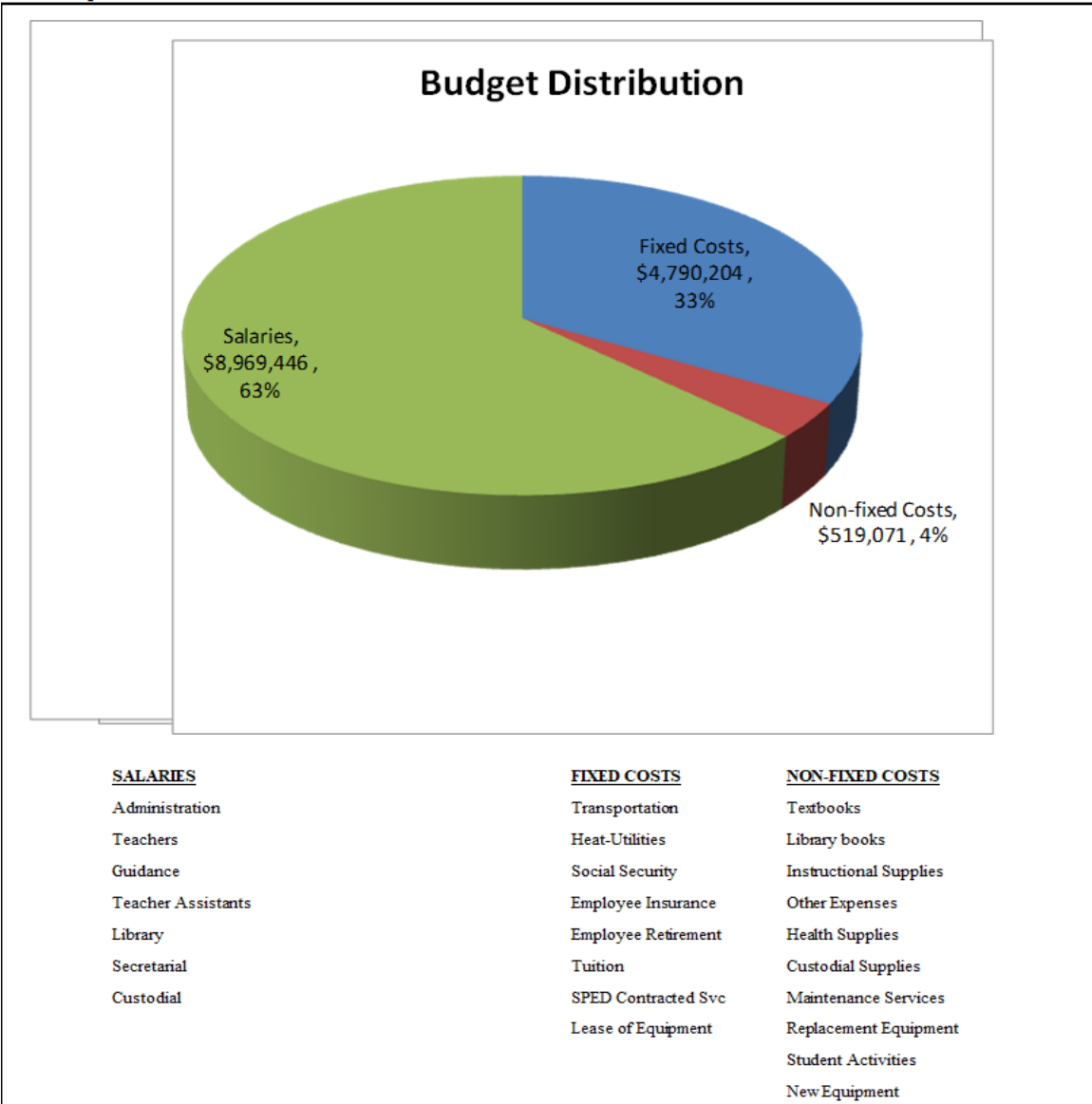
## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

The total Board of Education (non-grant) expenditures for the 2021-2022 school year were **\$13,909,863**.

These funds were allocated across three categories as follows:

<b>Salaries:</b>	<b>\$8,828,853</b>				
<b>Fixed Costs:</b>	<b>\$4,486,699</b>				
<b>Non-Fixed Costs:</b>	<b>\$594,310</b>				

The approved 2019-2020 budget was **\$14,278,721** leaving an unexpended balance of **\$368,858**. \$285,575 will be held in a non-lap:



Fixed Costs		\$4,790,204		
Non-fixed Costs		\$519,071		
Salaries		\$8,969,446		
		<b>\$14,278,721</b>		