ACCOUNTING: Submitted by Joan Paquette
The accounting department imported and posted six payrolls during the month of February. Nine hundred and nine bills were paid on the biweekly warrants dated February 1st and 15th. February revenue printouts were verified to the turnover sheets and posted to the general ledger accounts.

A new mileage form was formatted by the assistant to the accountant and emailed to all departments for use. The information can now be entered directly into the form which will calculate the reimbursement to the employee. This will save time for the department and the accounting office when checking the bill for payment. The form is more professional and easier to use.

The fire department special detail and grant accounts were reconciled between the general ledger and fire department records during the month of February.

Much time was spent on reconciling the unbilled sewer and septic loan betterments. This is a manual account of subsequent years’ billings that should agree with the report issued by the assessors in MUNIS. The unbilled sewer connection fees are in balance. The betterments are off small amounts. The assessor’s office is working with the accountant to bring these into balance.

Assisted the Town Administrator in determining any supplemental budget appropriations that might be needed under article three of the annual town meeting April 2, 2011.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER /ANIMAL SHELTER REPORT: Submitted by Debra Mueller
Calls received: 102

6--Dogs were picked up or impounded
   3-Dogs returned to their owners
   1-Dogs adopted out to new homes
   2-Dogs transferred (MSPCA, Animal Hosp., Rescue, and Town Shelter)

4--Cats were picked up or impounded
   1-Cats returned to their owner
   5-Cats adopted out to new homes

Quarantines Issued: (1) cat ten day
Quarantines Released: (1) cat ten day, (1) dog extended

Collections: Town of Kingston (fees/fines): $185.00
             Animal Care Fund (donations): $155.00  Expended/$295.88
Additionally February 10 the annual “Barn Book” was completed and forwarded to the MA Division of Animal Health. Nineteen farms were inspected and 204 animals counted as follows: 2 cattle, 3 swine, 32 goats, 71 horses, 83 chickens, 13 rabbits.

**ASSESSORS: Submitted by James Judge**
The Assessors’ office transferred the Excise tax file to the collector for the billing and we have been issuing abatements for these bills. We also have been inspecting all the requests for abatement on Real Estate and performing the necessary work to satisfy those abatements.

**BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Henny Walters**
- The Finance Committee voted to approve the Board of Health’s Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. In addition, the Finance Committee approved a request for transfer from the Reserve Fund in order to conduct future tobacco inspections ensuring compliance with Massachusetts and Local Tobacco Regulations.
- A new food establishment: “Sweets” was permitted and inspected.
- Inspections of retail & food establishments were conducted.
- Inspections of health clubs were conducted to ensure compliance with Board of Health Regulation regarding Automatic External Defibrillators.
- Met with The Plymouth Area Medical Reserve Corps to discuss upcoming training events.
- In addition to being available to the public during regular office hours, the Department was busy with the following:
  - Issued burial permits and signed off on certificates of death.
  - Reviewed submitted Title 5 Inspection Reports and took appropriate action when necessary.
  - Conducted housing inspections as a result of complaints.
  - Conducted percolation testing to replace failed septic systems.
  - Researched properties as part of building application approval.
  - Processed loan application for the Title 5, Septic System Repair Assistance Program.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT/INSPECTIONAL SERVICES: Submitted by Paul Armstrong**
February was a busy month for the Department and wild one weather-wise. It was necessary to close the library for several days due to excessive snow and ice loads on the roof. A quick response by the Building, Fire and Selectmen’s offices as well as the Library staff and Library Trustees averted a calamity. The Inspectors were called out to several night and weekend incidents including fires, a dome collapse and public safety issues. This month the Eighth Edition of the State Building Code came into force in Massachusetts. With this new code, new mechanical, fire and existing building codes and State amendments also came into effect. This month the new Sheet Metal licensing and inspection provisions also came into force. The Building Inspector is now responsible for permitting and inspecting all ductwork and air handling systems. The Regal Cinema Corporation is moving ahead with stadium seating design plans for the mall. Construction planning and activity has increased as the
spring approaches. Sue is updating our pages on the Town website to provide updated code and permit information.

MONTHLY RECAP from February 2011
BUILDING PERMITS (FEBRUARY 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUILDING TYPE</th>
<th>PERMIT TO</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Alter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,875.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Repair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Construct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling Units Alter</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97,541.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwelling Units Construct</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>493,640.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwelling Units Addition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>229,730.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwelling Units Repairs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>59,278.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garage Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Any</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed/Barn Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools Any</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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ALL PERMIT TYPES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cert. of Inspection</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>720.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fees Collected</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>12,116.00</td>
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YEAR TO DATE TOTALS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fees collected to date</td>
<td>17,168.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Est. cost of construction to date</td>
<td>1,092,362.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total dwelling units to date</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

COLLECTOR: Submitted by Priscilla Palombo
Operations and functionality remain status quo. Processing tax title and bankruptcies.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Submitted by Maureen Thomas
During February 2011 the Conservation Commission did not have any public hearings, but Conservation staff was busy with the following activities:

- Spent many hours working to complete revisions to the Kingston Wetland Protection Regulations which are expected to be finished this spring;
- With Patrick Farah, Plymouth Planning Technician & Peer GIS Consultant to Kingston planned a meeting to update department heads and the Technology Advisory Committee on the Town’s upgraded GIS.
Held meeting in which Tom Bott, Town Planner, provided background information on GIS in Kingston and Patrick Farah provided current status. There was a great amount of interest from department heads on the current and future status of GIS and how it can simplify their work, expand their capabilities, and increase their efficiency;

- Continued work on general GIS upgrades;
- Attended kick-off meeting with other Town staff and Engineers from Horsley Witten Group on the Gray’s Beach stormwater retrofit project whose design and engineering is expected to be completed this spring;
- Attended Finance Committee meeting on the Commission budget;
- Continued planning for the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee (PCAAC) workshop series to conduct public outreach and education forums on the aquifer through as Sheehan Family Foundation grant;
- Met with Ed Hughes, Engineer from the MA Office of Dam Safety (ODS), and Bob Heath, Fire Chief, at Russell Pond dam to discuss current status and assist ODS with development of their Emergency Action Plan in the event there is a dam failure. Final copies of the plan will be submitted to the Town in the very near future;
- Continued to work on the conservation restriction (CR) for Senior Center mitigation and awaiting response from the Board of Selectmen on which parcel(s) they would like the CR placed;
- With Jones River Watershed Association (JRWA), commenced discussions with DEP Regional Monitoring Coordinator on sampling of the Lower Jones River to determine if it is still contaminated with pathogens which were identified by DEP prior to the installation of the municipal sewer system;
- Met with representative of RK Crossing and contractor to discuss ongoing and upcoming work within the Commission jurisdiction;
- Continued review of the 35 Independence Road Notice of Intent including hiring of a wetland consultant to review the large and complex wetland delineation on the site as well as discussing stormwater with the consulting engineer; and
- Continued organizing and compressing Conservation office filing system.

Due to changes in Administration, the Commission has yet to hear from the Massachusetts Bays Research & Planning Grant Program on the grant proposal to assess stormwater impacts to the Jones River and Bay, but we expect to hear from them in March.

**COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Linda Felix**

February has been an exciting month for the Kingston Council on Aging at our new Senior Center. The grand opening of the new Kingston Senior Center was a huge success due to the various agencies and their generous donations, our wonderful volunteers, and the entire community. We had 700-800 people come through our doors enjoying the grand opening’s planned festivities.

With the new Senior Center there are changes that are necessary to make improvements for Kingston’s Elders. One of these improvements is our partnership with Old Colony Elder Services Nutrition Program (OCES). We now have hot meals every day (4 days OCES & COA’s weekly Thursday Luncheon) at the Kingston Council on Aging. Our Meals on Wheels drivers now can pick-up their 30-40 meals at the Kingston COA instead of the previous Plymouth COA location. OCES also provides a Nutrition Manager (at no cost to the Town of Kingston) to organize Kingston’s Meals on Wheels program and Congregate meals program. The Town of Kingston is very fortunate OCES chose Kingston for their nutrition site, providing additional services and saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.
February’s new activities and programs:

Tai Chi (20 participants) Chair Yoga (12) Get Fit with the Director (14) Quilting (16) Whist (22) Cribbage (24) Valentine High Tea (22) Ice Cream Social (33)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT/ Kingston Emergency Management Agency (KEMA): Submitted by Robert Heath**

1. The Kingston Fire Department has received $4,800 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purpose of funding our annual S.A.F.E. Grant. This funding is used to provide the students of our elementary and intermediate school with a quality Fire Prevention Education Program.

2. We received notification from FEMA that the Fire Department/KEMA, Police Department and Streets, Trees & Parks is being reimbursed the sum of $6,381.16 for personal services and equipment used during Hurricane Earl last September.

3. Kingston Emergency Management Agency is in the process of performing the annual Plans and Protocols upgrade. KEMA is also working with Entergy to increase our yearly operational grant with an eye towards funding some very important projects and initiatives dealing with our EOC, public notification network and responder training.

4. Open burning season is in effect and we remind residences that if you do not have a permit, please stop by the fire station on Pembroke Street to obtain one. If you do have a permit, you will find the rules and regulations on the town web site and remember to be safe.

**HARBORMASTER: Submitted by Dennis Carvalho**

[No Report Submitted]

**HIGHWAY (STREETS, TREES, PARKS & Solid Waste): Submitted by Paul Basler**

The Transfer Station took in the following amounts of recycling and trash:
Cardboard: approximately 8.12 tons
Newspaper: approximately 12.30 tons
Comingle: 12 tons
MSW: approximately 280 tons

On the Highway dept. side:

This department has spent 3 days removing the brush from the side of the roads that came down during this past winter season. The mechanic has gotten the sweeper tuned up and starting on Monday, March 14th we will start sweeping the Town. We assisted with the moving of the Council on Aging to the new Senior Center. And finally, I am hopeful that we have sanded the Town of Kinston for the last time this fiscal year.

**LIBRARY: Submitted by Sia Stewart**

We have received the first disbursement of our State Aid to Public Libraries grant, which was reduced by 25% because our budget did not allow us to spend enough money on books and other library materials in FY2010 to
meet the minimum state requirement. We expect to receive the second and final disbursement within the next few weeks.

Tax filing season is in full swing, and we are seeing many Kingston residents at the Library in search of tax forms and information. A limited number of forms are available at the Library, and our website also provides links to tax forms and information. Residents who don’t have computers or internet access at home, or who need guidance in using the DOR and IRS websites, can get that access and guidance at the Library.

The Library roof is in good shape following the closure due to heavy snow in early February. There is a short punch-list of minor repairs to be done in the spring.

We are in the planning stages for this year’s summer reading program, which is designed to help children keep up their reading skills over the summer, and to provide activities for children and families.

We have begun discussions with the Recreation Department and Council on Aging on collaborative programming for Kingston residents between the three departments.

We have been meeting with the Heritage Center Committee to plan for the collaborative use of the Adams Heritage Center.

We have been meeting with the Town Technology Committee to share information about the Library’s computers.

In addition to our ongoing work with the public to answer reference questions and local history requests, provide homework help, and offer a full schedule of programs for children, teens, and adults, we exhibited shipbuilding artifacts from the Local History Room collections at the annual meeting of the Kingston Yacht Club; exhibited work from local artists Paul Brown, Samuel Babbitt, and Ruth Ryan; and began a second Library blog, for children.

**PLANNING BOARD: Submitted by Thomas Bott**

Developing cost estimate for OPM for possible emergency application to CPC for Adams Library Building. Along with Committee Chair Daune Frey met with CPC who agreed to consider an emergency application if the Heritage Center Committee votes to submit one. Met with Heritage Center who voted not to pursue additional funds but rather take another look at minimizing cost for completing restoration of the Adams Library Building.

Working with Kingston Historical Commission on Local Historic District editing draft Preliminary Report and public outreach including developing abutters list.

Working with KYSO on their CPC application to develop additional information on their“Proposal for Engineering to Determine Developmental Prospects of the Hall Property.” We also provided GIS coverage of topography on the property to minimize cost and time in evaluating the land.

Continued work with Weston and Sampson and the Superintendent of Streets, Trees, and Parks on identifying appropriate areas for easements for wind and solar facilities on the landfill.

Completed “walk through” with Town Auditors.
Attended ZBA meeting on Cumberland Farms to convey Planning Board issues on site.

Along with Maureen Thomas and Paul Basler meet with Susan Woodworth on Gray’s Beach engineering project.

Received word that announcement of grant recipients for Electric Vehicle Charging Station originally slated for 2/14/11 had been delayed. No set date for an announcement was given.

Checked with Tibbetts Engineering on accrued interest charges for Indian Pond 40B review expenses still unpaid by the developer since 2006 and 2007. Forwarded information to the ZBA for their hearing on proposed modification of development.

Confirmed with DOER the typos in their model bylaw recently discovered by the Town Clerk. Typos are in the current bylaw adopted by Town Meeting. Corrections are on the warrant for 2011 ATM.

Working with Town Counsel on a letter to DHCD pertaining to clawback provision for $600,000 in 40R Incentive Payments. I did receive an inquiry about the 40R site and forwarded approved plans and decision for 40R Phase 1 site plan.

Sadly deleted email regarding “Sustainable Zoning and Development Controls” on February 16–17, 2011 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Working with Boston Globe reporter on story on Parting Ways Cemetery

Attended MAPD meeting in Burlington on EPA’s Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) program. There are significant changes to the regulations that will increase the amount of time and money municipalities spend on monitoring their storm sewers. This has considerable implications to all Town’s in the region.

Participated in GIS meeting that Maureen Thomas and Patrick Farah put together with Technology Advisory Committee. Patrick Farah is a Plymouth town employee who has been volunteering his time on Fridays to help the Town develop a geographic information system (GIS). The meeting was very well attended. We are looking for funding sources to hire a firm to do an assessment of GIS with town departments.

Met on site of proposed Dunkin Donuts at RK Crossing with Gary L. Hebert of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike the Planning Board’s consulting engineering and provided background and traffic studies for the site.

Received traffic analysis of Elm Street, Brook Street, and the surrounding area from the Old Colony Planning Council’s Local Highway Transportation Planning Technical Assistance Program. Next step to convene staff meeting with OCPC to review studies and discuss possible actions.

Concurred with Paul Armstrong that the Mall would not, in my opinion need a third site plan review for theatre expansion but will confirm with Planning Board at the 2/28/11 meeting.

Working with Paula Bartosiak Principal at KES to get quotes from local electricians to install new LED exit signs with battery back-up and installing them on emergency circuits to code.

Planning Board items – please refer to the agendas and minutes available on the Town’s website – www.kingstonmass.org.
POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Joseph Rebello

The Kingston BOS recently lifted the hiring freeze to hire two civilian emergency dispatchers. The dispatcher openings were the result of unanticipated vacancies. There are currently six full time emergency dispatch positions housed at the police station that provide emergency services around the clock on a daily basis. The Town’s dispatchers are responsible for the coordinating and the proper notification of all emergency services within the Town of Kingston. Their duties include the managing of all 911 calls, documenting the calls in the respective department’s records management systems, monitoring the emergency equipment affiliated with the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, organizing mutual aid requests for emergency personnel, answering all business calls, servicing the public who walk in to the police station, processing requests for records, while simultaneously dispatching all ambulance, fire, and police responses with in the Town of Kingston.

I am pleased to report the hiring of Bart Connors and Larry Noonan. The respective public safety departments are currently training both to fill these vital positions. Connors and Noonan were selected as the best candidates from over fifty well qualified applicants. The hiring of these two dispatchers will reduce the police department’s dispatch overtime expenses. The unanticipated departures had a significant impact upon the Police Department’s budget.

The police department has seen a recent rise in property crimes. It is imperative that residents learn to protect themselves. The police department recommends that valuables are properly secured in your home and that they are never left unattended or in plain sight while in your motor vehicle.

The police department would like to remind citizens of the “RUOK” program. Recently both the police department and fire department were dispatched to a home where the resident failed to answer the daily phone call that checks on an individual’s well being. Upon arrival to the residence, the emergency personnel discovered that the individual had fallen and was not able to get up. They were subsequently transported to the hospital for treatment.

What is the “RUOK” program?

The “Are You OK?” Program offers comfort, security, and autonomy for senior citizens, the disabled and anyone who may lack a support system. The program is a free service and all participants need is a home telephone to receive daily automated calls.

- Participants receive calls between 6am and noon, 7 days a week, at a time that is right for them.
- A recorded voice asks “Are You OK?” The participant may answer ‘yes’ and hang up. If there is a problem, the participant should respond ‘no’ and the Communications Officer will determine the problem and take appropriate action.
- If there is no response or the line is busy, the computer will automatically call back. If there is still no response, the Communications Officer will call a designated friend or family member. If needed, the Communications Officer will ask the local police to check a person’s home.
- If a participant will be away for an extended period of time or just for a day, he or she can call the 24-hour number 1-800-622-4300 and alert the Are You OK office to those plans.
- To enroll, call the Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department, at 508-830-6256 to request an application.

Crime Status Report
February 1, 2011 thru February 28, 2011

| Calls for Service logged by Dispatchers | 1042 |
| Arrests/Custody                      | 15   |
Applications for Warrants 10
Investigated Motor Vehicle Crashes 19
Verbal Warnings – Motor Vehicle 69
Written Warnings/Citations Issued - MV 21
Citation Arrest 1
Citation Civil Charges 6
Citation Criminal Complaints 5
Incident Reports filed by Officers 142
Aggravated Assault 4
Simple Assault 5
Intimidation 2
Shoplifting 3
Theft from Building 1
Theft from Motor Vehicle 2
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts 2
All other Larceny 11
Embezzlement 6
False Pretense/Swindle 6
Stolen Property Offenses 5
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism 4
Drug Narcotic Violations 2
Weapon Law Violations 2
Bad Checks 1
Disorderly Conduct 5
Driving Under the Influence 1
Liquor Law Violations 1
Trespass of Real Property 2
All other Offenses 6
Traffic Town By-law Offenses 12

RECREATION: Submitted by Susan Woodworth
FY11 INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
  • Community Preservation Project(s)
    o Continue to work in conjunction with the Permanent Building Committee regarding the CPC project to historically restore the Reed Community Building Terrace/Patio
  • Gray’s Beach Project – Met with Engineer Firm, Firm to begin survey and preliminary project plan to be submitted by end of March; meeting with Town Treasurer re: budget

PERFORMANCE/WORKLOAD INDICATORS - numbers through December,
*Note: January – March program information to be submitted in April report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>FY11 (YTD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Programs Offered</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>3193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: DFY11 (YTD)
Building Use  
*Note 35

*Note - the building use numbers do not include the Recreation Program(s) or Council on Aging building use – the number above is for non- Recreation Program Use/other organizations

Field Use  
* Note 5137 hours  2896 hours

*Note – The number of hours reflected include the Kingston Youth Sports Organizations use through November, 2010.

ADDITIONAL FY11 Updates

• Spring and Summer planning for programs and special events for children and adults
• Field Management planning for Spring opening – Irrigation System Opening, Complex Opening, Turf Management, Field Use Request
• Assisting as needed, and as available, to new Senior Center
• Continued Reed Building Management
• Oversee usage requests at Camp Nekon
• Budget(s) Reconciliation

SEWER COMMISSION/WASTEWATER TREATMENT: Submitted by Ken Vandal
The Wastewater Treatment Facility processed 8,727,759 gallons of wastewater during the month of February. This resulted in the production of 53,000 gallons (11.98 dry tons) of sludge.

The replacement of the aeration system at the bottom of each of the Facility’s sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) is scheduled to begin on March 14th. In preparation, SBR #1 was taken off line and the process of pumping its contents into SBR #2 was started on February 23rd. This process takes about two weeks. Each SBR holds approximately 500,000 gallons. Since the Facility has only two SBRs, it is necessary to slowly pump the contents from one to the other in an attempt to minimize problems with the treatment process that can result from hydraulically overloading the remaining SBR. The process is on schedule and the tank should be ready for work to begin as planned.

Department personnel completed major preventive maintenance on the Facility’s disc filters. The existing cloths were removed, all the frames were power washed and new cloths were installed.

The Wastewater Department personnel and equipment assisted the Highway Department with snow removal during the February storms.

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Mary Lou Murzyn
[No Report Submitted]

TREASURER: Submitted by John LaBrache
[No Report Submitted]
**VETERAN’S AGENT: Submitted by William Martin**

**Chapter 115 Assistance:**
For statistics; 47 veterans, widows, and families received a total of $20,957.00. For many of these, we covered medical insurance and medical co-pays.

As a result of additional assistance being requested, we will be asking for $75,000.00 to cover the last three months of the quarter. At present, we are close, but think we have enough to cover the month of March.

**Social Security:**
In our efforts to find someone with deeper pockets to pay some of the funds, we did received denials from Social Security; two for SSI (Supplemental Social Security) and one for SSDI (Social Security Disability). One of the SSI cases is also the SSDI since we automatically apply for both. We are now working on appeals on both of these cases. Unfortunately, Social Security can take months, if not years, to process appeals, so this is not going to change soon. We recently won a case at the judicial level of appeals, but that case had been dragging on for almost 5 years.

**Veterans Administration:**
We are beginning to see some of our wounded warriors coming back. The VA now is offering 5 years of free medical care for all recently returning soldiers. If you know of a returning soldier, check to make sure he/she has collected the State Bonus and has signed up for VA Health Care. We can help veterans accomplish both. As a result of many missteps, the Dept of Defense is now getting on board and helping the veterans before they get discharged. One recent returned veteran came looking for assistance in filing claims. His discharge physical noted PTSD as well as back injuries. Going over his medical records, we noted and filed claims on a few other things. Back problems are common. The troops are better protected now than they ever were, but the gear they have to wear can run over 100 pounds; the weather hits 140 degrees during the day and may drop to the low 40’s at night.

At the same time, veterans of other conflicts are looking for increased assistance. No injury improves with age. That knee which took a bullet in Korea hurts more and become more of a burden. Maybe the VA needs to take another look at it and determine whether it can be helped; and whether you should get additional financial assistance if it prevents you from working. Recently we took a WWII veteran to a compensation physical for PTSD. I can tell you only that the VA examiner did say that the veteran suffered from PTSD and that it was likely from WWII. The case is now before the Rating Board.

**Training:**
Both the Agent and the Administrative Assistant were at mandatory training the last day of February and running into the first three days of March in Marlboro. The topics included a full day on Chapter 115; how to save dollars, and how to get maximum reimbursement. Another day was spent solely on the Veterans’ Administration. Starting with announcements on ordering refill prescriptions online, how to access help for homeless veterans, accessing health benefits, applying for various benefits from compensation to burial expenses and widow’s pensions. Another day picked up on a lot of little areas, e.g. Social Security, Father Bill’s Place, even jobs with the VA. It was worthwhile training and we came back with some fresh ideas.

**WATER: Submitted by Matthew Darsch**
The Water Department staff spent many hours in February dedicated to obtaining accurate water meter readings for the months of November and December of 2010 and January of 2011. Customers were notified of unusually high or low usages. Data was reviewed and converted to the town’s Munis Operating System for production of the March 2011 Water and Sewer Bills.
The test well adjacent to Trackle Pond began pumping on February 7th. Results from the pumping as well as water quality analysis will take place in early March.

Frequent sampling for manganese at all sources of supply was conducted during this month to prepare for analysis of and comparison to the Trackle Pond Test Well.

We began our twice-yearly inspection of all commercial and municipal back-flow prevention devices.

Water Department employees conducted testing for Secondary Contaminants at all well sites in addition to our regular sampling for bacteria.

We continued to assist the highway department in snow removal. February’s frequent cold snaps resulted in a significant number of freeze-ups.

Water Department employees have been checking and repairing hydrants broken as a result of snow plowing.

The Board of Water Commissioners conducted its first daytime meeting on February 8th. It is the intention of the board to continue this practice by meeting the first meeting of the month at 3:30 and the second meeting at 7:00. This will provide a choice for residents wishing to attend.

Meetings were held with the Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee to discuss our FY 12 budget. Commissioner Robert Kostka and Superintendent Matt Darsch met with the Town Government Study Committee who is conducting an evaluation of the town’s organizational structure and management system.

Water Department employees replaced the ceiling at South Street Pump Station while painting of the interior is still on-going. They also installed radio read equipment at 23 homes as part of our on-going conversion project.

* * * *

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call or email the BOS/TA office or jmyers@kingstonmass.org. Thank you!