

THE NEWSletter

The Newsy Little Paper That Supplements Other Media

Volume 33 Number 5 July-August 2024

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Quotes of the Issue

“... the Settlement avoids additional rate case litigation expense that would increase costs to the Company’s customers. Further, the Department finds that the Settlement includes a rate structure that appropriately balances the often-competing goals of efficiency, simplicity, rate continuity, fairness and earnings stability. ...

“Further, the Settlement provides the Towns with an important opportunity to participate on behalf of their residents and businesses in the decision making regarding whether the Company should proceed with the Contemplated Phase 3 through Phase 5 capital improvements. ...

* * *

“As discussed above, the Department received a number of public comments regarding Housatonic Water’s communications with its customers, including instances of non-responsiveness and rudeness by both Company management and its attorneys ... Customer service and communications of this type are unacceptable.”

The decision includes as footnote 16 that the DPU’s email for consumer complains is DPUCustomer.Complaints@mass.gov and the telephone number is 617-737-2846.

-- From the state Department of Public Utilities order of July 31 approving a proposed settlement agreement between Housatonic Water Works and the Attorney General. Information from the order is reported in this issue and several pages are reproduced. The entire order, a public document, is on the DPU’s website.

In This Issue ...

-Great Barrington’s Reaction to the DPU’s approval of the rate increase for Housatonic Water Works

-Information from four candidates running to succeed state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, plus letters endorsing candidates

-New Employment Agreement for Town Manager Mark Pruhenski

-Update on Candidates for Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee

-News of Town Boards plus the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

State Primary Is Sept. 3

The state primary is **Tuesday, Sept. 3** (the day after Labor Day). Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Deadline to register to vote is **Aug. 24**. Deadline to request an application to vote by mail is **Aug. 26**.

Offices on the ballot will be for United States senator and representative, governor’s councilor, state senator and representative (see in this issue for those candidates), registrar of deeds and clerk of courts, according to the office of the Secretary of State.



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Meetings Scheduled So Far in August

MEETING AGENDAS are posted on the town’s website at townofgb.org, and sent by THE NEWSletter. The agendas tell where to attend and provide a Zoom link, if needed.

A meeting held with all members meeting in person may still be held even if a Zoom link doesn’t work, according to the Division of Open Government.

Watch Past Meetings Online

Recordings of many meetings are on Community Television for the Southern Berkshires at ctsbvtv.org, YouTube and the Selectboard’s website page. You can watch on your computer or on Spectrum cable television channels 1301 (public), 1302 (education) and 1303 (government).

Some boards, the Claire Teague Senior Center and town libraries have their own websites.

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District has a website, bhrsd.org. It, the town, Cultural Council, police and fire departments also have Facebook pages.

The following meeting dates may change and more almost certainly will be added.

August

- Planning Board meets Aug. 6 & 22, 6 p.m.
- Selectboard meets Aug. 12 & 26, 6 p.m.
- Historic District Commission meets Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m.
- Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee meets Aug. 15, 6 p.m.
- Parks Commission meets Aug. 19, 5:15 p.m.
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund board meets Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m.

- Great Barrington Housing Authority board meets Aug. 21, 1 p.m.
- BHRSC Building Committee meets Aug. 21, 5:30 p.m.
- Housatonic Improvement Committee meets Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Conservation Commission meets Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Council on Aging meets Aug. 28, 1 p.m.

September

- Town offices are closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2.
- State primary election is Sept. 3 with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. This includes the race for the seat of retiring state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli.
- Selectboard meets Sept. 9, 6 p.m.



Libraries, Senior Center, Recycling Center Information

THE TOWN’S TWO LIBRARIES have a website at gblibraries.org.

THE NEWSletter sends the libraries’ monthly newsletter to its email list.

A **knitting group** meets at **Ramsdell Library in Housatonic** every other Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Dates in August are **Aug. 12 and 27**.

People are asked to tell the library if they’re coming so it’s known how many to expect. The program is free.

The New York Times, New York Times Cooking, Berkshire Eagle, Washington Post and THE NEWSletter can be read free online. Anyone with a Massachusetts library card can sign up for a Boston Public Library e-card.

Books, CDs and DVDs can be ordered by calling Mason Library at 528-2403 or email at masonramsdel@gmail.com or bark.cwmars.org. Wifi is available on both libraries’ lawns and Mason’s parking lot.

Mason Library

Mason Library on Main Street, Great Barrington, is closed Sundays and open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Its phone number is 528-2403.

Ramsdell Library

Ramsdell Library on Main Street, Housatonic, is open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; closed Thursdays and Fridays, and open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Its phone number is 274-3738.

Ramsdell has a loaning Library of Things, including visual reality goggles, a sewing machine and a staple gun.

THE CLAIRE TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER at 917 South Main St. offers activities and fitness classes, lunches and help with technology, driver license renewals, and more.

Its website lists lunch menus and is at greatbarringtonseniors.org.

The center provides transportation for elderly and disabled people who call 528-1881 at least 48 hours in advance.

Staff is available Mondays through Fridays to answer calls and offer counseling for SHINE, which stands for Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone.

Big Y donations are available Mondays and Wednesdays.

THE NEWSletter sends “Grapevine,” the center’s monthly newsletter, to subscribers who have requested it.

THE RECYCLING CENTER on Stockbridge Road, across from Monument Mountain Regional High School, is open Fridays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Its fees are at townofgb.org/recycling-transfer-station. Composting may be left free of charge.

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Cost to receive THE NEWSletter in large type is \$40 for 12 issues, plus the annual print subscription.

Where To Mail Your Check

Checks should be made payable to THE NEWSletter and mailed to it at POB 567, Housatonic 01236.

Both the written and emailed versions include **free emails** — agendas, news updates, forwarded material — sent between issues. Your name and email address are kept confidential **unless** you’re an elected or appointed public official.

You can forward everything to as many people as you want. Having THE NEWSletter send those emails between issues is \$5 a year for each name.

-EWM

Town Might Oppose DPU OK of HWW Rate Hike; Health Board Considers Order For Testing, Water

THE SELECTBOARD HAS MET in executive session to consider whether to appeal the Department of Public Utilities approval of a rate settlement reached between Housatonic Water Works and the Attorney General.

Further discussion was expected at the board's meeting **Aug. 12** at 6 p.m. THE NEWSletter will send an update to its email list.

In an unrelated action, the Board of Health will continue a public hearing and expects to vote **Aug. 15** at 6:30 p.m. on an order telling HWW to conduct more tests of its water and to provide all customers with an "alternative supply of safe, potable water."

The health board's hearing of a draft of a proposed "Order to Correct," issued under MGL chapter 111, sections 122 and 123, opened Aug. 8. THE NEWSletter sent the draft to its email list.

The sections state:

"Section 122: The board of health shall examine into all nuisances, sources of filth and causes of sickness within its town, or on board of vessels within the harbor of such town, which may, in its opinion, be injurious to the public health, shall destroy, remove or prevent the same as the case may require, and shall make regulations for the public health and safety relative thereto and to articles capable of containing or conveying infection or contagion or of creating sickness brought into or conveyed from the town or into or from any vessel. Whoever violates any such regulation shall forfeit not more than one thousand dollars."

"Section 123. Said board shall order the owner or occupant of any private premises, at his own expense, to remove any nuisance, source of filth or cause of sickness found thereon within twenty-four hours, or within such other time as it considers reasonable, after notice; and an owner or occupant shall forfeit not more than one thousand dollars for every day during which he knowingly violates such order."

Action 'Is a Big Deal'

At the start of the hearing Aug. 8, health board chairman Michael Lanoue said the working assumption had been that there was not much the board could do about HWW's quality problems but members learned otherwise.

This will be "undoubtedly, a lengthy process -- it's a big deal," he stated.

More Authority Than Selectmen

At the meeting was attorney Mike Hugo of the Massachusetts Association of Health

This Issue Is For Both July And August - Two Months

THIS ISSUE is later than usual because local news kept happening. Thus, this is the July-August issue.

I considered waiting until after the Selectboard met Aug. 12 but decided not to; any updates on Housatonic Water Works will be sent by email.

Having the issue labelled for two months does not affect your subscription, which goes by the volume number -- one issue, one volume number.

The next issue should be sent in mid-to-late September.

Boards. He noted that health boards have more authority in some areas than do selectmen, and said he recently talked the Selectboard out of taking similar action.

HWW customers with concerns about their water should notify the health agent, Rebecca Jurczyk, he said. She is at rjurczyk@townofgb.org.

Mr. Hugo also observed that he's "concerned people are still drinking that stuff."

Also at the meeting was James Starbard of RCAP Solutions, who will work with the board on water matters.

About 40 people attended the hearing, held on Zoom. Several complimented the board on taking action.

Pages Reproduced from DPU Decision

Several pages from the DPU's 41-page decision are reproduced in this issue, as are the new rates, taken from an HWW filing on the DPU website.

Service Quality Is 'Critical Issue'

The decision states that DPU will ensure HWW management does what it's told and treats customers better.

"Service quality is a critical issue for the Department," the decision states. The quote continues on page 1 of this issue, with the email and telephone number of the DPU's consumer division, which can be reached for customer assistance.

Towns Decide Future Improvements

The decision notes that Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge will be able to decide whether HWW may proceed with planned improvements.

The first one proposed is connecting with lines of the Great Barrington Fire District.

GBFD has bought property on Christian Hill Road for \$95,000 and plans to build a pump station to move the water from its system, which has some connections at 1,033 feet, to the HWW connections at 900 feet, GBFD's Prudential Committee chairman, Walter Atwood III, told THE NEWSletter.

The state Department of Environmental Protection want both companies to have a backup water source, he explained.

Towns Decide on 2 Other Projects

The two other HWW projects are building a water storage tank and a 10-year mains replacement plan.

THE NEWSletter notes that the decision does not mention what role, if any, the DEP has in requiring any of those three projects -- the connection with GBFD, the tank or replacing water mains.

Roles of DPU and DEP

Reproduced in this issue is a section from the decision titled "Discussion" that explains the roles of the DPU and DEP.

Must Study Improving Private Mains

The decision also notes that the settlement "clarifies the rights of customers served through privately-owned mains connected to the Company's distribution system ... Housatonic Water's practice of allowing pri-

(NEWS continues on page 4)

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READERS: To avoid the appearance of conflict of interest, I do not report on the Great Barrington Housing Authority or send its minutes as I am an elected member of its board. -EWM

DPU Decision on HWW Rates, continued from page 3

vately-owned mains is long-standing, rooted in the development of farmland during the mid-20th century ...

“While this practice facilitated the extension of water service to new homes without the need to secure rights-of-way along private ways, DEP has found that the water quality in these mains is frequently poor and difficult to address because the Company is not able to flush the privately-owned, dead-end mains ...”

Could Affect Water Quality

The decision continues:

“The poor water quality in the privately-owned mains also has the potential to affect

the water quality in the entire system through the dislodgement and infusion of inorganic matter during hydraulic events such as main breaks. ...

“The customers living on those affected roads may not have been aware of their obligation to maintain the privately-owned mains until they were notified by the Company in December 2021 pursuant to an Administrative Consent Order (‘ACO’) with DEP ...

“Prior to its next base distribution rate case, the Company shall conduct an analysis of potential solutions to improve the water

quality in the privately-owned mains connect to its distribution system.”

DPU To Continue Enforcing Terms

The decision states that the DPU “will have continued jurisdiction to enforce its terms, and nothing in the Settlement shall be construed to prevent the Attorney General from pursuing any course of action related [to it] in court ...”

It continues:

“Further, the Settlement provides that the Company shall not be permitted to recover costs through any charge or tariff under this Settlement more than once, and any such collection(s) shall be fully refunded with interest ...”

Footnote 11 in the decision requires that grants or similar financial assistance “will be treated as a contribution in aid of construction, which represents an offset to rate base.”

HWW has received a \$350,000 grant from DEP and the federal Environmental Protection Agency for its proposed manganese filtration system.

Towns’ Concerns, HWW’s Reasons

The decision notes the concerns of the towns, which are intervenors, and Louis James Stark of Housatonic, a limited participant, and HWW’s reasons for approval of the settlement.

HWW “argues that it has researched and applied for public financing and grant funding for its capital project through various channels, including DEP, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, and the Massachusetts Rural Water Association.

“The Company maintains that it often found it was not eligible for such funding either as a privately-owned water company or because additional study was required to support the projects ...”

Compliance Is Required

“If the Company does not comply or the directives do not lead to continued improvement in overall service quality, the Department will consider taking remedial action ... which could include additional directives for specific service quality improvements, or ... recommending the Attorney General take action to enforce the Department’s Order.”

‘Prudence Review’ Required

The decision notes that installation of the manganese filtration system “will be subject to a prudence review as part of Phase 2 of the Settlement.

“A prudence review involves a determination of whether the utility’s actions, based on all that the utility knew or should have known at the time, were reasonable and prudent in light of the extant circumstances ... the Company will be required to demonstrate, with complete and detailed documentation, that: (1) its decision to install the Manganese Filtration System was prudent; and (2) all Manganese Filtration System expenditures satisfy the Department’s prudent and used and useful standard.”

(NEWS continues on page 5)

Statement on HWW and Town Boards

Steve Bannon, chairman of the Great Barrington Selectboard, read the following statement during the July 22 meeting.

There has been some confusion concerning Housatonic Water Works and the roles of the Town Government. The Great Barrington Selectboard is responsible for representing the Housatonic Water Works users in the DPU rate case and in attempting to figure out a solution to this long term problem.

The Great Barrington Board of Health is responsible for the safety of the Housatonic Water Works users. When citizens were concerned about the discoloration and safety of their water, I suggested that they report their concerns directly to the Board of Health. The Great Barrington Selectboard is very concerned but the regulatory authority in control of this case is the Board of Health. The BoH is forwarding all complaints/concerns onto DEP.

There have been reports that the Selectboard denied a request for \$3000 from the Board of Health to fund independent water testing. This is not true. The Board of Health does have the authority to order independent water testing. They also have the authority to have Housatonic Water Works pay for those tests.

There was a request by the Board of Health, during budget discussions, for \$50,000 for legal fees concerning the Housatonic Water Works problems. All legal fees for the Town go through the Town Manager’s office. The Board of Health was asked to clarify what these fees would be used for and how they arrived at that number. Ultimately they did not choose to resubmit their request.

Tonight the Town Manager will explain where we are in the process with a report on the infrastructure and finances of the Housatonic Water Works. There is some concern about the number of executive session meetings that the Select board conducted. The ratepayers do deserve as much information as possible but when discussing a solution, it is important that we do not disclose sensitive information to the owners of the Housatonic Water Works.

I urge the citizens of Housatonic to contact their representatives on either the Board of Health or the Selectboard when they have a question or concern. Getting information from other sources can lead to confusion and misleading answers.

The Great Barrington Selectboard and the Great Barrington Board of Health will continue to advocate for and represent the ratepayers of Housatonic Water Works.

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Mark Pruhenski's Contract; Selectboard's Priorities

The decision ends with a statement, reproduced in this issue, that it may be appealed to the state's Supreme Judicial Court.

Decision on DPU Website

The DPU's decision is on its website in the section for HWW, which is 23-65 at eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/FileManager

Also available there are correspondence from customers, the towns and HWW.

People can also email THE NEWSletter to request the decision.

Costs Being Reimbursed

Using a state grant, the town is reimbursing households up to \$300 for costs incurred because of poor water quality. More information is under "Housatonic Water Reimbursement Application" on the Selectboard's page on the town website at townofgb.org.

* * *

THE SELECTMEN have renewed town manager Mark Pruhenski's contract for three years. The contract is reproduced in this NEWSletter.

Mr. Pruhenski's salary increased 1.4% plus a 3% increase that went into effect July 1 for town employees. His salary according to the amount approved at town meeting is \$159,650 a year.

His vacation days went from 20 to 25, Selectboard chairman Bannon said.

Mr. Pruhenski began as town manager in 2019, succeeding Jennifer Tabakin.

He had been health agent here from 2005 to 2015. He then was town administrator in Whately and, from 2016 to 2019, town administrator in Richmond.

He graduated from Empire State College of the State University of New York with a degree in business, management and economics and a concentration in public administration and has a graduate-level certificate with honors in local government leadership and management from Suffolk University.

In January 2023, Mr. Pruhenski was recognized as a credentialed manager from the International City Manager's Association, having met ICMA's standards and more than 40 hours a year of professional training.

He is Great Barrington's first credentialed manager.

* * *

THE SELECTBOARD reviewed their **high priorities** July 30 and kept Housatonic Water Works as its very first one.

Other top priorities, rated either a #1 or #2 and listed in alphabetical order, are:

-Affordable and workforce housing and aging in place, with the responsible parties the selectmen, Affordable Housing Trust Fund board, Planning Board and town planning department.

-Ambulance service study was a long-range priority but is now a #1 high priority. A regional approach perhaps should be considered and a 2018 study is probably outdated, the selectmen agreed. The Fire Department is the responsible party.

-Cook's Garage property at 426 Park St., Housatonic, continues as a #1 priority. The town owns it and the Housatonic Improvement Committee is considering having architects consider its future uses, perhaps this fall. The town manager and planning department are the responsible parties.

-Heating and cooling centers are a #2 high priority. Department of Public Works superintendent Joe Aberdale said the Housatonic Community Center has emergency power and he has back-up generators. Selectman Leigh Davis said emergency centers should be discussed so people know about them before an emergency.

The centers are the responsibility of the DPW and emergency management.

-Housatonic Community Center remains a #2 high priority with a heating system study underway and weatherization/insulation, LED lighting and storage locker projects completed. Grants are being sought for updates. Responsible parties are Mr. Pruhenski and the DPW.

-Housatonic Fiber is a #1 high priority that should enter the construction phase this year with a \$250,000 grant to match the town's investment. Berkshire Fiber Connect will do the work. The planning department is responsible for it.

-Infrastructure, including bridges, roads, sidewalks and complete streets, is a #1 high priority and the responsibility of the town manager and DPW.

Mr. Aberdale said the town seems to fix a road and then let it deteriorate. Main Street is starting to fall apart, he said.

He said engineers at the town's engineering firm, Tighe & Bond, were "shocked" that the state closed Brookside Bridge in May.

Three residents affected by the road closure questioned the closure. Page 7 has a statement of concerns.

-Public safety staffing is a #1 high priority that involves drafting a "proactive long-range plan to accommodate growth if needed," according to comments provided on the project list.

Police Chief Paul Storti said he and Fire Chief Scott Turner are reviewing data to consider where their resources are going and how they are changing. Chief Turner said one to three people respond to an incident but he would like that to be four.

Mr. Pruhenski suggested a regional approach might be considered, with grants.

-Reid Cleaners property on Main Street needs more study, Chris Rembold, assistant town manager and director of planning and community development, reported. An EPA-funded assessment field work was completed but more study is needed before clean-up can begin. The town owns the property, which is the responsibility of Mr. Pruhenski and the planning department.

-Sustainable waste management, also a #1 high priority, is the Board of Health's responsibility. Health agent Rebecca

Jurczyk noted that the composting pilot program at the Stockbridge Road transfer station is concluding soon as the grant has been used. The board is evaluating the program's future, she said.

If it continues, a permanent shed should be provided at the transfer station so bins can be kept inside, she suggested.

Website and URL for email addresses are almost done, Mr. Pruhenski noted. The website redesign is in its final stages and town employees have started training on it

Two New Items Made High Priorities

Selectman Eric Gabriel suggested that a ban on nips -- single-use bottles of alcohol -- be a #2 high priority. Garfield Reed was out of the room but the other four selectmen voted this.

Tree Committee chairman Julie Anidjar said trees should be a priority. The committee is getting requests from residents to put trees in front of their houses, and trees are needed on town streets for cooling purposes, she said.

She doesn't see any town commitment and more funding is needed, she noted. Even if trees are listed as a priority, funding is not guaranteed, Mr. Bannon told her. Ms. Anidjar said she understands.

Ms. Davis said trees are infrastructure. She moved and the selectmen voted unanimously to make trees a high priority.

Selectman Ben Elliott suggested discussing child care as a priority. It is now listed under moderate priority projects. Chairman Bannon said he will put it on a meeting agenda.

A parking study was suggested as the last one was done several years ago. Mr. Bannon said the board should discuss this.

Two Items Removed as Priorities

Main Street pedestrian safety and traffic was removed as a high priority because the majority of work was done last fall, the selectmen noted.

Also removed was **short-term rental compliance**. It has a web program for registration and 121 properties are registered, Mr. Pruhenski noted. First-offense fines have been issued to 67 property owners and second-offenses to three, he said.

To Consider Moderate Priorities

Moderate priority projects will be considered at a future meeting, the selectmen agreed. Those items include a policy for committee member removal; dog park; economic development, small business assistance and job creation;

Also, a Fire Department study; inclusiveness and diversity; marketing to young families; downtown parking; Rest of River status; Selectboard policies; zoning for signs and banners; speed bumps and speed calming measures; and zoning enforcement.

The Planning Board is working on a Master Plan review, another moderate priority.

News of RTAC and Free Rides, Parks, Board of Health

A BERKSHIRE TACONIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION grant means the Tri-Town Connector transit program can offer late-night service and certain no-fare rides through June 2025.

The program operates seven days a week in Great Barrington, Egremont, Monterey, Sheffield, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge.

Fare-free late-night ride service is offered Fridays until 11:30 p.m. Unlimited free rides for veterans are extended through June 2025, except for medical rides to Pittsfield.

Free rides are available to seniors and people with disabilities who need transportation to local food pantries and free meal sites, including People's Pantry, Berkshire South Community Center Monday suppers, and Great Barrington and Sheffield farmer's markets.

More information about how to schedule rides and costs is on the Tritown Connector's website at tritown.org or at 413-591-3826.

Town manager Mark Pruhenski formed the committee in 2019 to get advice on how to improve transportation in this part of South County to help people get to work in Great Barrington.

Chris Rembold, Great Barrington's assistant town manager and director of planning and community development, oversees the program with the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

The committee developed an expanded version of the Claire Teague Senior Center's

transportation program, which became Tri-Town Microtransit.

Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge have contributed vehicles.

During the July 31 meeting, committee chairman and program director Tate Coleman said he estimates "a little over \$40,000 comes from fares," which is about the cost of a driver.

A dispatch location is needed, he said.

Ridership Is Increasing

At the March 13 meeting, Mr. Coleman said ridership is increasing. In November, 1,100 people used a TriTown Transit vehicle; in December, 1258; in January, 1407; and in February, 1729.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority's ridership also is increasing, Mr. Coleman noted, adding that the intent is to complement that service, not take riders away.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for **Sept. 4** at 6:30 p.m.

Its members, according to its page on the town website, are Mr. Coleman; Deb Phillips and Bill Cooke, citizens at large; Justin Wald, vice chairman and Sheffield representative; Gabrielle Brussel, citizen at large;

Also, Andy Potter, West Stockbridge representative; Jamie Minacci, Stockbridge representative; Ben Elliott, nonvoting member representing the Great Barrington Selectboard; Hannah Walton public relations; and Stuart Lawrence, New Marlborough representative.

Lenox, Lee, Egremont and Sandisfield have not appointed representatives.

* * *

PARKS COMMISSIONERS have suggested using Tritown Transit to get to town parks.

The new parking lot at Lake Mansfield has 40 spaces, more than before, but increased use and a ban on parking on sides of Lake Mansfield Road have made parking a problem, members noted. at their July 15 meeting.

New Chairman on Parks Commission

The commission has a new chairman. Ilana Siegel was elected on a 5-4 vote over Karen Smith, who had been chairman for about 25 years.

Ms. Siegel was nominated by Bill Meier last year but Ms. Smith was re-elected. It was agreed that Ms. Siegel would be vice chairman and work with her.

Mr. Meier again this year nominated Ms. Siegel, saying he feels a redistribution of duties would be helpful to the board. Julie Anidjar seconded.

Ms. Smith, who presided over the election process, referred to her level of effort during the past year and said she wants to stay as chairman.

Ms. Siegel said a different leadership feel is needed. DPW superintendent Joe Aberdale, who is not a commissioner, said Ms. Smith has enough time for the position.

What Do You Think Of Composting Program?

THE BOARD OF HEALTH wants to know people's views on the town transfer station, especially the composting program.

Thoughts can be sent to the board's agent, Rebecca Jurczyk, at rjurczyk@townofgb.org.

The vote was 5-4, with Mr. Meier, Ms. Siegel, Sridevi Reddy, Ms Anidjar and Tom Norton voting for Ms. Siegel.

Ms. Smith, Paul Gibbons, Terry Chamberland and Steve Bannon voted for Ms. Smith.

At the end of the meeting, under commissioner's speak, Ms. Smith was unanimously voted as vice chairman.

Other Actions Taken

Also during the meeting, the commissioners postponed a decision on accepting Wheeler & Taylor's offer to put an electronic score board at Memorial Field.

They approved the Great Barrington Lake Conservancy's request to use Lake Mansfield for a fundraiser picnic featuring live bluegrass and ice cream **Aug. 31** from 3 to 6 p.m. The recreation area will remain open to the public.

* * *

GRANTING a tobacco retail license to Dollar General at 197 Main St. will not be on the Board of Health agenda until an application is completed, board members agreed July 23.

The company was on the meeting's agenda but not represented and no application has been filed.

The town has a cap of 12 such licenses in town; 10 already have been granted.

Board member Dr. Ruby Chang said she is concerned about granting a license to people who sell at lower rates than other businesses. That attracts the younger generation, and she wants to know how Dollar General plans to advertise and its cost structure, she said.

Complaints about HWW Water

The agenda also included "Review of Brown Water Complaints from Housatonic Works Customers. (Discussion)."

Ms. Jurczyk said she started received complaints about two weeks ago and had 16 emails. Photos and specific complaints about brown water were sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection but she has received no comment from it.

After the meeting, the board consulted with lawyers for the Massachusetts Public Health Association. It now proposes an order against HWW, as reported elsewhere in this issue.

THE NEWSletter makes a great gift for friends and children going away to school.

Sign Up for Releases

SUBSCRIBERS CAN SIGN UP to receive information listed below, including minutes of all board meetings and obituaries if THE NEWSletter receives them from the funeral home.

This is part of your NEWSletter subscription. There's no added cost.

On the list are:

-1Berkshire, BEAT, Berkshire Black Economic Council, Berkshire Community Land Trust, Chamber of Commerce, CHP;

-Clinton Church Restoration/W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy, Community Development Corp., Construct, Cultural District,

-District Attorney, Dewey Hall, Farmers Market, Great Barrington Historical Society;

-RSYP, Schumacher Center for a New Economics, Claire Teague Senior Center, Train Campaign, and Volunteers in Medicine.

Feel free to suggest more.

Everyone gets information about town libraries and the Attorney General's Division of Open Government. That's because the libraries serve all ages and the Division oversees the Open Meeting Law, which helps ensure government transparency.

Why Brookside Neighbors Group Want Bridge

AT THE SELECTBOARD'S July 30 meeting, Brookside Neighbors Group presented a statement of the difficulty residents on Brush Hill, Brookside, East Sheffield and Home roads are encountering since the state Department of Transportation closed the Brookside Bridge May 2.

Town Department of Public Works superintendent Joe Aberdale told THE NEWSletter that a crew has worked on the brush and filled potholes. His department will be checking and filling potholes throughout town during the next two months before the blacktop plants close, he said.

The following was presented to the Selectboard in two statements on July 30 by Alane Fagin and Deborah Ryan on behalf of the Brookside Neighbors Group.

In 2013, The Town of Great Barrington of Great Barrington had a 5 year master plan which clearly stated that infrastructure be prioritized, noting that roads, sidewalks, and specifically aging bridges needed to be maintained.

The plan states: "To afford these, we may have to reduce funding for other services and priorities and/or raise more revenue" (See footnote 1)."

We can tell you as residents that the tax increases since 2013 have been successful in raising more revenue. Since at least 2013, the Selectboard has been aware of our failing bridges. When the Division Street bridge was closed the Town of Great Barrington went on record to say that the MASS DOT had not warned them in advance to give them enough time to properly plan for the closure.

Rather than wait six years for the state to replace the bridge, a decision was made to allocate taxpayer funds to hire an engineering firm to do an "alternatives assessment" and ultimately to build a temporary, prefabricated, one-lane bridge while it waited for replacement to be paid by the state. (See footnote 2)

In 2021, the Town of Great Barrington was sent a Safety Engineer Report about another bridge – the Brookside Road bridge.

This Report unequivocally said that the bridge was "seriously deteriorated and needed to be replaced as soon as possible." It further stated that upon receipt of this report repairs should be initiated by the Town of Great Barrington.

With that warning from the State, Mass DOT acknowledged passing the responsibility to the Town of Great Barrington.

Despite believing that Mass DOT had underreported the seriousness of the Division Street bridge before it was closed, the Town of Great Barrington took no action to prevent such a closure of the Brookside Road bridge.

The State did have an obligation to return in less than two years to re-inspect the Brookside Road bridge. They were to return no later than the Spring of 2023. The state was a year late. The re-inspection of Brookside Road bridge didn't happen until Spring of 2024. When they came to inspect three years after

their warning, on May 2, 2024, they closed the bridge.

What did the Town of Great Barrington do in the three years between receiving the directive to repair the bridge "as soon as possible" and the closure? Not much.

-- No repairs were made

-- No alternative repair assessment was conducted

-- No restrictions on travel across the bridge were enforced to help prolong the life of the bridge.

And in anticipation of the inevitable closure of Brookside Road bridge:

-- No Town of Great Barrington funds were allocated for repair

-- No exploration of, or application for, federal or state funds were made to our knowledge

-- No plan for getting timely emergency services to residents after closure was provided for or even explored

-- No thought was given to the detour that would be needed after closure, for if it had, repairs would have been made to East Sheffield Road long ago.

The looming closure of Brookside Road bridge was clearly not a priority.

In 2022, once again the Town of Great Barrington announced clear strategic priorities: first and foremost "to ensure the public safety and public health of its residents." (See footnote 3). At a minimum, that must mean, not just access to, but **timely** access to, police, ambulance and fire.

The closing of the Division Street Bridge never cut its residents off from timely services given the alternative routes – yet the Selectboard decided to build a prefabricated bridge that gave residents access in less than three years.

The generally accepted standard for response time for life-threatening injuries and illnesses such as heart attack or stroke is 5-7 minutes. Compare that to Brookside Road's added delay of 15- minutes EACH WAY!

Very recently, in two instances, to get to Camp Eisner after a fire alarm, the Great Barrington Fire Department had two choices – go the long detour (with an added 15 minute delay) or go the shorter, unsafe detour (with an added 10-plus minute delay), down East Sheffield Road, where trucks are prohibited, the road becomes one lane at one point, the speed limit is 20 mph, and the potholes are everywhere.

The Great Barrington Fire Department chose to go down the unsafe shorter detour each time -- they chose to save the extra minutes -- and for good reason - a child's life could have been at risk.

An alternative is that the Town of Sheffield may provide emergency services more quickly. We wonder what the tax-paying residents of Sheffield think about having to make up for the failure of the Town of Great Barrington to care for its own residents.

The only decision the Town of Great Barrington seems to have made about the safety risks for Brookside, Brush Hill and East Shef-

field Road residents is for us to wait until the state picks up the cost of total replacement and provides access seven years from now.

Great Barrington was once listed as the #1 Best Small Town of Great Barrington in the Country by Smithsonian magazine. Today is the day to live up to that reputation.

The residents on Brookside, East Sheffield, and Brush Hill Roads pay at least a half-million dollars in real estate taxes to the Town of Great Barrington every year.

The Town of Great Barrington has, in turn, pledged to us to use this money to prioritize, as most important, the public safety and public health of its residents. With that priority in mind our tax dollars are supposed to go for waste management, water, and emergency services. Yet most of us impacted by the bridge pay for our own waste services and don't use the Town of Great Barrington's water.

What is crucial to us -- what we need -- are the promised emergency services to deal with the inevitable illness, accident, carbon monoxide leak, fire, criminal trespass or theft.

Emergency services are just that -- urgent. They must be provided in a timely manner or prove useless.

So, what are we asking for? - Prioritize our safety and health needs as promised. Do what is necessary to allocate funds immediately for an expedited repair (by an authorized engineering firm) to make a one-lane bridge accessible, in less than two years, for community residents and emergency vehicles.

Footnote 1 - Community Master Plan – Approved by the Great Barrington Planning Board and Board of Selectmen, Oct. 10, 2013, page 2, "Aging Infrastructure needs to be replaced and upgraded"

Footnote 2 - www.tighebond.com/tighe-bond-engineers-help-re-open-division-street-bridge/

Footnote 3 – Fiscal Year 2022: Great Barrington Budget & Financial Policy for Fiscal



402 Park Street
P.O. Box 547
Housatonic, MA 01236
housatonicrealestate.com
413.274.5065

BHRSD Elections, State Grant, MMRHS, New Staff

FOUR CANDIDATES for Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee will be on the Nov. 5 ballot but two positions apparently will be blank, to be filled by write-ins.

The deadline to submit nomination papers to town clerks was July 23.

Incumbents Rich Dohoney and Diane Singer and newcomer Alison Read, all of Great Barrington, and William Vogt of Stockbridge qualified, according to Doreen Twiss, administrative secretary to the superintendent. She is handling the papers for the school district.

No Candidates for Two Positions

No one has presented nomination papers to succeed incumbents Corey Sprague of Stockbridge and Bonnie Bonn-Buffoni of West Stockbridge, who are not seeking reelection.

Incumbent Anne Hutchinson only had 20 certified signatures -- 50 are needed -- in Great Barrington and has until Aug. 20 to present certified signatures from other towns.

* * *

MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL has a \$129,810 Skills Capital grant to support its Chapter 74 **automotive vocational program**.

The automotive program serves more than 80 students.

Chris D'Anello, automotive teacher, said the new equipment "will greatly improve the program's capabilities and ability to certify students to the highest industry standards."

* * *

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S buildings and grounds subcommittee wants a "natural" play area created south and east of the soccer field so parents picking up their children at **Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School** can connect with each other when they get their children at the end of the school day.

"The nature playground will be a chance for kids to play as they want," Bill Fields told the school committee July 25.

Mr. Fields is now chairman of the building and grounds subcommittee as Jason St. Peter stepped down. Other committee members are Sarah Bourla and Diane Singer.

Concern About MMRHS Roof Facia

Mr. Fields also reported on concern about roof facia at Monument Mountain. He read from a note that Mr. Dillon wrote a resident on March 31, 2023.

Mr. Dillon wrote in part:

"We agree that the Monument roof looks terrible.

"We have decided to not take action for 4 major reasons.

"The MSBA is about to vote on April 26 on us moving into the feasibility and design phase for a new or renovated high school. The next step will be to hire an owner's project manager and then architects to design a new or substantially renovated

Building Committee Update

The Monument Building Committee is scheduled to meet **Aug. 21** at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom and at the school district's office in Stockbridge.

The committee is overseeing building options and designs to recommend to Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee, which will then send a recommendation in December to the state School Building Authority and to voters in 2025.

More proposed designs were shown at its July 24 meeting, which can be seen at monumentbuildingproject.org/

high school. (NEWSletter note: That design stage is happening now.)

"We consulted with Sherwin Williams and there are 7 layers of paint on the roof. When we last tried to paint the roof their paint only adhered for 3 months. Their engineers analyzed the roof material and there is a chemical reaction with the old metal and all paint that keeps it from adhering.

"We explored prepping the current roofing materials and the cost to do so and paint was estimated at upwards of \$2 million.

"The cost to replace all the metal was closer to \$4 million.

"I know this is frustrating and the roof of the building looks bad. In the meantime, we have invested significant resources in upgrading the inside of the building including new laptops, CVTE equipment, lighting, seating, furniture, etc. -- most of which we can move to our new space.

"... We also have some concerns that a project of that magnitude may actually trigger us to do other work on the building connected to ADA, fire suppression and safety requirements which for the moment we are grandfather on."

"It may make sense for us to share with the community these details and to start to build the outreach committee we need to build support for a new school."

Several Policies Being Considered

The school committee is considering several proposed policy changes, including for library media center materials selections and complaints about curriculum, instructional materials or district employees.

Committee vice chairman Rich Dohoney noted that such policies are "core education decisions."

The policies are in packets on the school district's website at bhrsd.org, under school committee packets in the section for school committee. THE NEWSletter sends its email list notice of meetings of subcommittees.

Grub Control Not a Health Problem

Also during the school committee's July 25 meeting, operations director Steve Soule

reported that substances put on the ground to control grubs are analyzed and approved for the suggested purposes by the Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Agricultural Resources, as well as independent testing laboratories.

* * *

CYNTHIA CAREY, who has been assistant **principal of Muddy Brook Elementary School** since July 2021, is now the principal.

Before coming to Muddy Brook, Ms. Carey was an assessment coordinator in the Pittsfield public schools from 2017 until coming to Muddy Brook.

Before that, she was a math coach and teacher at Pittsfield's Reid Middle and Egremont Elementary schools for five years.

She has a bachelor of arts degree from Rollins College and a master's in education from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Ms. Carey will be paid \$111,000 a year.

Ten people sought the position and three were interviewed. The search committee consisted of district superintendent Peter Dillon; director of student services Kate Burdsall; school committee member William Vogt;

Also, staff Glen Chamberlin, Leanna Pegorari, Colleen Meaney, Kortney Shimon, Meagen Warner, Olivia Hagen, Alexandra Boudreau and Jennifer Annand; and parents Aimee Molloy, Dave Edson, Hana Kenny and Lorena Rodriguez.

New Assistant Principal

Betsy D'Agostino is Muddy Brook's new assistant principal.

Before coming here, she had been a fourth grade English language arts teacher at Greylock Elementary School since September 2017.

Before that, she was a behavior specialist/case manager/special education teacher for grades 6 through 8 at Herberg Middle School in Pittsfield.

She graduated from the former North Adams State College and received a master's degree in special education for moderate disabilities in K-8 from American International College.

MMRHS Asst. Principal for CVTE

Ian T. Brown is Monument Mountain's assistant principal for career, vocational, and technical education.

He comes here from West Springfield, where he was assistant principal of West Springfield Middle School. Earlier, he taught at Gateway Regional High School in Huntington for five years.

Mr. Brown was in the Air Force from 1996 to 2006.

He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from George Mason University and a master's in education administration from American International College.



Who Gets Your Vote on Sept. 3?

FOUR CANDIDATES seek to succeed retiring state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli. Three are Democrats and they are on the ballot for the primary Sept. 3.

Here, in alphabetical order, are their profiles as well as that of independent Marybeth Mitts, who is not enrolled in a political party. She and the winner of the Sept. 3 primary will be on the ballot for the Nov. 5 election.

Each candidate was asked to send organizations that endorsed them, elected and appointed positions they've held, and, in 100 words or less, the issues on which they feel most strongly.

Letters endorsing candidates start on the next page.

Leigh Davis



Ms. Davis wrote that she has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund, Massachusetts AFL-CIO, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, SEIU 509 (Service Employees International Union, Progressive Massachusetts, 1866 Action Fund, and Great Barrington Selectboard.

She was an elected member of the Great Barrington Finance Committee from 2015 to 2019, when she was elected to the Great Barrington Selectboard..

She's been that board's vice chairman since 2020 and chairman of the Great Barrington Selectboard and Planning Board housing subcommittee since 2022.

Her appointed positions include, besides the housing subcommittee, vice chairman of the Great Barrington Economic Development Committee from 2019 to 2021; the town's Community Preservation Committee, W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee and Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force; advisor to Berkshire Busk; board of directors, 1Berkshire; Berkshire Leadership Impact Council; Berkshire Blueprint 2.0 Advisory Council; and board of directors, Saint James Place Cultural Center .

Issues on Which She Feels Most Strongly

Ms. Davis wrote:

"HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Those who work here and have raised their families here should be able to live here. I'll champion workforce housing, first-time homebuyer programs, and the adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

"EDUCATION and HEALTHCARE: I will push for school choice reform and increased rural school aid. I support increased funding for EMS, substance use, and mental health programs and incentives to educate and retain healthcare providers.

"CLIMATE: We must protect and restore our natural resources and wildlife while moving towards a green economy.

"SENIORS: We must honor our commitment to veterans and seniors by funding senior housing, food assistance, and transportation services."

Where To Reach Her

Ms. Davis can be reached at @LeighDavis.org / or 413-429-6868.

Marybeth Mitts

Ms. Mitts is not enrolled in a political party. Her name will be on the ballot for the Nov. 5 election.



She has been on the Lenox School Committee for three terms, serving as secretary for two years, and vice chairman and chairman one year each.

She's serving her second term as a selectman and is now chairman.

She was appointed to the Lenox Charter Review Commission in 2018 and has been on the Lenox Affordable Housing Trust for nine years, including six as chair, on the Master Plan Commission; Lenox representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority for three years; and on the Lenox Cable Commission for one year and board of the Brien Center for six years, including the past two years as vice chair.

Issues on Which She Feels Most Strongly

Ms. Mitts wrote:

"Affordable Housing, Infrastructure and Healthcare access and affordability. Working with the Lenox Affordable Housing Trust for seven years, a 65-unit mixed-income housing project that has started site preparation in Lenox; a second 68-unit mixed income rental housing project is proposed for state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities funding .

"Lenox has applied to USDA for a loan to improve our wastewater treatment facility and a federal Infrastructure Act grant to reduce total cost to Lenox taxpayers.

"Affordable, accessible mental and physical healthcare is important for our workforce as is providing an equitable, livable wage for community mental health providers as the state providers receive. "

Where To Reach Her

Ms. Mitts can be reached at mitts4staterop.com, mbmitts24@gmail.com or 413-262-9729.

Jamie Minacci

Ms. Minacci is a selectman in Stockbridge.

She is also an ex officio member of the Stockbridge Land Trust, chairman of the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission; on the town Conservation Commission; on the Berkshire Regional Transporta-

tion Authority advisory board and the town's representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee and the Stockbridge Bowl Association; and secretary of the Stockbridge Democratic Committee.



Issues on Which She Feels Most Strongly

Ms. Minacci wrote:

I am passionate about the Berkshires, and about serving the people that live and work here. I have been blessed to have lived my entire life in the 3rd Berkshire District and to have been able to raise my children here. I am committed to giving back to this special place.

Yes, we have issues to contend with; the ability to earn fair wages, crumbling infrastructure, housing shortages, access to healthcare, Housatonic Water, and PCB clean-up, to name a few. I am motivated to work hard for the entire district, which I will do when you vote for me on September 3rd. Thank you.

Where To Reach Her

Ms. Minacci can be reached at info:jamieminacci@gmail.com or 413.717.2052.

Patrick White



Mr. White has been endorsed by the National LGBTQ+ Victory Fund.

He is a selectman in Stockbridge.

He also is chief financial officer of the Berkshire Waldorf High School; serves on the town Community Preservation Committee and Cemetery Commission, and is one of three Berkshire residents appointed to the state's Community Climate Advisory Board.

He is a former member of the Stockbridge Cultural Council, Conservation Commission and Eight-Town Regional School District Building Committee..

Issues on Which He Feels Most Strongly

Mr. White wrote:

"My top priority as your state representative would be affordability: namely, how do we ensure locals can afford to live and raise a family here?"

"That's why I have put forth specific proposals around middle-class job creation, infrastructure funding, property taxes, consumer protection, health insurance, and much more. I've written extensively on these subjects at www.patrickwhiteberkshires.com."

Where To Reach Him

Mr. White can be reached at patrick@patrickwhiteberkshires.com

Letters to the Readers

Who's Best To Succeed Smitty Pignatelli?



18 for Patrick White

We are excited to endorse Patrick White for 3rd Berkshire State Representative and encourage all Democrats and Independents to vote for him on September 3.

Patrick, a Stockbridge native, has a thorough understanding of the challenges our communities face. He is as passionate about the complexities of our affordable housing shortages as all other candidates, but he also recognizes that building affordable housing isn't the only problem affecting our communities. He knows that we must do much more.

He is the candidate who has been working on creative but solid solutions to address a list of many critical issues – from alleviating the residential tax burden and creating new local job opportunities to mitigating local environmental risks and leveraging state funds to fix our deteriorating road and bridge infrastructure.

Patrick's immediate priorities, when elected, will include:

- Adding a safety valve to property tax assessments
- Expanding local economic development
- Expanding low interest borrowing
- Increasing visitor contributions
- Introducing a homestead exemption
- Pursuing technology and efficiency grants
- Pursuing green energy incentives
- Expanding PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for state-owned properties

Patrick is well prepared for what's ahead of him since he has the strongest qualifications and a track record among all candidates.

He has a degree in economics and understands how to leverage various economic and tax incentives to support our residents and local businesses. He is a successful entrepreneur well known and respected in the Boston business community where he launched three start-ups. He is a long-term advocate and supporter of environmental issues and has been named one of only three individuals from Berkshire County to the MA Climate Advisory Board.

The job of our State Representative comes with the responsibility to represent the best interests of 40,000 Central and South Berkshire citizens and, more importantly, to fill the shoes of Smitty Pignatelli on day one.

We need a representative with the experience, knowledge and wherewithal to take on this responsibility. Patrick White has the skills, experience, and passion to get the job done.

Ed Abrahams, Great Barrington
Milena Cerna, Great Barrington
Ruby Chang, Great Barrington
Tom Ferris, Great Barrington
Terry Flynn, Great Barrington

Gwen Glasser, Great Barrington
Sharon Gregory, Great Barrington
Bobbie Hallig, Mount Washington
Holly Hamer, Great Barrington
Beverly Hosokawa, Great Barrington
Michele Marantz, Dalton
Jaye Moscariello, Sandisfield
Mandy Pieczarka, Great Barrington
Stephen Saragin, Egremont
Scott Sawyer, West Stockbridge
Redbeard Simmons, Great Barrington
Bill Taylor, Sandisfield
Jan Wojcik, Great Barrington

They're Voting for Davis

We are four members of the Great Barrington Selectboard, and we enthusiastically support our colleague, Leigh Davis, as our next State Representative.

We know real leadership is not glamorous. It requires listening to lots of people, including people you may disagree with. It requires study and analysis because no important problem is simple. Then it requires collaborating with other public officials and the public, to actually get something done.

We've sat side by side with Leigh and seen her do all of these things necessary to get things done. She listens to us, her colleagues -- even when she may disagree, members of the public, and officials from other towns. We've seen Leigh come to meetings armed with research, ideas, and solutions. Leigh is never afraid to dig into the complexities of the issues. As she figures it out, Leigh builds coalitions that translate her ideas into action.

If there's anyone in the South County who works harder than Leigh, we've never met that person. At Construct, Leigh champions affordable and workforce housing. At 1Berkshire, Leigh is a board director and Berkshire Blueprint Advisory Council member, helping to craft the 10-year strategic plan for regional economic growth. Leigh testified twice before the state legislature on the Affordable Homes Act to bring us much-needed housing dollars. All this while serving as Selectboard vice chair, chair of our Housing Subcommittee, and raising three wonderful children as a single mother.

While we will miss Leigh on the Selectboard, we know our loss will be the 3rd District's gain. We know Leigh, and we unreservedly urge you to join us in voting for Leigh in the Democratic primary on Tuesday, September 3.

Stephen Bannon, Chair
Eric Gabriel
Garfield Reed
Ben Elliot

* * *

An ideal representative legislates, advocates, communicates, is accountable, and has been in our shoes, showing empathy that leads.

After 11 positively impactful terms, Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli is passing the torch for the 3rd Berkshire district, showing what a true representative does: putting the constituency above personal ego.

The new representative should embody Smitty's traits of writing bills, having policy knowledge, leadership, engaging the community, always acting in the best interest of the Berkshires, and ensuring unity for the betterment of the community.

Leigh Davis has demonstrated all the above attributes throughout her lifetime and in her current Great Barrington Selectboard vice chair position. Leigh has the DNA of a civil rights activist fighting for what is right. Leigh has demonstrated the maturity to admit a mistake to correct it.

Leigh has walked in our shoes as a single mom, raising her children in the community while involved in the town's housing, economic, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and financial crises.

Leigh understands the barriers that face our communities and is already charging the path, making positive changes in her current positions within Construct and on the 1Berkshire Board of Directors.

Leigh has spoken passionately at numerous Berkshire town meetings and testified twice at the State House, trying to influence policies required to make the Berkshires economically viable, livable, and affordable.

Leigh's empathy extends to our military families. As the proud mom of a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet, she has a personal connection that gives her a unique understanding of the challenges and sacrifices our service members and their families face. Her commitment to advocating for their needs is unwavering, and she will ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed.

As you consider the qualities you value in a representative, it's crucial to objectively assess Leigh Davis's qualifications, as this decision will shape the future of the Berkshires. Leigh's demonstrated skills, emotional intelligence, and vision make her an ideal candidate to lead in the upcoming term and beyond.

Several important and influential organizations have already endorsed Leigh, a testament to her suitability to succeed in Smitty's successful legacy. These endorsements from organizations that understand the community's needs and challenges show confidence in Leigh's ability to tackle the obstacles moving the Berkshires forward.

Jim Garzone
Great Barrington

Letters Continue on Page 11



Letters continued from Page 10

I know Leigh Davis, I have worked alongside Leigh. I have watched Leigh work so very hard as Great Barrington's Selectboard vice chair, and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Leigh is the only person running to fill Smitty's seat that is truly qualified to represent the 3rd District. None can do the job better than Leigh.

We want Leigh to be our representative. We need Leigh to be our representative. I say this because I have seen Leigh be an incredible advocate for our community. Leigh brings attention to issues like no one else. And Leigh just will not stop until she gets it done.

We are disadvantaged on Beacon Hill. The 3rd District has one member for half of Berkshire County; Boston has 16 representatives. Leigh will be heavily outnumbered,

but I am sure that she will not be out-matched.

The 3rd District needs Leigh's voice to bring attention to our issues, like our lack of workforce housing, like our aging infrastructure, like safely cleaning the Housatonic - it's a lengthy list. Leigh alone can bring attention to our causes and the tax dollars we will need to fix them.

When I was chair of the Economic Development Committee, Leigh was vice chair. Leigh came to each meeting armed with a notebook of ideas, an iPad, and commitment to our economic development.

I could not have asked for a better vice chair, and we can't ask for a better 3rd District representative.

As a very new member of the Selectboard, it was Leigh that fought to make sure that Great Barrington preserved local con-

trol to prevent horseracing at the Fairgrounds. Due to Leigh, a special town meeting saved Great Barrington from a potential disaster. And when Leigh saw out-of-state LLCs coming into Great Barrington to turn our limited housing into mini-motels, Leigh fought for a short-term rental regulation.

Does Leigh sometimes step on toes to get things done? Yes. Do we want someone that may step on toes to get things done? Absolutely, yes. We want Leigh on Beacon Hill. And I have never seen Leigh on the wrong side of an issue.

The Democratic Primary is Sept. 3rd. The other candidates are good people, but they just don't have Leigh's fire. Please join me in supporting Leigh.

Steve Picheny
Great Barrington

THE NEWSletter unfortunately lacks the space to include all details and all survivors.

Karen A. Beckwith

Karen A. Beckwith, 77, of Great Barrington died July 19 at Fairview Commons Nursing Home.

The former Karen Griffin, she graduated in 1965 from Searles High School and received an LPN degree from Berkshire Community College.

She was an LPN at various nursing homes, including Fairview Commons. After retirement, she worked at Price Chopper and Marshalls.

Mrs. Beckwith leaves her siblings, Tim Griffin of Texas, Susan Santora, Patricia Griffin, Mary Beth Shea, Ellen Rice and Kate Griffin.

She was predeceased by her son, Paul J. Hazzard, and her brother, Peter Griffin.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Rodney H. Christman

Rodney H. Christman, 79, of Sheffield died July 17 at home.

He graduated from Mount Everett Regional High School and then served in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War, followed by eight years as a reservist.

He was a cost analyst with General Electric and General Dynamics before retiring in 2001.

Mr. Christman leaves his wife of 60 years, the former Jeanne Bachetti; his daughters, Pam and Penny; three grandchildren; and his brother, Gerald.

He was predeceased by his brother Irving.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Sheffield Police Department or Sheffield Volunteer Hose Co. through the funeral home.

Michael Roy Filmus

Michael Roy Filmus, 81, of Great Barrington died July 3 at home.

After graduating from Boston University, he studied at the Art Students League in New York and with his father, realist painter Tully Filmus.

Michael Filmus moved to Great Barrington in the early 1990s. His landscape paintings were inspired by the Berkshires' fields, lakes and streams.

Mr. Filmus leaves his wife, Barbara Mabel, and his brother, Stephen Filmus of Great Barrington.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to HospiceCare in the Berkshires and the Peoples' Pantry.

William G. Funk

William G. Funk, 75, formerly of Housatonic, died July 18 in North Port, Fla..

He had worked at Sheffield Plastics and the former Bill's Pharmacy.

Mr. Funk leaves his wife, Patricia, and his stepchildren, Kenny and Kristen Dempsey.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home is handling arrangements, to include a celebration of his life at a later date.

Karen Lee Guerin

Karen Lee Guerin, 81, of Great Barrington died July 26 at The Landing at Laurel Lake in Lee..

The former Karen Hebert, she graduated from the former Searles High School.

She had worked at the former Catherine's Chocolates and Country Curtains and as a paraprofessional in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

Mrs. Guerin leaves two daughters, Brenda North and Melissa Guerin; a grandson; her sisters, Judy Goudey, Sally Cardillo, Lorraine Hebert and Joan Watroba; and her brother, Ronald Hebert.

She was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Theodore Guerin, in 2011 and by a grandson, Matthew North, in 2024.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association through the funeral home.

Anne Elizabeth Jost

Anne Elizabeth Nuchols Jost, 76, of Great Barrington died July 13.

She graduated from New Lebanon Central High School, State University of New York at Cobleskill and State University of New York at Oneonta.

She retired as director of residence at Berkshire Meadows.

Mrs. Jost leaves her husband of 53 years, Glen A. Jost; her daughter, Erin Manson; her sons, Sean, Paul and Eric; and seven grandchildren.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Justice Resource Institute through the funeral home.

(OBITUARIES, cont. on p. 12)

REAL ESTATE and BUILDING PERMITS will return in the next issue.

Recent Obituaries Continued from Page 11

Gerald R. Kellogg

Gerald "Jerry" R. Kellogg, 77, formerly of Great Barrington, died July 10 at his home in Barefoot Bay, Fla.

He graduated in 1965 from the former Searles High School and then served in Vietnam with the Marine Corps.

He had 30 years of service with the telephone company, beginning with New England Telephone and retiring from Verizon.

Mr. Kellogg leaves his wife, Dona Wheeler Kellogg; sons Michael Kellogg and J.R. Kellogg; his brother, Joe Kellogg; his sisters Diane Rose, Connie Broggi and Carol Robertson; two stepchildren, Karen Gardino and Patrick Nilson; and a granddaughter.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Eloise Koneazny

Eloise Marcella Cecchinato Koneazny, 93, of New Marlborough and Picayune, Miss., died July 2 at Fairview Hospital.

She graduated in 1947 from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and then was secretary to Canaan National Bank's president.

After she and her husband, William C. Koneazny, were married in 1954, she managed his tree business, Peerless Tree Co., for more than 40 years. She also was secretary for Karl Lipsky, who founded Jenifer House.

She and her husband also operated Candlelight Catering and Pearly Gates Saloon in Sheffield.

They worked with missionary priests in Mexico to provide funds to build houses.

Mrs. Koneazny leaves four children, Jean Pollock, Joan Lempka, Jenifer Clarke and James Koneazny; 28 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Clementine McGuire.

She was predeceased by her husband; her son Joseph; her brothers, Nicholas, Anthony and Louis Cecchinato; and her daughter-in-law, Sharon Koneazny.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 422 Fairview Ave., Hudson, N.Y. 12534, or Christ The King Church, 209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, Conn. 06877.

Mary Lou Laramie

Mary Lou Laramie, 82, of Great Barrington died July 30 at Berkshire Medical Center.

The former Mary Lou Modolo, she graduated in 1960 from the former Searles High School.

She had been a teacher's aide at the former Searles Middle School and a receptionist/bookkeeper at Fairview Commons.

Mrs. Laramie leaves her husband, Rand D. Laramie; her son, Peter Kowalczyk; her daughters, Jennifer White and Vonda Amstead; her stepdaughter, Ruth Baldwin; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

She was predeceased by her first husband, Henry Kowalczyk.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Helene K. Leavitt

Helene K. Leavitt, 91, of Pittsfield died June 29.

The former Helene Kosberg, she graduated from the former Searles High School in 1950 and, with a nursing degree, from Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

After moving to Pittsfield, she was a nurse at the former St. Luke's Hospital and then the former Pittsfield General Hospital, now Berkshire Medical Center.

She was school nurse at Miss Hall's School, where she created its healthcare services department.

Mrs. Leavitt leaves three daughters, Julie Weiss, Amy Leavitt and Kim Leavitt; and two grandchildren.

Her husband of 55 years, Bruce, died in 2011.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Place for Healthcare Providers Education Fund or Hancock Shaker Village through the funeral home.

Jeannie Lowe

Jeannie Lowe, 78, of Matta, N.Y., formerly of Knight Road, New Marlborough, died July 17 at her home.

She graduated in 1964 from the former Searles High School.

She worked for Mead Specialty Papers and was an administrator at the former Kolburne School in New Marlborough.

Ms. Lowe leaves her sons, Rick MacDowell and Dan Lowe, both of Sheffield, and her daughter, Jennifer Tompkins of Salisbury, Conn.; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to a Hospice organization.

Sheila Galdino Martin

Sheila Galdino Martin, 41, of Sheffield, died June 22.

Mrs. Martin leaves her daughter, Geovana Rezende; her husband, Mike Martin; two sisters; a brother; and her mother.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Humane Society or Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery through the funeral home.

Pauline Montgomery

Pauline Marie Montgomery, 86, died Feb. 24 at Fairview Hospital.

She graduated in 1958 from Milltown High School in Upper Mills, New Brunswick, Canada, where she was a star basketball play-

er. She was also a basketball coach in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, winning many tournaments.

She moved to Massachusetts in 1961 and worked in the former W.T. Grant store on Main Street in Great Barrington and then was a manager at the former Zayre store at the Big Y shopping center. After that store closed, she worked for Becton Dickinson in Canaan, Conn., before retiring.

Ms. Montgomery was predeceased by her long-time companion, Helyn Billeaux; her parents, Arthur M. Montgomery and Thelma M. Watters; her brothers Alan, Peter and Robert, and her sister, Connie.

She leaves her brothers Paul and John of Massachusetts and Timothy of Vancouver, B.C., and special life-long friends Myrna McConvey and Helen Hubley of New Brunswick.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Herbert C. Stalker

Herbert C. Stalker, 95, of New Marlboro died July 15.

He joined the Army National Guard in 1949 and was a staff sergeant.

Mr. Stalker was a jockey, racing a circuit in Rhode Island and New York. He then worked in road and pipeline construction.

In the 1960s, he trained and showed Morgan horses and mastiffs. In 1969, he showed the dog that won Best of Breed at the Westminster Dog Show.

Mr. Stalker leaves his companion, Anita Gochey; his sister, Alma Stalker; his daughter, Candace Marks; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

His wife of 54 years, Barbara, died in 2004.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements, which included a graveside service with Military Honors.

Robert John Zimboski

Robert "Bob" John Zimboski, 89, of Sheffield died July 28.

In 1955, he joined the military and served in the Navy and the Army for a combined six years and was a Korean War combat veteran.

He then was a machinist for Lenox Machine.

Mr. Zimboski leaves his wife of 51 years, Trudy; two children, John of Sheffield and Catherine of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; stepson Russell Kenyon of Sheffield; four grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his stepsons Raymond and Nathan Kenyon and his grandson Jason Zimboski.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements, which included burial with Military Honors.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Humane Society or Hospice of Berkshire County through the funeral home.

Police Report for June

Great Barrington police can be reached by calling 911 for an emergency or 528-0306. Police handle ambulance dispatch.

The department's website is greatbarringtonpolice.com and its Facebook page is [facebook.com/GBPDMA/](https://www.facebook.com/GBPDMA/)

The station is at 465 South Main St.

Police officers wear cameras to help document investigations and incidents.

The department participates in the state Disability Indicator Program. Forms are at mass.gov/doc/disability-indicator-form.

The following is from the month's police report. THE NEWSletter identifies people who are arrested or receive a summons.

June Report

THE MONTH BEGAN June 1 with a demonstration on Main Street as protesters did not allow customers to enter Fuel or Tom's Toys, according to the police report.

The owner of Fuel called to tell police that "the demonstration is now outside his business not allowing customers to enter." Units were requested to move them along, the report states.

Then came a "2nd call from Toms Toys stating same as Fuel."

Sheffield, Stockbridge and Lee were contracted about sending police, which they agreed to do. The protest reportedly was peaceful.

The last entry about this in the report is that someone called the station "stating demonstration is targeting Jewish owned businesses and blocking sidewalk completely to the point where it is unpassable. Wanted it logged that they are targeting those businesses."

* * *

ON JUNE 8, police were told a train had derailed, hazardous materials might be leaking and people might be injured. But no problem -- the Housatonic Fire Department was having a drill.

* * *

THIRTY-TWO TWO-VEHICLE collisions were reported during June. That included one in the roundabout at Main Street and Maple Avenue and two in which a vehicle hit another and left the scene.

A driver lost control of a truck and snapped a National Grid pole on Egremont Road. Another drove into a telephone pole on State Road. A vehicle hit a curb at the roundabout.

Cars hit deer on Division Street and North Plain Road.

Because of collisions, police issued summonses to:

-Reginald Dora of Attleboro for operating with a suspended license an uninsured and unregistered vehicle with a number plate violation.

-Gabriel Ryan Kelley of Stockbridge, operating with a suspended license.

Police Stopped 73 Drivers

Police stopped 73 drivers during June, resulting in 65 citations/warnings and two arrests.

Arrested for operating motor vehicles with suspended licenses were Melissa Ann Moro of Great Barrington and Mary Alicia Morey of Sheffield, who was also cited for not having an inspection sticker or registered motor vehicle.

Ellen Patricia Koivisto of Monterey was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Also arrested during the month were:

-Ashley Burgos of Great Barrington, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

-Brett Robert Simms of Lee, trespass, disorderly conduct and vandalizing a jail cell. He was also arrested for vandalizing property and violating an abuse-prevention order.

-Guy Allen Harrison of Pittsfield for shoplifting from Marshalls.

-Jacob Schmidt of Pittsfield for shoplifting from Marshalls and drug possession and separate arrest, for assault.

-Noah Asher Cousins of Greenwich, Conn., larceny from a building, entering a dwelling at daytime for a felony, and trespass.

-Kyle Dus of Stockbridge for domestic assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Summons were issued to:

-Jacob Schmidt of Pittsfield for shoplifting, third offense, and littering.

-Kristina Ramanaukas of Pennsylvania, shoplifting from Guido's.

-Richard Minacci, homeless, trespassing.

Radar on 20 Public Ways

Police ran radar 19 times on East Street and 15 times on Taconic Avenue during June.

Also, 12 times on Old Stockbridge Road; 11 each, Main and Division streets and Stockbridge Road, including twice at Fountain Pond; 10, Egremont Plain Road;

Also, six, North Plain Road; four, Van Deusenville Road and South Main Street; three, Monument Valley Road; twice each, Park Street and East Sheffield, State and Monterey roads; and once each, Alford Road, Egremont Road at Green River Bridge, Barrington Place, Bridge Street and High Street.

Other Actions in Month

Also during the month, police helped find a lost hiker on Race Brook Trailhead.

They had reports of 11 disturbances, including domestic ones.

Two people called to complain about a privately owned flag being displayed sup-

Fire Report for June

FIREFIGHTERS from the State Road station responded to 89 incidents during June. The Housatonic station responded to seven.

The 96 total incidents included a fire in West Stockbridge for which the local department provided air for SBCA cylinders.

Fifty-four calls were for rescue and emergency medical service, including five vehicle collisions with injuries, and 25 were for false alarms and false calls.

One call was for unauthorized burning on Main Street near the roundabout. Three calls were for hazardous conditions with no fire; Fire Chief Scott Turner said there was smoke from cooking but no fire.

A call recorded as a "special incident" was for code enforcement, Chief Turner said.

porting former President Trump and having profanity on it.

Police unlocked 13 vehicles.

Someone reported receiving a bomb threat. Someone else reported an inappropriate photo being circulated. Another person reported being scammed out of \$4,800.

A cell phone fell off the top of a car, causing it to call 911, according to the police report.

Coyote, Turtle, Fawn, Bears, Goats

A man reported being chased by a coyote on Hurlburt Road.

A snapping turtle crossed Stockbridge Road near Fountain Pond.

A fawn was reported stuck in a fence at John B. Hull Fuel on Main Street.

A bear was seen in a driveway on Berkshire Heights.

A Monument Valley Road homeowner called police that he was not home but a camera showed a bear going in the front door and did not show the bear leave.

When police got there, the door was closed but not secure but no bear was found, according to the report. They secured the door.

Goats were seen on Seekonk Cross Road.

**Need a ride?
Call the TriTown
Connector!**

The TriTown Connector is a call-for-ride service, serving Egremont, Great Barrington/Housatonic, and Stockbridge. Call 413-591-3826.

Visit www.tritown.org

**TRITOWN
CONNECTOR**

AN UNPAID PUBLIC SERVICE AD

Want to meet Archer, the police department's comfort dog? Just call the police station at 528-0306 and make an appointment.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Town Manager Town of Great Barrington

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 24th day of June, 2024 by and between the Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, a municipal corporation hereinafter called the "Town" as party of the first part, and Mark A. Pruhenski hereinafter called "Manager", as party of the second part, both of whom understand as follows:

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Town desires to employ Mark A. Pruhenski as Town Manager of the Town of Great Barrington pursuant to Section 4A of the Town Charter and Chapter 41, Section 108N of the Massachusetts General Laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1: Duties

The Town of Great Barrington hereby agrees to employ Mark A. Pruhenski as Town Manager of said Town to perform the duties and functions of the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Executive Officer as set forth in Section 6 of the Town Charter, and such other duties as the Selectboard may from time to time assign in accordance with the aforementioned Charter.

Section 2: Term

The employment shall commence July 1, 2024 and extend through June 30, 2027, and may be extended for additional terms by written agreement, signed by the Manager and the Selectboard.

Section 3: Termination, Severance Pay, and Non-Renewal

- A. During the term of this Agreement, Employer may terminate Manager only for just cause. If the termination is for cause, the Town shall provide the Manager with a written statement of reasons.
- B. In the event Manager is terminated by the Selectboard during such time that Manager is willing and able to perform the duties of Town Manager, then in that event the Town agrees to pay the Manager a lump sum cash payment equal to six (6) months

aggregate salary; provided, however, that in the event Manager is terminated because of just cause, then, in that event, Town shall have no obligation to pay severance.

- C. In the event the Manager voluntarily resigns his/her position with the Town; the Manager shall give the Town a minimum of 60 days' notice.
- D. If the Selectboard does not wish to reappoint Manager at the end of the term of this agreement, the Board shall provide Manager with six (6) months written notice of such intent not to reappoint. Failure to provide notice of non-reappointment shall entitle Manager to severance under part B of this section.

Section 4: Salary

- A. Town agrees to pay the Manager for his/her services rendered pursuant hereto at an annual salary of \$162,000 through June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, the Town agrees to provide a salary increase based upon the Town Manager's performance that is not less than the annual increase that is given to all other non-union Town Hall employees.
- B. Effective beginning fiscal year 2025 the Town will contribute each contract year before June 30th, the equivalent of 8% of the Manager's salary to a deferred compensation account available to Massachusetts State Employees.

Section 5: Performance Review

The Selectboard shall annually evaluate the performance of the Town Manager as specified in Section 4 C of the Town Charter. It is agreed that the International City Managers Association (ICMA) City Manager Performance Evaluation form shall be used to evaluate the Manager. The Board shall provide the Manager with a copy of the evaluation.

Section 6: Hours of Work

It is recognized that the Town Manager must devote a great deal of time outside normal office hours to business of the Town, and as to those hours of work, which need not be enumerated, he/she shall receive no additional compensation. We do not encourage the Town Manager to work from home since his/her visibility to the Town Hall Staff and Citizens of Great Barrington is vital. Manager will however be allowed a flexible work schedule. The Manager shall notify the Chairman of the Selectboard of his/her intentions to use compensatory time.

Section 7: Professional Development:

A professional development expense allowance will be provided each year to the Town Manager. This account may be expended for professional organization dues and publications, as well as attendance at training sessions, and national and regional professional conferences and meetings, such as the International City and County Management Association (ICMA), Massachusetts Municipal Management Association (MMMA), and Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association (MMPA). The Town Manager agrees to inform the Selectboard on which meetings and conferences he/she will be attending.

Section 8: Benefits:

- A. Retirement benefits, life insurance, and medical insurance provisions shall be identical to those provided to other non-union Town administrative staff members unless specifically stated otherwise in this Agreement.
- B. Manager shall be entitled to twenty-five (25) days of vacation leave during each twelve months of employment. Unused days of vacation may be carried over to the next fiscal year with approval by the Selectboard, the total of which shall not exceed thirty (30) days at any time. Vacation days unused at the termination of this agreement shall be paid to the Manager upon separation of employment.
- C. Town agrees to credit Manager on the commencement of the contract with fifteen (15) days of sick leave. Thereafter, Manager shall accrue sick leave at the same rate as other non-union Town administrative staff members.
- D. Any unused sick leave remaining at the expiration of this agreement shall carry over and be credited to Manager if this agreement is extended.
- E. Manager will be entitled to holidays, personal leave, bereavement leave, and jury leave in the same manner as other non-union Town administrative staff members.
- F. The Town will provide the Manager with, and reimburse or pay the service charges for, a cellular/mobile phone. The phone will be a smart phone with voice and voicemail capabilities, email access, and internet access. The phone will be used primarily for business purposes, but occasional personal use is permitted. The Town will also provide the Manager with a laptop computer.

Section 9: Indemnification:

- A. To the extent permitted by law, the Town shall defend, save harmless, and indemnify Manager, including attorney's fees and costs against any tort, professional liability claim or demand or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of

an alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of Manager's duties as Town Manager, even if said claim has been made following the Manager's termination from employment. Town may compromise and settle any such claim or suit and pay the amount of any settlement or judgment rendered thereon. Before entering into any settlement or compromise which contains an admission of wrongdoing by the Manager, the Town shall reasonably consult with the Manager.

- B. This section will survive the termination of this agreement.

Section 10: Office/Town Business Expenses:

- A. When it is necessary at any time for Manager to use his/her personal automobile in connection with the performance of the duties of his/her office, he/she shall be reimbursed at the rate provided by the Town to its non-union administrative staff members, including tolls and parking fees. The Manager shall not be compensated for commutation travel between his/her house and regular work place.
- B. Manager shall be entitled to reimbursement for his/her actual out-of pocket expenses in connection with his/her employment activities, including, but not limited to travel and meals outside of the Town of Great Barrington, subject to verification by receipt and voucher.

Section 11: General Provisions:

- A. The text herein shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties. This agreement shall not be amended or modified other than by written agreement signed by the parties.
- B. If any provisions or any portion thereof, contained in this agreement is held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement, or portion thereof, shall be deemed severable, shall not be affected, and shall remain in force and effect.
- C. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- D. For the purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Town Manager shall be exempt.
- E. The terms of this agreement are subject to appropriation by Town Meeting. Should the Town fail to appropriate or otherwise make available funds for the amounts payable under this Agreement and be unable to make such payment, the Manager shall be entitled, but not required, to terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days' notice.

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SUMMARY

Housatonic Water Works Company ("Housatonic Water" or the "Company") provides water service to customers in the village of Housatonic in Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge. In response to Housatonic Water filing a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of a general increase in rates, Housatonic Water and the Attorney General (together "Settling Parties") filed an offer of settlement dated April 26, 2024 for Department review ("Settlement"). The Department must consider whether the Settlement as a whole is reasonable, in the public interest, and will result in just and reasonable rates.

The Settlement reduces the Company's base distribution rate increase proposed for effect August 1, 2024, from \$808,808 to \$211,222. Pursuant to the Settlement, a rate increase of \$129,153, representing an 18 percent increase over current rates, will take effect on August 1, 2024, resulting in a deferred revenue deficiency of \$82,069. The Settlement provides for four additional conditional rate increases in phases, for a total of five potential rate increases between August 1, 2024, and August 1, 2028. A summary of the proposed rate increase, effective date, and associated capital projects is provided in the table below.

Proposed Rate Increases and Associated Capital Projects

Phase	Date of Increase	Amount of Increase	Increase Over Prior Year	Capital Project
1	August 1, 2024	\$129,153	18.00 %	New Chlorine Intake to Address Haloacetic Acids
2	August 1, 2025	\$336,043	39.68 %	Manganese Filtration System
3	August 1, 2026	\$86,693	7.33 %	Great Barrington Fire District Interconnection
4	August 1, 2027	\$171,050	13.47 %	Water Storage Tank
5	August 1, 2028	\$180,240	12.51 %	Mains Replacements

The first rate increase includes costs related to the capital project needed to address the level of haloacetic acids in the distribution system. The Settling Parties represent that this capital project was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), was placed in service in October 2023, and has resulted in haloacetic acid levels in compliance with federal and state guidelines over the past two quarters.

For the future capital projects, the Settling Parties stipulate that DEP has required the Company to install the Manganese Filtration System, while all other future capital projects

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have been proposed by the Company. The Settlement provides that the Company will work cooperatively with the Towns to investigate the availability of grants or alternative financing to support the future capital projects. If the Company obtains lower-cost financing or grants to support the capital projects, the Settlement provides that customers will receive the benefit of such savings.

Based on our review of the record in this proceeding, the Department finds that the Settlement is consistent with Department precedent, is in the public interest, and will result in just and reasonable rates. The Settlement provides the three Towns with an important opportunity to participate on behalf of their residents and businesses in the decision making regarding whether the Company should proceed with the Great Barrington Fire District Interconnection, Water Storage Tank, and first stage of the Company's ten-year main replacement project. In addition, final recovery of the project costs will not occur until the Department has reviewed and approved these costs in future proceedings.

The Department recognizes that the magnitude of the proposed rate increase is significant. We also acknowledge that the Company has significant capital investment obligations and, therefore, must ensure that the rates are sufficient to ensure the financial viability of the Company to the benefit of its ratepayers. In doing so, the Department often faces the difficult choices that must be made in balancing the numerous concerns of utilities, the customers they serve, public officials, and other regulatory bodies with the goal of providing higher quality water and improved service at the lowest possible cost. This case is particularly challenging given the long-standing public dissatisfaction with the Company's quality of service.

The Department's approval of the Settlement is based on our expectation the Company will aggressively seek to minimize its capital project costs through grants and the use of low-cost financing programs. If the Company does not comply or the directives do not lead to continued improvements in overall service quality, the Department will consider taking remedial action.

Over the past several years, Housatonic Water has experienced a number of serious problems related to service quality. In particular, the Company has been repeatedly found in violation of DEP's surface water treatment rules and drinking water regulations. The Department received a number of public comments regarding Housatonic Water's communications with its customers, including instances of non-responsiveness and rudeness by both Company management and its attorneys. Customer service and communications of this type are unacceptable. In this regard, the Department expects that the Company will respond to customer calls within a reasonable period (e.g., within one business day for non-emergency calls in most circumstances). In addition, customers can reach the Department's Consumer Division by email at DPUCustomer.Complaints@mass.gov or by telephone at (617) 737-2836. To ensure that the Department remains appropriately informed

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about the Company's compliance with water quality and safety standards, Housatonic Water shall promptly provide to the Department copies of all sanitary surveys and notices of noncompliance.

Regarding the Company's water discoloration issues, Housatonic Water represents that it conducted extensive testing to identify potential causes of water discoloration in its source of supply other than manganese concentrations. The Company opines that, based on test data and analysis by its engineers and consultants, the primary source of discoloration is the presence of manganese at Long Pond. All issues regarding the prudence of the Manganese Filtration System will be thoroughly considered in our review of the Company's 2025 compliance filing.

The Department acknowledges the deep frustration voiced by the Company's customers in this proceeding and the desire by many for the Department to facilitate the sale of Housatonic Water to Great Barrington or some other entity. While the Department must approve any sale of Housatonic Water, the Department does not have the authority to force a sale to another entity as requested by some commenters. The Company's legislative charter authorizes Great Barrington to purchase the Company, conditioned on the assent of the residents of Great Barrington by a two-thirds favorable vote at a town meeting called for that purpose, and further specifies the purchase price formula to be used. St. 1897, c. 229, § 6. Accordingly, a change of the Company's ownership must occur either in accordance with the provisions of the charter or through a voluntary sale by Housatonic Water.

IV. SERVICE QUALITY

A. Introduction

Over the past several years, Housatonic Water has experienced a number of serious problems related to service quality. In particular, the Company has been repeatedly found in violation of DEP's surface water treatment rules and drinking water regulations (see generally, D.P.U. 1-2, Att.; DPU 1-3, Att.; D.P.U. 1-4, Att.; D.P.U. 1-6, Att.). DEP and the Company have executed three ACOs since 2016 regarding Housatonic Water's violations of: (1) DEP's surface water treatment monitoring and reporting requirements; (2) lead or copper maximum contaminant level exceedances in September 2015, June 2016, November 2016, and June 2017;¹² and (3) HAA5 maximum contaminant level exceedances in the third and fourth quarters of 2021 as well as the second quarter of 2022 (Exh. DPU 1-2, Att.). In addition, DEP's 2018 and 2020 sanitary surveys¹³ of the Company's water system found three violations of DEP's drinking water regulations, ten deficiencies regarding the

¹² The Company reports that there have been no exceedances of the action level for either lead or copper since January 1, 2021 (Exh. DPU 5-6).

¹³ A sanitary survey is an on-site review of the water sources, facilities, equipment, operations, and maintenance of a public water system for the purpose of evaluating the system's ability to produce and distribute safe drinking water (Exh. DPU 1-4, Att. at 28).

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Company's operations, and several required corrective actions involving the Company's treatment, storage, and distribution facilities (Exh. DPU 1-4, Att.).

B. Public Comments

The record in this proceeding includes a substantial number of comments from the Company's customers and several from town officials that address Housatonic Water's poor service quality.¹⁴ Numerous customers identified perceived general financial mismanagement and a lack of infrastructure maintenance as two key issues requiring action (see, e.g., Tr. A at 21-25, 37-39; Berens Comments (June 29, 2023)). Customers also were skeptical of proposed investments in water filtration based on uncertainty that a new system would resolve underlying water quality issues (see, e.g., Tr. A at 52-53; Martin Comments (June 29, 2023); Berens Comments (June 29, 2023)). Several commenters expressed health concerns related to their potential exposure to contaminated water (see, e.g., Tr. A at 28-29, 59-61; Louis Comments (June 18, 2024); Hasting Comments (August 11, 2023); Moore Comments (September 20, 2023)). Commenters vividly described the negative impact of having to live with constant concern about exposure to HAA5, manganese, and chlorine (see, e.g., Tr. A at 83; Augcomfar Comments (July 27, 2023); Crofut Comments (September 22, 2023)). In addition, commenters described problems using their water for daily tasks due to discoloration (see, e.g., Tr. A at 28-29, 59-61; Louis Comments (June 18, 2024); Hastings Comments (August 11, 2023); Moore Comments (September 20, 2023)). A few attendees

¹⁴ Attendees at the public hearing for Housatonic Water's last rate case also discussed the poor service and water quality provided by the Company. D.P.U. 15-179-A at 4.

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also expressed their dissatisfaction with the Company's customer service, calling the Company's interactions towards customers hostile, rude, and intimidating (Tr. B at 67, 78-79). As a result of the Company's perceived mismanagement and poor service quality, many commenters asked for an alternate entity to take control of the water system (see, e.g., Tr. A at 43-44; HWWC Customer Petition (September 26, 2023)).

C. Discussion

The Department has general supervisory authority over companies, other than municipal corporations, engaged in the distribution and sale of water in the Commonwealth. G.L. c. 165, § 1, et seq. Water companies subject to the Department's jurisdiction must comply with numerous statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, obtaining Department approval of: (1) the rates to be assessed to customers pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94; and (2) any issuances of stock or debt instruments pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93, the Department may investigate, at any time, the price or quality of water sold and delivered by a jurisdictional water company to its customers.¹⁵

DEP implements and enforces statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth for the protection of the public drinking supply, including G.L. c. 111, §§ 5G and 160 and the Drinking Water Regulations at 310 CMR 22.00 (Exh. DPU 1-2, Att. at 20). In addition, DEP has primary enforcement responsibility for the requirements of the Federal Safe

¹⁵ The provisions of G.L. c. 164, §§ 93 and 94 are applicable to water companies pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2.

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Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq., and the regulations promulgated thereunder (Exh. DPU 1-2, Att. at 20). While DEP is tasked with regulating water quality and safety, the Department may also consider whether a company can demonstrate compliance with DEP's water quality and safety standards. D.P.U. 17-35-C at 18-20; D.P.U. 12-86, at 297-305.

Service quality is critical issue for the Department. Reasonable service quality is the cornerstone to a good working relationship between a company and the communities that it serves. Clark Shores Water Corporation, D.P.U. 23-11, at 118 (June 24, 2024); Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, D.P.U. 11-43, at 257-261 (2012). In reviewing a water company's service quality, the Department has examined, among other things, customer service and communications, infrastructure replacements and improvements, and emergency plans. Milford Water Company, D.P.U. 12-86, at 298 (2013); D.P.U. 11-43, at 251-275; Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, D.P.U. 08-27, at 212-221 (2009).

As discussed above, the Department received a number of public comments regarding Housatonic Water's communications with its customers, including instances of non-responsiveness and rudeness by both Company management and its attorneys (Tr. B at 66-67, 78-79; Rowland Comments at 1 (September 27, 2023); Walsh Comments at 1 (September 27, 2023)). Customer service and communications of this type are unacceptable.

As a public utility that possesses more information relative to its system than what can be reasonably expected to be known by its customers, Housatonic Water has an ongoing obligation to keep customers and government officials informed about the Company's

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activities. Such interactions with customers must, at all times, be respectful, informative, and timely. In this regard, the Department expects that the Company will respond to customer calls within a reasonable period (e.g., within one business day for non-emergency calls in most circumstances). Customers who experience difficulty communicating with the Company can contact the Department's Consumer Division for assistance.¹⁶

Despite these issues with customer service, the Department is encouraged by the Company's recent efforts to address HAA5 exceedances on its system. With respect to the exceedances of HAA5 underlying DEP's most recent ACO, the Company has demonstrated that it engaged an engineering firm to evaluate the cause of the violation, developed recommendations for preventing future violations, obtained a DEP permit to modify its treatment process, and completed the capital project (Exhs. DPU 1-2, Att. at 20-30; DPU 1-6, Att., pt. 1, at 45-46, pt. 2, at 27-31, 60-70; pt. 5, at 112-144; DPU 1-7). As of the date of this Order, the Company's HAA5 test results indicate compliance with DEP requirements (Exh. DPU-SP 2-2 & Atts.). To ensure that the Department remains appropriately informed about the Company's compliance with water quality and safety standards, Housatonic Water shall promptly provide the director of the Department's Rates and Revenue Requirements Division, upon receipt from DEP, copies of all sanitary surveys and notices of noncompliance. This is an ongoing reporting requirement and shall continue after the term of the Settlement.

¹⁶ Customers can reach the Department's Consumer Division by email at DPUCustomer.Complaints@mass.gov or by telephone at (617) 737-2836.

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Regarding the Company's water discoloration issues, Housatonic Water represents that it conducted extensive testing to identify potential causes of water discoloration in its source of supply other than manganese concentrations. The Company opines that, based on test data and analysis by its engineers and consultants, the primary source of discoloration is the presence of manganese at Long Pond (Exhs. DPU 1-8, Att. at 7; DPU 5-2; AG 1-7, Att. A at 131).¹⁷ Nonetheless, commenters expressed concerns about whether the proposed Manganese Filtration System would be an effective remedy for the water discoloration issues, given the age and condition of the Company's distribution mains (Tr. A at 28; Tr. B at 55-56, 61-64, 72, 90; Hori Comments (June 14, 2024); Berens Comments (June 14, 2024); Regan Comments (September 27, 2023)). Commenters also expressed concerns about the sampling and analytical techniques relied upon by the Company and its engineers in recommending the Manganese Filtration System as a solution (Tr. B at 56, 62-63; Stark Comments at 1 (June 21, 2024); Berens Comments at ¶¶ 5, 6 (June 20, 2024); Berens Comments at 1-7 (June 14, 2024); Berens Comments at 1-2 (September 20, 2023); Augcomfar Comments at 1 (July 27, 2023)).

As described above, the Company's proposed solution to the water discoloration issue (i.e., installation of the Manganese Filtration System) will be subject to a prudence review as

¹⁷ The evidence in the record identifies two separate causes of water discoloration: (1) turbid and dark-colored water resulting from suspended particles caused by hydraulic disturbances such as main flushing, hydrant testing, and firefighting; and (2) a transparent yellow discoloration resulting from manganese in the treated water (Exh. AG 1-7, Att. A at 131).

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part of Phase 2 of the Settlement. A prudence review involves a determination of whether the utility's actions, based on all that the utility knew or should have known at the time, were reasonable and prudent in light of the extant circumstances. A prudence review must be based on how a reasonable company would have responded to the particular circumstances and whether the company's actions were in fact prudent in light of all circumstances that were known, or reasonably should have been known, at the time a decision was made. Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 93-60, at 24-25 (1993); Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 85-270, at 22-23 (1986); Boston Edison Company, D.P.U. 906, at 165 (1982). Therefore, all issues regarding the prudence of the Manganese Filtration System will be thoroughly considered in our review of the Company's Phase 2 compliance filing. At that time, the Company will be required to demonstrate, with complete and detailed documentation, that: (1) its decision to install the Manganese Filtration System was prudent;¹⁸ and (2) all Manganese Filtration System expenditures satisfy the Department's prudent and used and useful standard.

The Department acknowledges the deep frustration voiced by the Company's customers in this proceeding and the desire by many for the Department to facilitate the sale of Housatonic Water to Great Barrington or some other entity. The Company's legislative charter authorizes Great Barrington to purchase the Company. St. 1897, c. 229, § 6. The charter conditions Great Barrington's right to purchase the Company on the assent of the

¹⁸ One potential area of inquiry will be the statistical reliability of the sampling performed by the Company's engineers.

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residents of Great Barrington by a two-thirds favorable vote at a town meeting called for that purpose and specifies the purchase price formula to be used. St. 1897, c. 229, § 6. Accordingly, a change of the Company's ownership needs to take place either in accordance with the provisions of the charter or through a voluntary sale by Housatonic Water. The Department does not have the authority to force a sale of the Company to another entity as requested by some commenters.

Many of the issues raised by the commenters cannot be fixed overnight; however, it is our intent through the approval of the Settlement to ensure that the Company undertakes concerted efforts in the short term to improve its service quality and provide its customers with a better product. The Settlement recognizes the Towns as essential stakeholders in ensuring that their residents who are customers of the Company receive safe and reliable water service at the lowest possible cost. We encourage the Towns and the Company to immediately begin the robust stakeholder process needed to address the capital projects identified in the Settlement and to improve the Company's operations for the benefit of ratepayers over the long term.

V. CONCLUSION

In the sections above, the Department found that the Settlement is consistent with the public interest, results in just and reasonable rates, and represents a reasonable resolution of the many issues in this proceeding. Accordingly, the Department approves the Settlement.

In accordance with the terms of the Settlement, the Department's acceptance does not constitute a determination as to the merits of any allegations, contentions, or arguments made

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in this proceeding not expressly covered by the Settlement. Milford Water Company,

D.T.E. 05-61, at 5 (2006). In addition, the Department's acceptance does not establish a precedent for future filings, whether ultimately settled or adjudicated.

Notwithstanding any agreements reached by the Settling Parties, the Department may enforce any of the commitments or obligations provided in the Settlement and the terms of this Order under its regulatory authority, including G.L. c. 165, § 4 and G.L. c. 164, § 94, and not as a matter of contract law. This Order is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a final Order of the Department issued pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5, and expressly does not form, and may not be considered to form, a contract binding on the Department or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

VI. ORDER

Accordingly, after due notice, public hearing, and consideration, it is

ORDERED: That the Joint Motion for Approval of Offer of Settlement, submitted by Housatonic Water Works Company and the Attorney General on April 26, 2024, is

GRANTED, and the Offer of Settlement, dated April 26, 2024, is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That proposed tariffs M.D.P.U. No. 21 and M.D.P.U. No. 22, filed on January 16, 2024, to become effective June 1, 2024, are DISALLOWED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That proposed tariffs M.D.P.U. No. 23 and M.D.P.U. No. 24, filed on April 26, 2024, to become effective August 1, 2024, are DISALLOWED; and it is

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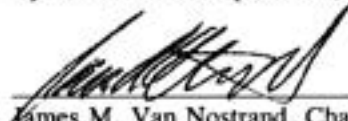
FURTHER ORDERED: That Housatonic Water Works Company shall file new schedules of rates and charges as required by this Order and shall design all rates in compliance with this Order; and it is

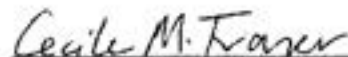
FURTHER ORDERED: That the new rates shall apply to water consumed on or after August 1, 2024, but unless otherwise ordered by the Department, shall not become effective earlier than seven days after the rates are filed with supporting data demonstrating that such rates comply with this Order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That Housatonic Water Works Company shall file new rules and regulations as required by this Order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That Housatonic Water Works Company shall comply with all other directives contained in this Order.

By Order of the Department,


James M. Van Nostrand, Chair


Cecile M. Fraser, Commissioner


Staci Rubin, Commissioner

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An appeal as to matters of law from any final decision, order or ruling of the Commission may be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court by an aggrieved party in interest by the filing of a written petition praying that the Order of the Commission be modified or set aside in whole or in part. Such petition for appeal shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission within twenty days after the date of service of the decision, order or ruling of the Commission, or within such further time as the Commission may allow upon request filed prior to the expiration of the twenty days after the date of service of said decision, order or ruling. Within ten days after such petition has been filed, the appealing party shall enter the appeal in the Supreme Judicial Court sitting in Suffolk County by filing a copy thereof with the Clerk of said Court. G.L. c. 25, § 5.

HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY M.D.P.U. No. 18-23
 GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS Original Sheet No. 1

RATES FOR METERED SERVICE

AVAILABILITY
 These rates are available to all customers located on the mains of the Company, subject to the RULES AND REGULATIONS of the COMPANY.

MINIMUM-BASE SERVICE CHARGES
 Minimum Monthly base service charges with quantities of water allowed, without additional charge, will be made to each customer for each meter. Such charges and such allowances of water for each size meter are as follows:

Size of Meter In Inches	Monthly Allowance in Gallons	Base Minimum Minimum	per Month
5/8 or 3/4	2,500	\$ 44.73	\$2.78
1	4,000	\$ 70.38	\$3.05
1 1/2	8,000	\$ 140.54	\$5.80
2	12,500	\$ 220.66	\$6.37
3	25,000	\$ 443.42	\$7.22
4	40,000	\$ 709.17	\$8.80
6	80,000	\$ 1,416.65	\$11.60

VOLUMETRIC CHARGES

The following rate shall apply to all water use in excess of the Monthly Allowance set forth above by meter size.

Per 100 gallons per month, or any part thereof. \$1.05712.47

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY

M. D. P. U. NO. 18-23

CANCELLING

M. D. P. U. No. 17-18

SCHEDULE OF WATER RATES
 APPLICABLE TO ALL CLASSES

ISSUED: April 3, 2019 August 1, 2024
 COMPANY HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS
 EFFECTIVE: June August 1, 2019—2024
 ISSUED BY: James J. Mercer, Treasurer

ISSUED: April 3, 2019 August 1, 2024
 HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
 EFFECTIVE: June 1, 2019 August 1, 2024 ISSUED BY: James J. Mercer, Treasurer

HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY M.D.P.U. No. 18-23
GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS Original Sheet No. 3

FIRE PROTECTION

Public hydrants now and hereafter installed or located by the Housatonic Water Works Company in the public streets and ways in the towns of Great Barrington, West Stockbridge and Stockbridge.

Public hydrants, producing a flow of 250 gallons or more per minute

Public hydrants, producing a flow of 150 gallons and less than 250 gallons or more per minute

Private hydrants installed at owner's expense will be charged \$62.48-48.73.75 per month. Charges for sprinkler connections will be established by written contract between the Company and the private fire service customer.

PAYMENTS

Payment for unmetered service is to be made in advance for the month on the 1st. Metered service will be billed in arrears.

HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY M.D.P.U. No. 18-23
GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS Original Sheet No. 2

FIXTURE RATES

The following charges shall apply to all non-metered customers.

	Monthly Fixture Rate
First faucet installation in sink, washbowl Or other faucet installation	\$ 47.75-20.94
Each additional faucet installation	\$ 6.40-7.20
Bathtubs (one bathtub installation)	\$ 8.54-10.04
Each additional bathtub installation	\$ 6.40-7.20
Toilet (one toilet installation)	\$ 8.54-10.04
Each additional toilet installation	\$ 6.40-7.20
Use of hose (first outlet) per season	\$ 9.93-11.72

INSTALLATIONS

- A faucet installation consists of an outlet of either cold or hot water, or both, in any one receptacle.
 - A bathtub installation consists of an outlet consisting of faucets or a shower of either hot or cold water, or both, in any one bathtub or like receptacle.
 - An automatic dishwasher is treated as an additional faucet installation.
 - An automatic laundry machine is treated as an additional faucet installation.
 - A toilet installation consists of a cold water outlet controlled by a self-closing floating valve with appropriate receptacle.
- All such installations shall be deemed to be installed and subject to charge at the foregoing applicable rates unless both the water outlets and the receptacle drain of such installation are disconnected and plugged in a manner acceptable to the Company.

ISSUED: April 3, 2019 August 1, 2024
HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
EFFECTIVE: June 4, 2019 August 1, 2024 ISSUED BY: James J. Mercer, Treasurer

ISSUED: April 3, 2019 August 1, 2024
HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
EFFECTIVE: June 4, 2019 August 1, 2024 ISSUED BY: James J. Mercer, Treasurer