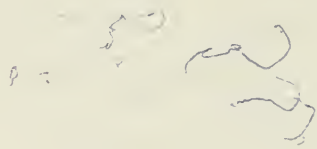




Town of Chelmsford • 1997 Town Report



Cover photograph, Forefathers Burying Ground, by Deborah Villano
1997 Cultural Council Photography Contest

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General Information

Information

Incorporated	May, 1655	
Type of Government	Town Meeting	
Location	Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Lowell and Tyngsboro on the North, Billerica on the East, Carlisle on the South, and Westford on the West. It is 24 miles from Boston, 40 miles from Worcester, and 225 miles from New York City.	
County	Middlesex	
Land Area	22.54 Square Miles	
Population 1995	32,107	
Tax Rate	(\$19.37 Residential - \$20.33 Commercial)	
U. S. Senators in Congress:		
5th Congressional District	Martin Meehan, Lowell, MA	
State Senator	Susan Fargo, Lincoln, MA	
Representative in General Court		
16th Middlesex District	Carol C. Clevon, Chelmsford, MA	
Accounting Department	Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Assessors Office	Monday	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.*
	Tuesday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Board of Health	Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Building Department	Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Highway Department		
Office	Monday thru Friday	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Garage	Monday thru Friday	7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Public Libraries		
Adams Library	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Thursday	1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Friday & Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Children's House	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Thursday - Closed	
	Friday & Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
McKay Library	Monday & Wednesday	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Tuesday	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
	Thursday, Friday & Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
School Superintendent	Monday thru Friday	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Office	Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Town Clerk	Monday	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.*
	Tuesday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tax Collector & Treasurer	Monday	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.*
	Tuesday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Veterans' Agent Office	Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting	When	Where
Annual Town Election	First Tuesday in April	9 Precincts
Annual Town Meeting	Last Monday in April	Senior Center
Annual Town Meeting	Third Monday in October	Senior Center
Selectmen	7:00 p.m. - Every other Monday	Town Offices
School Committee	7:30 p.m. - Every other Tuesday	Parker School
Planning Board	7:30 p.m. - 2nd & 4th Wednesday	Town Offices
Appeals Board	7:30 p.m. - 2nd & 4th Thursday	Town Offices
Conservation Commission	8:00 p.m. - 1st & 3rd Tuesday	Town Offices
Board of Health	7:00 p.m. - 1st Tuesday of Month	Town Offices
Housing Authority	7:30 p.m. - 1st Tuesday of Month	10 Wilson Street

Phone Directory

Accounting.....	250-5215	Personnel	250-5288
Assessor.....	250-5220	Planning Board	250-5231
Board of Appeals	250-5247	Plumbing Inspector	250-5225
Building Inspector	250-5225	Police Department	256-2521
Cemetery	250-5245	Post Office (Center)	256-2361
Conservation Commission	250-5247	Recreation Commission.....	250-5262
Council on Aging.....	251-0533	School Administration	251-5100
Dog Officer	256-0754	Selectmen.....	250-5201
Fire Department.....	256-2541	Sewer Commission	250-5233
All Other Fire Business.....	250-5267	Supt. of Public Bldgs.....	250-5249
Gas Inspector	250-5225	Town Clerk.....	250-5205
Health Department.....	250-5241	Town Engineer.....	250-5228
Highway Department	250-5270	Town Manager.....	250-5201
Garage	250-5271	Treasurer/Tax Collector	250-5210
Housing Authority	256-7425	Veterans' Agent	250-5238
Libraries:		Water Department.....	256-2381
Adams	256-5521	Wiring Inspector.....	250-5225
McKay	251-3212		

Elected Officials

CEMETERY COMMISSION

(3yr Term Elected)

Gerald L. Hardy	11 Meehan Drive	256-6717	1998
James F. Dolan	106 Middlesex Street	251-3105	1999
Jean R. McCaffery	201 Old Westford Rd.	256-5333	2000

CONSTABLE

(3yr Term elected)

William E. Spence	91 Billerica Road	256-4581	1998
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BOARD OF HEALTH

(3yr Term Elected)

Paul J. Canniff	8 Westford Street	CHRM	256-3261	1998
Peter Dulchinis	17 Spaulding Road	VCHRM	256-5256	1999
Douglas E. Hausler	51 Stonegate Road	CLK	256-8194	2000

HOUSING AUTHORITY

(5yr Term Elected)

Scott Johnson*	25 Samuel Road		256-3205	1998
William P. Keohane	82 Prescott Drive	TREAS	251-8002	1999
Mary E. (Lisa) Royce	30 Chelmsford Street	VCHRM	256-0005	2000
Lynn M. Marcella	74 Carlisle Street	CHRM	458-6807	2002
Pamela Turnbull	535 Wellman Avenue	Gov App	251-4778	7/98

*R. Hughes resgnd 12/97

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

(3 yr Term Elected)

Sarah L. Warner	44 Boston Road		250-1398	1998
John W. Cutter, Jr.	38 Abbott Lane	CHRM	256-6602	1998
Kathryn M. Fisher	2 Kelshill Road	VCHRM	251-4835	1999
Margaret E. Marshall	2 Draycoach Drive	SEC	251-1296	1999
Elizabeth A. McCarthy	48 Bartlett Street	TREAS	256-6871	1999
Jaclyn D. Matzkin	E24 Scotty Hollow Drive		251-8974	2000
Stephen J. Mallette	13 Wedgewood Drive		250-0260	2000

MODERATOR

(3yr Term Elected)

Dennis E. McHugh	63 Dalton Road	256-6842	1999
	2 Chelmsford Street (office)	256-3330	

PLANNING BOARD**(3yr Term Elected)**

James M. Cregan	17 Clover Hill Road		256-1838	1998
Susan E. Carter	47 Kennedy Drive		251-4374	1998
Eugene E. Gilet	23 Chestnut Hill Road		256-2146	1999
Robert C. Morse	45 Clarissa Road	CLK	256-5147	1999
Kim J. MacKenzie	101 High Street	CHRM	256-4088	2000
Tracey Wallace Cody	6 Sharon Avenue	VCHRM	251-8847	2000
James P. Good	4 Burning Tree Lane		256-2686	2000

SCHOOL COMMITTEE**(3yr Term Elected)**

Wendy C. Marcks	13 Dakota Drive		256-8307	1998
Angelo J. Taranto	8 Charlemont Court	CHRM	251-8205	1998
Judith B. Mallette	13 Wedgewood Drive	VCHRM	250-0260	1999
Mary E. Frantz	34 Miland Avenue		256-1612	1999
Anthony V. Volpe	144 Warren Avenue		250-8548	2000

SELECTMEN**(3yr Term Elected)**

Peter V. Lawlor	50 Dalton Road	CHRM	256-7275	1998
Susan J. Gates	7 Trotting Road		250-1569	1998
Stuart G. Weisfeldt	8 Leitrim Lane		256-7902	1999
William F. Dalton	12 Dartmouth Street	VCHRM	251-3259	2000
Philip M. Eliopoulos	26 Arbutus Ave	CLERK	256-2388	2000

SEWER COMMISSION**(3yr Term Elected)**

John P. Emerson, Jr.	8 Loiselle Lane	CHRM	251-3654	1998
Barry B. Balan	54 Boston Road #10	VCHRM	256-8234	1998
Thomas E. Moran	19 Dennison Road	CLK	251-4173	1999
Richard J. Day	6 Merilda Avenue		251-3382	1999
George F. Abely	87 Swain Road		251-8472	2000

Town Meeting Reps

Precinct 1		Precinct 2		Precinct 3	
TERM	NAME	TERM	NAME	TERM	NAME
2000	James P. Good	2000	William F. Dalton	2000	Michael F. McCall
2000	Jean B. Rook	2000	Linda H. Dalton	2000	William J. Gilet, Jr
2000	Anthony V. Volpe	2000	M. Janice Spence	2000	Cathy A. Hutchinson
2000	Francis T. McDougall	2000	William P. Griffin	2000	Kathryn M. Fisher
2000	Nina S. Lewin	2000	Patricia A. Jamros	2000	Harold I. Matzkin
2000	Peggy Dunn	2000	Jesse C. Foster	2000	Christopher T. Garrahan
1999	Elizabeth A. McCarthy	1999	Francis G. Miskell	1999	D. Lorraine Lambert
1999	Cynthia J. Kaplan	1999	Bruce J. Harper, Sr.	1999	Susan M. Olsen
1999	Sandra A. Kilburn	1999	John B. Bates III	1999	Michael F. Curran
1999	Marian D. Currier		Patrick Mike Curran, deceased	1999	Adrienne M. Jerome
1999	Robert P. Joyce	1999	George L. Merrill	1999	George F. Abely
1999	Barry B. Balan	1999	James R. Doukaszewicz	1999	Jaclyn D. Matzkin
1998	William E. Spence	1998	Mary Jo Welch	1998	Nancy J. Knight
1998	Kathryn Brough	1998	Jeffrey W. Stallard	1998	John P. Emerson, Jr.
1998	Ronald W. Wetmore	1998	Barry T. Bell	1998	Roy J. Perry
1998	Linda M. Lee	1998	Bonnie I. Foster	1998	Carol W. Merriam
	Michael A. Hazel, resigned	1998	Stanley W. Norkunas	1998	Henry R. McEnany
1998	Richard G. Allison	1998	James F. O'Shea	1998	James P. Boermeester
			moved up from reserve list		
			10/25/97		
1998	Sandra B. Martinez				

Precinct 4

TERM NAME

2000 George A. Ripsom, Sr.
 2000 Dolores A. Blomgren
 2000 Sheila E. Pichette
 2000 Billy L. Martin
 2000 Gerald W. Pacht
 2000 Cheryl L. O'Sullivan
 1999 Roger C. Sumner
 1999 Matthew P. St.Hilaire
 1999 Kathleen M. Redican
 1999 Henrick R. Johnson, Jr.
 1999 Brian P. Latina
 1999 John G. Coppinger

1998 Helen A. Manahan

1998 John R. Hibbard

Carl W. Seidel RESIGNED 4/29/97

1998 Jacob P. Sartz III**

** appt by remaining reps 5/5/98

1998 John B. Sousa Jr

1998 Joan D. Morrison

1998 Daniel J. Sullivan, III

Precinct 5

TERM NAME

2000 Evelyn S. Thoren
 2000 Robert D. Hall
 2000 Judith B. Mallette
 2000 David P. McLaughlin
 2000 Glenn R. Thoren
 2000 Cheryl M. Perkins
 1999 Kathleen Curran
 1999 Wendy C. Marcks
 1999 Barbara Ward
 1999 Stephen J. Mallette
 1999 Bonnie G. Wilder
 1999 John W. Wilder

Patricia Wojtas, removed 1/20/98

1998 Jonathan A. Stevens

1998 W. Allen Thomas, Jr.

1998 Dean Carmeris

1998 Jennifer Renna Ferreira

1998 Leonard R. Richards, Jr

Precinct 6

TERM NAME

2000 Judith A. Olsson
 2000 Stuart G. Weisfeldt
 2000 David J. McLachlan
 2000 Marianne J. Paresky
 2000 M. Elizabeth Marshall
 2000 Charles F. Smith

1999 Peter V. Lawlor

1999 Mary E. Frantz

Christopher J. Driscoll resigned 10/14/97**

1999 Ralph M. Nebalski

1999 Howard J. Hall

1999 Cheryl M. Warshafsky

1998 Janet G. Dubner

1998 Susan Kupor McHugh

1998 Evangelos T. Lekas

1998 Martin A. Gruber

1998 Michael R. Parquette

1998 Edward S. Marshall

Precinct 7

TERM NAME

2000 Donna L. Ready
 2000 Leonard W. Doolan, III
 2000 Dwight M. Hayward
 2000 Susan J. Gates
 2000 Barbara J. Scavezze
 2000 Carol A. Stark

 1999 Dennis J. Ready
 Bradford O. Emerson, resigned 10/31/97
 1999 Katherine C. Harbison
 moved up from reserve list 10/31/97
 1999 Judith Hass
 1999 Kathleen S. Fitzpatrick
 1999 Bernard A. Ready
 1999 Francis J. Miethe

 1998 Karen D. Ready
 1998 Paul F. Gleason
 1998 Peter Dulchinos
 1998 Linda G. Morabito
 1998 Jonathan C. Stubbs
 1998 Clare L. Jeannotte

Precinct 8

TERM NAME

2000 Alexander W. Gervais
 2000 John S. Fudge, Jr.
 2000 Deborah Villano
 2000 Robert P. Mackey
 2000 Robert M. Burns
 2000 Samuel Poulten

 1999 Margaret A. Fudge
 1999 Walter A. Cleven
 1999 Richard J. Day
 Marie M. Fitzgerald, resigned 10/20/97
 1999 Gail E. Poulten
 moved up from reserve list 10/20/97
 1999 Ralph J. Hulslander, Jr.
 1999 John F. Sheehy

 1998 William C. Curry
 1998 Joyce E. Johnson
 1998 Angelo J. Taranto
 1998 Jacqueline A. Sheehy
 1998 John E. Abbott
 1998 Cheryl Adkins Boss

Precinct 9

TERM NAME

2000 Susan B. Graves
 2000 Robert C. Morse
 2000 James L. Hickey
 2000 Steven Arthur Consalvi
 2000 Donald L. Elias
 2000 C. Thomas Christiano

 1999 John G. Harrington
 1999 Barry K. Hamill
 1999 James E. Rich
 1999 Charles A. Piper
 1999 Anne Lise Sexton
 1999 Francis X. Harrison Sr

 1998 Will L. Perry
 1998 Francis J. Barre
 1998 James W. Young
 1998 Robert J. Hawking
 1998 Eleanor D. Abbott
 1998 Phyllis M. Elias

Town Officials

Town Offices
50 Billerica Road
Chelmsford, Ma 01824

Town Manager	Bernard F. Lynch	250-5201
Town Clerk	Mary E. St.Hilaire	250-5205
Finance Director/ Treasurer Tax Collector	Charles F. Mansfield	250-5210
Town Accountant	Jean D. Sullivan	250-5215
Board Of Assessors	Diane M. Phillips Bruce Symmes	250-5220
Building Inspector	Anthony F. Zagzoug	250-5225
DPW Director	James E. Pearson	250-5228
Police Chief	Armand J. Caron	250-5258
Fire Chief	John E. Parow	250-5267
Finance Committee	Cornelius J. O'Neill Clare L. Jeannotte Susan M. Olsen William Curry	Marcia V. Dobroth Dwight M. Hayward Charles A. Piper

Balance Sheet

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects			
Assets:	Trust & Agency			Long Term Obligations	June 30, 1997	
Cash	\$ 4,851,753	\$ 3,433,532	\$ 1,333,546	\$ 1,098,743	\$ -	\$ 10,717,574
Investments	-	-	-	3,770,454	-	3,770,454
Investment in Deferred Compensation Plan	-	-	-	5,183,666	-	5,183,666
Property Tax Receivable:						
Current Year	442,889	-	-	-	-	442,889
Prior Year	18,714	-	-	-	-	18,714
Other Accounts Receivable:						
Motor Vehicle Excise	291,029	-	-	-	-	291,029
Tax Liens	2,459,791	-	-	-	-	2,459,791
Sewer	75,222	-	-	-	-	75,222
Special Assessments	-	7,094	-	-	-	7,094
Departmental	23,455	3,448	-	56,671	-	83,574
Intergovernmental	-	188,237	3,255,227	-	-	3,443,464
Dues from Other Funds	132,367	-	-	-	-	132,367
Other Assets	88,228	-	-	180,000	-	268,228
Amounts to be Provided for retirement of Long Term Obligations	-	-	-	-	33,444,811	33,444,811
Total Assets	\$ 8,383,448	\$ 3,632,311	\$ 4,588,773	\$ 10,289,534	\$ 33,444,811	\$ 60,338,877

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects			
Liabilities:	Trust & Agency			Long Term Obligations	June 30, 1997	
Accounts Payable	\$ 573,867	\$ 41,584	\$ 55,325	\$ 276,902	\$ -	\$ 947,678
Payroll Withholdings	451,965	-	-	-	-	451,965
Other Liabilities	17,963	-	-	577,552	-	595,515
Due to Other Funds	-	132,367	-	-	-	132,367
Deferred Compensation Payable	-	-	-	5,183,666	-	5,183,666
Deferred Revenue	2,051,375	7,094	-	-	-	2,058,469
Reserve for Abatements	1,115,175	-	-	-	-	1,115,175
Court Judgement Payable	-	-	-	-	181,119	181,119
Accrued Compensated Absences	-	-	-	-	4,514,106	4,514,106
Bonds and Notes Payable	-	-	4,230,000	-	28,749,586	32,979,586
Total Liabilities	4,210,345	181,045	4,285,325	6,038,120	33,444,811	48,159,646
Fund Equity:						
Fund Balances:						
Reserved:						
Encumbrances	554,002	-	-	-	-	554,002
Endowments	-	-	-	792,345	-	792,345
Unreserved:						
Designated (Note 9)	302,453	3,451,266	303,448	3,459,069	-	7,516,236
Undesignated (Note 8)	3,316,648	-	-	-	-	3,316,648
Total Fund Equity	4,173,103	3,451,266	303,448	4,251,414	-	12,179,231
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 8,383,448	\$ 3,632,311	\$ 4,588,773	\$ 10,289,534	\$ 33,444,811	\$ 60,338,877



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER
TOWN OFFICES
50 BILLERICA ROAD
CHELMSFORD, MA 01824-3193

CITIZENS ACTIVITY RECORD

"GOOD GOVERNMENT STARTS WITH YOU"

If you are interested in serving on an appointed town committee, please fill out this form and mail to: Office of the Town Manager, Town Offices, 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824-3193. The filling out of this form in no way assures appointment. All committee vacancies will be filled by citizens deemed most qualified to serve in a particular capacity.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

HOME PHONE: () _____ BUSINESS PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE: _____

INTEREST IN WHAT TOWN COMMITTEE: _____

PRESENT BUSINESS AFFILIATION AND WORK: _____

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: _____

EDUCATION OR SPECIAL TRAINING: _____

DATE APPOINTED	TOWN OFFICES HELD	TERM EXPIRED

REMARKS: _____

Town Offices

Board Of Selectmen

The Chelmsford Board of Selectmen completed one of its most ambitious and most focused terms over the preceding year - a year which with the benefit of hindsight I think will stand out in Town history.

Following the April 1997 election which brought new member **Philip Eliopoulos**, to the Board, the group met - along with Town Manager Lynch - in what has become an annual ritual for its goal-setting session at the Chelmsford Country Club. During the meeting the Board hammered out the agenda for the upcoming year. Key among the items identified were a repeat of the prior year's accomplishment of reducing taxes as well as taking further steps to enhance the quality of life here in Town.

Efforts by the Board and the Manager commenced immediately to work on bringing the University of Massachusetts Lowell hockey rink - the Forum - into the Town's control. The rink was to be abandoned by the University as its team moved to the newly constructed Tsongas Arena in Lowell. Both **Manager Bernie Lynch** and Selectman **Vice Chair, William Dalton** were instrumental in nimbly navigating the cumbersome process of acquiring this rink through sticky hurdles - both from neighboring towns as well as from the Commonwealth itself. While at this writing the deal is not quite complete, all signs point to the overwhelming likelihood that it will soon be in Town hands. This is a major achievement for the Town of Chelmsford for generations to come.

In the area of working to get new projects off of the ground, Selectman **Stuart Weisfeldt** pulled the laboring oar on behalf of the Board in shepherding the final design and construction for the Center School. With no issue more pressing among school parents in Town than overcrowding in classrooms. The mission of bringing Center School back on line was of critical importance to the Town. As planned, by September of 1999 the school will be once again welcoming elementary school students for the first time in many years.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Front Row (l-r) Bill Dalton, Vice Chairman; Peter Lawlor, Chairman; Susan Gates

Back Row (l-r) Philip Eliopoulos, Clerk; Stuart Weisfeldt

A second new project in which the Board generally had a strong interest and which Selectman **Susan Gates** in particular played a pivotal role was the commencement of construction of the new addition to Adams Library. With the Spring of 1998 this is a project which the Board and the Library Trustees are proud to help bring to the Town. Selectman Gates has also played a critical role - along with Representative Carol Clevin - in bringing the final stages of the design and funding for the Freeman Bike Path which will shortly come into being.

With the emphasis which the Board has place on acquiring and preserving open space here in Town no accomplishment of the Board is more important than the acquisition of 66 acres of undeveloped property in North Chelmsford. In an effort initiated and shouldered significantly by Selectman **Philip Elioploulos** working along with Town Manager Bernie Lynch the Board and Manager worked out the complex acquisition with a local property owner in an exchange which benefited the Town significantly. At a time when other Towns have been talking about such preservation Chelmsford has been at the forefront locally with an aggressive plan to preserve Chelmsford's unique character.

In the Fall of 1997 the Board learned that its goal of tax reduction had again been achieved. Lowering the tax rate for Town residents while at the same time increasing our savings and undertaking the large number of projects underway in Town is certainly one of the most significant achievements which the Board and Town Manager Lynch can look back upon.

On a personal note, I cannot adequately express the pride I feel or the enjoyment which I have experienced from the 6 years I have served on the Board. The residents of Town have been very well served by the Board members with whom I have served, by our Town Manager and his excellent staff and by all of the Departments in Town. We have been truly blessed.

Thank you.

Peter V. Lawlor, Chairman

Town Manager

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Town Manager for calendar year 1997. I would describe this past year to be a very positive for the Town of Chelmsford as the Town's finances and economy remained strong, and significant projects and initiatives moved forward to improve governmental

service delivery and the quality of life in the Town. The successes and positive condition of the Town in 1997 was built upon the decisions and direction of the past several years as the Town continues to adhere to a plan of conservative financial management and strategic investment in the community so as to address identified needs. Assuming continued adherence to these goals and the financial plan the future of the Town looks very bright.

Some of the highlights of the past year are listed below:

- Certified free cash of \$1,897,882 at the close of Fiscal Year 1997. Use of these funds included \$750,000 in tax relief, and the appropriation of \$250,000 to the Town's Stabilization fund for future capital needs and periods of budgetary stress.
- Authorization by Town Meeting to acquire 76 acres of open space in North Chelmsford through the resolution of approximately \$1.1 million in back taxes.
- The development of an agreement with a property owner in the Drum Hill area to bring 750,000 yards of fill to the abandoned Glenview Sand and Gravel facility to cap a DEP identified landfill site, and enable future development. In addition to the positive benefits associated with this project the proponent has also been committed to \$1,000,000 in host community fees payable to the Town.
- The Town has filed legislation which will result in a long term lease with the Commonwealth for the Tully Forum in Chelmsford and Billerica. Control of this facility will enable the Town to expand its recreation offerings and operate a potentially profitable enterprise.
- The Central Square revitalization and improvement project moved forward with the selection of a traffic engineer to develop the approved traffic plans for the Center, dialogue began with area property owners to encourage private investments, and a plan of additional publicly funded amenities was initiated.
- The Adams Library Expansion and Improvement project plans were finalized, bid and awarded with completion expected in the early summer of 1999. During construction the main library has been moved to the gym at the Town Offices.

The Town also experienced substantial economic growth in 1997 with major new projects announced or developed at Drum Hill and the Route 129 corridor. These projects will enable the Town to continue to prosper in the upcoming years. In addition, other public projects moved forward during the year including a new Police Station, improvements to various recreation areas including Southwell Field and the proposed Carl Olsson complex at the McCarthy School and another year of growth and improvements at the Chelmsford Country Club.

All trends and information indicate that 1998 will be another healthy and positive year for Chelmsford as the Town's finances remain strong and service

improvements and projects move forward. Our challenge remains utilizing our resources to maximum effect without overextending our ability to pay for the projects and services that we desire.

As always, I want to thank the members of the Board of Selectmen for their direction and support during 1997 including Bill Dalton, Philip Eliopoulos, Susan Gates, Peter Lawlor, and Stuart Weisfeldt. I also want to recognize and thank the Department Managers and employees of the Town for their hard work and dedication. In particular, I want to thank the staff of the Executive Office which has included Judy Carter, John Coderre, Marian Currier, Diane Darling and Jeanne Parziale.

Lastly, I want to once again thank the residents of Chelmsford for the opportunity and privilege of serving you as your Town Manager. I continue to look forward to working with you in the upcoming year and into the future to make Chelmsford an even better community.

Accounting Department

Members:

Jean Sullivan	Town Accountant
Pamela Amalfi	Assistant Town Accountant
Patricia Tucker	Principal Clerk
Martha Camacho	Payroll Coordinator

During Fiscal year 1997, Renee Young resigned as Assistant Town Accountant to take a position in a neighboring city school system. Pamela Amalfi, former Assistant Town Accountant for the Town of Framingham, has been hired to fill the position of Assistant Town Accountant.

A great deal of time and effort on the part of all members of the Accounting Department during fiscal year 1997 was given to converting the School Department to the MUNIS computer system. Both the Town and the School are now utilizing the same computer system.

As the result of team effort by all members of the Accounting Department, once again excellent reviews were received from the Certified Public Accounting firm.

Jean Sullivan
Town Accountant

Board Of Assessors

Members:

Diane M. Phillips	MAA, Chief Assessor
Bruce A. Symmes	CMA, RMA, MAA
Eric R. Josephson	MAA, Assistant Assessor
Nancy L. Maher	Administrative Assistant
Elaine McBride	Principal Clerks
Elaine Myers	Principal Clerks

This year the Board of Assessors conducted the triennial revaluation of all properties in town. After reviewing all the sales data information the town adjusted the base rates for all types of properties. The Department of Revenue then comes in and reviews a sampling of properties both in the field and in the office. The Department of Revenue then certified the values, which allows the Assessors to proceed in setting the tax rate.

The Assessors then compile information to allow the Board of Selectmen to make an informed decision as to whether or not to adopt classification for the town. This year the Board of Selectmen decreased the shift to 2%.

Due to the strong economy the values in town are rising at a steady rate, especially residential properties. The commercial, industrial properties are rising steadily.

A revaluation year always creates more work for the office staff. The Board wishes to thank them for their diligence and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Phillips, MAA, Chief Assessor

Board Of Health

Members:

Dr. Paul Canniff,	Chairman
Peter Dulchinos,	Vice Chairman
Douglas Hausler,	Clerk

Employees:

Richard J. Day,	Director
John P. Emerson,	Asst. Director
Diana L. Wright,	Dept. Asst.
Judith Dunigan,	Town Nurse
Eric P. Kaplan,	M. D., Town Physician

Septage and Wastewater Abatement Program

In 1997 the Septage and Wastewater Abatement Program continued its efforts to clean up our waterways. The Board of Health, with the advent of a central sewer system in Chelmsford is now embarking on enforcement activities to insure compliance with local by-laws which will insure a safe water supply. Dye testing, water sampling and issuance of septic system permits will continue in all the non-sewered areas.

Administration and Management

Income for various services and permits was \$29,433. During 1997 the department made inspections of day care centers, rental housing units, public schools, non-profit camps, bathing beaches International Certificates and all restaurants and retail food stores. Hazardous Waste and Industrial Wastewater Program

Richard J. Day, Director of Public Health, was re-appointed Hazardous Waste Coordinator and Municipal Coordinator to enforce the "Right-to-Know" law for Chelmsford. The Board of Health held two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days this year which were held on May 10, 1997 and November 1, 1997. This program has consistently collected significant volumes of hazardous waste.

Rabies Control

1997 was another productive year in controlling the spread of rabies in the Town of Chelmsford. The Board of Health, working with two local veterinarians established a program to offer affordable vaccine for the unprotected cat and dog population in town.

Title V

The Board of Health is continuing to work on developing programs to control the effects of the new Title V regulation on the residents still on septic systems. Communicable Disease Program

Reports of the following diseases were completed during 1997 for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

Amebiasis	1	Lyme Disease	1
Campylobacter Enteritis	8	Pertussis	4
Cholera	1	Tuberculosis Control Program*	13
Cyclospora Enteritis	1	Salmonella	6
Giardiasis	2	Shigella	3
Hepatitis B	4	Viral Meningitis	2
Hepatitis C	2	Yersinia	1

* Referrals received from Lowell Chest Clinic and Boston Medical Center TB Clinic

The testing of persons exposed to tuberculosis and those persons whose employment require certification of freedom from that disease is another responsibility of the Town Nurse. One-hundred Ninety-five Mantoux (TB) tests were given to persons as required for pre-employment and college and also to household contacts of active cases in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations. Home visits and telephone calls are made to families of active and some inactive tuberculosis cases on a periodic basis to insure understanding of the illness and that adequate medical follow-up is achieved. Numerous medical records are kept and updated on residents who have a positive Mantoux (TB) test and are receiving medication prophylactically and being followed radiologically at the Lowell Chest Clinic. When necessary, TB testing is done at places of business if employees are exposed to an active case of TB.

Immunization Program

The Board of Health sponsored two flu clinics this year. One hundred eighty-eight persons were immunized with pneumonia vaccine and one-thousand two-hundred eighty were immunized with flu vaccine at clinics. Additional doses were given to nursing homes, Rotenberg School, Lighthouse School, Life Links, town employees, physicians offices, nine visits were made to handicapped or house-bound residents. A combined total of two-thousand three-hundred twenty-nine doses of flu vaccine were administered in town.

One-hundred ninety-eight immunizations were administered to adults and students in compliance with the Massachusetts Immunizations Laws and prophylactically to residents traveling to underdeveloped countries.

Hepatitis B vaccine, school based program, was initiated this year and all sixth graders were offered the immunizations free at school. Because the Massachusetts Department of Public Health supplied this vaccine to Boards of Health it was given at no cost. Seventh through twelfth graders were offered the Hepatitis B vaccine for a nominal charge of \$30.00 for the three doses. These programs will continue for the next year. Three-hundred sixty-five students in grades 6 -12 were immunized through the schools.

Hypertension Screening Program

Blood pressure screenings for residents are held the first Thursday of every month from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Board of Health, Town Offices. Four-hundred seventy-nine residents attended the screenings.

Lead Paint Screening Program

The Board of Health offers lead paint testing for children between the ages nine months and six years. Residents may call the Board of Health at 250-5243 and make an appointment with nurse. Twenty-four children were screened for lead paint.

Other screenings offered by the Board of Health include cholesterol. Dates of these programs will be advertised in advance.

World AIDS Day Event

Each year around World AIDS Day, December 1st, an event is held in Chelmsford to promote education and generate discussion among family members with regards to HIV/AIDS. This year AIDS flags were displayed in Chelmsford Center the first week of December. It is the committee's hope to encourage compassion, understanding and support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The committee for World AIDS Day in Chelmsford is in need of volunteers. If interested, call Judy Dunigan, RN, Board of Health, 250-5243.

Health Fair/Health Screenings

Either a Health Fair or several Health Screenings will be held in conjunction with Westford every other year, finances permitting. Date and location will be announced in newspapers.

Board Of Registrars

Members:

Richard F. Burtt Jr	
Judith A. Olsson	Chairman
John F. Ketcham	
Sandra A. Kilburn	Principal Clerk
Mary E. St.Hilaire	Ex Officio

Voting Strength as of December 31, 1997 Enrolled Voters:

Precincts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Democrats	574	526	575	579	560	627	545	529	486	5001
Republicans	412	257	300	303	360	383	362	325	371	3073
Unenrolled	1207	1091	1378	1209	1419	1317	1414	1144	1340	11519
Libertarian	3	6	3	2	7	3	1	1	1	27
Inter. 3rd Party	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	3	0	11
Reform	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Rainbow	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Coalition										
Conservative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Natural Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Party										
Socialist	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Greenparty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USA										
New Alliance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New World	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cocil.										
Prohibition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
We the People	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2199	1885	2258	2095	2349	2330	2322	2005	2199	19642

Emergency Management

Members:

Walter R. Hedlund	Director
John E. Abbott	
Walter J. Adley, Jr.	
J. Bradford Cole	
George R. Dixon	

Chelmsford Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) volunteers were very active during the year 1997, many volunteer hours were spent at the Emergency Operating Center at the Town Offices during MA. and Local State of Emergency, April 1st to April 3rd due to a Heavy Wet Snow Storm also preparing reports for FEMA and MEMA.

CEMA personal with to Thank all Department Heads and their Personnel for their efforts and assistance, the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully Submitted
Walter R. Hedlund
Emergency Coordinator

Inspections Department

Members:

Anthony F. Zagzoug	Inspector of Blds
Joseph P. Shaw	Local Inspector
Kenneth W. Kleyne	PI & Gas Inspector
Dennis P. Kane	Wire Inspector
Elaine M. Casey	Principal Clerk

There were 86 new single family dwellings, 1 seven unit Town House, 1 Care Facility, 1 Private School, and 5 commercial buildings issued in 1997. The breakdown also includes commercial tenant fit-ups, additions, alterations, renovations, sheds, wood stoves, etc.

A breakdown of the Inspections Department for FY97 is as follows:

Type of Permit	# Of Permits	Total Fees
Building	750	\$196,701.00
Electrical	848	\$35,277.00
Plumb. & Gas	1,594	\$35,594.00
Sub Total	3,195	\$267,572.00

Other fees for permits issued (not included above) for signs, weights and measures, yard sales, and Certificates of Inspection were \$10,421.75. The total fees collected for the department was \$277,993.75 for the year.

MIS Department

As I have just taken over the position of Data Processing Coordinator from Judy Dunn in September 1997, this report shall be brief.

A comprehensive computer survey has been completed of all computer equipment in the Town Offices. From this survey, a cost analysis for upgrading to Windows 95 was done. Most of the town's computers can be inexpensively upgraded to support Windows 95. While this option is the least expensive approach, this is not to be considered a long term optimal technology plan. Upgrading to Windows 95 in this manner will extend the life of the existing computers and defray the cost of upgrading over a few years. The cost for this upgrade has been submitted as capital outlay for FY98-99.

We are currently in the process of modernizing and updating our web pages. With the upgrade to Windows 95, each department will be able to maintain their own web pages. This would allow the public to receive current and special event information in a timely manner.

To further increase the productivity of our staff members, we are researching remote access for the off site departments. This would allow these departments the increasingly necessary tools of today's business environment such as email and Internet access.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Holt
MIS Coordinator

Personnel Board

Members:

Charles Tewell
Peter Volonino
Jean Sparks
John Sousa, Jr.
1 Vacant Seat
Jeanne Parziale, Personnel Coordinator

The Personnel Board consists of five members (four are appointed by the Town Manager, one is elected by non-union employees). During the past year John Sousa, Jr. (Cemetery Superintendent) was elected as the non-union employee representative, replacing James Sousa (Deputy Fire Chief). A special "Thank You" to Joe Dyer who resigned after serving on the Personnel Board for several years.

On June 10, 1997, the Board approved the first revision of the Chelmsford Personnel Rules and Regulations. Significant changes include a complete Classification and Compensation Plan and a revised Employee Performance Evaluation and Development Form. Various administrative updates were made throughout the text. The document was distributed to all departments.

Public Library

Adams Library and Children's House

25 Boston Road, Chelmsford Center

Anna C. MacKay Memorial Library

43 Newfield Street, North Chelmsford

Library Trustees:

John W. Cutter, Jr.	Chair
Kathryn Fisher	Vice-Chair
Elizabeth McCarthy	Treasurer
Margaret Marshall	Secretary
Stephen J. Mallette	
Jaclyn D. Matzkin	
Sarah L. Warner	

Adams Library Renovation and Expansion

The library's building project proceeded on schedule. A. Anthony Tappe & Associates, project architects, worked throughout the year to develop construction documents. The project was bid in November 1997 and bids were opened on December 9. As a result of the bidding process, the general construction contract awarded to Mello Construction of Taunton, MA.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES



Front Row (l-r) Elizabeth McCarthy, Treasurer; Sarah Warner, Margaret Marshall, Secretary

Back Row (l-r) Stephen Mallette, Kathryn Fisher, V. Chairman; Jaclyn Matzkin
(Missing from photo: John W. Cutter, Chairman)

Library Relocation

In November, the Library moved to the lower level gymnasium in the Town Office building on Billerica Road where it will remain for the duration of construction. Library patrons and staff said good-bye to the Library's Children's House and Carriage House. The buildings will be removed to clear the site before construction. Both buildings were sold and will be preserved at their new location.

Circulation

During 1997, the library circulated 365,900 items including books, magazines, videos, audiocassettes, compact disk and museum passes. As a member of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, our patrons requested and received 5,851 items from other Massachusetts libraries. The Circulation Department continued its delivery program to area Retirement and Nursing facilities.

In 1997, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners voted to establish 6 new library systems, which will for the first time link public, academic, school and special libraries. The new library systems allow libraries to provide greatly expanded access to the nearly 50 million books owned by libraries of all types in Massachusetts. Chelmsford is a member of the new Northeast Library Region.

Reference Department

The Reference Department researched 11,754 questions. Both patrons and staff conducted 8,492 searches on the on-line periodical database. Public use of the library's internet access continues to increase.

Staff distributed over 43,000 tax forms and more than 100 people took advantage of the library's tax assistance programs.

Staff authored and maintains the first edition of the Chelmsford Public Library's home page.

Children's Department

The Children's Library circulated 136,932 items and answered 3,115 reference questions. There were 96 children's programs including weekly storytimes. The summer reading program - Celebrate! Read! - attracted over 800 participants. Scout troops, daycare providers, and pre-schools booked field trips throughout the year.

Community Service

The Community Service Department links community groups and residents with the library's collections and services. During the year, 2149 people attended 57 programs including Job Fairs, Poetry Slams, Adult Learning Fair, Young Writers' Club and a summer evening music series. Community Services received two grants from Chelmsford's Cultural Council for a continuation of the *Music on the Lawn* series and money to clean and preserve the bi-centennial quilt. On the State level, this department brought in a public relations award from the Massachusetts Library Association for the Library's *Intergenerational Poetry Slam*.

Anna C. MacKay Memorial Library

The MacKay Library circulated 46,726 items which represents a 12% increase over 1996. Barbara Michaud, Children's Assistant, conducted weekly storytimes and special school vacation programs. Rona Call, head librarian at MacKay for the past 12 years, retired at the end of December.

Volunteers

In 1997 we had over 40 volunteers logging over 2000 hours. Volunteers helped to run the French and Italian Conversation Circles, deliver books to Retirement and nursing homes, maintain the library scrap book, solve computer problems, keep magazines shelves in order, help our patrons with genealogy research, maintain our gardens, and helped us with the library relocation.

A volunteer, with funding from the Friends of the Library, coordinated an inventory and archival project which organized the library's records and historical materials.

The Friends of the Library

In June, the Friends held their final booksale before the library relocation. With the revenue from the booksale, the Friends will continue to provide patrons with museum passes and special programs until another booksale is possible after construction. The Friends continued support enhances service in all departments and is appreciated by patrons and staff.

Library Endowment Committee

The Library Endowment Committee prepared plans to initiate a major capital campaign of \$500,000. to raise funds to enhance the new library building.

Statistical Reports

Circulation : 368,675

Added Materials: 8,063

Moneys deposited with the Town Treasurer from the fines, lost materials, and fees: \$17,294.

Library Personnel

Mary E. Mahoney, Director	Laura Kulik, Head of Technical Services
Nanette Eichell, Assitant Director	Rona Call, MacKay Librarian
Linda Robinson, Head of Circulation	Cheryl Zani, Head of Children's Services
Beth Decristofaro, Head of Reference	John Reslow, Maintenance
Katherine Cryan-Hicks, Head of Community Services	

Library Endowment Committee

John W. Cutter, Jr.	Richard C. Jumps	Shirley M. Pearlman
Richard DeFreitas	Janet F. Laughlin	Dennis J. Ready
Eileen Duffy	Jean R. McCaffery	Joseph B. Shanahan, Jr.
William J. Gilet	Elizabeth A. McCarthy, Chair	Barbara A. Weisfeldt
John G. Harrington	Dennis E. McHugh	William Whitehouse
Douglas Hausler	Kathleen A. O'Brien	James C. Shannon III
Mary E. Mahoney, Library Director, ex-officio		

Recreation Commission

Members:

Robert Hayes,	Chairman
Harry Ayotte	
Stephan Dumas	
Robert Charpentier	
Paul Murphy	
Janice Ruell	
Holly Rice,	Recreation Director
Sandra Hall,	Administrative Clerk

Meetings: First Monday of each month.

The Recreation Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the Town Manager. The primary reason of the commission is to support and make recommendations to continuously improve and expand the recreational opportunities offered to the Chelmsford community.

The Recreation Department offered over 300 self-supporting programs throughout the year. Some of the successful programs organized in 1997 include day trips, ski programs, craft classes, dance lessons, art lessons, science programs and much more. The Recreation Department will continue to develop programming in response to the growing and changing needs of all populations within the Town of Chelmsford. Recreation programs will be advertised in the *Chelmsford Community Newsletter* which is mailed during the months of January, May and September.

Our continued goal for 1998 is to open a Youth Center. The Youth Center will provide kids the opportunity to socialize with friends, receive tutoring, play pool, ping pong, etc. A student board will also be organized to provide kids the chance to become involved in a leadership program.

In September of 1997 our Administrative Clerk, Agnes Angus passed away after a long illness. Agnes was a valuable employee and an exceptional person whose smile and laugh easily brightened any room. Her cheerful personality brought warmth and comfort to us all. Her generosity, kindness, and friendship will be greatly missed.

The members of the commission regretfully accepted the resignation of Jim Young and wish to thank him for his years of dedicated service to the Recreation Department. The commission would also like to welcome Sandra Hall who has been hired as the Administrative Clerk for the Recreation Department.

We are most thankful to all residents whose support, dedication and involvement contributed to the success of 1997.

Recycling Committee

Members:

Barbara Scavezze,	Recycling / Waste Coordinator
Peter Nelson	
Michael Bell	
Mark Gallagher	
Nancy Paredes	
Norman Eisenmann,	resigned June 30, 1997
Robert McCallum,	resigned June 30, 1997

The Town of Chelmsford contracted for the following services for residents, funded by taxes: weekly collection of solid waste, the biweekly collection of recyclables, and three curbside leaf collections held May 10, November 1 and December 6. Residents were allowed to dispose of brush at the curb with their weekly trash from December 23, 1996 - January 18, 1997 (the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection temporarily lifted the ban on the disposal of brush as a result of a snowstorm on December 7, 1996, which produced a large quantity of fallen trees and branches). The Town disposed of 14,080 tons of solid waste, recycled 3,360 tons, and composted approximately 1,020 tons of yard waste, for a 23.7 % recycling/composting rate.

The Chelmsford Recycling Committee held brush drop-offs at Community Tree on April 12, June 14 and October 25. The CRC also held a drop-off for metal (which was recycled) and furniture and household goods (which were donated to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless) on May 17 and September 27; clothing was also accepted at the September drop-off and donated to Goodwill Industries. The CRC held the annual Town-Wide Clean-Up on May 3. Volunteers picked up litter from conservation land, school yards, road shoulders, and illegal dump sites, and gathered afterwards for a picnic at the Elks Lodge. The Town received a grant from the state for 100 compost bins, which were sold at half cost, enabling the Town to purchase and sell an additional 100 compost bins. The Town also fulfilled the requirements for the first segment of the Massachusetts Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP), which provides an incentive payment based on the amount of recyclables collected in our curbside program.

The Recycling / Waste Coordinator produced two editions of the Cable 43 television show, "Chelmsford Recycles." One edition featured charities which accept donations of usable items; the second edition featured a presentation at the Senior Center for Massachusetts Recycles Day, on how recyclables are turned into new products. Each edition was broadcast several times. The annual recycling and trash flyer was produced and mailed to all residents. This flyer included the recycling schedule, and detailed the proper methods, timing and places for disposal of various types of recyclable material and solid waste. This type of information was also prepared for inclusion in the Community Newsletter and the "Chelmsford Recycles" web page.

prepared by Barbara Scavezze,

Sewer Commission

The Chelmsford Sewer Commission was very busy in 1997. As sewer construction and design continued at an aggressive pace, the Commission also modified its policy for grinder pump units and embarked on a cooperative effort with the Center Water District. In addition, the chairman of the Commission received a prestigious award from an organization of New England wastewater professionals.

Sewer construction was completed in the Rainbow Avenue Areas in 1997, and began in the Northgate Road and Abbott Lane Areas. Sewer design was completed in the Hart Pond Area late in 1997 and was ongoing in East Chelmsford. The East Chelmsford area is the last area envisioned under the original 1984 Wastewater Facilities Plan.

SEWER COMMISSION



Front Row (l-r) Evelyn Newman; John P. Emerson, Jr., Chairman; Jacqueline Sheehy

Back Row (l-r) James M. Harrington, Attorney; Robert Gooper (Weston & Sampson Engineer); Richard J. Day, Vice-Chairman; Barry B. Balan; Thomas E. Moran, Clerk; Steven K. Pedersen (Weston & Sampson Engineer); Victor Manougian, Attorney; Stephen J. Richard (Weston & Sampson Engineer)

One of the many issues facing the Commission in 1997 received considerable publicity. Single family residential grinder pump units and low pressure sewers were a topic of considerable public input in 1997.

It is estimated that when the sewer project is complete, approximately 11,700 sewer connections will be made. All but approximately 200 of these connections can be made by gravity. In some isolated neighborhoods, gravity connections are either not physically possible or not economically feasible due to extreme elevation changes and/or shallow bedrock. Such areas require connection to the public sewer using low pressure sewers and grinder pump units.

Impacted neighborhood groups in the Abbott Lane and Northgate Road Areas vocalized concern regarding installation, maintenance and operation of the units. After numerous public informational meetings and input from the impacted residents, the Commission voted to modify its policy regarding the installation of the units (the Commission does not have authority over sewer system operation and maintenance). The Commission estimated that the average installation costs are approximately equivalent to one (1) betterment assessment unit. Under the old policy, installations were the homeowner's responsibility. When the majority of impacted residents said they preferred to pay the betterment and let the town install the grinder pumps, the Commission agreed.

In 1997, the Commission also embarked on a cooperative effort with the Chelmsford Center Water District. The Commission recognized the need to coordinate needed water system improvements in the Hart Pond Area with the sewer construction. Given the lack of public water supply or inadequately sized water mains in many of the narrow streets surrounding Hart Pond, it made sense to combine the water system improvements and sewer installation work under one construction contract. What was significant, was the cooperative agreement reached between the private water supplier and the public sewer authority for cost reimbursement.

Lastly, the Chairman of the Commission was the recipient of the 1997 New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) Collection Systems Award. The award is given to a NEWEA member each year in recognition of their outstanding efforts in the planning, management, design, administration, operation or maintenance of wastewater collection systems. The 2,500+ member association of environmental professionals recognized the Chairman for his 17 years of service on the Commission, and his contributions leading to the reduction of ground and surface water pollution in Chelmsford through the construction of a municipal sewer system.

The Commission would like to acknowledge our administrative staff, Evelyn Newman, Jacqueline Sheehy, and Irene Oczkowski for their hard work, professionalism and patience. The Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works shares their multifaceted duties, and they are the individuals who interface with the public on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

CHELMSFORD SEWER COMMISSION

John P. Emerson, Jr., Chairman

Barry B. Balan, Vice Chairman

Thomas E. Moran, Clerk

George F. Abely

Richard J. Day

Town Clerk

Members:

Mary E. St.Hilaire, CMC, CMMC	Town Clerk
Elizabeth L. Delaney	Ass't Town Clerk
Janet M. Hart	Senior Clerk
Katherine M. Kalicki	P.T. Senior Clerk

Sporting Licenses	788	Birth (Inc)	453
Dog Licenses	2996	Deaths	287
Kennel Licenses	9	Marriages	220
		Intentions	220

On March 6th of 1997, Mary E. St.Hilaire completed 25 years as Town Clerk, and is looking forward to many more interesting and challenging years.

1997 was the election year that will go down in town history. The Annual Town Election was scheduled for Tuesday April 1st. and the polls were to open at 7AM. On that day Massachusetts was hit with a blizzard. Due to the efforts of Town Clerk's Staff, the Precinct Workers, and the personnel of the School, Police and Fire, DPW departments and their department heads, the polls did in fact open on time at 7AM! Many thanks. Then at 10:30 AM the Secretary of State William F. Galvin declared a state of emergency and suspended and postponed the election. The election was rescheduled and held on Friday April 11th. There were five sessions of Town Meetings held. Two in the Spring and three in the fall.

Treasurer / Tax Collector

Members:

Charles F. Mansfield,	Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector
Carol R. Lambert,	Assistant Treasurer
Bettie A. Osborne,	Departmental Assistant
Judith A. Olsson,	Legal Clerk
Pat Britton,	Data Processing Clerk
Anna M. Griffin,	Accts. Payable/Receivable Clerk

Aided by an improved economy and conservative budgeting practices, the town's financial position has improved significantly in fiscal year 1997. Property taxes provide the majority of revenues and current collections have increased in the fiscal year due to a continued aggressive collection procedures. In fiscal year 1997, the percent of net tax levy collected was at a record 98.7%.

As of the end of fiscal 1997, the General Fund balance was \$4,173,103 dollars. The General Fund budgetary revenue exceeded estimates by \$958,855 dollars. The department expenditures were \$904,754 less than anticipated. This in itself is an indication of very positive economic activity in the town of Chelmsford.

The Town has made significant progress in building up reserves in fiscal 1997. Our strengthened financial position enabled the town to transfer \$250,000.00 in fiscal 1997 into the Stabilization Fund for future capital projects.

The Town has improved its long-term financial position through the preparation and adherence to five year fiscal forecasts and strategic plan. This plan addresses operating costs, debt, facility needs, and financial reserves.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Mansfield
Finance Director/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Public Safety

Police Department

I herein respectfully submit for your information and review the Annual Report of the Police Department for the year 1997. At the present time, the Department is made up of 54 permanent Officers.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Armand J. Caron

LIEUTENANTS

Steven A. Burns
Raymond G. McCusker

James F. Murphy
Francis X. Roark

SERGEANTS

Paul E. Cooper
J. Ronald Gamache
Timothy F. O'Connor

E. Michael Rooney
Scott R. Ubele
John O. Walsh

DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL PROSECUTOR/LOWELL DISTRICT COURT

Sergeant Robert M. Burns

INSPECTORS

James T. Finnegan
Jared S. Finnegan

Colin C. Spence
Brian F. Mullen

CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER

Edward F. Smith

JUVENILE OFFICER

Kenneth R. Duane

D.A.R.E. OFFICER

Todd D. Ahern

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER/INSPECTOR

Roland E. Linstad

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Sgt. Francis P. Kelly

Richard A. Adams
David M. Leo

Robert J. Murphy, Jr.
Paul E. Richardson

COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT

Jeffrey A. Blodgett

Russell H. Linstad

John A. Roark

K-9 OFFICER / K-9 DRUG DOG

Daniel J. Ahern / Cris

PATROL OFFICERS

Jeffrey J. Bernier

Bruce A. Darwin

John J. Donovan

Patrick W. Daley

Philip R. Dube, Jr.

Francis J. Goode, Jr.

Richard D. Hallion

Gail F. Hunter

David M. Leo

David F. MacKenzie, Jr.

John C. McGeown

Peter C. McGeown

Thomas A. Niemaszyk (Deceased 6/12/97)

Edward F. Quinn

John E. Redican

Chandler J. Robinson

Anthony Spinazola

James M. Spinney, Jr.

Francis P. Teehan

David R. Tine

Robert J. Trudel

George A. Tyros

William R. Walsh

Craig E. Walsh

Ernest R. Woessner, Jr.

Timothy B. Bourke

FULL TIME CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS

William G. Amundson

Gloria E. Armstrong

David J. DeFreitas

Richard Demers

Frederick F. Flynn, Jr.

Timothy A. Goode

Sandra M. Langley

Kevin R. Proulx

Michael L. Taplin

William H. Vaughn

PART TIME CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS

Laura B. Raffaello

DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANT

Mary Jane Grant

PRINCIPAL CLERKS

Marie K. DiRocco

Donna Fox

Lynne M. Tessier

SENIOR CLERK

Margaret E. Greenhalgh

RECEIPTS TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN

Permits, fines, and fees	\$97,943.56
Lowell District Court Restitution	20,590.00
Registry of Motor Vehicles Disbursements	113,297.50
Total	\$231,831.06

BREAKDOWN OF ARRESTS/CRIMES

Adult Arrests	581
Juvenile Arrests	43
Total Arrests	624
Whites Arrested	501
Blacks Arrested	23
Asians Arrested	13
Unknowns Arrested	87
Charges Logged Against Those Arrested	1,208

DISPOSITION OF CASES

Pending	601
Continued	18
Dismissed	69
Default	165
Guilty	107
Placed on file	2
Not Guilty	2
Placed in ASAP	1
Placed on Probation	14
Suspended Sentence	84
Committed to Jail	9
Continued without Finding	136
Committed to D.Y.S.	0
Total Findings	1,208

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

Calls Answered by Cruisers.....	22,270
Summons Served.....	505
Licenses Suspended/Revoked.....	373/1,134
Accidents Reported.....	487
Fatal Accidents.....	2
Personal Injury Accidents.....	176
Mileage of Cruisers.....	518,100
Station Lockups.....	624
Citations Issued.....	2,632
Parking Violations Issued.....	338
Restraining Orders Served.....	139
Protective Custody.....	31
False Alarms Responded to by Cruisers.....	1,607

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Chelmsford Police Department has realized impressive achievements in the past 12 months and are listed as follows:

1. One Patrol Officer attended Basic Police Academy and was appointed a permanent full time Officer.
2. Chelmsford Officers attended a total of fifty two specialized training classes.
3. The Chelmsford Police Department applied for and received the following Grants for 1997:
 - A. \$300,000.00 Universal Hiring Grant
 - B. \$ 50,000.00 Accreditation Grant
 - C. \$ 50,000.00 Mapping Consortium Grant
 - D. \$ 42,000.00 Community Policing Grant
 - E. \$ 20,536.00 Federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant
 - F. \$ 20,000.00 Communications Grant
 - G. \$ 19,000.00 D.A.R.E. Grant

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Chelmsford Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the Town of Chelmsford by working cooperatively with the public and within the framework of the United States Constitution to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment.

GOALS

Establish a D.A.R.E. parent program that will complete the educational link between the Police, our youth and their parents.

Establish a mini Police Sub-Station in the Central Square area of Town through the cooperation of our business community.

Establish a Police Department Home Page that will provide education and information to our community.

Expand the relationship between the Police Department and Chelmsford Community Television by developing a partnership in a Mobile Production/Command Center Vehicle.

One of the biggest challenges in the year to come is a new Police Facility that will meet the demands of the Police Department and the Town of Chelmsford. The first steps have been completed by identifying the needs, establishing a building committee and selecting an architectural firm. The next step will be the schematic design and to prepare for funding, finalized by full design and construction.

I would like to thank the Town Manager, the Board of Selectmen, all employees of the Police Department and all Town Departments for their cooperation during the past year.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all the Auxiliary Police for their continued dedication and support and to all the Members of the Police Department for the professionalism and dedication exhibited during the past 12 months. Without this support, a lot of worthwhile programs and events could not have taken place.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Armand J. Caron

Auxiliary Police Report

This year the Auxiliary Police Unit completed its 41st year of service to the town. The Auxiliary Police force assisted the regular force and town organizations at seventeen events over the last year. In addition to assisting at planned events, the members of the Auxiliary assisted at numerous motor vehicle accidents with traffic and crowd control. The Officers of the Auxiliary force donated a total of 9,105 man hours to the town. Operation property check was very successful keeping vandalism to a minimum. The statistics were:

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Vacant House Checks	1,343	1,195
School Property Checks	15,730	15,326
Town Property Checks	<u>17,010</u>	<u>17,060</u>
Total	34,083	33,581

This preventative patrol by the Auxiliary prevents malicious destruction to town property and saves property owners and the town thousands of dollars annually.

Explorer Post 370 was very active during 1997 assisting the Auxiliary with crowd control and pedestrian crossings at town events. These young men and women are a credit to our community.

I would like to thank the members of the Auxiliary, the Scouts and their families for donating so much of their time. Your volunteer assistance continues to make Chelmsford a better place to live.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager for their support, the Police Chief, the Superior Officers and the Patrol Officers of the Police Department for all their assistance and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant Raymond G. McCusker

Auxiliary Police Roster

Bernard J. Battle
Mark A. Cianci
Michael DiGiovani
Michael A. Houston
Mark Juhola
Stephen Keins
Peter D. LoPilato
Melissa Martin

Robert M. Outwater
Kevin R. Proulx
Peter Ravanis
Ralph Roscoe
John Stoessel
Matthew Thomas
David Tyler
David W. Walsh
Joseph Walsh

Fire Department

Calendar year 1997 has proven to be a very busy year for the Fire Department. Emergency response calls totaled 4,164 Medical Aid calls increased by 7%, totaling 1,724 calls. This area has shown a consistent increase over the past decade. We have addressed the medical aid needs by training 46 firefighters to the emergency medical technician level and equipping the apparatus to provide this advanced level of service.

We have continued to improve our Fire Prevention efforts. A part-time secretary has been added to the Fire Prevention staff which has allowed us to post walk in hours between 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., and enabled the inspectors to spend more time out of the office conducting code enforcement inspections. Additionally, we have developed a program to utilize the on duty personal to conduct in-service inspections, greatly increasing our inspection abilities.

The departments Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program continues to be a great success in making our children both fire safe and fire conscious. Credit for the success of this program revolves around a grant from the State, a cooperative effort between this department and the school department and our S.A.F.E. instructors, Firefighter William Cady, Firefighter Jesse Foster and Firefighter Leo Manley.

Diesel exhaust ventilation systems have now been installed in the five (5) stations. This will help to provide the firefighters with a clean atmosphere in which to work. A new roof and heating system was installed at the East Fire Station. Engine 2 and Engine 4 have been refurbished over the past year in an effort to extend their longevity.

Three firefighters retired this past year, Firefighter Dennis Vargeletis, Firefighter Emil Magiera and Firefighter Martin Boermeester I would like to wish the well in their future endeavors and thank them for their many years of dedicated service. Firefighter Dan Funaro, Firefighter Marc Pare, and Firefighter Dan Reid, Jr. have been hired to replace the recent retirees and started work in October of this year.

The goals for the upcoming year are to complete our water rescue training program, to offer first aid and CPR to the community, to receive and put into service a new pumping engine and to investigate the feasibility of building a fire training tower.

I would like to thank the Town Manager, the Board of Selectmen and all other town departments along with the members of the Fire Department and my office staff for their help and cooperation over the past year.

Respectfully submitted

John E. Parow
Fire Chief

Fire Department Roster

Members:

John E Parow	Chief	James A. Sousa	Deputy Chief
		Michael F. Curran	Deputy Chief
Walter F. Adley	Captain	James P. Boermeester	Captain
Michael Burke	Captain	Charles A. Schramm	Captain
James M. Spinney	Captain		
Boermeester, Martin *		William V Cady	
Campbell, David		William Capmbell	
Carroll, Jack		Cincevich, Anthony	
Clancy, David		Clarke, Kevin	
Conlin, Mark		Curran, James	
Curran, William		Dalton, William	
Depalma, John		Donoghue, Michael	
Donovan, Bruce		Drew, Donald	
Durkin, James		Foster, Jesse	
Funaro, Daniel		Hadley, David	

Hadley, William
Houle, Henry
Johnson, Peter
Keohane, William
Leczynski, Cynthia
Manley, Leo
McTeague, Michael
Miller, Richard
O'Brien, Kevin
Peterson, Donald
Reid, Daniel, Jr.
Reid, John
Rivard, Rick
Ryan, George
Spinazola, Joseph
Ubele, Daniel

Hayes, Douglas
Jamer, William
Keohane, Dennis
Kydd, Raymond
Magiera, Emil *
Martin, Leo
Merrill, Leslie
Nolet, Edward
Pare, Marc
Reid, Daniel
Reid, James
Ridlon, Michael
Ryan, Gary
Sheehy, Kevin
Stanton, Brian
Vargeletis, Dennis *

James Keeley
Martha A. DeSaulnier
Margaret Borghetti

Mechanic
Department Assistant
Clerk

Retired

6

3

Fire Department Calls

Total calls by type 1988 through 1997.

<u>YR</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
88	79	63	138	16	786	138	62	530	1812
89	78	60	112	10	559	95	343	652	1909
90	80	58	119	8	645	63	142	648	1763
91	70	57	153	18	706	1128	76	771	2979
92	63	39	99	19	755	983	76	821	2855
93	59	29	103	29	758	1193	128	885	3184
94	88	46	100	11	842	1142	70	1127	3426
95	100	52	114	28	852	953	4	1445	3548
96	67	66	74	14	973	1441	3	1609	4247
97	56	36	97	17	828	1406	0	1724	4164

YR	Year
A	Auto Fire
B	Building Fire
O	Outside Fire
MA	Mutual Aid
I	Investigation
S	Service
FA	False Alarm
M	Medical Aid

Dog Officer

Citizen complaints answered	1,182
Dogs picked up and taken to pound	98
Dogs returned to owners	83
Dogs adopted after 10 days	2
Stray dogs disposed of at the Lowell Humane Society	13
Road kills disposed of at the Lowell Humane Society	155
Violation citations issued	9
Animal bite reports	25
Total miles traveled	13,051
Dogs licensed for 1997	3,015
Value of citation fines	\$275.00
Other funds turned into the town	\$900.00

Raccoon rabies has now been documented in 306 towns in Massachusetts. At this time, no confirmed cases of rabies have been found in Chelmsford. The outbreak has peaked in most areas, but because the disease will always remain in the raccoon population, we should always maintain a healthy respect and be cautious when dealing with animals. Between September 16, 1992 and November 9, 1995, 1,815 animals tested positive for raccoon rabies. These animals included 1,455 raccoons, 254 skunks, 40 cats, 27 woodchucks, 22 fox, 9 cattle, 2 coyotes, 1 pig, 3 horses, 1 beaver and 1 fisher. In 1995 there have been three cases of human deaths caused by rabies in the United States. All were caused by the bat strain of rabies and the circumstances of exposure were unknown.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin E. Warren
Animal Control Officer

Department Of Public Works

The Department of Public Works, created by the Town Charter is comprised of Divisions including the highway, engineering, recreation, public buildings, parks, public shade trees and the operation of the sanitary sewer system.

Engineering Division

Members:

James E. Pearson, P.E.,	Director & Town Engineer
George LeMasurier,	Assistant Town Engineer
Gail A. Loiselle,	Principal Clerk
James B. Stanford,	Project Engineer

The work of the Engineering Division can best be summarized by listing the engineering assistance given to other Town boards and departments. This year's projects included:

Planning Board:

- Reviewed thirty-two (32) subdivisions and/or site plans
- Inspected new construction on sixteen (16) projects
- Prepared cost estimates for bonding new roadway construction and prepared bond reductions
- Attended all regular meetings

Assessors:

- Regularly updated Assessor Maps
- Calculated lot areas
- Assisted in property line determinations

Town Manager's Office:

- Inspected streets & reviewed plans & legal descriptions for street acceptances of Empire Street, Fisher Road, Meadowcrest Lane and Technology Drive
- Prepared maps for Town Meeting articles
- Inspected & responded to pole location requests from utility companies
- Provided grades and construction inspection for the reclaiming of a portion of Northgate Road, Southgate Road, Montview Road, Village View Road and Orchard Lane
- Updated Street Acceptance List
- Provided research relative to the status of the railroad crossing on Wellman Avenue, worked with the Railroad, Courier, Williamsburg Condominiums and the Lighthouse School on coordinating repairs to the crossing
- Inspected & responded to drainage, tree, and other miscellaneous complaints

Highway Division:

- Inspected and prepared cost estimates for the resurfacing of eleven (11) streets and provided drainage analysis for fourteen (14) drainage projects
- Provided layout for safety improvements at the intersection of Marshall Street and Carlisle Street
- Provided layout for new lanes, parking spaces and new islands in Central Square
- Assisted with the snow and ice effort
- Provided layout and grades for the handicap ramp and layout of parking spaces at the Chelmsford Country Club
- Provided layout, grades and inspections for sidewalk reconstruction on North Road and Groton Road
- Inspected final paving of the sidewalks on Steadman Street and Chelmsford Street
- Prepared revised plow route maps to include new streets

Project Engineer Jim Stanford has been busy designing roadway, sidewalk and drainage improvements in the Westlands, construction inspection and management of the Highway Division and Chelmsford Country Club maintenance buildings. He also prepared bid documents for irrigation and pump system for the Chelmsford Country Club. He represents the DPW working with other departments on updating computer mapping and GIS implementation.

Payrolls, expense vouchers and budgeting for all divisions except Highway are performed in this office.

Highway Division

Members:

John Long,	Superintendent
Larry Ferriera,	Foreman
Marie Burns,	Principal Clerk

Todd Chase	Driver	Gary Beaulieu	Operator
David Irvine	Driver	Audie Boudreau	Operator
David Eacrett	Driver	Joseph Eriksen	Operator
David Palmer	Driver	Dennis Greenwood	Operator
Paul Winegar	Driver	Raymond Maybury	Operator

John Ferreira	Lead Mechanic
Richard Jenson	Mechanic
Kenneth Burroughs	Laborer

The Highway Division maintains and improves all the streets, culverts, catch basins and manholes, street signs, traffic signs and traffic signals for approximately 200 miles of roadway. Additionally, the Highway Division clears the streets and public lots of snow and ice and assists the other departments with the divisions equipment and expertise of the crew. The office maintains all financial records needed for the reporting, tracking, payments of all vouchers connected with the highway budgets - including General Expenses, Salaries, Snow and Ice, Massachusetts Chapter 90 Funding (road reconstruction or repair), Street Lighting and Capital Expenditures.

Streets resurfaced during the year include Cathy Road, Barton Hill Road, Douglas Road, Hillside Lane, South Row Street, Roberts Street, Ray Hill Road, Moore Street, Pine Hill Road and Wesley Street. All drains on resurfaced streets were reconstructed prior to resurfacing. In addition the following projects were completed: On North Road, handicapped ramps were installed and all drainage repaired prior to resurfacing. Drainage was reconstructed in all sewer construction areas prior to pavement overlay. All guardrail was replaced, sidewalks made accessible, drainage repaired and resurfacing on Groton Road. Culverts were replaced on Old Middlesex Street and Dalton Road.

During the winter the Town received approximately SEVENTY INCHES OF SNOW from six different storms which was handled by the highway employees together with hired contractors and DPW employees. When needed, the crews often work for extended periods without sleep in order to maintain open roads. The mechanics kept the equipment in proper operating condition with few extended mechanical failures.

Parks Division

Members:

Edward Jamros
Randy Boisvert

Groundskeeper
Laborer

The Parks Division maintains all the parks, traffic islands, ballfields, playgrounds and commons under the control of the Town. The grounds are groomed each Spring and prepared for the heavy use each area is subjected to during the year. The Division employees perform an exceptional job each year preparing the Town Common area for the annual July 4th celebration. Equally important is the job of restoring the damaged areas resulting from the abundance of activities.

Special projects this year included:

- Installation of new aluminum benches - Southwell and Roberts Fields
- Constructed backboards for tennis practice - Varney and Southwell Fields
- Playground extension and handicap ramp - East Field
- Handicap ramp and stairs - Chelmsford Country Club
- Reconstructed handicap ramp - Old Town Hall
- Sewer tie-in - Varney Field House
- Renovated traffic islands - Park and Proctor Road
- Installed basketball pole and backboard - Highland Field
- Removed rotted trees on North Common to make way for new plantings
- Roberts Field - infields reconstructed courtesy of Chelmsford Little League
- Memorials - cleaned and repaired

Special recognition goes to Dick Codling, Dick Burkinshaw, Chelmsford Rotary, Chelmsford Garden Club and Stott Landscaping for their continued participation in the "Adopt a-Park" program.

Public Buildings Division

Members:

Theodore Godfroy
Gerald Johnson
David Grimshaw

Superintendent
Custodian
Custodian

The Town Offices have undergone extensive changes during this last year in order to upgrade and comply with the ever-changing building codes. The building was also upgraded and renovated to temporarily accommodate the Adams Library during their transition. The following renovations and projects have been completed:

- Upgraded electrical and fire alarms in building
- New rubber treads/risers on stairwells
- Carpeting installed on main level
- Ceiling fans installed to aid cooling and heating costs
- Restrooms renovated
- Coordinated Board of Selectmen, Committees/Commissions and multiple groups for meeting dates, time and space, ensuring no conflicts
- Assisted the Art Society display multiple paintings in the Town Offices
- The gymnasium was completely renovated and upgraded to accommodate the temporary Library relocation. A few of the projects completed for the Library are listed as follow:
 - Construct Handicap access
 - Fire retardant paint applied to walls
 - Storage rooms converted to offices
 - Telephone and electrical wiring upgraded and installed for offices and computers
 - Heating upgraded
 - Shelving for books installed
 - Floors and stairwells refinished

Special thanks to the Chelmsford Garden Club for their plantings; landscaping both the Town offices and the Old Town Hall grounds.

Sewer Division

Members:

Joseph Witts	Operations Supervisor
James Casparro	Sewer Inspector
Evelyn Newman	Departmental Assistant
Jacqueline Sheehy	Principal Clerk
Michael Vosnakis	Maintenance Technician
Daniel Belkas	Maintenance Mechanic
Irene Oczkowski	Clerk
John Kobelenz	Safety Plumbing Inspector

The Sewer Division continued to expand again this year with the addition of 587 new sewer connections, bringing our total of on-line sewer users to 5,317. With the completion of the Rainbow Avenue sewer contract the number of pump stations has been increased to 18. The Sewer Division staff handles all the maintenance and upkeep of the sewer lines as they become available. A few of the functions of the Sewer Division are; pump station maintenance, sewer mainline inspection and flushing, sewer connection inspections, sewer manhole inspection and repair, as well as many other duties that keep the entire system functioning properly. The office staff handles all the sewer betterments, sewer billing, phone calls, complaints and all other correspondence. They also perform the clerical work for the Chelmsford Sewer Commission.

We thankfully acknowledge the Water Districts for their ongoing cooperation and the Sewer Commission with whom projects are efficiently coordinated.

I would like to thank the staff members for their flexibility, service-oriented attitude and inter-division assistance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Pearson, P.E. Director of Public Works

Chelmsford Public Schools

School Committee

The membership of the Chelmsford School Committee at the end of the 1997 calendar year included Mr. Angelo Taranto, Chair; Mrs. Judith Mallette, Vice Chair; Mrs. Mary Frantz, Secretary; Mrs. Wendy Marcks, Member at Large; Mr. Anthony Volpe, Member at Large, and Mr. Joseph Ready, Student Representative. Central administration for the Chelmsford School Department included Dr. Richard Moser, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Karen Mazza, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Robert Cruickshank, Business Manager; Mr. Bernard DiNatale, Director of Educational Technology, and Ms. Dorinda Toppan, Director for Personnel/Labor Relations.

A major focus of the Chelmsford School Committee during 1997 was the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen on an "operational review" of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Chelmsford Schools. The review was conducted by KPMG Peat Marwick LLP (KPMG), an independent management consulting firm experienced with school district evaluation processes.

A draft of the KPMG final report summarized the achievements of the Chelmsford Public Schools:

"Throughout the course of our study, we found the Chelmsford Public Schools has many strengths and achievements for which it should be proud. Overall, students appear to be achieving. Additionally, only a small percentage of Chelmsford's students drop out (0.5%), and more than 88% of high school graduates pursue higher education."

"In many of the functional areas, Chelmsford has already adopted what KPMG considers to be best practices. For example, the maintenance and operation function has actively sought out ways to reduce costs by performing several large scale construction projects in-house. The curriculum and instruction department has established clear and realistic annual education improvement goals and implementation plans. Furthermore, the School Department has made significant investments in both administrative and instructional technology in recent years, and has a demonstrated commitment to continue to do so. Its comprehensive long-range technology plan, approved by the State, is currently being implemented and is ahead of schedule in several areas."

SCHOOL COMMITTEE



Front Row (l-r) Judith Mallette, V. Chairman; Angelo Taranto, Chairman; Richard Moser, Su

Back Row (l-r) Wendy Marcks, Joseph Ready, Student Rep.; Mary Frantz, Secretary; Anthony Volpe

KPMG also feels there are areas of improvement through redesigning the organizational structure, establishing appropriate staffing levels, and introducing performance-based management practices and state of the art technology. The entire study will be reviewed by the Chelmsford School Committee through the balance of the 1997-98 school year. A complete copy of the KPMG report can be obtained through the Office of the Superintendent.

A second major focus of the Chelmsford School Committee through 1997 has been a response to enrollment increases and corresponding adjustments to class size. District-wide enrollment in the Chelmsford Public Schools for 1997-98 is 5,409 students. This represents an overall increase of 62 students: 19 at the high school level, 65 at the middle school level and a decrease of 22 students at the elementary level. Enrollment projections for future years include 74 additional students for the 1998-99 school year, 117 additional students for the 1999-00 school year, and 129 additional students for the 2000-01 school year.

As a result of these projections, the Chelmsford School Committee will be investing in additional teachers to reduce class size at all levels. Projected investments also include a one year lease of two temporary classrooms at South Row Elementary School for the 1998-99 school year. A special planning committee is monitoring the renovation of Center Elementary School with a projected "opening" for September 1999.

The Chelmsford School Committee continues to commit to the mission of our school System "to cultivate the development of students into self-confident, lifelong learners and responsible citizens who possess personal integrity and the ability to succeed in a global society." The Committee welcomes input from our community on school programs and initiatives, and we look forward to positive school experiences through 1998.

IN CONCLUSION:

The Chelmsford School Committee extends deep appreciation to the following 1997 retirees for their years of loyal and meritorious service:

TEACHERS

Dora Bungard	Kindergarten Teacher, Harrington School
Irene Cetaruk	Grade 4 Teacher, Harrington School
Eleanor Combs	Kindergarten Teacher, Byam School
Michael Denihan	Science Teacher, Chelmsford High School
Mary Dupuis	Grade 5 Teacher, McCarthy School
June Gould	Grade 4 Teacher, South Row School
David Graves	Math Teacher, Parker School
James Harwood	Social Studies Teacher, McCarthy School
Nancy Knight	Grade 2 Teacher, South Row School
Mary Matthews	Grade 1 Teacher, Byam School
Ida Privitera	Business Teacher, Chelmsford High School
Virginia Stiles	Librarian, McCarthy School
Christle Sorli	Grade 1 Teacher, South Row School
Carol Tolpa	Grade 1 Teacher, Westlands School

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Beverly Pouliot	Secretary, Special Education Department
Adeline Sullivan	Information Processing Clerk, High School
Mary Welch	Instructional Support Personnel, Harrington

FOOD SERVICE

Mary Ann Carelli	Manager, Chelmsford High School
Audrey Channonhouse	Cafeteria Worker, Chelmsford High School
Theresa Daley	Cafeteria Worker, McCarthy School
Carole Johnson	Manager, Byam School
Gail LaRoche	Baker, Chelmsford High School
Pauline Shore	Director

IN MEMORIUM:

The community and the school department were grieved by the deaths of Carole Johnson, Instructional Support Staff member at the Westlands School and Melody Michopoulos, Foreign Language Teacher at Chelmsford High School.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard H. Moser, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

During 1997, the Chelmsford Public Schools have continued to improve the instructional program at all school levels by participation in a variety of education reform initiatives focused on curriculum, instruction, assessment and school structure. The school department has continued to promote high challenge, active learning, and improved capacity to respond to differing student needs, a perspective the district has referred to as the learner-centered classroom.

Several grants were awarded to the school district to support reform initiatives. Continuing multi-year grants received are the PALMS grant to support active learning in math, science and technology; the CESAME grant for the integration of math, science and technology in pre-calculus; and the GOALS 2000 grant to support high school restructuring. The district received new grants to initiate a mentor program for new teachers, and a school-to-work mini-grant to support the AVID internship for high school students in computer graphics, TV production, and business. A third new grant, was the Early Childhood Community Partnership Grant which supports financial supports for income-eligible families to support pre-school costs and services to support the improvement of pre-school education in the community. The fourth new grant supports resources for professional development regarding the area of gifted and talented education.

The Education Reform Act of 1993 established a requirement for the development of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. These frameworks are to be used by all school districts as guidelines for the development of local district curriculum and school districts are expected to incorporate the state learning standards contained in the frameworks. The state's new Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) will evaluate student achievement in relation to these learning standards. The district has continued extensive curriculum development projects to meet these state expectations and update its present programs and this activity will continue into the future. The most extensive of these projects has been the implementation during 1997 of the Language Arts and Math portfolios in grades K-8.

The district has continued a strong commitment to providing quality professional development opportunities. A multi-year commitment to offer the skillful teaching course from Research for Better Teaching has continued in 1997, reaching over 100 teachers from all school levels. A workshop series from Tufts University has been offered for all elementary teachers focusing on diversifying instruction to meet differing student needs and on the writing process. Training was also offered in portfolio assessment. Elementary teachers have participated in professional development for gifted and talented education.

The district continues its focus on educational reform and continuous improvement and made significant progress in this direction during 1997.

Chelmsford High School

This is Chelmsford High School's first year with a modified semester block schedule as well as meeting the Massachusetts Time and Learning mandate. To assist in this restructuring, Chelmsford High School applied for and won for the second year a High School Restructuring Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education. One major change mandated by our Commonwealth for this past September is that each high school student must be involved in learning activities for 990 hours per year. This meant an increase of 40% in instructional time for many of Chelmsford High School students compared to students' schedules before 1997. Such an increase in instructional time translates into an increase in instructional staff and materials. The opening of the 1997-98 academic year necessitated the hiring of 11.8 additional teachers at the high school.

Our School Management Council, whose members by law represent an equal number of parents to staff as well as student and community representatives, developed a School Improvement Plan which set as its major focus the study and development of an alternative schedule which would make the best use of this increased instructional time for all students. After two years of researching various scheduling plans, the professional teaching staff and the Management Council, approved the development of a modified semester block schedule. This new schedule allows students to undertake their learning in courses offered either in extended or in the more traditional time blocks for a semester or for a full year. The resulting lengthened course time in the extended block courses for English, Science, Math, Social Studies, and World Languages as well as some of the elective courses allows teachers to employ teaching strategies which challenge students to become more actively involved in their own learning. With the time to use varying learning activities, our educational community has made a significant restructuring to address our belief that all students can learn, though not in the same manner, and moves us in a positive direction toward achieving our school system's mission of creating students who are contributing members of a global society.

To support our high school's restructuring of time, a committee was formed of parents, faculty, and students to review our graduation requirements. This committee then presented for approval by our School Committee a new set of graduation requirements which became effective for the Class of 2001, our present freshmen. In addition to our past requirement of four years of English, a writing requirement was added which must be satisfied by the completion of the student's sophomore year. Under the new requirements, all students will have to successfully complete the equivalent of two years of a world language, three years of science, math, and social studies, and fifteen credits in fine arts and practical arts, a total of 40 elective credits, or a sum total of 245 credits, an increase of 35 credits over our previous graduation requirements. Still under study by this committee is the awarding of elective credits for community service and school to career internships.

Our students continue to demonstrate exceptional efforts and achievement in classes, activities, and athletics. We have eight students who have qualified as Finalists in the 1998 Merit Scholarship Competition with an additional 14 students honored as Commended Students in the 1998 Merit Scholar Program. Our school profile on SAT, AP, and the state administered Iowa Test reflect a high level of achievement further illustrated by the number of students achieving Dean's List, Honors, or High Honors. Our Fine Arts Department was selected as one of twenty five systems nationally judged to be outstanding in its program offerings and support. Our Drama Guild won a First Place in the regional competition with four students receiving Actors Awards. Our newspaper The Voice won a First Place in the Scholastic Press Awards. Our athletic teams competed in state tournaments and MVC titles were won by our Boys Cross Country Team, Girls Swim Team, Field Hockey Team, Boys Hockey Team, Girls Track Team, Girls Volley ball Team, and our Baseball Team.

This is the first year of our Student Internships with Avid Corporation. The first semester involved ten students in a variety of technical and business positions. Nine of the ten students were asked to continue from the first semester while ten new students began their internships with Avid second semester. Chelmsford High won a grant to continue to develop our School To Careers initiatives including more job shadowing programs.

Our professional staff continue to grow professionally through their involvement in conferences and workshops on new methodologies. Almost our entire high school staff has attended John Saphier's Understanding Teaching course through the efforts of our Assistant Superintendent Karen Mazza. Members of our Mathematics Department John Mosto, Rebecca Nordengren, George Pollard, and Barry Ware are in their second year of a program coordinated by the State Department of Education and Northeastern University for developing new methodology for teaching calculus with technology assistance. Our Science Department Head Mike Tate was chosen to work with the UMass Lowell School of Education in developing a two way video mentorship for future secondary teachers. The most meaningful achievement of our professional staff, however, are the letters of appreciation received from graduates and colleges where they are attending, recognizing our teachers as educators who made a difference.

Program Description:

The two middle schools serve 1,650 students attending grades five through eight. The middle school program is organized to provide a logical transition from the self-contained classroom of the elementary school setting to the departmentalized structure of the high school. Moreover, the design of the middle school program is to foster healthy academic and personal growth and development of students during their early adolescent years. Our middle school staff is committed to the belief that the middle school environment should reflect a comfortable atmosphere where students feel supported in their educational and personal development.

Recent Initiatives

Many changes at the middle school level have been initiated in response to the state wide school reform efforts, particularly related to state curriculum frameworks and on the amount of time devoted to learning. Other significant transitions at the middle schools have been focused on changes in organizational issues designed to meet the developmental needs of young adolescents. The following ***This We Believe*** (1995) statement by the National Middle School Association forms an essential underpinning of the work of our middle schools.

The importance of achieving developmentally responsive middle schools cannot be over emphasized. The nature of the educational programs young adolescents experience during this formative period of life will, in large measure, determine the future of all of us.

Budget request over the past few years have been designed to meet the above needs. An Arts Block Electives program has been instituted in grades seven and eight, not only to enhance the performance music programs, but to provide an appropriate alternative to study halls. Study halls or study periods are no longer used because they do not meet time on learning mandates.

The major organizational change at the middle schools, supported by the budget, has been the formation of Teaching Teams at each grade level. The teams help create small communities for learning within the large school buildings. Through the Arts Block program, which exists at all grade levels, the teachers on each team have a common planning time. This common planning time allows each team the opportunity to focus on meeting the academic and personal needs of a smaller number of students who have been assigned to the team. The teaming approach and common planning also allows for interdisciplinary teaching. The use of teams and common planning time are major distinctions between middle schools of today and departmentalized junior high schools of the past. Perhaps it is important to note that the movement, nationwide, to restructure middle level education using teaching teams and common planning time is strongly supported by a body of solid research data. An examination of current literature and research on middle school education will disclose that an increasingly clear and firm national consensus has emerged concerning the characteristics of the most effective middle level schools. Transition efforts being made at the McCarthy and Parker middle schools, are supported by budget request, are congruent to those characteristics.

This past year has seen a major increase in the numbers of students involved in a performance music program in the Arts Block. The results of these programs are shown in the concerts and performances given by these groups. During the Arts Block time, each student is involved in either band, orchestra, chorus or general music or art program. In grades seven and eight, additional electives are offered in technology education, life skills, health education and literature.

At the middle schools, innovative initiatives have been undertaken in the classrooms. Two such programs were the unit on Leonardo DaVinci that was taught and culminated on a "Leonardo Day" to which the public and parents were invited and the James Harwood Commemorative Challenge that brings students and teachers together on an afternoon to solve a problem in competition with other teams.

The goal of the middle schools is to provide a rich and varied academic environment that is developmentally responsive to the needs of adolescents.

Program Description:

The four elementary schools serve 2260 students attending kindergarten through grade four. As the young child's first experience in the public schools, the elementary schools provide a nurturing environment that meets the students' academic, social, emotional, and physical needs. Each classroom is designed to address a variety of learning styles and abilities in an atmosphere where the learning of the student is central to teacher planning. Students receive daily instruction in reading, phonics, writing, spelling, math, science, social studies and health from their classroom teacher. In addition, students receive weekly instruction from specialists in the areas of physical education, music, art, library and computer technology. Each school also has a full time nurse, guidance counselor, reading specialist, and special education staff. Part time support is provided by a psychologist, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, social worker, librarian, and computer specialist.

Parents make a significant contribution to the success of the elementary school program. Their presence at school functions, volunteering, fundraising and involvement in PTOs and School Councils enhance the learning experience of their child.

Recent Initiatives:

The Education Reform Act of 1993 has spurred many initiatives in the public schools. The Time and Learning mandate from the State Department of Education required that Chelmsford Elementary Schools increase student learning time. As a result, the length of the school day was increased by twenty-eight minutes.

In recent years, the elementary school enrollment has increased significantly. One method of addressing this increase when space is not available, is to provide a n instructional assistant to the classroom teacher. In Chelmsford, this occurred when the enrollment exceeded 26 students in a class.

Our current program description reflects the recent addition in each school of full time guidance counselors, computer aides, computer specialists, and a part time school psychologist. These positions have enhanced the schools' ability to meet the diverse needs of the student population.

Every school now has a working Computer Lab equipped with state of the art computers for each child in the class. Classroom curriculum has been enriched by the coordination with the Computer Lab and the school library programs.

Parents have supported renovations in the library and/or playground in each school. These initiatives are funded by parent fundraising efforts, and their volunteer time.

Teachers have been involved in extensive professional development opportunities coordinated at the district and school level. They're also involved in numerous activities to develop and coordinate Chelmsford curriculum with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

New math and language arts portfolios are being piloted this year. This assessment process enables teachers to assess student learning and understanding through performance tasks. These tasks provide teachers the evidence of student learning and focus instruction on students' needs. In subsequent years, parents will be able to view their child's portfolio with their child and discuss progress with their child's teacher.

Office Of Student/Community Services

The Office of Student/Community Services (located next to the Main Office at Chelmsford High School, 251-5151) continues to be extremely busy. Student/Community Services oversees the Guidance Department K-12, all child care programs, Community Education Night School and Summer School.

Evening Community Programs run Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the year, offering a variety of academic and special interest courses. Watch for our brochures in late August and early January.

Child care programs are flourishing and we offer preschool for 3 and 4 year olds, full-day kindergarten/child care; before- and after-school extended day, vacation and snow day programs, as well as a nine-week summer camp. A third Extended Day location opened this year at the Byam School.

Summer School continues to service the Greater Merrimack Valley and offers both enrichment and remedial programs to both students and adults during July and August.

All programs run on a self-supporting/tuition basis. Information on all programs can be obtained by calling the Office of Student/Community Services at 251-5151.

Guidance Department

The Chelmsford High School Class of 1997 achieved many honors and awards, academically, in athletics, and in their extracurricular activities. The community should be proud of them.

For five years in a row, over 90% of our graduates continued on with higher education. Average SAT scores remain above both the state and national averages.

While we are proud of our students' success, we continue to work with all students' academic and personal concerns. Our dropout rate is less than 2% and we have instituted a variety of programs at both the middle school and high school. Student Assistance Programs, Alternative Night School and clinical psychologists have become part of our Student Services. Guidance has also taken over 504 (Americans with Disabilities) responsibilities for the system.

The Guidance Department, staff and administration continue to support the needs of all Chelmsford students .

Director Of Data Processing

As required by the Education Reform Law, the school district has developed district and individual school administrative technology plans. The technology plan has been submitted and accepted by the Massachusetts Department of Education. The administrative plan is also incorporated into the district's educational technology plan. Simply stated, the technology vision will have local area networks (LANs) at each school site with an administrative and an academic file server. Security is a major concern in a mixed student Internet environment. With the use of firewalls, filters, and other security measures, we will be able to monitor the network and ensure security. When the town fiber optics link becomes operational, our LANs will communicate on a wider information highway called a wide area network (WAN). When the WAN becomes operational, citizens and town staff will have more access to town and school buildings, policies, procedures and staff members.

Our past minicomputer centralized computer environment was phased out in 1997. We have now converted to a client/server site-based platform utilizing each school's administrative server running Novell 4.11, Microsoft Office, and student and financial applications software. All major administrative applications have been converted to our LAN at the High School and Central Office.

A site-based computer environment is functional at each of the middle schools. The two middle schools presently have a Windows for Work Group environment in each main office. The elementary schools' main offices have stand-alone computers with student and office-based database applications. In 1998, we plan to set up a Novell 4.11 networked environment for the middle and elementary schools. These LANs would have a similar "look and feel" as the 75 node workstation network at the High School and Central Office.

In this technologically involved computer environment, it is critical that the staff be comfortable with all the tools and utilities of the computer business world. This was part of the rationale in planning to phase in the business computer automation with a stand-alone environment first; then to a work group environment; and, finally, to a full-blown network environment.

While bringing in networks and computer applications into the schools, significant effort has been given to staff training. In the 1996-97 school year, approximately 100 participants attended Microsoft Office applications training. During the 1997-98 school year, an additional 100 participants received computer applications training, and approximately 40 participants attended student and financial system software training.

Most of our telephone systems are old and need to be replaced with more state-of-the-art equipment. Presently, we have almost 100 telephones in 9 separate locations; 369 telephone stations--all serviced by various PBX and key systems; and alarm, data, and ISDN lines at each school for academic instructional delivery rounds out our communications environment. Telephone voice mail is available at the Central Office and will be expanded to staff members in FY98.

Future involvements will revolve around networking and computer telephone interface (CTI). The I-Loop implementation promises to bring the town and schools into the mainstream of a local business/academic community.

Department Head For English (Grades 6 - 8)

We have continued our summer reading program which encourages our students to read for enjoyment over the summer break. Students choose from a required list and also select a second book of their own choosing. While the reading should be fun, students are held accountable for what they've read. We are most appreciative of the parent support the program has received.

The PTO's of both buildings have been most supportive of our programs. They have run two book fairs for us and have also funded a presentation by the Chamber Theater for all of our seventh and eighth graders. This professional national touring troupe performed several adapted short stories for us all. Staff spent much time in preparation for the presentations and conducted several follow-up activities as well to assure students' getting as much out of the performance as possible. The whole program was most worthwhile; our PTO's have committed to funding it on an every other year basis so that all students will benefit at some time during their middle school experience.

We continue to participate in the Word Master program, a national competition involving vocabulary and analogies. Our purpose is enrichment and exposure to the vocabulary and analogies; however, we are proud of our consistent rankings in the top ten in this national competition.

At the middle school level we are also committed to the Chelmsford Language Arts Portfolio Project. Students have been introduced to the various procedures and are developing their reading and writing portfolios. Staff continue to attend workshops, early release days, etc. to become more familiar with the portfolio process. In addition, further workshops are planned to provide support for staff.

We are also exploring the recently released state frameworks for the language Arts/English curriculum area in order to see where we correlate with them and where we might need change. Also in the equation are new state standards based tests at grades 4, 8, and 10. Much of our attention in the near future will be focused on the interaction of our curriculum, the frame works, and the testing program.

Finally, department members continue to attend workshops and conferences and to take courses in order to keep us up on current practices, to broaden our experiences, and to add sparkle to our various curricula.

Department Head For English (Grades 9-12)

Following upon the School Committee's acceptance of the Graduation Requirements Committee's recommendation that, beginning with the class of 2001, all students must pass a course in expository writing before advancing to their junior year, the English Department opened the first of two writing labs needed to implement the course. The focus of this course is upon building writing skills needed for success in high school as well as in the MCAS assessment which will be administered to 10th graders statewide.

During this year, the Department welcomed three teachers new to our system. Liza Crowley comes to us from the Greater Lawrence Technical High School where she was chairman of the English Department as well as teacher of junior and senior English. Ms. Crowley is a graduate of Phillips Andover Academy and holds a B.S. and a M.R. from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Christopher Chew is a 1990 graduate of Chelmsford High School. He earned a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University with a concentration in drama and is a M.R.T. candidate at Fitchburg State College. In addition to teaching 10th and 11th grade English, Mr. Chew is advisor to the drama club. Jennifer Lenfest comes to us from Methuen High School where she taught 9th, 10th, and 11th grade English. She is a graduate of Plymouth State College and is currently enrolled in a M.Ed. program at the University of New Hampshire.

All members of the class of 2001 participated in the National Language Arts Olympiad, a test of achievement in reading, vocabulary, and English usage administered to freshmen in high schools from coast to coast. Our team of 22 high scorers, led by Siobhan Foley, Michael Cruickshank, and William Ho, placed second in the nation, maintaining the standard set by the class of 2000.

Department Head For Fine Arts

The Fine Arts Department continued its ambitious "Arts Block" at the middle schools. This innovative curriculum and schedule in which students in the performing groups are no longer pulled-out of other classes, but are scheduled into regularly scheduled, daily band, chorus and orchestra rehearsals. This "Arts Block" period also provides additional, creative, electives in the arts for the entire student population. In September, the new Fine Arts Graduation Requirement was implemented for incoming freshmen at Chelmsford High School.

As occurs every year, each of the seven schools performed concerts for parents, relatives and friends in May and in December. These concerts featured bands, choruses, recorder ensembles, string orchestras and short musical and dramatic presentations. The McCarthy Middle School Select Choir, under the direction of Betty Hanson, was selected through a rigorous audition process to perform at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Conference in March. Their performance was outstanding and they were wonderful representatives of the Chelmsford schools. Additionally, the Select Choir once again received Superior ratings at the ACDA Choral Festival, also held in March, at Westboro High School. A new jazz group was started at McCarthy Middle School under the direction of Mark Branco. The high school musical, "Camelot," in May, directed by Carl Rondina, once again drew "standing room only" crowds to the McCarthy Auditorium, and the annual "Pops" Concert at the Chelmsford Senior Center was an outstanding display of the culmination of the entire year's work. The high school's marching band continued its growth in size and quality, performing at ten football games, as well as the annual Memorial Day parades in Chelmsford and Tewksbury, and the Fourth of July parade in Chelmsford. The culmination of the marching band's 1996-97 school year was a one-week trip to London, England to perform in the annual, invitation-only, New Year's Day Parade on January 1, 1997. In addition, the band performed in Chelmsford, England at a concert attended by the Lord Mayoress, Edna Mountain and several other city officials. The band also toured London, Windsor, Oxford and Stratford-On-Avon.

On the visual arts side of the department, the annual "Youth Art Month" exhibition at the Page Gallery in the Administration Wing of Chelmsford High School had student art work from grades kindergarten through twelve on display for the entire month of March and the monthly exhibitions in the gallery continued as well. Art students continued to be accepted to the most prestigious art schools in the country.

Additionally, numerous individual arts students were honored through selection for various prestigious performing groups or exhibitions. Several visual arts students were chosen for the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Show and for Art All-State which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Art Educators Association. As in the past, many music students were selected through rigorous audition processes for the All-State, Senior and Junior District Festivals sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. That so many students from Chelmsford are regularly among those selected for these prestigious awards and events speaks highly of the strength of the arts education programs in our schools. Through the Arts, students learn self-discipline and cooperation, two skills that will transfer to whatever vocation they choose to follow after completing their formal education. When leaving the Chelmsford schools we hope that they will have become intelligent consumers of the arts for the rest of their lives.

Department Head For Foreign Languages (Grades 7-12)

The last year was marked by several changes, in the foreign language department. Unfortunately, the untimely death of our dear colleague, Melody Michopoulos, in January: left a very large void, not only in our department, but in the entire CHS community. Staff and students mourned Melody's passing, but in June, we also had a wonderful celebration of her life. She continues to be in our thoughts, and her contributions to the department and CHS will never be forgotten.

At the middle schools, the year was highlighted by the very successful curriculum fairs held in March. Foreign language students and staff presented a very impressive international food festival at each school. Mrs. Keefe at McCarthy and Mrs. Deschene at Parker again organized very successful trips for their French students to Quebec in May. In September, a new text series, Paso a paso, was introduced into the seventh grade Spanish classes. The implementation will continue with the eighth X grade classes next year. The FLEX (Foreign Language Exploration) course was also modified and made part of the elective program at each school. Spanish and French were offered this year, and we are anticipating offering Latin and Italian next year.

At the high school, we were pleased to welcome two new people to our department. Mia O'Day was hired to replace Ms. Michopoulos, and due to increased enrollment and block scheduling, we also hired Kristin Thomas to teach Spanish. All teachers in the department were involved during the spring semester and summer in preparing for the change to long-block classes. Except for Spanish, French and Latin I and 11, all other courses were offered in the long-block format. The other very exciting news for the department and the foreign language students was the appropriation of funds for a state-of -the art language laboratory to be installed in Lecture Hall III. It is designed to accommodate up to two classes with a total of 56 students. Through a generous donation made by Melody's family in her memory, the lab will also include 26 computer stations. The lab installation should be completed by the spring of 1998.

Curriculum Specialist For Mathematics (Grades K - 8)

The nature of Mathematics is one of diversification in curriculum and aptitude. It is the mission of the Math Department to assist each student in achieving his /her individual potential .We have incorporated the use of hands-on math manipulatives and alternative assessments in the classroom in all grade levels. Students have been introduced to open ended and open response questions. Half of the students in grades 1-6 and all students in grades 7 & 8 are keeping Math Portfolios as part of our pilot year for Math and Language Arts Portfolios. Chelmsford is participating in The Massachusetts Mathematics Portfolio Project a state project which focuses on raising standards for all students and Mathematics Portfolios.

The University of Chicago Mathematics Project, Everyday Mathematics, has been fully implemented in grades K-3. Grades 4, 5, and 6 have implemented a new Houghton Mifflin mathematics program which addresses the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards. We are presently working toward preparing our students for the new MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) which will take place in May.

Our teachers, in addition to teaching regular classes, are actively continuing their education in the areas of mainstreaming, updating and developing new curriculum, and researching new programs through the successful In-Service Workshop programs. Many teachers have attended portfolio training workshops and participated in the Annenberg Channel Nationwide Interactive workshops. Teachers also attend various conferences which focus on using math manipulatives, cooperative learning, heterogeneous grouping, integration, alternative assessment, and using the Geometers Sketchpad, new software that was purchased for both computer labs in the middle schools.

With the emphasis on problem solving, we have successfully introduced several math competition programs at the Middle School level to challenge all students. Approximately 1600 students compete in the Continental Math League and New England Math League Contests. The success of our program is evident in the accomplishments of several students who achieved perfect scores and received recognition for their participation in Continental Math League and New England Math League. Our McCarthy Middle School Math Counts team qualified for the state competition John Kolba finished in the top ten in the regional Math Counts competition.

Our results in National testing reinforces our belief that our goals are achievable and that our methods are productive.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Foley

Department Head For Mathematics (Grades 9 - 12)

The Chelmsford High School Mathematics Department continues to achieve academic excellence while working to align its curriculum to meet the benchmarks addressed in the Massachusetts State Frameworks for Mathematics.

The "Pre-Calculus Through Applications" CESAME Grant has now received funding for its second year of implementation (a second \$15,000). In June, 1997 (using funds provided by this grant) John Mosto and Rebecca Nordengren conducted a one-week workshop in which five Pre-Calculus teachers and one Physics teacher were trained in the techniques of integrating Mathematics, Science and Technology. Funding provided by this grant also assisted the department's purchase of equipment (TI-83 graphing calculators, TI-83 graphing calculator with overhead capabilities and C.B.L. devices) and various software and support materials.

New textbooks were adopted for use in all Geometry and Algebra II classes. Discovering Geometry, published by Key Curriculum Press, integrates intuitive hands-on Geometry with Geometry Sketchpad, a software developed by Key Curriculum Press that enhances a student's understanding of Geometric Concepts. This approach to teaching Geometry is consistent with current research and State and National recommendation. The Algebra II textbook, HRW Advanced Algebra published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, encourages the use of the graphing calculator in the teaching and learning process.

In order to assist our staff in the implementation of these new texts and technologies, two twenty-hour summer workshops were offered. One conducted by Ann Swierzbins concentrated on the use of Geometry Sketchpad and the other conducted by John Mosto and John Ramalho centered on the use of the TI-83 graphing calculator in the Algebra class. All current Geometry and Algebra [I teachers attended and completed the appropriate workshop(s).

Five members of our department have completed the Sketchpad Teacher Course. This course, taught by staff members of the Research for Better Teaching Organization, instructs teachers in alternative teaching strategies that advise the different learning styles of all students.

All of our extra-curricular teams continue to excel and achieve at the highest level of performance. These teams and their coaches (Mr. Olson and Mr. Ford) should be commended and congratulated for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments

Reading Department Head K-12 Language Arts Coordinator K-5

The school year 1996-1997 was a busy year for the Reading Department. Beginning in the fall of 1996 through December of 1997 the reading specialists were involved in workshops, staff development seminars and curriculum development activities concerned with performance assessment. The reading specialists attended a number of professional development events outside the school.

We are proud to be able to offer supportive reading services and assessment to all of our students from the elementary grades through the high school. We know that the characteristics of a good reader include an awareness of the factors that allow the construction of meaning, control of the strategies necessary for accessing text, and self assessment in the process toward the reading goal. We know that children learn to read by reading and they improve their reading skills by reading more and more.

Students who are targeted for assistance receive support in both their classroom reading text and on a computer driven literacy program. Our program is primarily, but not totally, a pull-out model, determined by student needs and time constraints. Responding to what research says constitutes best educational practices in reading, good literature is at the heart of the program with interactive capabilities of CD-ROM. Books are sent home as part of the daily routine as home school connections are vital.

Realizing that early intervention is the most effective way to prevent problems, it is at the early grades that the students are targeted. A pilot project of early intervention strategies has been conducted in two first grade classes. It has been very successful and is therefore being expanded into all first grades.

The reading department has also been participating in the development of performance tasks contained in the Portfolio Assessment project. This is being used in approximately one-half of the classes through grade eight. It is very exciting because it allows us to see the kinds and amounts of support that allow a student to meet success, rather than reporting what a child cannot do.

There are many different student support initiatives at all schools. Some participate in Parents As Reading Partners, in Book Discussion Groups, in Book-It or in other programs designed to enhance a students enjoyment in reading . At Harrington School a Reading Lab has been established this year in order to provide focused, intensive, integrated, language arts support with the reading teacher in partnership with the learning center teacher and an aide. The students in the lab receive one hour of intense instruction, using the grade-level anthology, five days a week. Opportunities for small group discussion around plot development and sequencing of events for comprehension occur. Immediate feedback along with intensive phonics instruction support vocabulary development, fluency, spelling, and written language.

In Mrs.Dator's fifth and sixth grade reading room at Parker Middle School students have been participation in the Lowell Sun's "newspaper in Education" program. Each Week the students look forward to receiving their own copy of The Sun which is provided by local area businesses. Each week one chapter of Keep Your Eye on Amanda, a book by children's author Avi, is presented. Fridays have become known as "Amanda Day" as we follow Amanda's adventures and do the related activities.

Chelmsford Public School reading department believes that exemplary reading instruction provides the students with three keys to successful learning: knowledge, strategies and motivation. We have come to know that a fully integrated approach to reading, one which includes all the language arts - reading, writing, listening, speaking, spelling- allows the student to make the connections necessary for strong comprehension. The goal of the Reading Department is joyful literacy for all.

Department Head For Science (Grades 5-8)

The major goal of the middle school science program is to develop students into critical thinkers by the use of hands on curricula. Each grade level curriculum is designed to teach the students organizational, listening, note taking, experimental, logical thinking and problem solving skills The fifth grade general science program consists of the Science and Technology Kits for Children on Electric Circuit and Ecosystems and units on oceanography and endangered species. In the sixth grade, the General Science kit and text program is Macmillan Science In Your World. The Challenge of Discovery, Life Science and Earth Science along with activities written by our science staff are used respectively, in the seventh and eighth grade.

State and community resources are used to extend and enrich the curriculum. Students are involved in field experience at the Christa McAuliffe Space Center, Tsongas Center for "The River As A Classroom" program, Museum of Science, Plum Island, Whaling Museum Stone Environmental Camp Program at Cranes Beach and deer studies at Carlisle State Forest. Enrichment assemblies and programs for Earth Day-and Science Clubs revolve around environmental studies, the WBZ Weathernet, courtyard redevelopment activities, rain forests, chemistry demonstrations and electricity. Hewlett Packard and 3M Corporation have funded the Weathernet, Earthwatch workshops and updated science videos.

Science teachers have been implementing the new state Science and Technology Standards into the curriculum and preparing the students for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment system tests. In addition, the science staff is active in attending conferences, workshops, courses and in service programs on current educational topics.

Department Head For Science (Grades 9 - 12)

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. As indicated in last year's report, the first semester of our new large--block schedule was a lot of work. All the preparation we did as a school and as a department made the transition as smooth as possible. We all anticipated really enjoying the extra time for laboratory work, in depth discussions, alternative assessments, and cooperative exercises. Well, that all happened. The bonus is the relaxed, but productive, atmosphere in the classroom. The time it takes to prepare these lessons is much more than we anticipated. I am confident that as we work through the initial stages of the implementation of the schedule we will become more efficient and proficient in planning our classes.

All members of the science department again spent a part of their summer at workshops preparing themselves and the curriculum for large block instruction. Most of the science staff have also participated in off campus workshops and conferences that addressed the need of the teacher to adapt their teaching styles to be more effective in the longer class period. It is exciting to walk into the science prep. room and hear the discussions on these new techniques and how they worked or did not work. We all benefit from each others experiences in the classroom.

This year we added two new members to the science staff, Mr. James McKay and Mr. Dave Steeves. Mr. McKay comes to us from industry and teaches physical science. He has taught in Nebraska and did his student teaching in New Zealand. Mr. Steeves comes to us from a teaching position in North Reading and teaches physics. Mr. Steeves is not a stranger to us, as he did his student teaching at CHS.

For the first time in three decades school opened in September without Mr. Michael Denihan in his classroom eagerly awaiting the arrival of his class. We all wish Michael a long and happy retirement. The students at CHS will miss Mr. Denihan's expertise in the classroom as well as his stories, but most of all his compassion. Mr. Denihan saw the "good" in every student. He was always willing to give that second and third chance in order to encourage the student to succeed. We will indeed miss Mr. Denihan.

Submitted by:

Michael F. Tate
Science Department Chairperson

Department Head For Social Studies (Grades 5-8)

The teachers in the department have been very busy. Besides adapting the present curriculum to the proposed State frameworks, teachers took part in summer workshops to a. choose a text for grades six and seven b. research available texts for grades five and eight.

Two new texts were researched, analyzed, evaluated for content, grade appropriateness, readability, student interest, graphics and the adaptability to the frameworks. Approved by the School Committee these new texts are now being used by students in grades six and seven.

The curriculum for grade five will now become a study of U.S. History beginning with the causes of the American Revolution (1763) through War of 1812 and the early Industrial Revolution (1815).

Grade six will now study the Ancient Worlds of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, China and India.

Grade seven will concentrate on a geographical, economic, government and cultural study of Europe, Asia and Latin America Grade Eight will focus on reviewing what grade five completed, and concentrate on a social political and cultural study of the United States from 1815 through 1875.

Teachers are continuing to meet, exchange ideas, adopt and adapt to new techniques for the teaching of the material suggested by the frameworks. Summer workshops will be proposed to continue the update of our curricula so they correspond to the state requisites.

Department Head for Social Studies (Grades 9-12)

The Social Studies Department at the High School presently consists of fifteen members who offer a broad selection of courses. Students may choose from Political Science, World History, United States History, American Studies, Asian Studies, Legal Rights, Economics, Consumer Economics, International Relations, Psychology, Sociology, the Holocaust, and Modern Problems. Also offered are advanced placement courses in American History, European History, and American Government.

This year the department is continuing work to implement educational reform. All members of the department have participated in professional development workshops and courses that include the following topics: learning styles, cooperative learning, alternative assessment techniques, the Social Studies Frameworks, integration of technology in Social Studies classes, instructional techniques for long block classes, and Learning Center Classrooms.

Donald Benson advised a group of 14 students who successfully participated at Model United Nations simulations at Bentley College and Harvard University. Denise Coffey advised a group of twenty students who compiled a 5-1 record and competed in the quarter finals of the State Mock Trial Competitions. Dennis McHugh continued to serve as Lawyer Coach.

Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Chelmsford High School students in four 10th grade World History classes have been involved in a journey back to Renaissance times. As part of a five month residency with professional theater artist John Bay of Studebaker Theater, students, teachers, parents, and other members of the local community recreated a Renaissance Faire on the grounds of the high school on April Fool's Day, 1997. This project was coordinated by Anne O'Bryant with the assistance of Eric Hoover, Dick O'Donnell, Katy Sullivan, and Janet Veves.

Social Studies teachers are striving to involve their students with the most advanced technology available. Forty students from Janet Veres' Political Science Honors classes participated in a pilot program simulating a model United Nations over the Internet. These students had the interesting assignment of representing North Vietnam at the Paris Peace Talks. Students from Denise Coffey's American Government class participated in a national model congress over the Internet. Students from over 30 states participated. Students in Janet Veres' classes participated in an interactive debate on current issues with students in Mike Cerullo's 7th grade class at Parker Middle School utilizing two way television. Students from Janet Veres' class created a Web site magazine. In the Magazine, "The Gavel", students analyze various Supreme Court decisions. "The Gavel" can be found on the Chelmsford Public School's Web page.

Department Head For Health And Physical Education (Grades K-12)

During the past year the Health and Physical Education Department, working with the high school graduation requirements committee, proposed new requirements in both disciplines. Active Lifestyle Development I and II were accepted as semester Physical Education requirements for grades 9 and 10. Life Management Skills I and II were accepted as semester Health Education requirements for grades 9 and 11/12. The upper classmen health component will take effect in the 1999-2000 school year. All others took effect this current school year. Texts for each course were also adopted.

Additionally a Phase I Curriculum Review was begun. The purpose of the review is to compare the State health curriculum framework "Building Resilience" with our current program K-12--a process already completed at the high school level. This process is the initial stage of our system wide curriculum review and education improvement planning process.

Supplemental health programs during the year included the AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT display, a production of "The Yellow Dress" a play addressing the issue of dating violence, peer mediation training, Trinity Trauma mock drunk driving accident simulation, and a full day of wellness programs focusing on substance abuse, nutrition and eating disorders, dating relationships, the cycle of addiction, and self esteem and community service.

The Chelmsford Public School System continues to move forward with the implementation of our Long Range Technology Plan, approved by the School Committee and certified by the State. The focus continues to be on the installation of our network infrastructure in all instructional locations and the integration of technology into the instructional process.

Community Support

The implementation of the Technology Plan has been assisted by volunteer NetDay activities and, to date, the schools have been the beneficiary of more than 1200 person hours of service by community members and business partners. Through the efforts of concerned Chelmsford citizens, many business-school partnerships have been developed.

As a result of grants, donations, NetDay partnerships, community volunteers and aggressive competitive bidding the funding request for the implementation of the second year of the Technology Plan was able to be reduced by \$276,000. *We are very proud of our community support and thank all for the help.*

Academic Technology Projects underway or completed in 1997:

- New computer labs and classroom computers installed in McCarthy and Parker Middle Schools.
- TV Studio facilities supporting instruction are operating in both Middle Schools and at Chelmsford High School.
- Installation in the Chelmsford High School of a state of the art multi-media computer language lab in partnership with Sony Corporation, EBI and Insight Corp.
- New writing lab at Chelmsford High School to support revised graduation requirements.
- District web server supporting the School System's web site located at **www.schools.chelmsford.ma.us**. The web site contains information for students, parents, teachers and community.
- Library automation project, a two year effort, is well under way in providing electronic cataloging of print, non-print and educational resources.
- Chelmsford Senior Center, in partnership with the schools, is developing an Internet and Computer Technology Cyber Center located at the Senior Center to provide Internet access and training.

- Students at Chelmsford High School participated in NetDay Europe by new Internet voice technology which allowed them to interact with students in Strasbourg, France.
- Technology professional development and training programs continue to be offered to support teachers and staff.

Program Supervisor For Athletics (Grades 9-12)

The Chelmsford High School Athletic Department during the 1996-97 school year fielded 33 varsity programs, 24 sub-varsity programs and 3 seasonal trainer programs. An overall record from 391 varsity contests was 239-136-16 with 1,090 athletes, 5 team managers, and 10 student trainers competing.

The varsity Boys and Girls Cross-Country, Girls Swimming and Diving, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Ski, and Ice Hockey teams were all Merrimack Valley Conference Champions.

Department Head For Practical Arts (Grades 9-12)

The Practical Arts Department at CHS consists of three unique areas: Business Education, Technology Education, and Family and Consumer Education.

This past year has been very exciting for all three areas with the addition of four new instructors, two in Business Education and one in each Technology Education and Family and Consumer Education. With the addition of these new staff members and their expertise a number of new courses have been introduced to Chelmsford students with tremendous success. Student Enrollment in courses in Practical Arts have increased greatly this past year, indicating that students are excited about the new course offerings.

In addition, the Distributive Education Club of America, which is run by two advisors in the Business Department, once again had tremendous success at District, State, and National competitions. District competition was dominated by Chelmsford sending 60 plus students to the State's by placing in the top eight at District. At State's six students distinguished themselves and qualified to go onto National competitions. National competitions saw all students from Chelmsford receiving certificates of Accomplishment .

Administrator Of Special Education

The Special Education Department currently serves approximately 850 students ranging from three (3) to twenty-two (22) years of age. Approximately 65 of these students are served in collaborative or private school programs and the remaining students are served in the Chelmsford Public Schools. It is our responsibility as mandated by Massachusetts Special Education Law, Chapter 766 and the Federal Government's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure that each handicapped student receives an education designed to meet his or her unique learning needs and to receive the services in the least restrictive environment. Currently 15.3% of students in Chelmsford have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) which is below the state average.

In order to serve this special needs population we currently employ 50 professional staff and 53 support staff. In each building we offer academic support services, resource room programs, and Speech services. As related treatment services we offer system-wide Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education and Social Services. Other specialized programs offered are Pre-School Programs, Alternative programs for Middle and High School, Life Skills programs for Middle and High School, Language Based programs for Elementary and Middle School, and Early Childhood programs. We utilize consultants in the areas of Pervasive Development Disorder, Augmentative Communication, Vision and Mobility as needed.

The Special Education Department continues to expand and restructure its services in order to better meet the diversified needs of the students. Our preschool program has expanded and we are continually training staff in the areas of integrated therapies and developmental education. We have expanded our Early Childhood Program and have increased support in the regular classroom for these students. We have written a grant for the special education staff to participate in staff development in order to work with regular education staff in modifying the frameworks and developing assessment tools in order to better access the curriculum and evaluate learner outcomes. The high school staff has worked cooperatively with the regular education staff to develop strategies to better support our students with the changes in large block scheduling. We have also developed a systematic approach to training our Instructional Support Personnel to better meet the needs of our students.

The Special Education Department, including all staff members, is dedicated to meeting the needs of all the students we serve in the most productive and efficient manner possible. We continue to expand our knowledge and to develop new programs which will better serve our students. We are very fortunate to receive the support necessary to continue our work from the community, the school committee, the school administration and the school community as a whole.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

100 Littleton Road, Westford
 978-692-4711 - 978-448-9687
 FAX 978-392-0570

Administration:

Judith L. Klimkiewicz	Superintendent-Director
Victor Kiloski	Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Ralph Dumas	Director of Operations
William Towne	Director of Student Support Services & Measurement
Barbara Donaghue	Director of Curriculum Development
Joseph O Brien	Dean of Students
Wendy Carter	Director of Technology Education

School Committee:

Doug Morin	Westford	Chairman	
Augustine Kish	Littleton	Vice Chairman	
Peter Bagni	Chelmsford		
Charla Boles	Groton		
Irene Machemer	Townsend	<u>Alternates</u>	
Joan O Brien	Westford	Al Buckley	Pepperell
Mary Jo Griffin	Chelmsford	Leo Dunn	Westford
Garry Ricard	Pepperell	James Nugent	Littleton
Sharon Shanahan	Chelmsford	Samuel Poulten	Chelmsford
Benjamin Wales	Pepperell	Barbara Sherritt	Townsend
Richard White	Shirley	Heidi Shultz	Shirley

School Data:

Type: Public, regional, four-year vocational technical high school opened in September 1969. The first graduating class was in June 1972.

Student Enrollment: As of October 1, 1997

Chelmsford	118
Groton	43
Littleton	8
Pepperell	125
Shirley	37
Townsend	81
Westford	79
Ayer	24
<u>School Choice</u>	<u>49</u>
Total Enrollment	564

Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges

College Board

Code Number : 222-333

Faculty: Sixty-five certified teachers Pupil Teacher Ratio: 10:1

Calendar: Three twelve week trimesters. Eight 45 minute periods, five days per week. The school schedule alternates one week of academic classes with a week in a vocational-technical program.

Vocational-Technical Programs:

Autobody Technology

Automotive Repair Technology

Carpentry

Culinary Arts/Hotel/Restaurant Management

Computer Aided Drafting/Architectural Design

Electrical Technology

Electronics/Robotics

Graphic Arts/Design

Horticulture/Landscape Design

Machine Tool Technology

Medical Occupations

Metal Fabrications

Interior Decorating & Design

Plumbing/Heating

*Child Care Education for 1998/99 school year

*Dental Assistant for 1998/99 school year

Special Academic Programs:

Students receive four years of computer applications. Foreign language is offered all four years for interested students. Juniors with honor grades may elect to enter the Dual Enrollment Program and take their senior year at a community college in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. Upon completion, they receive their high school diploma from Nashoba and one full year of credit from the college.

Student Activities:

Nashoba sponsors an extensive program in intra-scholastic sports including varsity teams in ten sports with equal opportunities for male and female students. Other activities include Student Council, National Honor Society, Yearbook, Students Against Drunk Driving, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, peer counseling and many special interest clubs. Nashoba has no user fees.

Continuing & Community Education.

Approximately fifteen hundred adults attend this evenings run program a school year.

Summer Programs:

Nashoba Valley's Allstars Summer Program is offered to 5th, 6th, and 7th graders in the area. Students enjoy outdoor adventures, sports programs, computer applications & graphics, and academic enrichment.

Town Committees and Commissions

Board Of Appeals

Members:

Harold Organ	Chairman
Eileen M. Duffy	
Gustave Fallgren	
Ronald Pare'	
John Coppinger	
Paul Landry	Alternate
John Blake	Alternate
Doris McClay	Senior Clerk

The Board had 36 petitions for Variances and 29 petitions for Special Permits. The statistics are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>
Variance*	36	29	6	1
Special Permit	29	20	8	1
Section 8 Appeals	3	0	3	0
Requested Extensions	1	1	0	0
Total	69	50	17	2

* One Variance petition was remanded back to the Board for reconsideration.

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the Board of Health, Sign Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen for their assistance and cooperation.

BOARD OF APPEALS



Front Row (l-r) Gustave Fallgren, Harold Organ, Chairman; Eileen Duffy

Back Row (l-r) Ronald Pare', John Blake, John Coppinger

Celebrations Committee

Members:

Walter R. Hedlund Chairman
James K. Gifford
Robert J. Kelley
David J. Marderosian
Jeffrey W. Stallard

The 1997 Annual 4th of July Celebration for the 30th year, was a tremendous success, thanks to Chelmsford Lions Club, Chelmsford Lodge of Elks No. 2310, Chelmsford Art Society, Chelmsford Community Band and many other Volunteer Chelmsford Organizations.

Thanks for the efforts and assistance received from Department Heads and their Personnel of the Police, Fire, Highway, Parks and D.P.W., Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, Special Thanks to members of the Chelmsford Auxiliary and Explorers Troop for their many Volunteer Hours. Committee now in the process of planning 1998 Annual Celebration for it's 31st Year.

Respectfully Submitted
Walter R. Hedlund

Cemetery Commission

Members:

Gerald L. Hardy Chairman
James F. Dolan
Jean R. McCaffery

The Cemetery Commission is pleased to report some major accomplishments and highlights of 1997 to the citizens of Chelmsford. Many improvement and beautification projects were completed during the year including the following:

At Pine Ridge Cemetery, the existing visitor parking area was enlarged and resurfaced. This project doubled the number of available spaces and also provided a handicapped accessible parking area.

An area adjacent to Billerica Road was cleared, stumped, and graded by the Department staff to begin preliminary work for future Section J. A buffer planting consisting of over fifty arborvitae shrubs was installed to screen Section I from traffic on Billerica Road.

During the Fall, the fence replacement project was completed at Heart Pond Cemetery. The existing wooden fence was not repairable due to its age and wood decay. After evaluating many alternatives, the Commission selected a colonial design that incorporates the original granite fence posts and retains the historical character of the cemetery, which dates back to 1774. Over 780 feet of fencing was replaced along Garrison and Parkerville Roads.

With the assistance of the Data Processing Department, the cemetery office computer system was replaced since the former system was approaching obsolescence. This will provide increased data storage capacity, allow us to produce higher quality correspondence, and assist us in responding to an increasing number of requests for genealogical information. Updated software was installed which allows us to research our existing burial and lot record database for all six cemeteries more efficiently.

There were 151 interments during the year including 18 cremation interments which accounted for 12% of total interments. There were 122 burial lots sold during the year which represents a 42% increase in lot sales over 1996.

The Cemetery Commission would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance received throughout the year from all Town Boards and Departments. The Commission also commends the following Cemetery Department staff members for working diligently to keep Chelmsford's six cemeteries well-maintained and attractive burial places.

Cemetery Department Personnel:

John Sousa Jr.	Superintendent
Jorge Caires	Working Foreman
Kenneth Frazier	Backhoe Operator
Patrick Caires	Truck Driver
Eileen Johnson	P.T. Clerk
Claudio Caires	Special Laborer
Manuel Laurencio	Special Laborer

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald L. Hardy, Chairman

Chelmsford Arts & Technology Education Fund

Members:

Evelyn S. Thoren	Chairman
Sheila Pichette	Secretary
Edward Morassi	Financial Liason
Beverly Barrett	
George Ripsom	
Kit Harbison	
Richard Moser	

The Spring 1996 Chelmsford Town Meeting approved an amendment to their General By-Laws by adding Section 13 to Article VII entitled **Chelmsford Arts and Technology Education Fund (ATEF)**. The purpose of this fund is to provide supplemental funding to support local educational initiatives and projects. Thanks to your generosity and support, the ATEF fund has received over \$16,000 since its inception in November 1996. The fund received corporate donations from Lockheed/Martin (\$1000) and from PROSYS Corp. (\$500). The committee is currently working on investment strategies and researching other financial resources in order to create a lasting fund.

Chelmsford is the first town to have a By-Law in place that specifies the application process, committee make-up and limitations. In June 1997 a seven member committee made awards totally \$2500 to Barbara Costello and Jill Everleigh from Byam School, Mark Johnson and Bette Gagnon from Parker School, and Susan Cushing from Westlands School. These projects are currently being implemented. The Spring 1998 Applications and copies of the By-Laws were distributed on January 5 to each school. Completed applications were received by the committee by March 31, 1998. Teachers and School Councils can apply for these funds. Awards will be announced in June 1998.

The concept of using tax check-offs for an alternative funding source for education was initiated by Arlington's veteran Town Treasurer, John Bilafer, under a Home Rule Petition over eleven years ago. This was filed and approved by the State Legislature as Chapter 60. Since this was accepted, over fifty towns in Massachusetts have adopted the statute Chapter 60. Chelmsford became involved in the process of adopting Chapter 60 through the efforts of Anthony Volpe, a member of the Chelmsford School Committee. The ATEF Committee is following with great interest the State Senate evaluation of Bill # S1475, *An Act Establishing a Matching Grant Incentive Program for Cities and Towns Establishing Scholarship and Educational Funds*.

Chelmsford uses pink inserts in the real estate and excise tax bills as the method to elicit **voluntary** contributions to enhance the education of Chelmsford Public School students. The collected money **does not** become part of the school budget. The Town Treasurer disperses the funds under the direction of the ATEF Committee. Information sheets are available in the Town Offices.

The contributions* that you give have and will continue to make a difference in the education of our children ... our future taxpayers.

*These contributions may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax consultant.

Commission On Disabilities

In 1997. Chairman. Suzanne Donahue continued to lead the Chelmsford Commission on Disabilities. Commission members Matt Caiazza, Jack Clancy, Cathy Favreau, Ralph Hickey, Jan Nahabedian, Len Olenchak and Mary St. Hilaire joined her. It was with great regret that she accepted the resignation of Secretary. Cathy Favreau. In her ten year on the Commission Cathy meticulously kept details of meetings and statistical information relating to access in Chelmsford which helped all members do their jobs more efficiently. The Commission wishes Cathy the best in her future endeavors. We appreciate her efforts on behalf of the Commission and will miss her greatly. Also resigning from the Commission was Jan Nahabedian, although Jan was with the Commission for a short time we appreciate her effort on issues which were important to the Commission.

During 1997, the Commission was instrumental in developing a liaison program with Chelmsford High School. Fred Marcks, a senior at the High School began his internship by setting up an awareness of issues relating to disability and will culminate in a special event at the High School in the spring of 1998.

The Commission is still in the process of setting up a Not-for-profit organization and this should be in place by fall of 1998. The sticker decal competition was successfully completed and Certificates of Appreciation and the Decals will be showing up around Chelmsford businesses in spring of 1998.

In addition, the Commission continues to monitor access in town. Several access projects were closed as a result of a responsive business community present in our town. Steps towards improving access continue. However, more work needs to be done.

Community Services Council

Members:

Kathy Cryan-Hicks,	Library
Susan Carmaris,	Cultural Council
Kit Harbison,	Resident
Holly Rice,	Recreation
Matt Scott,	Cable Television
Marty Walsh,	Council on Aging

The Chelmsford Community Services Council was formed by the Town Manager, Bernard Lynch to coordinate and expand Chelmsford's recreation and cultural opportunities. By improving and expanding the delivery of these services we hope to enrich the quality of life in the Town of Chelmsford as well as increase our sense of community.

The Chelmsford Community Services Council continues to deliver over 13,000 copies of the *Chelmsford Community Newsletter* to Chelmsford residents. The *Chelmsford Community Newsletter* was designed to increase the awareness of the programs and services that Chelmsford offers its citizens. These programs may be educational, cultural recreational or all of the above. In addition to being a guide for seasonal activities, the *Chelmsford Community Newsletter* will provide information about the how and why of town services to better understand government operations.

The Chelmsford Community Services Council continues to sponsor the annual WinterFest event. This extremely successful and fun-filled weekend included the chowderfest, ice skating, snowshoeing, tea room, variety show, carving of ice sculptures and much more. We will continue to offer a full slate of both indoor and outdoor activities for the entire community for future WinterFest Weekends. Numerous organizations in town sponsor specific events at various locations throughout Chelmsford.

We would like to thank all who support the *Chelmsford Community Newsletter* and the annual WinterFest event.

Conservation Commission

Members:

Christopher Garrahan	Chairman
Lynne Davis	Vice Chairperson
Andy Sheehan	Community Development Coordinator
David McLachlan	
John Smaldone	
Michael Jasinski	
Bob Greenwood	
Charlene Parlee	

During 1997, the Conservation Commission had a total of 75 filings under the Wetlands Protection Act and Wetlands Bylaw. The primary responsibility of the Conservation Commission is enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, s. 40, and the Chelmsford Wetlands Bylaw, Article XI of the General Bylaws. The Conservation Commission received 24 Notice of Intent filings. The Commission also held public meetings for 51 Requests for Determination, which was a significant increase over 1996. The Commission heard 8 cases of alleged wetlands violations. In response to the wetlands violations the Commission levied two fines and ordered the removal of fill from all altered wetlands.

The Conservation Commission is pleased to report continuing progress in the management of its Reservations, Town Forests and conservation lands. The volunteer effort this year was remarkable, especially the Eagle Scouts. Mark Stuart of Troop 70 constructed a message board at the main entrance of the Wright Reservation on Parker Road. Ryan Brown's Eagle Scout project was to construct a foot bridge across an intermittent stream at the Lime Quarry Reservation. Pat Walsh of Troop 75 rehabilitated 800 feet of an abandoned wood road/trail from Parker Road into an existing trail in the Wright Reservation. Mike Curran constructed a boardwalk across a section of muddy trail and a stone-lined drainage trench at the Margaret Mills/Crooked Springs Brook Reservation. Keith MacDonald of Troop 74 installed a bench and constructed the first 200 feet of a handicap accessible trail along Deep Brook at the Southwell Field Recreation Area. The Chelmsford Stewardship Committee continued to aid in the maintenance and repair of conservation lands, as well. The Commission greatly appreciates the work of the volunteers.

The Commission welcomed its newest member Charlene Parlee and said goodbye to Tim Ervin. The Commission hopes for more success in achieving its goals in the upcoming year.

	1994	1995	1996	1997
Requests for Determination	22	27	30	51
Notices of Intent	19	30	21	24
Total	41	57	51	75

Council On Aging

Members:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Martin Walsh, | Director | Arline Leman |
| Elizabeth Marshall, | Chairperson | Elizabeth McCarthy |
| Verne Woodward, | Vice Chairperson | Jackie Matthews |
| Jean McCaffery, | Clerk | Robert Monaco |
| Walter Cleven | | Donna Pechulis |
| Lilla Eaton | | Peter Pedulla |

As America and our Community ages, the challenges facing the Council on Aging are consistently increasing. Fortunately many of the programs that are presently in place are responding with quality care and compassionate understanding. Last year our agency provided over thirty programs and services in an endeavor to assist and meet the needs of our seniors and caregivers. The following statistics are helpful in understanding our efforts.

Adult Social Day Care	44 participant,	Avg. daily: 12
Congregate Lunch	45,339 meals	Avg. daily:187
Elderly Home Repair Service	39 minor repairs completed	
Friendly Visitor Program	28 seniors	1,144 hrs. of service
Meals on Wheels	116 participants	17,393 delivered meals
Outreach	15-20 weekly visits to seniors over 70 to assess needs and recommend services	
Respite-Companion Care	22,732 provider hours; 60 clients	
Transportation	10,749 single trips; 116 riders	

In addition to these social services, the Chelmsford Senior Center offered many educational, recreational and physical exercise programs on a daily basis. Recreational trips coordinated by Mary Conti and Ruth Czmut, provided over forty excursions to interesting destinations.

1997 was an important year in the growth and development of new programs. With the professional support of Mr. Bernard DiNatale, Director of Educational Technology for the Town of Chelmsford, we were able to provide introductory computer classes at Chelmsford High School. Hewlett Packard donated a new personal computer to our new cyberstations at the Center. The NE Foundation for the Humanities provided funding for a course entitled, "Family Scrapbooks" which combined literature and film as a means to draw seniors into exploring family and community in the face of social and economic change. The memory of our dear friend, Dr. Howard Moore was maintained by establishing a memorial scholarship at the High School. Our gratitude to the "Friends of the Senior Center" for their support in helping us to achieve this goal AND for their continuous dedication and financial commitment (approximately \$90,000 in '97) to the Center's upkeep, improvements and social services. Volunteers, which actively number over 260 people, donated 35,310 hours of service with a conservative dollar value of \$256,000. The Council on Aging is very grateful for the Community's enthusiastic support, for the progressive accomplishments of this past year and for the rewarding challenges of developing and improving a service delivery system that will have a positive effect on the lives of our seniors and caregivers.

Submitted by: Martin Walsh, Dir.

Cultural Council

Members:

Susan Carmeris
Cathy Clark
Robin Crane
Judy Fichtenbaum

Carol Merriam
Kathy O'Brien
Donna Thoene

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month, ten meetings per year.

The Chelmsford Cultural Council is a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), and was established to carry out the mission of the state agency by supporting programs that promote access, education, diversity, and excellence in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. It allocates state funds for these disciplines through the local grant program. The primary source of these funds is the Megabucks Lottery game. Grant award decisions are subject to final approval by the MCC. These programs improve the quality of life for our residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our community. The council is comprised of nine residents who are appointed by the Town Manager.

In 1997 the council voted to recommend 26 grants totaling \$14,477. Students in the Chelmsford Public Schools directly benefited from 13 of these programs.

Accomplishments this year: In addition to granting state funds, LCC's may choose to produce other cultural programs for the benefit of the community at large. The Chelmsford Cultural Council has taken an active role in town by promoting a variety of cultural events. Additional programs presented during 1997 include: Production of a three-part Performing Arts Series. Contributed to Chelmsford's Winterfest Weekend by funding performers, including King Ludwig's Bavarian Band during the council's "Hearts for the Arts" silent auction. Held Annual Community Input meeting in March. Funded and produced a concert of Scottish music and stories featuring "The Bells". Funded the newly published Chelmsford "Artisans' Directory". October was proclaimed "Cultural Month in Chelmsford" by the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with a national proclamation. Presented the third annual "Angel of the Arts" award to outgoing chair Pat Fitzpatrick and Ted Godfroy noting their support and dedication to cultural programs in Chelmsford. The council also occasionally does fund raising of its own. The "Hearts for the Arts" silent auction raised over \$1,000 and the sale of baskets made by chair Pat Fitzpatrick earned the council \$500. These funds translated into an additional \$862 award from the MCC for the 1997-1998 grant cycle through the MCC's Incentive Matching program.

The Council's 15th anniversary was celebrated with a fall folk singing concert and the kick-off of a town-wide Photography Contest. A new brochure was designed and printed to help publicize the importance of the council's work. Outgoing members Pat Fitzpatrick, Jean McCaffery, and Winnie Liakos were recognized for their service to the council.

Finance Committee

Members:

Marcia Debroth	Chairman
Sue Olsen	Vice-Chairman
Dwight Hayward	
Chuck Piper	
Cornelius O'Neill	
Clare Jeannotte	
Bill Curry	

The Finance Committee is comprised of seven members who are appointed by the Town Moderator to three-year terms.

The FinCom is the arm of Town Meeting whose primary mission is to study and make recommendations on the Town budget and warrant articles to be considered by the Town Meeting Representatives.

There are two Town Meetings each year; the Spring meeting commences on the last Monday in April and the Fall meeting is held in October.

Prior to the Spring Town Meeting, the Town Manager submits his proposed budget and capital improvement program for the ensuing fiscal year with accompanying budget message and supporting documents to the FinCom. The committee confers with the Board of Selectmen and School Committee prior to and during the budget process to review the financial condition of the town, revenue and expenditure forecasts, and other relevant information in order to develop a coordinated balanced budget.

Each FinCom member acts as a liaison to various town department and boards. Prior to a public hearing, the FinCom liaison meets individually with the department head to review the department's budget request. Weekly hearings are held from December through April to hear, analyze and discuss departmental budgets and warrant articles. Each department or independent board is given the opportunity to present their budget and respond to questions and concerns raised by FinCom members. Based on its deliberations, the committee makes a recommendation on each line item of the budget and each warrant article.

Similar to the budget hearings, the Committee also meets with petitioners, proponents, and other interested parties, whether in support or opposition, of proposed warrant articles that are to be considered at the Spring or Fall Town Meetings. After consideration of each warrant article, the Committee votes on its recommendation. In certain instances, when the article has no financial implication to the Town, the Committee may vote to make "no recommendation" on the article.

The recommendations of the Committee are published in the Spring and Fall Report Books which are available to residents and Town Meeting Representatives. Additionally, the Report contains financial data specific to the Town and other useful information. The FinCom has received several awards from the Massachusetts Association of Town Finance Committees distinguishing it as one of the best report books in the state within our population category.

In accordance with the Town Charter, "The duty of Town Meeting Representatives is to keep abreast of town business and review materials forwarded to them by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager. It is expected that town meeting members will attend meetings of multiple member bodies, attend hearings held by the Finance Committee and actively prepare for each session of the town meeting." The Finance Committee both encourages and welcomes attendance and participation of town meeting members and residents at any of their meetings.

Historic District Commission

Members:

Peggy Dunn, Chairman
Steve Stowell, Vice Chairman
Tom Doyle
Robert LaPorte
Brenda Lovering
John Alden, Alternate
Bruce Foucar, Alternate
Pat LaHaise, Clerk

The H.D.C. functions as a regulatory commission for the benefit of the Town. A small area of the Town's center section is under the commission's authority. The objective of the H.D.C. is to provide an expeditious application and review relative to the physical modification to the residences and businesses within the District. Regular meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at Town Offices.

During the past year the H.D.C. received 15 applications for review; 14 applications were accepted, 2 public hearings were held and 12 public hearing were waived. Thirteen Certificates of Appropriateness and 1 Certificate of Non-Applicability were issued. One application for a lighted neon window sign was denied.

Major accomplishments during the year include the awarding of the second Preservation Award for signage, designing and obtaining funding for new signs to mark the boundaries of the District, designing and obtaining funding for new markers for significant structures within the District. We continue to review our forms, reorganizing files and computerize records.

Historic Commission

Members:

John Alden	Linda Prescott (Chairperson)
John Goodwin	Martha Sanders
Florence Gullion	Jeffery Stallard
George Merrill	

The members of this commission have continued to inventory the ever increasing list of one hundred (100) year old homes and buildings. This is an ongoing project of historic documentation of a property that determines the qualification of a property to have a historic sign placed on the house by the owner. We are also continuing to locate and to reconstruct the files misplaced in our town mandated move of 1996 comprising 20% of our current inventory.

To continue to be current in documentation procedures, we meet with Jane Drury for inventory instructions. The Town of Chelmsford has 191 historic properties currently registered with the State and has numerous inventories being completed.

The Commission has provided information and documentation for several continuing town projects :

- Old North Town Hall restoration
- Scorbria House relocation
- Possible extension of the Center Historic District.

As always, the Commission is working on the sign program for both historic homes and historic sites.

Holiday Decorating Committee

Members:

Donna A. Johnson, Chairman
Ellen Donovan, Treasurer
Jean Kydd
Marie Massota
Iris Larseen
Ruthann Burkinshaw

Linda Emerson
Jacqueline Wenschel
Carrie Bacon
Linda Harrington
Tink Nussbum
Karen Ready

Department Mission Statement: The Holiday Decorating Committee is a group of volunteers who arrange and implement the Holiday Lighting and Prelude Ceremony in Chelmsford Center the first Sunday in December. The committee, with the help of several interested individuals and groups, physically put up and take down the lights on the shrubs and trees on Chelmsford Common, the Old Town Hall and the Chelmsford Business District. In addition to the lighting, we also organize musical talent who volunteer their time, arrange the hayride and assist "Santa" with the more than 500 children who come to see him.

Budget: While the committee is sanctioned by the Town, we receive no town funds and work from donations given to us by several groups and individuals. We want to thank the Police and Fire Department Unions for jointly donating funds for permanent lighting for the beech tree on the Center Common.

Goals and Objects: Our goal in 1996 is to have continued success with our event and draw more and more of the residents to the business district. We have received help and cooperation from our Police, Fire and Highway Departments and could not hold this event without them. We feel fortunate to have so many residents support our efforts and thank all those who give so freely of their time and talents to make this once a year event possible.

Donna A. Johnson
Chairman

Housing Authority

Members:

Lynn M. Marcella,	Chairman	2002
Mary E. "Lisa" Royce	Vice Chairman	2000
William P. Keohane	Treasurer	2001
Pamela A. Turnbull	Asst. Treasurer	1998
Scott E. Johnson		1998

During 1997, the Chelmsford Housing Authority has witnessed a sharp increase in the need for affordable housing for families, elderly and disabled individuals. The average waiting period for elderly disabled housing has risen dramatically with the new preference to local veterans, elimination of the asset limits and an increase in the income limits. Currently, the waiting period for state aided elderly disabled housing is as follows: Local/Veterans 2 or more years, Local Residents 5 to 7 years, Non-residents 10 years or more. Our agency is not able to met the current demand for affordable housing.

The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program has been closed for over a year. The Federal Governments has reduced the number of participants our agency may assist. Further, the low vacancy rate in Chelmsford has made it quite difficult to house low-income families in town. There does not appear to be any immediate solution to this problem as rents are continuing to rise and no new units are being constructed.

Over the next few years, the Authority will continue to build stronger relations with the Chelmsford Rotary Club, Nashoba Valley Technical School and the Greater Lowell Technical High School. All three of these organizations have contributed greatly to improving the quality of life for our elderly/disabled residents. The Authority is interested in acquiring new land for the future construction of additional elderly/disabled units.

The Chelmsford Housing Authority programs as of December 31, 1997 provided a total of 419 units of low-income housing; 198 elderly, 141 family, and 22 handicapped units. The Middlesex Community residence for the mildly to moderately retarded was purchased in 1974 and has 6 units. Six, two bedroom condominiums in Pickwick Estates were purchased in 1981. McFarlin Manor, completed in 1981, has 43 regular units, 3 handicapped units, and a four bedroom congregate unit, which serves the semi-independent elderly. Delaney Terrace, finished in 1990, has 48 units, 3 of which are handicapped, and a one, 4 bedroom congregate unit for the frail elderly. These developments are funded under Chapter 667. Under the 705 Family Program 11 units are scattered around Chelmsford. The Chapter 689 program is able to serve up to 8 individuals in the facility based respite care development located on Groton Road. The Section 8 Program serves approximately 125 families in the communities of Chelmsford, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Westford, Carlisle, Littleton, Pepperell, Groton and Lowell.

Members of the staff include David J. Hedison, Executive Director, Linda Dalton, Administrative Assistant, Nancy Harvey, Leased Housing Coordinator, Michelle Hudzik, Program Coordinator, Richard O'Neil, part-time Maintenance Mechanic, Michael Harrington, and Manuel Mendonca both Grounds/Keeper/Maintenance Laborers. Regular meetings are held at McFarlin Manor, 10 Wilson Street at 7:30 p.m., on the first Tuesday each month. The Annual Meeting is the first Tuesday in May. All meetings are open to the public. The Chelmsford Housing Authority Board of Commissioners would like to thank the residents of Chelmsford and Town Officials for their continued support and cooperation.

PLANNING BOARD



Front Row (l-r) James Creegan, Kim McKenzie, Chairman; Tracey Wallace-Cody, V. Chairman

Back Row (l-r) Robert Morse, Clerk; Eugene Gilet, Susan Carter, James Good

Planning Board

Members:

Kim J. MacKenzie	Chairman
Tracey Wallace-Cody	Vice Chairman
Robert C. Morse	Clerk
Susan E. Carter	
James M. Creegan	
Eugene E. Gilet	
James P. Good	

During 1997, there were 58 proposals which were brought before the Planning Board. The statistics are as follows:

	Total	Approved	Denied	Withdrawn
Site Plans	14	10	0	2
Preliminary Subdivisions	7	4	1	2
Subdivisions *	16	10	1	1
ANRs **	21	19	1	1

* These subdivision proposals included approximately 38 residential lots.

** Subdivision Control Law Not Required

There are 4 Subdivision projects and 2 Site Plans still pending.

A Master Plan Bylaw Review Sub-Committee was formed to examine and create Zoning Bylaws as they pertain to the implementation of the 1996 Master Plan. The Committee has embarked upon a Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review with the aid of a consultant. The result of this effort should be in place for the Fall 1998 Town Meeting.

The Planning Board wishes to express its gratitude to the Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Conservation Commission, Water Districts, Fire Department, Sewer Commission, Building Inspector, Community Development Coordinator and the public for their assistance and cooperation.

Veterans' Emergency Fund

Treasurer's Report to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager

January 1st, 1997 to December 31st, 1997.

Balance as of January 1st, 1997:

Add Receipts:

The MassBank for Savings,
Reading, Mass. Regular Savings,
Interest:

\$467.57

The MassBank for Savings,
Reading, MassX Certificate
Account. Interest:

\$380.40

Total Interest Received:

\$847.97

Balance on Hand as of January 1st, 1997
and Interest Income as of December 31st, 1997

\$21,726.98

Assets:

MassBank for Savings, Account #911287909:

\$14,623.40

MassBank for Savings, Account #922055696:

\$7,103.58

Total Assets:

\$21,726.98

Liabilities:

Total Liabilities:

\$ None

Total Assets, Less Liabilities as of December 31, 1997:

\$21,726.98

Respectfully yours,
VETERANS' EMERGENCY FUND COMMITTEE

Alfred H. Coburn,
Treasurer

Veterans' Emergency Fund Committee

The year 1997 marked the 50th Anniversary since the fund was established. It was authorized by Town Meeting vote during 1947 and the amount set up was \$2,929.92 for the benefit of Veterans of World War II.

Numerous veterans have received financial assistance through these many years. The fund now totals \$21,726.98.

Applications for assistance are received from the Veterans ' Benefits Department. Only material grants are authorized. No cash grants have ever been approved. During 1997 no requests for assistance were received.

The present membership of the committee is as follows, one from each voting precinct:

- Precinct 1: Steven E. C. Belkakis, *DDS* .
- Precinct 2: Carl J. Lebedzinski,
- Precinct 3: John J. Kenney,
- Precinct 4: Thomas E. Firth, Jr.,
- Precinct 5: Frederick H. Reid,
- Precinct 6: Alfred H. Coburn,
- Precinct 7: Alan E. Greenhalgh,
- Precinct 8: Neal C. Stanley,,
- Precinct 9: Lloyd C. Greene, Jr.,

The committee extends its appreciation to other town officials who have helped the committee during the past year.

Respectfully yours,
VETERANS' EMERGENCY FUND COMMITTEE

Alfred H. Coburn,
Treasurer

Veterans' Services

- Members:
- Martin J. Walsh Director
- Regina B. Jackson Assistant

The Chelmsford Veterans' Services Office provides short-term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families as mandated by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115. We can assist eligible, needy veterans with a monthly allowable grant and some medical coverage. The amount of assistance depends on the budget standards set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. The State will reimburse Chelmsford for 75% of authorized benefits paid.

In CY 1997 we averaged \$7,300.00 per month in benefits paid out. We had about 16 active cases per month. Our reimbursement from the State is paid quarterly and runs approximately 10 months behind the authorizations. We receive about 25 requests for information/ help per month from citizens dealing with a wide range of issues. We help veterans who are not eligible for this program (Chapter 115) find alternate means of assistance with other state and federal resources.

Our office is located in the Community Center (Old Town Hall) in Chelmsford Center. This office is open M/W/F 8:30 - 4:00 and Monday or Wednesday evening 7-9. Our phone number is #250-5238. If you need help when the office is closed call Marty Walsh at the Senior Center #251-8692. If you are unable to visit our office and need a home visit, please call and we will be happy to schedule a convenient time. Thank you.

Town Meetings and Elections

Warrant For Annual Town Election April 1, 1997 (April 11, 1997)

Middlesex, SS

To the Constable, or any other suitable person of the Town of Chelmsford:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the legal voters of said Chelmsford to meet in their several polling places, VIZ

Precinct 1 Town Office Building Gymnasium

Precinct 2 Harrington Elementary School Gymnasium

Precinct 3 Harrington Elementary School Gymnasium

Precinct 4 Westlands School Cafetorium

Precinct 5 Byam School Cafetorium

Precinct 6 Westlands School Cafetorium

Precinct 7 McCarthy Middle School, Small Gymnasium

Precinct 8 McCarthy Middle School, Small Gymnasium

Precinct 9 Town Office Building Gymnasium

On Tuesday, the 1st day April, 1997 being the first Tuesday in said month at 7:00 am until 8:00 pm for the following purposes:

To bring in their votes for the following officers:

Two Selectmen for three years;

One School Committee Member for three years;

Two Library Trustees for three years;

One Board of Health Member for three years;

Three Planning Board Members for three years;

One Planning Board Member for an unexpired one year term;

One Sewer Commissioner for three years;

One Housing Authority Member for five years;

One Cemetery Commissioner for three years;

Fifty-four Representative Town Meeting Members for three years in Precincts 1 through 9

One Representative town Meeting Member for an unexpired one year term in Precinct 6

One Representative town Meeting Member for an unexpired two year term in Precinct 8

One Representative town Meeting Member for an unexpired one year term in Precinct 8

One Representative town Meeting Member for an unexpired two year term in Precinct 9

One Representative town Meeting Member for an unexpired one year term in Precinct 9

;and to meet in the Senior Center, Groton Road, North Chelmsford, on Monday the twenty-eighth day of April, at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles, VIZ:

For complete warrant information see original documents on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex

April 3, 1997

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, I am notifying the legal voters of said Chelmsford that:

THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION OF APRIL 1st WHICH WAS SUSPENDED AND POSTPONED PER THE GOVERNOR'S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY PER SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM GALVIN WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME:

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 1997. THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7AM TO 8PM

Further they are instructed to meet in their several polling places:

Precinct 1 Town Office Building Gymnasium

Precinct 2 Harrington Elementary School Gymnasium

Precinct 3 Harrington Elementary School Gymnasium

Precinct 4 Westlands School Cafetorium

Precinct 5 Byam School Cafetorium

Precinct 6 Westlands School Cafetorium

Precinct 7 McCarthy Middle School, Small Gymnasium

Precinct 8 McCarthy Middle School, Small Gymnasium

Precinct 9 Town Office Building Gymnasium

This is to certify that I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Chelmsford by posting of the attached **SUPERIOR COURT ORDER# 97-1730** at the following places, to wit:

For complete warrant information see original documents on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Election April 11, 1997

*Candidate for Re-election

SELECTMAN 3 Year Terms (2)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	279	296	284	251	318	259	251	218	219	2375
Philip M. Eliopoulos	437	259	364	325	482	494	469	384	439	3653
William F. Dalton*	500	518	531	365	410	499	463	416	385	4087
Matthew P. St. Hilaire	260	214	315	300	246	443	310	255	258	2601
Write-in	0	1	0	1	0	1	6	0	5	14
Misc	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	8
TOTAL	1476	1288	1494	1242	1456	1698	1500	1278	1306	12738

Prec. 5 figures adjusted 4/25/97 (2 Escrow Ballots Cast)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3 Year Terms (2)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	31	38	31	22	29	23	24	22	33	253
Anthony V. Volpe*	396	367	378	361	378	401	300	263	353	3197
William C. Curry	309	239	338	237	321	422	422	349	266	2903
Write-In	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	8
Misc	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	0	8
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 Year Terms (2)

	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	605	555	631	503	600	692	592	530	569	5277
Stephen J. Mallette	399	291	360	337	387	459	423	340	332	3328
Jaclyn D. Matzkin*	469	437	500	397	465	545	480	387	404	4084
Write-In	3	4	3	4	4	0	4	3	1	26
Misc	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	18	0	23
TOTAL	1476	1288	1494	1242	1456	1698	1500	1278	1306	12738

BOARD OF HEALTH 3 Year Term (1)

	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	224	201	231	206	245	242	246	206	239	2040
Douglas E. Hausler	510	440	513	412	480	604	502	426	413	4300
Write-In	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	0	16
Misc	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	5	1	13
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

PLANNING BOARD 3 Year Terms (3)

	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	675	547	635	568	643	680	658	484	587	5477
Christopher T Garrahan	348	274	409	282	342	419	378	352	325	3129
James P. Good*	444	369	413	372	447	515	418	382	394	3754
Tracey Wallace Cody*	352	399	394	316	362	464	402	350	323	3362
Kim J MacKenzie*	395	339	389	321	384	467	392	334	326	3347
Write-In	0	3	1	3	6	0	1	0	4	18
Misc	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	15	0	20
TOTAL	2214	1932	2241	1863	2184	2547	2250	1917	1959	19107

PLANNING BOARD 1 Yr Unexp Term (1)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blank	244	193	242	214	280	267	265	221	250	2176
Susan E. Carter	492	447	504	406	447	579	484	411	401	4171
Write-in	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5
Misc	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	6	2	17
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

SEWER COMMISSION 3 Year Term(1)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blank	218	175	182	182	227	229	223	197	239	1872
George Abely*	518	467	565	437	499	615	526	430	413	4470
Write-in	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	10
Misc	0	2	0	1	1	3	1	9	0	17
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

HOUSING AUTHORITY 5 Year Term (1)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	191	191	223	173	226	218	232	186	238	1878
Lynn M. Marcella*	545	451	523	446	500	627	517	444	413	4466
Write-In	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	7
Misc	0	2	1	0	1	4	1	8	1	18
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

CEMETERY COMMISSION 3 Year Term (1)	Prec 1	Prec 2	Prec 3	Prec 4	Prec 5	Prec 6	Prec 7	Prec 8	Prec 9	TOTAL
Blanks	212	183	210	190	240	232	231	193	248	1939
Jean R. McCaffery*	524	458	536	428	486	615	517	438	404	4406
Write-In	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	7
Misc	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	6	0	17
TOTAL	738	644	747	621	728	849	750	639	653	6369

TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #1	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #2	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #3
Blanks	1654	Blanks	1463	Blanks	1579
Jean B. Rook*	380	M. Janice Spence	423	Kathryn M. Fisher*	358
Nina S. Lewin*	330	Jesse C. Foster*	356	Harold I. Matzkin*	348
Joseph P. Abate*	296	Patricia A. Jamros	356	Douglas L. Wright*	342
Richard G. Allison*	297	Linda H. Dalton*	433	William J. Gilet, Jr.	413
Frances T. Mc Dougall*	351	William F. Dalton*	463	Thomas E. Moran*	275
Peggy Dunn	322	William P. Griffin*	362	Michael F. McCall	428
Anthony V. Volpe	367	Write-in	4	Christopher T. Garrahan*	345
James P. Good*	424	Misc	4	Cathy A. Hutchinson*	384
Write-in	7			Write-in	4
Misc	0			Misc	6
TOTAL	4428	TOTAL	3864	TOTAL	4482

TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #4	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #5	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #6
Blanks	1594	Blanks	1598	Blanks	2055
George A. Ripsom Sr.*	371	Evelyn S. Thoren*	409	David J. McLachlan*	503
Dolores a. Blomgren*	371	Judith B. Mallette	406	Charles F. Smith*	433
Billy L. Martin	348	Glenn R. Thoren*	382	M. Elizabeth Marshall*	475
Sheila E. Pichette	370	Kathleen F. Hillman*	377	Marianne J. Paresky*	476
Cheryl L. O'Sullivan*	329	Robert D. Hall*	407	Judith A. Olsson	603
Gerald W. Pacht*	335	David P. McLaughlin*	404	Stuart G. Weisfeldt	542
Write-in	3	Cheryl M. Perkins	378	Write-in	3
Misc	5	Write-in	6	Misc	4
		Misc	1		
TOTAL	3726	TOTAL	4368	TOTAL	5094

TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #7	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #8	TOWN MTG REPS (3 YEARS)	PCT #9
Blanks	1375	Blanks	1309	Blanks	1496
Anthony M Omobono	285	Blanks		Susan B. Graves	367
Donna L Ready	445	Samuel Poulten*		Frank R. Peterson*	268
Katherine C Harbison	309	Robert P. Mackey		C. Thomas Christiano*	271
Dwight M. Hayward*	431	Gail E. Poulten*		Donald L. Elias*	281
Barbara J Scavezze*	399	John S. Fudge, Jr.		Edward A. Cady*	256
Susan J Gates*	425	Bernice F. Poulten*		Steven Arthur Consalvi*	284
Leonard W Doolan III*	438	Robert M. Burns		Robert C. Morse*	359
Carol A. Stark*	386	Alexander W. Gervais*		James L. Hickey	329
Write-in	3	Deborah Villano*		Write-in	3
Misc	4	Write-in		Misc	4
		Misc			
TOTAL	4500	TOTAL	3834	TOTAL	3918

TOWN MTG REPS (1 YEARS)	PCT #6	TOWN MTG REPS (2 YEARS)(1)	PCT #8	TOWN MTG REPS (2 YEARS)(1)	PCT #9
Blanks	785	Blanks	189	Blanks	230
Susan Kupor McHugh (Write-In)	3	Margaret A. Fudge		James E. Rich	422
Ray. G. McCusker, Jr. (Write-In)	3	Write-in		Write-in	0
Write-in	20	Misc		Misc.	1
Misc	38				
TOTAL	8317	TOTAL	639	TOTAL	653

TOWN MTG REPS (1 YEARS)(1)	PCT #8	TOWN MTG REPS (1 YEARS)(1)	PCT #9
Blanks	186	Blanks	141
Joyce M. Johnson	448	Will L. Perry	304
Write-in	0	Thomas J. Liakos	206
Misc	5	Write-in	1
		Misc	1
TOTAL	639	TOTAL	653

Warrant For Special Town Meeting April 28, 1997

Middlesex, SS

To the Constable or any other suitable person of the Town of Chelmsford

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the Town Meeting Representatives of said Chelmsford to meet in the Senior Center, Groton Road, North Chelmsford, on Monday the twenty-eighth day of April, at 7:45 p.m. in the evening, then and there to act upon the following article, VIZ:

For complete warrant information see original documents on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Annual Town Meeting April 28, 1997

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center at 7:35 PM by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 149 Town Meeting Representatives present.

The Moderator pointed out the fire exits, and went over the Town Meeting procedures. He then requested a moment of silence in honor of two people who served the Town in various capacities. Bernard Clark, who was a current Town Meeting Representative from Precinct 2, and Dorothy Borrows, who had been a Board of Registrar from 1956 to 1972.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved, that the reading of the Constable's return of the warrant be waived. Motion carried, unanimously.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved, that the reading of the entire warrant be waived. Motion carried, unanimously.

The Moderator requested that the Body vote to allow non residents, Bernie DiNatalie from the School Department and Andy Sheehan, Land Use coordinator address the body from time to time. Motion carried, unanimously.

The Moderator made a point of order. He explained that a new procedure regarding 2/3's voting had been passed as State law. Town Meetings could either pass a by-law or vote at the Town Meeting, to allow the Moderator to make a judgment regarding the necessity of conducting actual hand counts, for 2/3's votes, when he feels that it is obvious that the vote carried. This would save time and move the meeting along. He further explained that there was an article within the warrant that would make this procedure a by-law for future Town Meetings, however, presently he did have a motion before him that if passed would allow the procedure to take effect immediately. The motion reads as follows.

Jonathan A. Stevens moved that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 15, as amended, to permit the Moderator to declare a two-thirds majority with the necessity of a count throughout this Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator asked for any discussion, hearing none he asked for a show of hands on the motion, motion carried.

Under Article 1. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved to hear reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

State Representative Carol Cleven and State Senator Susan Fargo came before the body and briefly reported on various bills that had come before them and how they affected Chelmsford.

The Moderator announced that a Special Town Meeting had been posted for 7:45 PM. He was going to adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at this time and proceed with the Special Town Meeting. When the Special Town Meeting was over, the Annual Town Meeting would reconvene and further reports will be heard under Article 1. The Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Special Town Meeting April 28, 1997

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center at 7:50 PM by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 149 Town Meeting Representatives present.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved, that the reading of the Constable's return of the warrant be waived. Motion carried, unanimously.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved, that the reading of the entire warrant be waived. Motion carried, unanimously

Under Article 1. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate \$69,322. from free cash, and \$25,678. from Line Item 18, Interest under Article 2 of the 1996 Annual Town Meeting, to be added to the appropriation under Line Item 5, Public Safety Personnel Services under Article 2 of the 1996 Annual Town Meeting in order to fund the Police Patrolmen's collective bargaining agreement.

The Town Manager explained that the Patrolmen Union had been without a contract since June 30, 1995. After two years of collective bargaining a settlement was reached in February of 1997. He said that a 2% raise was given for 1996, a split 2% for FY 1997, for a total cost of \$95,000. There was contractual language, educational incentive, which would increase an individual's base salary for the amount of education received. He felt it was a good contract and asked for support of the article. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The motion carried, unanimously by a show of hands.

The Moderator adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 8:00 PM. The Annual Town Meeting reconvened at 8:00 PM and discussion continued under Article 1.

Under Article 1.(con't) Chairman of the Master Plan Committee, James Creegan, requested that all the members of the committee who were present to please come forward. Because of all the time and work involved, the Planning Board wanted each member to receive a a certificate of appreciation: Andy Sheehan, Eileen Duffy, Peter Dulchinos, Kim MacKenzie, David McLachlan, Wendy Marcks, Stu Weisfeldt, Tom Moran, Tracy Wallace Cody. He explained that the Master Plan Review Committee was formed in 1994. The Committee met for eight months and concluded that the Master Plan of 1986 was in need of review. The Planning Board requested and received an appropriation of \$50,000. from the October 1995 Town Meeting to hire a consultant to assist in the preparation of the new master plan. John Brown Associates was hired as the consultant, and the Master Plan Committee was formed. The Committee addressed various issues, goals, land use, economic development, housing, environment, public facilities, utilities, transportation and implementation plan. Copies of the master plan are available for a fee at the Town Offices.

Chairman of the Chelmsford Arts and Technology Fund Committee, Evelyn Thoren gave a status report of the newly formed committee. The Committee was formed due to the passage of an article at the April 1996 Annual Town Meeting. Its main purpose is to provide supplement funding for initiatives and projects that will enhance the curriculum of the Chelmsford Public Schools. Pink information slips are enclosed in the real estate and excise bills. From these a voluntary contribution may be made. She thanked the Graphics Department at Nashoba Tech for their work, and to the first business to make a contribution, which was Frequency Sources a division of Lockheed\Martin.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, then gave his status report on last year's articles. The Community Action Program, which is a program for future civic improvement within the neighborhoods. There are a few applications that need to be reviewed and decided upon. He discussed the Adams Library Expansion Project which had been voted upon at the October 1996 town meeting and ratified with a ballot question in December at a special town election. The architect was on board, the design work done, now in the process of going out for bids. Also plans are being made on housing the Library at a temporary location.

Under Article 2 Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved to postpone consideration of this article until the second night of the adjourned session of the Town Meeting, as the first item of business.

The Town Manager explained that by Thursday night more information may be available from the State regarding certain articles, also some of the collective bargaining units that are still negotiating may settle. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 3. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to transfer \$2000. from Conservation fees under Wetlands Special Reserve Fund to reduce the Conservation Commission Budget Fiscal Year 1998.

The Town Manager explained that this is the second year of doing this. It offsets the Board's operating cost. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 4. Sewer Commissioner John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$1,560,000. from Sewer Betterments, Special Revenue, to reduce the exempt portion of debt and interest in the Fiscal Year 1998 Budget.

Chairman of the Sewer Commission, John Emerson explained that the Commission does this each year to reduce the cost of the on going sewer projects. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 5. Sewer Commissioner John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$300,633. from Sewer Rate Relief Funds, Special Revenue, to reduce the exempt portion of debt and interest in the Fiscal Year 1998 Budget.

Chairman of the Sewer Commission, John Emerson explained that this money will be applied to the tax rate. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 6 Town Manager Bernard Lynch explained that this is a standard article. It gives target dollars on what the town can afford to do and spend. Projects are decided upon the time and money available and the need. He noted that there are major items missing. Road resurfacing for one. The money is being used from State Funds to do the road work. The continuation of the sidewalk project is still using funds from last year. This is why other needs are able to be addressed. Bill Griffin questioned the Police vehicles. What is the need for the proposed change in vehicles from the Crown Victoria to the two wheel drive, recreational vehicle? Police Chief Armand Caron explained that the Town transfers prisoners to jail and he is planning on installing computers in the vehicles, which will require more room. The new vehicles will provide the additional space needed. Glenn Thoren questioned the Academic Tech. line item. Bernie DiNatalie, Director of Educational Technology, explained the Schools request.

This would allow the communicating of all the schools, classrooms, and administration office, via networking through the access information and institutional network systems. Computers will be replaced and computer labs will be installed at the McCarthy and Parker Schools. Each computer lab will have 32 units. Work stations will be set up in the elementary schools and school libraries. Bill Griffin requested that a full report from the Town Manager regarding the purchasing of the Police vehicles be made available at the Town Meeting next year. The Town Manager agreed to this. Brian Latina questioned what the guidelines are for submitting a request to the Capital Planning. The Manager explained that the project/item had to exceed the cost of \$10,000 and have a life of more than five years. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Discussion took place. Glenn Thoren said that he was not happy with the lack of information when he asked for the plans that were to be laid out for the future use of these computers. He felt that there are citizens at large that this information should be shown to. Then he could have them explain if need be, the proposal in terms that may be easier for a non computer person to understand, and verify the information being proposed. Judy Mallette, a member of the Technology Committee, said that there had been eight major technology companies who came forward and offered their support and technical advice. Presently the plan is in committee at the State level being reviewed, and if any changes need to be made per their advice then it will be done. She asked for support from the body. Paul Gleason spoke in favor of the proposal. Chairman of the School Committee, Angelo Taranto said there had been ample review of the plan. Glenn Thoren said that a vote shouldn't be based on "trust" the information should have been available. He moved to amend the article by reducing the line items on capital planning for Administrative and Academic Technology to \$100,000. until a final plan has been made available for review by a Critical Design Review Committee. The Finance Committee unanimously opposes the motion to amend. The Board of Selectmen polled three members who were currently present at their table, and they unanimously oppose the motion. Dennis Ready moved the question to stop debate on the motion to amend. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The Moderator then attempted a vote on the motion to amend. This left the Chair in doubt. He asked the following tellers to come forward and take an hand count:

Dorothy Frawley, Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, John Maleski. The result: Yes, 45 No, 95 the motion to amend was defeated. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article. Which left him in doubt. The tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. Yes 114, No 24 2/3's is 92 the motion carried and reads as follows:

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,288,000. for the following capital projects:

Department	Project	Expenditure	
Cemetery	Cemetery Truck	30,000	
Fire	Roof Repair	23,000	
	Compressor	35,000	
	S. Station Generator	18,000	
	Engine Refurbishment	10,000	
	Cruiser Replacement	130,000	
Police	Fuel Tanks	65,000	
DPW	Highway Garage Roof	20,000	
	Dump Truck/Sander	70,000	
	Park Tractor	17,000	
	Park Truck	25,000	
	Schools:	HVAC Upgrade	36,000
	High School	Replace Microscopes (\$125 @ 1,238)	31,000
	McCarthy School	Floors	40,000
	Parker School	Lockers	40,000
Generator		35,000	
Academic Tech.		563,800	
Admin. Tech.		100,000	
TOTAL		1,288,800	

and to transfer the sum of \$4,758,57. from unexpended bond proceeds under Article 12 of the 1995 Annual Town Meeting, transfer the sum of \$463.00 from unexpended bond proceeds under Article 28 of the 1993 Annual Town Meeting, transfer the sum of \$646.51 from unexpended bond proceeds under Article 30 of the 1994 Annual Town Meeting, transfer \$2,244.00 from unexpended bond proceeds under Article 3 of the 1995 Annual Town Meeting, transfer \$687.92 of unexpended bond proceeds under Article 6 of the 1996 Annual Town Meeting and to authorized the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectman to borrow \$1,280,000.00 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 or any other enabling authority.

Under Article 7. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000.00 to be used as a Reserve fund at the discretion of the Finance Committee, as provided in General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6.

The Town Manager explained that this is a yearly article, and asked for support. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. George Merrill moved to table the article. He explained that this should be taken up after the vote on the budget. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion defeated to table. George Merrill then moved to amend the article to read \$250,000.00. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Barbara Skaar explained that the funds are limited only for emergency items, therefore the Finance Committee is not in favor of the increase. The Board of Selectmen unanimously did not recommend the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion defeated. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 8. Cemetery Superintendent John Sousa, moved that the Town vote to transfer \$12,500.00 from the sale of the graves and lots to the Cemetery Improvement and Development Fund.

Cemetery Superintendent John Sousa explained that this is an annual article. The monies are used for beautification and development of new areas for the cemetery. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 9. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000. to engage a private accounting firm to prepare an audit of all accounts in all departments in the Town of Chelmsford.

The Town Manager explained that this is a yearly article, a requirement that must be done in order to be eligible for any state funding. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 10. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the purpose of funding the sand lease approved by the Town under Article 12 of the 1989 Annual Town Meeting.

The Town Manager explained that the property is located behind the Highway Department on Richardson Rd. The sand is removed from the property and put onto the Highway Department's property. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 11. Cemetery Superintendent John Sousa, moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the property known as the Forefathers Burying Ground from the Cemetery Commission for cemetery purposes to the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery purposes and for the purpose of granting a preservation restriction to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the "MHC"), and to authorize the Cemetery Commission to grant such preservation restriction to the MHC, for a duration not to exceed five years, by which the Town will covenant to maintain the property in a manner satisfactory to the MHC and not alter the property unless the MHC determines that that alteration will not impair the characteristics which contribute to historical integrity of the property.

Cemetery Superintendent John Sousa explained that last year the Town became eligible to received a \$5,000.00 grant for the forefathers' Burial Ground. Before any further action can be taken Town Meeting must approve this article because the land is publicly owned. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 12. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$12,500.00 to provide Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Payment Vouchers for services rendered, pursuant to an agreement formulated by the Council on Aging and approved by the Town Manager.

The Town Manager explained that there are twenty-five openings available. It has been a very successful program. Town Meeting has approved the program in the past and he asked for continuing support. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 13. The Moderator explained that there was no signed motion by the Town Manager who was withdrawing the article. Therefore he proceeded onto the next article. (The article would have read, to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate a certain sum of money with which to meet bills from previous years.)

Under Article 14. Sewer Commissioner John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Sewer Commissioners to acquire any and all temporary and/or permanent easements, and any property in fee simple with buildings and trees thereon by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, for the property located in the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and further described and shown on a set of plans entitled "Plan of Sewer Easement in Chelmsford, Massachusetts Phase IIIB Sewers dated December, 1996 prepared for the Chelmsford Sewer Commission by Richard F. Kaminski & Associates, Inc.", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Engineer and is incorporated herein by reference, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining sewers, pumping stations, and all other appurtenances thereto.

Chairman of the Sewer Commission, John Emerson explained that this article is necessary in order to continue the ongoing sewer project. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 15. Selectman Peter Lawlor, moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws, Town of Chelmsford, Article V. Streets and Sidewalks, Section 6. Inspector, by inserting the following language into the General Bylaws at the end of Section 6.6 (changes are in bold):

Section 6 Inspector

6.6 The fee and incidental expenses of the inspector shall be borne by the permittee and payable, by check or money order, to the Town of Chelmsford. **These fees and those included in Section 1.7 shall be deposited in a revolving fund maintained for the purpose of paying the expenses relative to inspections.**

The Town Manager explained that annually there are an estimated eight hundred street openings done per year. More construction is being done, which result with more road cuts being done. When the road is cut, it is not being put back to the Town's satisfaction. This by-law will allow the Town to bill the contractor and the contractor will do the work to the Town's specification. A discussion took place. John Harrington questioned who was going to be charged for this inspection. The Town Manager said that currently the Water Departments are not charged and won't be in the future. The Finance Committee was not in favor of the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. John Wilder questioned why the Finance Committee was against the article. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Barbara Skaar, explained that currently the Town is not collecting any fee's and providing the service. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried.

Under Article 16. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to authorize a revolving fund under Massachusetts General Law C. 44, S. 53E ½ for the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 1998. The receipts to be credited to the fund shall be from the collection of fees and incidental expenses from the full time inspector assigned to each trench opening or excavation site as assigned by the Highway Superintendent. The Public Works Department shall be authorized to spend money from the fund for the purpose of paying the expenses relative to inspections necessary for implementing the full time trench opening or excavation inspection program. Expenditures from the trench opening or excavation inspection program shall be limited to \$25,000. during Fiscal Year 1998.

The Town Manager explained the article is needed in order to set up the revolving account necessary for the implementation of article 15. The Finance Committee did not recommend the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked if there was any need to hear debate. Hearing none he asked for a show of hands on the motion, motion carried.

Under Article 17. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws, Town of Chelmsford, Article V. Streets and Sidewalks, Section 8. Construction Standards, by deleting the following phrase from Subsection 8.13. Restoration of Permanent Paving, "Street openings shall be maintained by the Permittee for a period of two (2) years from the date of completion." and substituting therefore the following phrase:

"Street openings shall be maintained by the Permittee for a period of five (5) years from the date of completion, except for work that requires a curb-to-curb overlay in which case the maintenance period shall be two (2) years."

The Town Manager explained that the smaller road cuts are the cuts made by the utility companies that tend to have problems. By making a contractor hold a five year bond on a street opening will assure that the opening is correctly sealed and if a problem does occur it will be taken care of by the contractor and not by the Town. James Pearson, DPW Director explained the difference between a curb to curb opening and a trench opening. The Representatives expressed concerns of the expense involved and the actual need. The road should be able to go through a winter without heaving etc. Once this is done then why tie up a contractor's money? The cost will be more because the money is tied up longer. It was explained that there had been roads in the past after two years that the Town had to repair at it's own expense because they weren't resealed correctly. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 18. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the property known as the North Town Hall from the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of granting a preservation restriction, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant such preservation restriction to any governmental or non-profit entity whose purpose is historic preservation, by which the Town will covenant to maintain the property in a manner satisfactory to the grantee and not alter the property unless the grantee determines that alteration will not impair the characteristics which contribute to the historical integrity of the property.

Selectman Susan Gates explained that this preservation restriction clause is needed in order to preserve the outside of the building, regardless in the future who ever owns the Building if it is not the Town. This would keep the building from being raised or change the outside structure. Any proposed work done on the inside will not and can not be effective by this. The only way this restriction can be eliminated once voted, is by Town Meeting vote. Jeff Stallard questioned if this would apply to a Town Board or Committee. John Georgio, Town Counsel said yes it would apply to everyone. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, the Moderator declared that the motion carried by a 2/3's vote.

Under Article 19. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that that the Town vote to accept the following mentioned streets, as laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown by their reports duly filed in the office of the Town Clerk:

Meadowcrest Lane
Technology Drive
Fisher Road
Empire Street

Providing all the construction of the same meets with the requirements of the Board of Selectmen, and subject to the withholding of any remaining bonds until such requirements have been met; and to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire any and all temporary and/or permanent easements, and any property in fee simple, with trees thereon, by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, for the purpose of securing traffic safety and road improvements, and to raise and appropriate \$15.00 to defray all necessary costs, fees and expenses in connection with the acquisition of said land and for paying any damages which may be awarded as a result of any such taking; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute all necessary and proper contracts and agreements thereto.

The Town Manager explained that these streets had gone through the process of completing the Town's specifications and are now ready to become public ways. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 20. The Town Manager explained that this article had been withdrawn by the petitioner according to a letter sent to the Planning Board. The Motion was not signed therefore the Moderator declared no action to be taken and proceeded onto Article 21. (The Article read as follows: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II. *District Regulations*, Section 2110. *Official zoning map* as it pertains to a 1.52 acre lot, with residence known as 10 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, Massachusetts, fronting on the west side of Worthen Street, running north from Westford Street, more fully described in Plan Book 94, Page 419 recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, by changing the designation of said lot from RB (Residential) to RM (Residential Multifamily).)

Under Article 21. Bill Griffin moved that the reading of this article be waived. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The Town Manager explained that this article pertains to cellar antenna's, and a new law is needed to address this issue. Increase need for antenna's because of more usage, this will allow the Town to regulate where antenna's are to go and how they will be permitted. Andy Sheehan, Land Use Coordinator explained that the granting authority will be the Board of Appeals. The use of existing structures, water towers, mill buildings, will be allowed. They will be limited to the industrial and commercial zones. Selectman Susan Gates explained this is to control where poles can go by restricting the zoning where new poles are allowed. Without any type of restriction they can go anywhere because of federal regulations. This would stop something bad before it happens. Marianne Paresky wanted to know where the locations are already? Andy Sheehan said so far there are six locations, Parkhurst Rd, Turnpike Rd, Doris Dr, Washington St, Oak St, Middlesex St. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Chairman of the Planning Board, Kim MacKenzie, read the Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on March 26, 1997 at 8:00 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning By-laws. A legal advertisement was published on March 6, 1997 and March 13, 1997 in the Chelmsford Independent, a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing. Notices were sent to all abutting towns and the appropriate agencies as required in the M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 5.

At the meetings of March 26, 1997 and April 9, 1997, the proponents residents and the Planning Board discussed the issues of this amendment. This amendment proposes to add a new Section 4900 to the Zoning By-law entitled "Wireless Communications Facilities". The proposed section would establish siting criteria and standards for wireless communications facilities. This amendment would also amend Section 2300, Use Regulation Schedule, by adding a new category, "Wireless Communication Facilities" under Industrial uses. The public hearing was closed on April 9, 1997. At its meeting on April 23, 1997, the Planning Board voted 4-0 with Ms. Cody abstaining in favor of this amendment. Therefore, the Chelmsford Planning Board recommends article #21.

William Griffin moved to amend section 4950 paragraph (a) of the article by adding section (1) No monopole or attached accessory antenna or a monopole, shall exceed 120 feet in height, or three feet in diameter as measured from ground level at the base of the pole.

The Finance Committee claimed no expertise in this area therefore felt they could not make any recommendation. John Georgio, Town Counsel felt that any amended change to the by-law regarding further restrictions may cause problems, he felt section 4920 addresses the concerns of this amendment. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend, motion defeated. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried, unanimously. The article reads as follows:

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article IV. *Special Regulations*. by adding the following proposed zoning by-law after Section 4800 of the Town of Chelmsford Zoning By-law:

Sec. 4900 Wireless communication facilities.

4910. Purpose. The purpose of these regulations include: establishing siting criteria and standards for communication towers and facilities; minimizing the adverse visual impacts of wireless communications facilities, satellite dishes and antennas on adjacent properties and residential neighborhoods; minimizing the overall number and height of such facilities to only what is essential; and promoting shared use of existing facilities to reduce the need for new facilities. The by-law is intended to establish reasonable regulations while allowing adequate service to residents, the traveling public and others within the Town, and to accommodate the need for the minimum number of such facilities within the Town. This section shall not apply to satellite dishes and antennas for residential use which are regulated under Section 4193. For the purposes of this section, "wireless communications facilities" shall include monopoles, satellite dish(es) over three (3) feet in diameter, antennas, and accessory structures which facilitate the provision of wireless communication service. "Wireless communication services" shall mean the provision of cellular telephone service, personal communication service and enhanced mobile radio service.

4920. General Requirements

- (a) No wireless communications facility shall be erected or installed except in compliance with the provisions of this Section. In all cases, a Special Permit is required from the Board of Appeals (the "Board"). Any proposed extension in the height; addition of cells, antenna or panels; or construction of a new or replacement facility shall be subject to a new application for a Special Permit. Attachment of cells, antenna or panels to existing suitable structures shall be subject to application for a Special Permit.
- (b) Only freestanding monopoles, with associated antenna and/or panels, are allowed. Lattice style towers and similar facilities requiring three or more legs and/or guy wires for support are not allowed. For the purposes of this section "monopole" shall mean a pole consisting of not more than one leg, anchored in the ground, which is not supported by guy wires or other bracing. Monopoles shall be set back from the property line a distance at least equal to the height of the monopoles.
- (c) Erection of new monopoles shall be allowed in any Commercial District, Industrial District or Public District, per the Use Regulations Schedule, Section 2300 of this Bylaw, and shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of a limited access highway as defined by State and Federal standards. No new monopoles shall be erected within five hundred (500) feet of an existing residential structure or within two (2) miles of another existing or approved monopole.

- (d) Structures shall be removed within one (1) year of cessation of use. If applicable, proof of continued compliance with the standards of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), State building code, and required maintenance shall be filed with the Building Inspector by the Special Permit holder on an annual basis or as deemed necessary by the Building Inspector.
- (e) No more than one monopole shall be located on a lot.

4930. Application Process. All applications for wireless communications facilities, antennas or satellite dishes shall be made and filed on the applicable application form in compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Chelmsford Board of Appeals. In addition to the minimum requirements of the Board of Appeals, applicants under this section shall include the following:

- (a) A locus plan which shall show all property lines, the exact location of the proposed structure(s), streets, landscape features, residential dwellings, and all buildings within five-hundred (500) feet of the facility.
- (b) A color photograph or rendition of the proposed monopole with its antenna and/or panels. For satellite dishes or antennas, a color photograph or rendition illustrating the dish at the proposed location is required. A rendition shall also be prepared illustrating a view of the monopole, dish or antenna from the nearest street or streets.
- (c) The following information prepared by one or more professional engineers:
 - a description of the monopole and the technical, economic and other reasons for the proposed location, height and design.
 - confirmation that the monopole complies with all applicable Federal and State standards.
 - a description of the capacity of the monopole including the number and type of panels, antennas and/or transmitter receivers that it can accommodate and the basis for these calculations.
- (d) If applicable, a written statement that the proposed facility complies with, or is exempt from applicable regulations administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

4940. *Design Guidelines.* The following guidelines shall be used when preparing plans for the siting and construction of all wireless communications facilities:

- (a) All monopoles shall be designed to be constructed at the minimum height necessary to accommodate the anticipated and future use. The setback of a monopole from the property line of the lot on which it is located shall be at least equal to the height of the monopole.
 - (1) No monopole, or attached accessory antenna on a monopole, shall exceed one hundred twenty (120) feet in height as measured from ground level at the base of the pole. No monopole shall be constructed which requires guy wires. Monopoles shall not be located on buildings.
 - (2) Antennas or dishes located on nonresidential buildings shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height above the roof-line of the structure.
- (b) All wireless communications facilities shall be sited in such a manner that the view of the facility from adjacent abutters, residential neighbors and other areas of Town shall be as limited as possible. No monopole shall be visible from any location within the Historic District. All monopoles and dishes shall be painted or otherwise colored so they will blend in with the landscape or the structure on which they are located and existing on-site vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible.
- (c) Satellite dishes and/or antennas shall be situated on or attached to a structure in such a manner that they are screened, preferably not being visible from abutting streets.
- (d) Wireless communications facilities shall be designed to accommodate the maximum number of users technologically practical. The intent of this requirement is to reduce the number of facilities which will be required to be located within the community.
- (e) Fencing shall be provided to control access to wireless communications facilities and shall be compatible with the character of the Town and shall not be of razor wire. The fence shall be surrounded by a screen of plantings of sufficient density and height so as to shield the fence from view.
- (f) There shall be no signs, except for announcement signs, no trespassing signs and a required sign giving a phone number where the owner can be reached on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. All signs shall conform with Section 3300 of the Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Signs and Outdoor Lighting.

- (g) Night lighting of towers shall be prohibited unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration. Lighting shall be limited to that needed for emergencies and/or as required by the FAA.
- (h) There shall be a minimum of one (1) parking space for each facility, to be used in connection with the maintenance of the site, and not to be used for the permanent storage of vehicles or other equipment. Traffic associated with any wireless communication facility shall not adversely affect abutting ways.

4950. *Special Permit Review.*

- (a) Applications for Special Permits shall be approved or approved with conditions if the petitioner can fulfill the requirements of these regulations to the satisfaction of the Board.
- (b) Applications for Special Permits may be denied if the petitioner cannot fulfill or address the requirements of these regulations to the satisfaction of the Board.
- (c) When considering an application for a wireless communication facility, the Board shall place great emphasis on the proximity of the facility to residential neighborhoods and its impact on these residences. New facilities shall only be considered after a finding that existing (or previously approved) facilities cannot accommodate the proposed use(s).
- (d) When considering an application for an antenna or dish proposed to be placed on a structure, the Board shall place great emphasis on the visual impact of the unit from the abutting neighborhoods and street(s).

; and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Section 2300 **Use regulations schedule.** by adding a new category under industrial uses entitled "Wireless communication facilities" as shown below (changes are in bold):

Under Article 22. Planning Board Member Robert Morse, moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article V. *Definitions*, definition of "lot area" in order to change the requirements for contiguous dry land area, by deleting "eighty (80)" where it appears and replacing it with "ninety (90)" to read as follows (changes are in bold):

Lot area: The horizontal area of the lot exclusive of any area in a street or recorded way open to public use. At least **ninety (90)** percent of the lot area required for zoning compliance shall be contiguous land other than that under any water body, bog, swamp, wet meadow, marsh, or other wetland, as defined in section 40, Chapter 131, G.L., as amended.

Chairman of the Planning Board, Kim MacKenzie said that the current regulation is that 40,000 sq feet which is 80 % dry (32,000 sq feet contiguous dry) is a building lot. It was felt that the new regulation would provide healthier building lots. He gave the Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on March 12, 1997 on the above mentioned article. A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford independent on February 20, 1997 and February 27, 1997, a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing. A copy of this ad was sent to all abutting towns and the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5. At the meetings on March 12, 1997 and March 26, 1997, the proponents, residents and the Planning Board discussed the merits of this Zoning by-law change. The decision was rendered on April 9, 1997. At its meeting on April 9, 1997, the Chelmsford Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of Article 22 which amends Article V. *Definitions* as follows: Lot area: Delete "eighty (80%)" where it appears and replace it with "ninety (90%)". Therefore, the Chelmsford Planning Board recommends the above mentioned changes to Article V. *Definitions*, Lot area of the zoning by-law.

The Finance Committee recommended the article. A majority of the Board of Selectmen did not recommend the article. A discussion followed. John Emerson spoke against the article. He felt it was an unnecessary increase. It would restrict people who presently own large acreage or 2-3 acres of land. Ronald Wetmore said that it is an unfair burden on present land owners 80% is fine, it hasn't been abused. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion defeated.

Under Article 23. Planning Board Member Robert Morse, moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, by substituting the term "net floor area" for the term "gross floor area" wherever it now appears in Section 3100 of the Zoning Bylaw, and by adding the following definition of "net floor area" to Article V. *Definitions*:

Net floor area: the aggregate horizontal area in square feet of all floors of a building or several buildings on the same lot, measured from the exterior faces of the walls enclosing each building; and exclusive of the cellars and attic areas used only for storage, bathrooms, stairwells, elevators, mechanical rooms, or areas for service incidental to the operation or maintenance of the building.

Chairman of the Planning Board, Kim MacKenzie, explained the article. He then gave the Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on March 12, 1997 on the above mentioned article. A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford independent on February 20, 1997 and February 27, 1997, a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing. A copy of this ad was sent to all abutting towns and the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5. At the meetings on March 12, 1997 and March 26, 1997, the proponents, residents and the Planning Board discussed the merits of this Zoning by-law change. The decision was rendered on April 9, 1997. At its meeting on April 9, 1997, the Chelmsford Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of Article 23 which amends Article V. *Definitions* as follows: Net Floor Area as follows: The aggregate horizontal area in square feet of all floors of a building or several buildings on the same lot, measured from the exterior faces of the walls enclosing each building; and exclusive of the cellars and attic areas used only for storage, bathrooms, stairwells, elevators, mechanical rooms or areas for service incidental to the operation or maintenance of the building. And; substituting the terms "net floor area" for the term "gross floor area" wherever it appears in Section 3100. Therefore, the Chelmsford Planning Board recommends the above mentioned changes to Article V, *Definitions*, Net Floor Area of the zoning by-law.

The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, and he declared that the motion carried by 2/3's.

Under Article 24. Planning Board Member Robert Morse, moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, *District Regulations*, Section 2220 *Uses not listed*, in order to make any use not listed prohibited, by deleting the entire section as follows:

2220. *Uses not listed.* If a particular use is not specifically included in the use regulations schedule, then the board of appeals may determine whether in the district in which an unlisted use is proposed, uses having similar externally observable attributes are or may be permitted, and if so, the board of appeals may authorize such use or uses as a special permit for exception under section 1500.

and, replacing it with the following new Section 2220. *Uses not listed.* (changes in bold):

2220. *Uses not listed.* **All uses which are not listed in Section 2300, Use Regulations Schedule, are prohibited.**

Barry Balan questioned if this by-law change was eliminating the Board of Appeals decision making process. Kim MacKenzie explained that it was, because the Board of Appeals is not allowed to give use permits according to the zoning by-laws. Once a permit is granted by the Board of Appeals the applicant may not necessarily ever come before the Planning Board and therefore, potential issues go unresolved. Questions were asked if there were any recent such permits issued by the Board of Appeals. Yes, the two assisted living complexes. These are good projects but are major zoning changes that affect an area, neighborhood and the Town. These type of changes in zoning should come before the Planning Board, then Town Meeting for final approval. The Finance Committee recommended the article. A majority of the Board of Selectmen (3-2) opposed the article. Kim MacKenzie gave the Planning Board's recommendation.

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on March 12, 1997 on the above mentioned article. A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford independent on February 20, 1997 and February 27, 1997, a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing. A copy of this ad was sent to all abutting towns and the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5. At the meetings on March 12, 1997 and March 26, 1997, the proponents, residents and the Planning Board discussed the merits of this Zoning by-law change. The decision was rendered on April 9, 1997. At its meeting on April 9, 1997, the Chelmsford Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of Article 24 which amends Article II. Section 2220 as follows: 2220. Uses Not Listed. All uses which are not listed in Section 2300, Use Regulations Schedule, are prohibited. Therefore, in keeping with the general intent of the Zoning ByLaws in the development of the community, the Chelmsford Planning Board strongly recommends the above mentioned changes to Article II, Section 2220 of the zoning by-law.

A lengthy discussion took place. A number of representatives spoke against the article. Wendy Marcks who was a member of the Master Plan Committee said that the consultant to the Committee recommended that this change in the zoning law be done. Selectman Susan Gates spoke against the article and asked that the article be defeated. Karen Ready moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article. This left the Chair in doubt, the tellers came forward and an hand count was taken: Yes 83 No 51, 89 is 2/3's the motion is defeated.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town Meeting be adjourned until Thursday night at 7:30 PM at the Senior Center. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Dennis E. McHugh, Moderator

Mary E. St.Hilaire, Town Clerk

Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 1, 1997

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center at 7:40 PM by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 146 Town Meeting Representatives present.

The Moderator asked that that Town Meeting Representatives vote to allow nonresidents Adam Wasylyshyn of the School Department and Susan Jamback, Director of the Charter School address the Body if necessary under certain articles. Motion carried, unanimously.

The Moderator announced that Marc Pelchat a town resident was raising funds in order to participate in the Winter Olympics under the speed skating program. If anyone was interested in sending in any type of support to please contact his family.

The Moderator then announced that due to the resignation of Precinct 4 Representative Carl Seidel, and with no one on the reserve list to move up there was an opening. The remaining 17 Representatives were going to meet Monday night and choose a voter from the precinct to fill the unexpired one year term. He said if anyone in the precinct was interested in filling the position to contact the Representatives.

The Moderator then reminded the Body that the first order of business was going to be Article 2. This had been tabled by the Manager on Monday night, and was to be the first order of business acted upon.

Under Article 2.

The Moderator explained that he was going to just read the total money summarized under the line items (the gray area in the budget book) and ask if there would be any questions. The Town Manager explained that there were up to date figures on sheets provided at the entrance of the hall. These figures are going to be read as his motion. The Moderator read the motion starting with the Municipal Administration and read the Personnel Services and Expenses line items, through the Cemetery Department, where a discussion took place. Superintendent John Sousa said that there was a typo error under the expense amount. the figure should be \$32,329, not \$32,239, the Town Manager so noted the correction and explained that he would reflect the corrected figure in his motion. He mentioned that the figure given under the Public Works personnel services reflects the Highway Union's contract settlement. The Moderator read through the rest of the motion. He asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. A discussion took place. Under the Community Services Expenses Jeffrey Stallard moved to amend the Historical Commissions budget by requesting an additional \$200.00 be added to the Expense Line item, to cover the anticipated expenses for the North Town Hall Committee. The Manager indicated that he would increase the budget figure by \$200.00. The total expense line item will now read \$151,099. Bill Griffin questioned the Fire Departments Budget. Was the level of funding adequate for the current year in order to maintain the stations at their current level? Fire Chief Jack Parrow explained that in October the overtime line item was set at \$220,000, with the anticipation of all the stations being opened. When the budget came back from the Town Manager and the Finance Committee the line item was cut by \$20,000. This \$20,000. shortfall will be made up with about sixty closings of the various stations around the town. George Merrill moved to amend under Personnel Services under the Municipal Services by reducing it \$10,000.00 so the line reads \$1,068,300.00 for a total budget of \$1,560,911.00. He felt that the Town Planner position was not necessary. The Town had a Planning Board at no cost, that could make decisions regarding open space and planning. A number of Representatives spoke against the motion. Ronald Wetmore said that the amount of buildable space left should be watched now more than ever. The expertise that this position provides to the Board's when the time comes for making decisions is a great asset. He works very closely with the Town Planner as Building Inspector for Bedford. John Emerson spoke in favor and the need for the position. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend. Motion defeated. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article as presented with the Manager's amended figures, motion carried and the article reads as follows.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$57,332,094.00 to defray Town charges for the fiscal period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 according to the following line items.

Municipal Administration	
Personnel Services	\$1,078,300
Expenses	500,611
Chelmsford School Department	30,825,913
Nashoba Technical High School	
Assessment	655,230
Public Safety	
Personnel Services	6,024,379
Expense	602,569
Public Works	
Personnel Services	1,241,308
Expense	3,376,696
Offset Receipt	(\$926,961)
TOTAL	3,691,043
Sewer Commission	
Expense	17,500
Cemetery Department	
Personnel Services	192,023
Expense	32,329
Community Services	
Personnel Services	386,070
Expense	151,099
Library	
Personnel Services	731,286
Expense	234,101
Undistributed Expenses	5,386,000
Debt and Interest	
Principal	5,101,965
Interest	1,721,676

Under Article 25. The Town Manager explained the purpose of this by-law. Currently businesses are not allowed to have any inside lighted window signs. Over the years many of the businesses started putting lighted signs in their windows as a means of letting the public know that the business is indeed open. When it came to the attention of the Board of Selectmen that many of the businesses were having these signs, the Building Inspector was told to contact the businesses and tell them that they are in violation. It was then decided that a moratorium would be issued by the Selectmen saying that all businesses were to shut off their lights immediately and that the by-law would be studied and voted on at the Town Meeting. The by-law was on the books, but never really truly enforced. This would allow the businesses to have one sign, and establish rules and regulations regarding the type and size of the sign. Businesses that are in the historic district also have a by-law against lighted window signs. Ann Marie Roark, President of the Business Association addressed the Body. The association voted in favor of this by-law. It was felt that a compromise had been made that would be fair to all. An amendment that the businesses wanted was incorporated into the wording of the article. Dennis Ready questioned if the Board of Selectmen were allowed to issue such a moratorium? John Georgio, Town Counsel said that they were. Dennis Ready then asked Annmarie Roark if a survey had been done indicating if businesses had suffered since the moratorium? She replied that nothing official had been conducted, however the small business owners did confirm that money was lost without the signs being on. Barbara Ward questioned who was responsible for the enforcement of this by-law in the past and why should anyone feel that this law will be enforced? Selectman Lawlor said that it was under the jurisdiction of the Building Inspector to enforce the sign by-law. And if voted, this Board as well as the Town Manager would be committed on making sure that the by-law is enforced. Numerous questions were asked. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. Chairman Barbara Skaar explained that the Board held no expertise in this matter and had no recommendation. The Board of Selectmen had not made a decision at this time and wanted to hear more debate before deciding. The Moderator asked for the Planning Board's recommendation. Planning Board Member Robert Morse came forward and first announced that fellow board member, Tracy Wallace Cody and husband William were proud parents of a baby girl, born yesterday, he then proceeded to read the Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on March 26, 1997 at 7:45 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Section 3300, Signs and Outdoor Lighting. A legal advertisement was published on March 6, 1997 and March 13, 1997 in the Chelmsford Independent a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing. A copy of this ad was mailed to all abutting towns and the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5. At the meetings on March 26, 1997 and April 9, 1997, the proponents, residents and the Planning Board discussed the proposed by-law changes. The proposed zoning amendment would change section 3300 of the Zoning By-law, Signs and Outdoor Lighting, by adding a section entitled "Lighted Window Signs". The amendment would also alter the membership of the Sign Advisory Committee. The Public Hearing was closed on April 9, 1997. At the meeting on April 9, 1997 the Planning Board voted 3-2 Not to recommend the change in the bylaw as written. Therefore, this article is not recommended by the Planning Board.

Barry Balan moved to amend the article under section (a) Lighted Window Signs to include businesses within the historic district. He felt that all businesses should have the same opportunity, regardless if they are in the historic district or not. Town Counsel ruled that if this wording is dropped it won't matter because the Town has a separate Historic District By-law and according to that by-law businesses can't have lighted inside window signs. George Kalos a business man within the Historic District showed where the boundaries of the district ran and expressed that his building was built in 1922 and in the district, yet there are other buildings much older than his that are not in the district. He felt that the Historic District doesn't have jurisdiction on the inside of a building, just the outside. He wanted to know if this was true and asked for an opinion. Town Counsel John Georgio said that due to George Kalos being involved with a court litigation he couldn't discuss the matter at this time. Bill Dalton spoke in favor of the amendment. More discussion took place over Barry Balan's motion. Many Representatives spoke in favor of the motion to amend. Bernard Ready spoke against lights in the Historic District. Bill Dalton said that the Historic District should be reviewed by a committee. The present boundaries are unfair to the businesses within the district. Upon advise from the Moderator, Barry Balan agreed to change the wording of his motion to amend (a) Lighted Window signs to read: "exclude the words with the exception of businesses with the historic district". Dennis Ready moved the question. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to stop debate, motion carried, unanimously. He asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend, motion carried. More discussion took place. Jeff Stallard moved to amend the article as amended under (a) Lighted Window Signs (3) delete the words at the end of the sentence "or by lights changing in intensity." and delete (4) and (6) in their entirety. He felt it had to many regulations. Not fair to the businesses. Jim Hickey and Jim Young, both spoke about supporting the businesses needs. Peggy Dunn spoke against the motion to amend. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend, motion defeated. Dennis Ready then moved the question to stop the debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, he declared that the motion carried by 2/3's. He then asked for a show of hands on the main motion as amended, and declared that the motion carried by 2/3's. The article reads as follows:

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to amend the Town of Chelmsford Zoning By-Law, Article III. *General Regulations*, Section 3334 by inserting the following language into the Zoning By-Law at the end of Section 3334:

- (a) Lighted Window Signs. Each business shall be allowed one (1) lighted window sign. Lighted window signs shall include all types of internally illuminated signs, including neon signs. Lighted window signs shall conform to the following standards:

- (1) Lighted window signs shall not exceed five (5) square feet in area or cover more than 20% of the window in which it is erected, whichever is less, and shall only be allowed in ground floor windows.
- (2) Lighted window signs shall be equipped with a timer which shall control illumination of the sign no longer than thirty (30) minutes before opening or thirty (30) minutes after closing of the business.
- (3) Lighted window signs shall not incorporate or be lighted by flashing or blinking lights, or by lights changing in intensity.
- (4) Lighted window signs shall not contain more than three (3) different colors.
- (5) Lighted window signs which are illuminated by a neon light source shall be composed of primarily single strand glass tubing with a maximum outside diameter of one (1) inch.
- (6) Any lighted sign within three (3) feet of a window shall be considered to be a window sign and shall comply with all requirements of the Zoning Bylaw.
- (7) Lighted window signs shall conform to all other regulations in Section 3300.

Under Article 26. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article III. *General Regulations*, Section 3371. Membership [items]. in order to change the requirements for membership on the Sign Advisory Committee, by deleting the following:

3371. Membership [items] A sign advisory committee of five (5) members shall be appointed by the selectmen for three-year terms (except so arranged initially that no more than two (2) terms expire each year). Members shall include at least one (1) retail merchant operating in Chelmsford, and one (1) registered architect or landscape architect, and one (1) professional in visual design. In addition a member of the board of appeals shall be designated by the board as a nonvoting sixth member of the sign advisory committee.

and substituting therefore the following (changes are in bold):

3371. *Membership [items]* A sign advisory committee of five (5) members shall be appointed by the selectmen for three-year terms (except so arranged initially that no more than two (2) terms expire each year). Members shall include at least one (1) retail merchant operating in Chelmsford, and **two (2) others, preferably with a strong interest in architecture, landscape architecture or visual design.** In addition a member of the board of appeals shall be designated by the board as a nonvoting sixth member of the sign advisory committee.

The Town Manager explained the purpose of the change. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for Planning Board's recommendation. The Planning Board did not vote on the article. The Moderator asked for show of hands on the article, motion carried. unanimously.

Under Article 27. The Moderator said that he had a motion from Selectman Lawlor to amend Section 2-13 Referendum Procedures

(c) Referendum Election

"The Polls shall be opened no later than two o'clock in the afternoon....."

The Town Manager explained that as a result of the petition drive last year to call for a special town election to ratify the Town Meeting action concerning the library, flaws were found in the Charter concerning the election process. The purpose of this amendment to the Charter is to have it conform with the actual state law regarding the entire process of ratifying and calling the election. George Ripsom questioned the wording of twenty percent of the registered voters shall so vote. The wording was clarified and the amendment from Selectman Lawlor incorporated the following wording into his motion.

(and the last sentence) "The questions so submitted... shall be reversed unless at least twenty percent of the voters vote on the question."

The Finance Committee was in favor of the article as amended. The Board of Selectmen were 4-1 in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a vote on the motion to amend, motion carried. George Merrill moved to amend the article with the following changes:

Under Section 2-13 (b)

Line 1. Change three to five

Line 2. Delete registered

- Line 3. Delete as they appear on the list of registered voters
- Line 5. Delete of the town at large
- Line 7. Change five days to ten days, exclusive of Saturday and Sunday.
- Line 9. Delete at large
- Under Section 2-13 (c)
 - Delete and add original Sect 2-13 (c)
- Under Section 2-13 (d)
 - Delete and add original Sect 2-13 (d)

He explained that the proposed changes by the Manager were not necessary, just extra wording. The Finance Committee recommended against the motion to amend. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended against the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend. Motion defeated. More discussion took place. William Dalton moved to amend the article Line 2-13 B, 3 percent to 5 percent and Line 2-13 C 20 percent to 15 percent. The Finance Committee was against the motion to amend. The Board of Selectmen (4-1) were against the motion to amend. the Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend, which left the Chair in doubt. The following tellers came forward and a hand count was taken:

Dorothy Frawley, Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, John Maleski. The result was Yes 64 No 61, the motion carried to amend.

Dennis Ready moved the question to stop any further debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, He declared that the motion carried by 2/3's. He then asked for a show of hands on the motion as amended, and declared that the motion carried by 2/3's. The article reads as follows:

Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to amend the Chelmsford Home Rule Charter under Section 2-13, Referendum Procedures, by deleting the existing section as follows:

Section 2-13 *Referendum Procedures*
(a) *Effective Date of Final Votes*

No final affirmative vote of a town meeting on any warrant article, except a vote to adjourn or dissolve, or votes appropriating money for the payment of notes or bonds of the town and interest thereon becoming due within the then current fiscal year, or votes for the temporary borrowing of money in anticipation of revenue, or a vote declared by preamble by a two-thirds vote of the town meeting to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, safety or convenience of the town, shall be operative until after the expiration of ten days from the dissolution of the town meeting. If a referendum petition is not filed within the said ten days, the vote of the town meeting shall become operative.

(b) *Referendum Petition*

If, within said ten days a petition signed by not less than five percent of the voters containing their names and addresses is filed with the board of selectmen requesting that any question, not yet operative as defined in (a) above, be submitted to the voters, then the operation of such vote shall be further suspended pending its determination as provided below. The board of selectmen shall, within fourteen days after the filing of such a petition, call a special election that shall be held within twenty days after issuing the call, for the purpose of presenting to the voters any such question. If, however, a regular or special election is to be held not more than thirty days following the date the petition is filed, the board of selectmen may provide that any such questions be presented to the voters at the same election.

(c) *Referendum Election*

All votes upon the question so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and the conduct of such election shall be in accordance with the provisions of law relating the elections, unless otherwise provided in this section. Any question so submitted shall be determined by a majority vote of the voters voting thereon, but no action of the town meeting shall be reversed unless at least ten percent of the voters vote on the question.

(d) *Format of Questions*

Any question so submitted shall be stated on the ballot in substantially the same language and form in which it was stated when presented by the moderator to the town meeting, as appears in the records of the clerk of the meeting.

and, replacing it with the following new Section 2-13, Referendum Procedures (changes in bold);

Section 2-13 *Referendum Procedures*

(a) *Effective Date of Final Votes*

No final affirmative vote of a town meeting on any warrant article, except a vote to adjourn or dissolve, or votes appropriating money for the payment of notes or bonds of the town and interest thereon becoming due within the then current fiscal year, or votes for the temporary borrowing of money in anticipation of revenue, or a vote declared by preamble by a two-thirds vote of the town meeting to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, safety or convenience of the town, shall be operative until after the expiration of **seven days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays**, from the dissolution of the town meeting. If a referendum petition is not filed within the said **seven** days, the vote of the town meeting shall become operative.

(b) *Referendum Petition*

If, within said **seven** days a petition signed by not less than **five** percent of the **registered voters of the town**, containing their names and addresses **as they appear on the list of registered voters**, is filed with the board of selectmen requesting that any question, not yet operative as defined in (a) above, be submitted to the voters **of the town at large**, then the operation of such vote shall be further suspended pending its determination as provided below. The board of selectmen shall, within **five** days after the filing of such a petition, call a special election **in accordance with state election laws**, for the purpose of presenting to the voters **at large the question or questions so involved**. If, however, a regular or special election is to be held not more than thirty days following the date the petition is filed, the board of selectmen may provide that any such questions be presented to the voters at the same election.

(c) *Referendum Election*

The polls shall be opened no later than two o'clock in the afternoon and shall be closed not earlier than eight o'clock in the evening, and all votes upon the question **or questions** so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and the conduct of such election shall be in accordance with the provisions of **state law relating to elections**. **The questions** so submitted shall be determined by a majority vote of the voters voting thereon, but no action of the **representative** town meeting shall be reversed unless at least **fifteen** percent of the **registered voters vote on the question**.

(d) *Format of Questions*

Each question so submitted shall be in the form of the following question which shall be placed upon the official ballot: -- "Shall the town vote to approve the action of the representative town meeting whereby it was voted (brief description of the substance of the vote and by what vote thereon if such vote was tabulated) ?"

The Moderator stepped down from the podium and asked the Town Clerk, Mary St.Hilaire to conduct the meeting because he was the proponent of the next article.

Under Article 28. Moderator Dennis McHugh, explained that this by-law once voted and approved by the Attorney General would become part of the Town Meeting procedures. The Body had been using this provision since the beginning of this meeting on April 28th. With this as a by-law it would not be necessary to take a vote at each Town Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Acting Moderator asked for any questions. Hearing none she asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried, unanimously. The article reads as follows:

Moderator Dennis McHugh moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, Town Meeting, Section 4 Procedures, in order to change the procedure for counting votes during town meeting by leaving the calling for a vote to the discretion of the town moderator, in addition, seven or more members of town meeting would retain the power to force a count on such a vote, by inserting the following language into the General Bylaws, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, Town Meeting, Section 4 Procedures, at the end of Section 4 (changes are in bold):

Section 4.13 Voting - Voice votes will not be used. All votes will be taken by a raising of hands. The Moderator will visually judge the vote and, if in doubt, will ask for a specific count. **In matters requiring a two thirds vote by statute, the moderator may declare the vote based upon raising of hands. If seven or more members of town meeting question the vote, the moderator shall count the vote.**

The Moderator returned to the podium and continued the meeting.

Under Article 29. Kathryn Fisher moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws, Town of Chelmsford, Article VI, Police Regulations, in order to establish rules for the regulation of newsracks by adding the following at the end of Article VI, Police Regulations:

Section 24 Regulation of Newsracks Within the Public Way

For the purposes of this section, **newsracks** shall mean a vending machine used for the sale and/or distribution of newspapers or similar printed material. It is not the intent of the section to prohibit or interfere with the dissemination of information protected under the United States of State constitutions, but simply to ensure that the location of newsracks protects the public safety of the Town of Chelmsford. The location of newsracks within a public way shall conform to the following regulations:

- (a) No newsrack shall be located within one hundred (100) feet of any school bus stop;
- (b) No newsrack shall be located within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant, fire or police alarm box or other emergency facility;
- (c) No newsrack shall be located in such a manner to obstruct the clear movement of pedestrians on a sidewalk;
- (d) No newsrack shall be located on a public way on which parking is prohibited;
- (e) Failure to comply within thirty (30) days of notification shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50) for each offense. Each day that such offense persists shall constitute a separate offense. This bylaw may be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition procedures of Article 1, Section 2 of the Town of Chelmsford General By-laws.

Kathryn Fisher explained that this by-law was basically a public safety issue. Especially around school bus stops. A resident had observed many times a number of cars pulling up to a newsrack on Groton Rd and causing a potentially dangerous situation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article. Motion carried.

Under Article 30. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to appropriate \$100,000. for the purpose of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: repair, replacement, and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$100,000. and issue bonds and notes therefor under G.L. c 111,s. 127B ½ and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that project and financing costs shall be repaid by the property owners, in accordance with those agreements, but such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the Town Manager is authorized to enter into project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Chairman of the Sewer Commission, John Emerson explained that this would enable homeowners to receive a low interest 5% loan for the purpose of repairing a failing septic system while waiting for sewage hook up. A number of septic systems are failing the title 5 regulations, which can cause a economic hardship. The loan is paid off once the property is sold. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article. Motion carried, unanimously.

The Moderator asked permission from the Body to continue the meeting because the time was pass 11:00 PM. Motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 31. Selectman Peter Lawlor, moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management, and control of the following described parcel of land and easement to the Board of Selectmen to be held for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B, for consideration to be determined, all right, title and interest, if any, held by the Town in a portion of a certain parcel of land located adjacent to 20 Jensen Avenue in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, shown as Assessor's Map No. 95, Parcel No. 94, containing approximately 225 square feet more or less, and an access easement on a portion of the same certain parcel of land containing approximately 2,109 square feet more or less, as more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 2328, page 249, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule Petition under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 32. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire any and all temporary and/or permanent water rights, or any easement or property in fee simple, by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, relating to the property located in the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, known as Freeman Lake, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining improvements to the Freeman Lake spillway and dam and controlling the level of water in Freeman Lake; and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1000. to defray all necessary costs, fees and expenses in connection with the acquisition of said water rights, easements and/or property and for paying any damages which may be awarded as a result of any such taking.

The Town Manager explained that this was needed in order to secure the water rights for Freeman Lake. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

Under Article 33. Town Manager Bernard Lynch, moved that the Town vote to authorize a revolving fund under Massachusetts General Laws C. 44, S. 53E ½ for the Council on Aging for Fiscal Year 1998. The receipts to be credited to the fund shall be from the collection of fees from the implementation of a Senior Trip program. The Council on Aging shall be authorized to spend money from the fund for the purpose of providing transportation necessary for implementing a Senior Trip program. Expenditures from the Senior Trip program revolving fund shall be limited to \$300,000. during Fiscal Year 1998.

The Town Manager explained that this would allow the Council on Aging to run the Senior Citizens Trips Program. The Friends of the Senior Center can no longer provide the service due to auditing and insurance requirements. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

The Moderator asked that the Representatives clear off their tables. Seeing that there was no further business at hand, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned and asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 PM.

Dennis E. McHugh, Moderator

Mary E. St.Hilaire, Town Clerk

Warrant For Annual Town Meeting October 20, 1997

Middlesex, SS

To the Constable or any other suitable person of the Town of Chelmsford

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the Town Meeting Representatives of said Chelmsford to meet in the Senior Center, Groton Road, North Chelmsford, on Monday the twentieth of October, at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles, VIZ:

For complete warrant information see original documents on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Annual Town Meeting October 20, 1997

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, at 7:35 PM, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 148 Town Meeting Representatives present. The Moderator asked the Body to rise as the band from the McCarthy Middle School played the Star Spangle Banner. He then announced various community events that would be happening the upcoming weekend and in the future. He pointed out the fire exits located within the hall.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the reading of the Constable's return of the warrant be waived. **Motion carried, unanimously.** Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the reading of the entire warrant be waived. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 1. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to hear reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch gave a progress report as required by town meeting vote, on the different projects that were approved and on going throughout the Town. The Community Action program which is a program to encourage civic improvement projects throughout the Town. So far, \$4,800.00 has been spent from the appropriated amount of \$10,000. This program has assisted in leveraging private funds and private efforts to do three projects in Town. The Harmony Park in East Chelmsford, tree planting at the Southwell Field and an eagle scout project for benches at the McCarthy School. The Adams Library expansion has starting to move forward. Bids will go out in the next couple of months. Construction should began in the late winter early spring with a completion date of the summer of 1999. The \$100,000.00 which was approved for design work for the Police Station resulted in looking at a number of different objections which has stalled the project a little. However, plans are moving forward with the architectural work which should be ready for the Spring Town Meeting. No sale had yet been completed on the Town owned land off Kensington Dr due to not being able to reach an agreement with the abutter. The traffic signal at Drum Hill has been completed. The signal is on the City of Lowell property with the agreement that the Town would maintain it. The traffic signal was paid for by the developers in the Drum Hill area. Regarding the North Town Hall there has been a committee appointed that will later give an update. The sale and marketing has been put on hold in agreement with this body. The Town is looking at the feasibility of what the building can be used for and the costs of renovating it. The graffiti by-law that was passed has been helpful. Haven't actually had to use it to enforce anything but the police work with it and with the property owners to make sure that graffiti is removed from private property as quickly as possible and the property owners have been extremely cooperative. He then explained that the North Town Hall Committee along with the Arts and Technology Education Committee would give their brief reports, then he would resume with a overview of the Town's finances and that would conclude his report.

Evelyn Thoren of the Arts and Technology Education Committee reported that there had been seventeen applications and from those, five awards were issued. Barbara Costello at the Byam 1st grade, a science center. Mark Johnson a classroom computer for computer interaction program at the Parker for grades 5-8. The Westland School Council, a Wireless Microphone system at the Westlands School, K to 4th grade. Betty and Michelle Gagnon at the Parker had an application for Life in the Middle School. A murale that depicts the different aspects that goes on in the Parker School. Jill Everleigh, Byam Kindergarten, writing boxes for a kindergarten program. Theses projects are not in any school's budgets. The applications for 1998 will be available the first of the year, and are due March 1st. The awards will be made in June. Currently the fund has a balance of \$14,000, which is invested in CD's. So far this first year, \$2,500. in awards had been issued and \$2000. has been received since those awards were made.

Jeff Stallard of the North Town Hall Feasibility Committee began his report by thanking the Town Manager and his staff for all the assistance that they supplied from information to making arrangements for removing the various items that were stored in the building. He then thanked Sheriff DiPaola who had supplied prisoners from the Middlesex County System. The prisoners worked for eight days doing renovation, in return the Town had to supply their lunch. There was an open house this past Saturday, October 18th from 9 am to 12 noon at which time the work done in the building was viewed. Planning on another open house in the Spring. The Committee's mission statement is to preserve the integrity of the North Town Hall for service to the residents of Chelmsford, as in the past, for the present and with the future. He said that the Committee had accomplished phase 1 of cleaning up and cleaning out. Phase 2 will be from the winter of 1997 to the summer of 1998. The goal will be to assess and make renovation plans, seek community awareness and support. Phase 3 will be ongoing from the winter of 1998- winter of 1999 conduct renovations and encourage community involvement. Grand opening and the community occupying is planned for the year 2000. He closed by presenting to Selectman Philip Eliopoulos a certificate of appreciation for his family, who's generous donations had supplied the required lunches for the prisoners for eight days.

The Town Manager then gave the financial status of the Town. When the Town Meeting ended in April there was a estimated deficit of \$65,439. knowing that there would be additional revenue coming in from State aid and Local taxes. He then showed the total revenue amounts that have come in:

\$275,000 in local taxes, \$392,000 in state aid from state legislation for education reform for the Charter School and \$282,527 in miscellaneous receipts, which are motor vehicle excise tax and building permits. For a total of \$950,172. minus a total expense of \$94,000 due to being in the process of reevaluations more abatement money may be needed. The total amount of \$790,733. will be on hand for tonight's meeting to deal with many of the issues that have been the plans and goals of the Selectmen and the body. When done there will be a balance of \$47,505. in free cash and a budget balance of \$7,793.

The Manager said it was a good plan. The Town works hard to live within its needs and not to over extend ourselves either now or in the future. Act in a planned and careful fashion as we make our investment and financial decision.

The Moderator announced that William Curry was his latest appointment to the Finance Committee. Mr Curry was replacing Barbara Skarr who had resigned the past summer.

UNDER ARTICLE 2 Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

The Town Manager explained that this would amount to \$3,000,000 accumulated in the fund and Bond Counsel looks at this. The future projects of the Center School, Library, and Police Station when on line will have an impact of the budget. When the time comes money will be transferred in order to keep balance of service and revenue for the Town. He asked for support of the article. John Wilder questioned how money is invested? The Manager explained that the Town Treasurer invests in long term 12-18 months deposits. Are they insured? Yes, the funds are invested in various places, not all in one place. Glenn Thoren questioned what the possible problems was regarding state reimbursements. The Manager explained that the reimbursements regarding the Center School project may not come in a timely manner, and the Town may have to provide the funding until the reimbursements are returned. The Finance Committee was in favor of the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 3. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$750,000 from Free Cash to reduce the 1998 tax rate.

The Town Manager explained the purpose of the article. This money was to be used to level off taxes, the same as was done last year. This amount results as a savings of 35 cents per \$1000. on the tax rate. The average house is valued at \$170,000.00 which amounts to a \$50-\$60 dollar savings. He said since 1981 it has been the budgetary practice of the Town to increase the budget by 2 ½ % . The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 4. Peter Dulchinos, Member of the Board of Health, moved that the Town vote to authorize the revolving fund under Massachusetts General law c. 44, sec. 53E ½ for the Board of Health for Fiscal Year 1998. The receipts to be credited to the fund shall be from the collection of fees from the implementation of a Hepatitis B program. The Board of Health shall be authorized to spend money from the fund for the purpose of acquiring supplies and materials necessary for implementing a Hepatitis B program. Expenditures from the Hepatitis B Revolving Fund shall be limited to \$7,500 during Fiscal Year 1998.

The Town Manager explained that this was the continuation of the program that was established at last year's Town Meeting. Each year it must be approved. The amount offsets the cost of implementing the program. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 5. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$22,915 with which to pay bills of previous fiscal years.

The Town Manager explained that the fiscal year closes on June 30th. This amount represents the total of the various bills received after that date. \$20,438 for Ma Electric bill from the School Department. \$1,180.00 for a printing bill from the Finance Committee. \$1004.00 for a miscellaneous bill and \$293.00 for a late medical from Public Safety. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 6. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 108L, the Career Incentive Pay Program for Police Officers, (also known as the Quinn Bill), which provides for a percentage increase in base salary based on the completion of approved courses or degrees by full-time police officers.

The Town Manager said that the Quinn Bill encourages continuing education for Police Officers. When an officer receives a degree in criminal justice their pay is increased a certain percentage mattering on the degree. Currently the patrolmen receive an 5% increase in their base pay for an associates degree, 10% increase for a bachelor and 12 ½ % for a master. The Quinn bill mandates that the increases in base pay be 10%, 20% and 25% for the degrees. The State will reimburse the Town for the increased difference. This article is the result of the settlement of the patrolmen's contract concerning education benefits. He explained that the figure shown in article 7 reflects the settlement cost of the contract. Other issues were sick leave, fitness program, if Patrolmen become certified EMT's they will receive an additional \$800.00. Also there was a retro payment for a grievance that had been filed. He asked for support of this article and article 7. George Ripsom asked what the bottom line increase would be? \$90,000. When does the Quinn bill go into effect? Next fiscal year. The Finance Committee supported the article. A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 7. The Town Manager explained that due to settlement of the Clerical Union contract, increases in salaries were made in the departments shown. Under the Municipal Administration Personnel Services and Expenses the Data Processing Department was being upgraded in-house,. He estimated the cost of \$15,000. for updating of the property maps and recodification of town's by-laws. The settlement of the Teacher's contract was the reasoning for the increase in the School Department. Glenn Thoren asked why there are two articles, the figure listed in this article plus the next article. The Manager explained that the figure shown in this article represented a one time bonus agreement. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectman recommended the article. Kathryn Fisher moved to take Article 7 out of order and move it to immediately following the Special Town Meeting of Thursday October 23, 1997. She felt that the portable classroom issue of the Special Town Meeting should be addressed before any further money is raised and appropriated or transferred. The Finance Committee did not recommend the motion to table. The Board of Selectmen unanimously did not recommend tabling the article. John Wilder asked if action from this meeting could be reconsidered at the Special Town Meeting. The Moderator explained that once this meeting is adjourned tonight nothing can be reconsidered on any of the articles voted. However, an article can be brought back for reconsideration any amount of times during the meeting it was voted in. He asked for a show of hands on the motion to table. **Motion defeated.** He then asked if there was the need of further debate, hearing none he asked for the vote by way of a show of hands, **motion carried.** The article reads as follows:

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 1998 operating budget under Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 28, 1997 as follows:

Increase Line Item #1, Municipal Administration Personnel Services, by \$22,200

Increase Line Item #2, Municipal Administration Expenses, by \$50,000

Increase Line Item #3, Chelmsford School Department, by \$557,000

Increase Line Item #4, Nashoba Technical High School Assessment, by \$16,285

Increase Line Item #5, Public Safety Personnel Services, by \$97,000

Increase Line Item #6, Public Safety Expenses, by \$10,000

Increase Line Item #7, Public Works Personnel Services, by \$5,300

Increase Line Item #8, Public Works Expense, by \$40,000

Increase Line Item #10, Cemetery Personnel Services, by \$600

Increase Line Item #12, Community Services Personnel Services, by \$20,100

And that the Town raise and appropriate \$759,025, and transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash to defray such changes.

UNDER ARTICLE 8. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$450,000 for the funding of negotiated collective bargaining agreements.

The Manager explained that this is the settlement of the Teacher's Union contract. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 9. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the purpose of acquiring in fee simple a certain parcel of land located on Park Place, shown as lot 20 on Assessor's Map 164, containing 10,053 square feet more or less and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds in Book 01244, Page 0313, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire said land by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise.

The Town Manager explained that this land abuts the Chelmsford Country Club. It doesn't have much value due to it being pretty wet because of this it has an assessed value \$5900. The amount of \$1000. was based on the legal cost involved to obtain the land plus the fact that the land is wet. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. **The Moderator asked for a show of hands. He declared the vote passed based on the 2/3's rule.**

UNDER ARTICLE 10. John P. Emerson Jr, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Sewer Commissioners to acquire any and all temporary and/or permanent easements, and any property in fee simple with buildings and trees thereon by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, for the property located in the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and further described and shown on a set of plans entitled "Plan of Sewer Easement in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Hart Pond Area, Phase IIIC Sewers dated October, 1997 prepared by Richard F. Kaminski & Associates, Inc.", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Engineer and is incorporated herein by reference, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining sewers, pumping stations, and all other appurtenances thereto; and for paying any damages which may be awarded as the result of any such taking.

John Emerson came forward to answer any questions, hearing none the Moderator asked for the recommendations. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the reading of Article 11 be waived. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 11. Selectman William Dalton explained the article and said that there are presently 270 double poles in Town. Presently the Towns of Wilmington and Maynard have the same by-law. George Ripsom didn't feel that there was any real hazard and ineffective. Selectman Dalton said that some of these poles have been like this for ten years, and that there is no need for this. Bill Curry questioned who would be responsible for the enforcement? The Town Manager said that the Police and Building Inspector. Questions were asked about future developments being in jeopardy. Selectman Dalton said that the utility companies have ignore the Board's request to removed the double poles. This by-law would allow the Selectman to hold a public hearing process and a time period that would force the utility company to act on an order issued by the Selectmen. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Board stated that they couldn't give one at this time because they didn't have any expertise in this matter. The Board of Selectmen enthusiastically recommended unanimously the article. A number of Representatives spoke in favor. George Ripsom questioned if it would be forcible. Town Counsel John Georgio said once approved by the A.G. as an by-law it will be enforceable, by way of the hearing process of the Board of Selectmen. The Moderator asked for a vote by a show of hands. The motion carried and the article reads as follows:

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to amend the General By-Laws Article V, Streets and Sidewalks, by adding the following Section 22, Regulation of Utility Poles:

1. No public or private organization or utility company shall place or allow more than one pole to exist within five feet of another utility pole on any public or private way within the Town of Chelmsford, without the permission of the Board of Selectmen, which may contain conditions. There is excepted from this provision the temporary emergency replacement of a damaged utility pole.

2. Following a public hearing, the Selectmen may issue an order for the removal, relocation or alteration of any utility pole or poles in excess of one at any given location, upon the determination that more than one utility pole at any given location presents a nuisance, hazard or threat to the public safety, welfare or convenience to the inhabitants of the Town.

3. Any organization or utility company which owns or is responsible for a utility pole or poles subject to any order issued by the Selectmen shall fully comply with the terms and conditions of any such order within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the date of its issuance unless such period is extended by the Selectmen in its sole and absolute discretion. In the event of noncompliance with the terms of any order issued by the Selectmen, the Selectmen may take whatever enforcement action it deems appropriate, including, without limitation; the imposition of a fine of three hundred (\$300) dollars per day for each day of noncompliance; the application for an injunction restraining the continued existence of any such pole or poles subject to such order; and any other penalties, impositions or relief as the Selectmen may deem necessary.

UNDER ARTICLE 12. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the following described parcel of land to the Board of Selectmen to be held for the purpose of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, for consideration to be determined, all right, title, and interest, if any, held by the Town in a certain parcel of land on Third Avenue/Fourth Avenue, shown as Lot 69 on Assessors Map 66, containing 3,240 square feet more or less, and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 6218, Page 62.

The Town Manager explained that the value of the land according to the Assessors is \$3,400. Through the bidding process abutters will be notified. John Wilder questioned what the minimal bid would be? The value price. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 13. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the following described parcel of land to the Board of Selectmen to be held for the purpose of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, for consideration to be determined, all right, title, and interest, if any, held by the Town in a certain parcel of land on Willis Drive, shown as Lot 4 on Assessors Map 66, containing 3300 square feet more or less, and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 6218, Page 60.

The Town Manager said that the value for this piece of land is \$3,600, based on Assessors appraisal. However, there will be a deed restriction. Will there be a set time to go out for the bid? The Manager said probably in November. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 14. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to transfer \$ 20,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of increasing the revolving fund for off-duty special police detail payments as described in G.L. c. 44, Section 53C.

The Town Manager explained that over 13 years ago (prior to him being with the Town) this fund was set up. The current yearly appropriation is \$25,000. It is an inadequate amount with the new cycle of billing. During the past summer there was an incident regarding the detail monies payment due from UPS. The Police Officers weren't paid in a timely manner, therefor the checks couldn't be released. The issue has since be resolved. There is a need to bring the account up to a more realistic amount.. Also the auditors feel that the present amount is not enough. The current billing system works well and it should be continued. George Ripsom questioned if there has been problems in the past? The Manager responded Yes, numerous times for a short period. Chief Armand Caron recommended the article. This account actually started 20 years ago with the amount of \$2,000. The Town says that the details have to be Police personnel. There is a service charge of 10% so the Town makes money for the amount sitting in the account. The Finance Committee did not recommend the article. A majority of the Selectmen were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 15. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, Section 53 F and ½ for the purpose of establishing an Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Tully Forum, and to transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash to operate the Tully Forum for the remainder of fiscal year 1998.

Selectman Peter Lawlor explained the article. The Commonwealth will give the Tully Forum Ice Skating Facility to the Town. This is an outright gift. This article would allow the Town seed money to get under way a revolving account. Will be used for start up cost, ultimately will be paid back through ice time rental.. Will hire a management company to run and operate the facility. John Wilder questioned if this would be an appropriate enterprise? Selectman Lawlor said the Board of Selectmen unanimously supported the article. The recreational use is worthwhile. John Wilder asked about the liability issue. The Town Manager said that the standard practice would be used. A group provides a certificate of assurance naming the Town and the Town will have it's own Certificate at a cost of approximately \$3,500. Jim Doukaszewicz asked if any Town employees would be involved? No, only the management company employees. Leonard Richards asked if there would be public skating time. Yes, time will be set aside. Roger Sumner wanted to know if UPS had expressed interest in the facility for expansion of their property, Selectman Lawlor said he wasn't aware of this. Roger Sumner wanted to know what would happen if the Town didn't take over the property. It was explained that the State would have to declare it as surplus property, then it would go out onto the open market and sold. There is a lengthy time period for DCPO to do this and the facility would sit there unattended. John Wilder asked if the property was in Billerica. Selectmen Lawlor said that the building was but the parking lot and acreage is in Chelmsford. This would not bar the Town from inquiring ownership. Once done the Manager and the Board will discuss moving the Town's boundary line. If this happened then the maintenance and fixing of Brick Kiln Road would be taken care of, especially since most of the vehicle traffic is connected to the UPS facility in Chelmsford. John Wilder asked if the Town would have to pay some kind of fee to Billerica? Selectman Lawlor replied that there would be no fee to Billerica. The Town Manager said the bill is still in legislation process, but may include the equipment as part of the deal. Also the State was aware that Billerica already has an ice rink so Chelmsford was the logical choice. . The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **Motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 16. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$75,377 from Free Cash to the School Department, said funding coming from Medicaid reimbursements.

The Town Manager explained that this had been a done last year. The agreement with the School Department is that if they track down the Medicare money it is return to the Town then transferred to the School Department. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 17. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to rescind \$232,345 of the authorization to borrow funds under Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting, held on June 20, 1990.

The Town Manager explained that the money was appropriated to do handicap accessibility at the schools. The project was completed without the use of this money. This article is to remove it from the books. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Selectman were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 18. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to transfer \$ 45,000 from Free Cash to supplement the Reserve Fund for FY98 to be used at the discretion of the Finance Committee, as provided in General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6.

The Town Manager explained each year the Town appropriates money for the Finance Committee use. To be used for transfers of funds for emergency unforeseen events. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 19. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article 2 District Regulations, by amending Section 2300, Use regulations schedule, as follows:

Recreational uses	R A	R B	R C	R M	C	C B	C C	C D	IA	IS	R M H	C X	P	O S
Golf course	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	O	O	B A	O	O	B A

and change it to:

Recreational uses	R A	R B	R C	R M	C	C B	C C	C D	IA	IS	R M H	C X	P	O S
Golf course	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	B A	O	O	B A	O	P	B A

Andrew Sheehan, Community Development Coordinator explained that this is basically a housekeeping article to allow the Town's golf course to be in a public zone. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2300, Use Regulations Schedule.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would change section 2300, Use Regulations Schedule to change Golf Courses from a prohibited use to a permitted use in the Public (P) District.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor to recommend article #19.

The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

Barry Balan moved to waive the reading of the article 20. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 20. Robert Morse of the Master Plan Review Committee, explained that presently there are no set rules and regulations regarding the building of Independent Senior Living facilities. Currently there are two assisted living facilities that have been built and another project is under construction, there is a need for this type of building. This by-law would set the guidelines that the Committee feels is important for any future development that would provide less impact on the Town's sources. The Moderator asked for the various recommendations. The Finance Committee didn't have any recommendation. The Board of Selectmen were in favor of the article. Chairman of the Planning Board Kim MacKenzie read the Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article IV, Special Regulations by inserting a new Section 5000 to provide for Facilitated and Independent Senior Living.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meeting on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would add a new Section 5000, to provide for Facilitated and Independent Senior Living.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor to recommend article #20.

Questions and discussion took place concerning the restrictions of age and size of living area. Henrick Johnson spoke against limiting the amount of bedrooms and habitable living area. He felt the Town shouldn't limit how many bedrooms nor the amount of habitable living area a unit should have. He moved to amend the article. Under section 5041. Standards for Independent Senior Living deleting (a) Units shall contain no more than two bedrooms. and (b) Units shall have a maximum habitable living area of sixteen hundred (1600) square. and make (c) (a) A minimum of 33% of the units in a project shall comply with ADA accessibility standards to all living areas.. He explained that this would keep the proposed bylaw consistent with the current zoning by-law of only controlling the lot size, and not the amount of living space. Susan McHugh questioned if the information is based on actual senior needs? Robert Morse explained that this by-law is similar to a by-law that the Town of Lexington has. Barry Balan questioned the age restriction. John Emerson moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously**. The Moderator then asked for a vote on the motion to amend, which left the Chair in doubt. The following tellers came forward and a hand count was taken. Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, Dorothy Frawley and John Maleski The result of the hand count: Yes 69 No 65 a majority is needed, **motion carried** to amend. More discussion followed on the main motion as amended. Susan Gates moved to amend the article as amended by: Delete Word "senior" in Section 5010. Delete word "elder" in Section 5010 and replace it with "disabled". Delete word "elder" and "senior in section 5010 (a) replace with "those". Delete word "senior" in section 5010 (b). Delete dif senior or elder in section 5041 (r). Delete "elder" in section 5041 (r). Delete "retired or elderly" in section 5041 (r) under Independent Living delete word "senior" in section 5000. Delete word "senior" wherever phrase "Independent Senior Living" occurs. Susan Gates felt that if a citizen had a need for assisted living then the facility should be available to that person regardless of their age. More discussion followed The Finance Committee was not in favor deleting the wording. A majority of the Board of Selectmen were in favor of the motion. Robert Morse spoke against deleting. This type of facility is intended for Senior and Elderly citizens. Studies show that the age group specified throughout this bylaw are the citizens who really need assisted living. There are some younger people who do need assistance, however, the much greater need is with the age group specified. George Ripsom spoke against the motion to amend and commended the Master Plan Review Committee for their efforts. Elizabeth Marshall spoke against the motion. Susan Gates moved to withdraw her motion to amend. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried**. Dennis Ready moved the question to stop further debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously**. He then asked for a vote on the main motion as amended, which left the Chair in doubt. The

Tellers came forward and a hand count was taken: Yes 88 No 39 , 2/3's is 85 the **motion carried** and the article as amended reads as follows:

Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article IV, Special Regulations, by adding the following after Section 4900 of the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw:

Sec. 5000. Facilitated and Independent Senior Living

5010. Intent. Facilitated and Independent Senior Living facilities are allowed in a variety of zoning districts by special permit from the Board of Appeals. The intent of the bylaw is to provide the opportunity for the development of the types of multi-family and communal housing most beneficial for the senior and elder population of Chelmsford.

- (a) Facilitated Living facilities provide private or communal lodging for elders requiring limited medical attention or supervision and who ordinarily are ambulatory. These include, but are not limited to Assisted Living facilities, Alzheimer's facilities and Congregate Living facilities.
- (b) Independent Senior Living facilities are intended to provide a safe, suitable dwelling unit for a senior couple or individual who are able to live independently. Open Space preservation is an important facet of Independent Senior Living projects, and is meant to provide the residents of the project with opportunities for active and passive recreation.

5020. Standards. The following dimensional standards shall apply to Section 5000 projects.

Minimum Lot Requirements:	RM	CA	CB	CC	CD	IA
Area (acres)	5	5	5	5	5	7
Width (ft)	Same as Sec. 2600					
Depth (ft)	Same as Sec. 2600					
Frontage (ft)	Same as Sec. 2600					
Minimum Yard Requirements	RM	CA	CB	CC	CD	IA
Front	Sec. 2600 or twice the building height, whichever is greater.					
Side (ft)	25	40	40	40	40	40
Rear (ft)	30	40	40	40	40	40
Building Separation (ft)	25	25	25	25	25	25

Maximum Building Coverage (percent)	RM	CA	CB	CC	CD	IA
Height (ft)	Same as Sec. 2600					
	35	35	35	35	35	35
Open Space Requirements	RM	CA	CB	CC	CD	IA
Facilitated Living (%)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Ind. Senior Living (%)	10	30	30	30	30	30
Maximum # of Units per acre	RM	CA	CB	CC	CD	IA
Facilitated Living	7	7	7	7	7	7
Ind. Senior Living(a)	7	4	4	4	4	4

Footnotes for sec. 5020.

(a) Exclusive of open space requirement.

(Tract size minus Open Space Requirement minus wetlands/floodplain not included in Open Space Requirement) times units per acre equals Maximum number of units per tract.

5030. Open Space Requirement

The open space requirement is intended to provide the residents of the facility with opportunities to enjoy outdoor passive and active recreation, and to promote the conservation of open space. The applicant shall provide the Planning Board with a recreational plan which will show how the open space will provide passive and/or active recreation. The recreational plan shall include a plan for the maintenance of any improvements to the open space such as bicycle, equestrian and foot paths.

5031. Definition of Open Space

- (a) All land within the tract which is not covered by buildings, roads, driveways, parking areas or service areas, or which is not set aside as private yards or patios.
- (b) no more than 50% of the minimum required Open Space shall be situated within a floodplain and/or wetland.
- (c) The Open Space shall have a shape, dimension, character and location suitable to enable its enjoyment and use for recreation, conservation or agricultural purposes by the residents of the facility.

5032. Ownership

The Open Space shall be held by the owners of the Independent Senior Living facility, or otherwise as the Planning Board may direct.

5033. Conservation Restriction.

Open Space shall be protected against building development and environmental damage by conveying to the Town a conservation restriction pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 84, section 31-33 which shall be enforceable by the Conservation Commission. The restriction shall specifically prohibit the use of Open Space for all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and similar vehicles, except that motorized wheel chairs shall be permitted. It shall prohibit the construction of any above ground structures, buildings, roads and paved areas, except for the maintenance and construction of bicycle, equestrian and foot paths or similar facilities for the benefit of the users, or such other as the Planning Board may permit. Such restrictions shall be in such form and substance as the Planning Board shall prescribe and may contain additional restrictions on development and the use of the Open Space as the Planning Board may deem appropriate.

5040. General Standards

- (a) The Board of Appeals shall find that the proposed plan of development is consistent with section 1500.
- (b) The entire site shall be a size and shape as shall provide a housing site that will be in harmony with the natural terrain and other features of the site, and will preserve natural vistas and the character of the neighborhood.
- (c) No site on a plan for which an approval is granted under this section may be subdivided so as to create additional lots. A notation to that effect shall be shown on the site plan.
- (d) Section 5000 projects abutting Residentially Zoned land shall provide a landscaped buffer strip thirty (30) feet in width to provide adequate screening for adjacent properties. No structure, driveway, parking area or sidewalk shall be located in the landscaped buffer strip.
- (e) Driveways and sidewalks within the development shall be constructed in accordance with the section 1400 requirements under site plan review, with such waivers, if any, as the Planning Board deems appropriate.
- (f) Sidewalks conforming to the Planning Board Subdivision Rules and Regulations shall be required along frontage and both sides of internal roads.
- (g) Additional requirements of linking pedestrian circulation systems per section 1425 (m) may be required by the Planning Board.

- (h) Buildings shall be designed to be complementary in exterior design with each other and with the existing neighborhood in which the facility is located.
- (i) Dwellings constructed under this section shall not be eligible for subsequent conversion to conventional apartments with the exception of projects in the RM district.
- (j) The method(s) of implementing age restrictions of seniors and elders (62 years of age or over) must be to the satisfaction of the Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.
- (k) The Planning Board may set additional site security and safety requirements as deemed necessary to ensure the security and safety of the residents of the facility.
- (l) Requirements and criteria of Section 4500 shall be demonstrated.

5041. Standards for Independent Senior Living

- (a) A minimum of 33% of the units in a project shall comply with ADA accessibility standards to all living areas.

;and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article I, Administration and Procedure, Section 1400, Site plan, by adding the following at the end of Section 1423(b): "facilitated living or independent senior living facility."

;and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2300. Use regulations schedule, by adding new categories under residential uses after "Planned Open Space Residential Development" entitled "Facilitated Living" and "Independent Senior Living" as shown below:

	<u>RA</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>RM</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>IA</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>RMH</u>	<u>CX</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>OS</u>
Facilitated Living	O	O	O	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	O	O	O	O	O
Independent Senior Living	O	O	O	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	O	O	O	O	O

;and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article III, General Regulations, Section 3100, Off-street parking and loading, by adding "independent senior living dwelling." after "two family" in Section 3120(p) and by adding a new Section after 3120(q) entitled Section 3120(r), as follows:

(r) Facilitated Living. One space for each employee on the shift having the greatest number of employees, plus one (1) space for each visiting staff. When on site parking for the facility's residents is permitted, the parking requirement is eight tenths (8/10) space per bedroom. When on site parking for the facility's residents is not permitted, the parking requirement is one (1) space for each three (3) beds. The site must support the potential for meeting the parking requirement of (d) Business and professional offices in the event of a building conversion, and shall be shown on the site plan as potential future parking.

;and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article I, Administration and Procedure, Section 1423 (b), by adding "or facilitated and independent living facility." after "multi-family residential development";

;and amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article V, Definitions, by adding the following definitions:

Senior or Elder. An individual who is 62 years of age or over.

Assisted Living facility. A facility providing private multi-family dwellings or communal lodging for more than four (4) unrelated elders requiring assistance with the activities of daily living, such as aid or assistance with bathing, dressing/grooming, ambulation, eating, toileting or other similar tasks. Defined by M.G.L. c. 19D s. 1

Alzheimer's facility. A facility providing treatment and communal lodging for more than four (4) unrelated persons who have been diagnosed by a medical doctor as having Alzheimer's disease, but who do not require the skilled nursing care typically provided by a nursing home.

Congregate Living facility. A facility providing communal lodging more than four (4) unrelated elders in a non-institutional residential shared living environment which integrates shelter and services needed by the functionally impaired or socially isolated elder who does not require the constant supervision or intensive health care services as provided in a nursing home. The shared living environment shall include at least the following: (a) Shared kitchen facilities; and (b) Shared dining facilities. Each bedroom shall be considered one (1) unit.

Facilitated Living facility. Shall include assisted, Alzheimer's and congregate living facilities.

Independent Living facility. A facility providing independent dwelling for a retired or elderly individual or couple. In addition to bed space, such facilities would ordinarily include private toilet, bath, food preparation facilities and a private dining area.

Selectmen Peter Lawlor moved to adjourn the meeting until Thursday October 23rd at 7:30 PM at the Senior Center on Groton Road. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously**. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Dennis E. McHugh, Moderator

Mary E. St.Hilaire, Town Clerk

Adjourned Annual Town Meeting October 23, 1997

The Adjourned Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, at 7:35 PM, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 151 Town Meeting Representatives present. The Moderator asked for permission to allow Andrew Sheehan, Community Development Coordinator who was a non resident to be able to address the Body from time to time. **Motion carried unanimously**, by way of a show of hands.

UNDER ARTICLE 21. Andrew Sheehan, Community Development Coordinator, explained the article. Presently the Board of Appeals, may grant a special permit for a use not listed in the use regulation schedule of a particular zone. This by-law change would not allow this to be done any more. If passed, then the use change request must come before Town Meeting for a vote. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2220, Use Regulations Schedule.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would delete section 2220 as it now appears and replace it with the following: "2220, Uses Not Listed. All uses which are not listed in Section 2300, Use Regulations schedule, are prohibited."

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor to recommend article #21.

The Moderator asked for vote by way of a show of hands on the article. **He declared the vote passed by the 2/3's rule.** The article reads as follows:

Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, by deleting Section 2220 as it presently appears:

"2220. Uses not listed. If a particular use is not specifically included in the use regulations schedule, then the board of appeals may determine whether in the district in which an unlisted use is proposed, uses having similar externally observable attributes are or may be permitted, and if so, the board of appeals may authorize such use or uses as a special permit for exception under section 1500.

and replacing it with the following:

"2220. Uses not listed. All uses which are not listed in Section 2300, Use regulations schedule, are prohibited."

UNDER ARTICLE 22. Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained that this is to correct a zoning change from the 1986 master plan. It was the intent to change exterior lighting fixtures to be mounted no more than 15 feet high to read 20 feet high. Instead a new section (e) had been added saying exterior lighting fixture to be mounted no more than 20 feet high. Which resulted as being inconsistent. This would eliminate the (e) sentence and correct (c) to reflect the 20 feet high, as was the original intention of the amendment done in 1986. The Finance Committee did not have any recommendation of the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended in favor of the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Section 3300, Signs and Outdoor Lighting.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would delete "fifteen"(15)" where it appears in Section 3351 (c) and substitute "twenty (20)" in its place to read: (c) Exterior lighting fixtures other than signs are mounted not more than twenty (20) feet high. and: by deleting Section 3351 (e) in its entirety, which reads: (c) Exterior lighting fixtures other than signs are mounted not more than twenty (20) feet high.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor to recommend article #22.

The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. **Motion carried, unanimously.** The article reads as follows:

Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article III, General Regulations, Section 3300, Signs and Outdoor Lighting, by deleting "fifteen (15) where it appears in Section 3351(c) and substituting "twenty (20)" in its place to read:

(c) Exterior lighting fixtures other than signs are mounted not more than twenty (20) feet high.

and; by deleting Section 3351(e) in its entirety, which reads:

(e) Exterior lighting fixtures other than signs are mounted not more than twenty (20) feet high.

The Moderator asked the Body to waive the reading of the next article. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 23. Andrew Sheehan, Community Development Coordinator explained that the Town was contacted in 1996 by the Dept of Environmental Management saying that the current floodplain bylaw and map didn't meet the requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program, concerning construction in a floodplain area. The new bylaw and map would. Marianne Paresky questioned the Black Brook area. Was the Glenview Sand and Gravel pit in this area? Yes, the lower portion. Does Black Brook run through this portion? Yes. She wanted to know who would be responsible for the flooding along the Steadman St and Melody Lane area. Andrew Sheehan explained that the change will not alleviate any present problems, but won't increase any problems to the area. It won't correct past problems. It is to prevent future problems due to further development in the floodplain.

The Moderator interrupted the speaker in order to make a point of order. He announce that there was a Special Town Meeting posted to begin at 7:45 PM and where in fact this was the time. Stephen Mallette moved to recess the Town Meeting at this time in order to take up the action of the Special Town Meeting. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, **motion carried**. The Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Special Town Meeting October 23, 1997

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, at 7:45 PM, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 151 Town Meeting Representatives present.

Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the reading of the Constable's return of the posting of the warrant be waived. **Motion carried, unanimously**. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the reading of the warrant be waived. **Motion carried, unanimously**.

UNDER ARTICLE 1. Susan Graves moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from the Stabilization fund the sum of \$360,000. for the purpose of purchasing temporary housing in order to address the issue of large class size.

Gary Mathews who was the proponent of the article explained that he as well as others wanted to elevate the overcrowded class room situation at the South Row School and Westlands elementary schools. This article if passed would allow two portable classrooms for the South Row School and one for the Westlands. Primarily at the South Row School there are classes that contain thirty children per classroom. The feeling was that the School Committee was not being responsive to the immediate need, they are waiting for the Center School to come on line, which won't happen until 1999. Studies have shown that overcrowding has a negative effect on children. In the immediate area Westford, Acton, Bedford as well as other cities and towns in the state use these classrooms with success. Lesley Mathews spoke about the issues. The lack of space, the present classrooms were built for 22-24 students. The lack of a short term plan, and the fact that the Center School coming on line was to little to late. The population bubble would move up through the years, and these classrooms could follow them. She then did a slide presentation for the body showing the type of modular classrooms that they had looked into, and gave a more extensive list of the communities presently using the classrooms throughout Massachusetts. A lengthy question period took place. Would taxes be raised? No, because the money would come from the Stabilization Fund.. Why isn't the School Committee's solution of adding a teacher aide to every classroom an answer?. This would not

solve the short term problem. They aren't certifiable teachers, just aides. What will the cost of relocating the modular be? It's estimated to be \$45,000 per move, and it can move along with the population. It would only take eight weeks once purchased to be ready for occupancy, no architect is needed. Dr Richard Moser, Superintendent of Schools said that overcrowding has been a School Committee issue for the last 4-5 years. The Committee has come up with a plan and can't support the portables at the expense of the current budget. The Committee did in fact pursued a pot hole grant that would allow the Town to obtain portable classrooms, but was not successful. School Committee Member, Judy Mallette said that this grant was an area where a solution could be obtained without the use of Town money. The Committee is aware of the overcrowding issue and has a short term plan which does not meet the approval of the petitioners. 46% of the classrooms are overcrowded and there are fire hazards as well as other situations. Is the Center School the solution? For the future, but not the present. Douglas Aker asked if the problem was basically the lack of classroom space or funds? It was due to lack of space availability in the schools. John Emerson asked exclusive of the South Row School what is the average class size? Dr Moser said that there are 99 classrooms kindergarten through 4th grade. 17 of those has 13-19 students, 47 has 20-23 students, 17 has 24-26 students, 18 has 27-30 students. It is the 18 classes of 27-30 students where the aide support is being focused on. It averages out to be 23 students per classroom. John Emerson questioned if this is passed can the money be made to use for portable classrooms? Town Counsel explained that this would be a capital expenditure and it could not be used to fund the bottom line. Brian Latina asked that the School Committee members be polled their vote on the following question: If the space was available would you hire teachers or aides? All the five members said teachers. Jan Spence asked if these classrooms included everything, equipment etc.? Yes it did. Fran McDougall suggested that perhaps team teaching could be a solution then, once the Center School came on line the teachers would already be hired. The petitioners felt that this would not help the immediate overcrowding problem. They want to see an immediate solution to the long time problem. They want to see smaller class size with a teacher in each class. Not more aides in already overcrowded class rooms. Roger Sumner wanted to know how many of the four elementary schools have art rooms? Dr Moser replied it was the intent in the past to have art rooms but since then they have been turned into classrooms, therefore, all the schools except Byam have no art room. And how many music rooms are there? None. What about when the Center School comes on line. Dr Moser said this will only provide space. In order to lower the class size, the Committee will have to ask the Body for more funds to provide additional teachers. Roger Sumner, what will happen when the Center School comes on board, will there be music and art rooms in each of the elementary school? Dr Moser said that when that happens there will be a art room, a music room a library and computer space and several classrooms left over for the hiring of additional teachers. Once those teachers are hired, there would still be space for future growth. It was asked if this overcrowding

would move onto the middle schools. Dr Moser felt that the two middle schools could handle the population. What are the aides qualifications. He read the qualifications and said that out of the 18 aides hired 60% are certificate teachers. It is not necessary to have a certificate to be a teacher's aide. Karen Ready asked the proponents how would the teachers hired for the portable classrooms be paid for? The proponent said that instead of aides being hired the money could be used to hire the teachers. All this article does is provided the money for the classrooms, not the salaries. Frank Barre wanted to know when the Center School would be on line? It is estimated that the goal is for September of 1999. After two hours of questions and answers Dennis Ready wanted to go into debate. Roger Sumner asked Town Counsel if the money shown in the article had to go strictly for the purchasing of the classrooms, or could some of the money be used for salaries and classrooms? John Georgio said because of the wording the money could only be used to purchase classrooms. What is the amount of vote needed? Due to it being a transfer from the stabilization fund a 2/3's vote would be needed to pass. John Coppinger asked for the Moderator to enter into debate. He felt that the same people where asking questions and by doing so they were taking advantage of the Moderator's patience. The Moderator asked is there was a need for further questions, hearing none he asked for the various recommendations. The Finance Committee was against the article. The Board of Selectmen were unanimously recommended against the article. Jeffrey Stallard spoke saying that four years ago the Selectmen took back the Center School with the anticipation of the need for an additional elementary school. He felt that at that time a short range plan should have been addressed immediately. After listening to the concerns that he was in favor of the article. Bonnie Wilder said that the teachers at the South Row School were in favor of the article and read a statement asking for support. Dale Schultz, who had a daughter in the kindergarten class at the South Row School felt that it wasn't fair that she had to have class on the stage. The Principal and Teacher are trying to make the best of a bad situation The Body shouldn't spend any more time discussing how it happened or how to address it in the future. The space problem exists now, and by obtaining the modular classrooms this problem will be addressed now. It will be to late for his daughter to have full teacher interaction but it will help next year's kindergarten class. Marianne Pareksy spoke in favor and urged for support.. Margaret Fudge moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, which left the Chair in doubt. The following tellers came forward and a hand count was taken. Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, Dorothy Frawley and John Maleski The result of the hand count: Yes 99 No 39 2/3's is 92, **motion carried to stop debate**. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands on the article, **motion defeated**.

Seeing that there was no further business at hand the Moderator declared the Special Town Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM and returned to the adjourned Town Meeting.

The Adjourned Town Meeting reconvened at 10:11 PM and under Article 23 the discussion continued.

UNDER ARTICLE 23 (con't) Discussion took place. Further questions were asked about who would enforce the floodplain map? The Building Inspector would. Would the proposed widening of Rt 3 have an impact on this? No, it would not. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2700, Floodplain District, by deleting the entire Floodplain District as it now reads and insert a new Floodplain District.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment will bring the Floodplain District into compliance with minimum Federal standards. Changes include required computation of base floodplain elevations for certain activities and required conformance with State Building, Wetlands and Sanitary Codes.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously (5-0) in favor to recommend article #23.

The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. **Motion carried, unanimously.** The article reads as follows:

Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2700, Floodplain District, by deleting Section 2700 in its entirety and replacing it with the following Section 2700 (*Note: bold print indicates new language to be added):

Sec. 2700. Floodplain District.

2710. Purposes. The purposes of this district are:

- (a) To provide the lands in the Town of Chelmsford subject to seasonal or periodic flooding as described hereinafter shall not be used for residence or other purposes in such manner as to endanger the health or safety of the occupants thereof.

- (b) To protect, preserve, and maintain the water table and water recharge areas within the town so as to preserve present and potential water supplies for the public health and safety of the residents of the Town of Chelmsford.
- (c) To assure the continuation of the natural flow of the water course(s) within the Town of Chelmsford in order to provide adequate and safe floodwater storage capacity to protect persons and property against the hazards of flood inundation.

2720. Floodplain district and floodway district boundaries. The floodplain district and floodway district is herein established as an overlay district. The underlying permitted uses are allowed provided they meet the following additional requirements as well as those of the Massachusetts State Building Code dealing with construction in floodplains. The floodplain district and floodway district includes all special flood hazard areas designated **on the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Insurance Rate Map for the Town of Chelmsford, prepared by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Panel Number 250188 0005B-0015B dated June 4, 1980** on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Inspector and Conservation Commission. These maps as well as the accompanying Chelmsford flood insurance study, dated December, 1979, are incorporated herein by reference.

2725. Base Flood Elevation and Floodway Data

- (a) **Floodway Data.** In Zone A, A1-30, and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the map entitled " Chelmsford Floodplain and Floodway District Map, 1980" prepared by O'Connell and Associates shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. This map is incorporated herein by reference.
- (b) **Base Flood Elevation Data.** Base flood elevation data must be generated by applicants, based upon a study, for subdivision proposals or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is the lesser, within unnumbered A zones.

2730. Notification of Watercourse Alteration

Notify, in a riverine situation, the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:

- (a) **Adjacent communities**
- (b) **Bordering States**

(c) **NFIP State Coordinator**
Massachusetts Office of Water Resources
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

(d) **NFIP Program Specialist**
FEMA Region I, Room 462
J. W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse
Boston, MA 02109

2740. District use regulations.

2741. The Floodplain District is established as an overlay district to all other districts. All development in the district, including structural and non-structural activities, whether permitted by right or by special permit must be in compliance with Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws and with the following:

- (a) Section of the Massachusetts State Building Code which addresses floodplain and coastal high hazard areas (currently 780 CMR 2102.0, "Flood Resistant Construction");**
- (b) Wetlands Protection Regulations, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (currently 310 CMR 10.00);**
- (c) Inland Wetlands Restriction, DEP (currently 302 CMR 6.00);**
- (d) Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, DEP (currently 310 CMR 15, Title 5);**

Any variances from the provisions and requirements of the above referenced state regulations may only be granted in accordance with the required variance procedures of these state regulations.

2742. In the floodplain district no new building shall be erected or constructed, and no existing structure shall be altered, enlarged or moved; no dumping, filling, or earth transfer or relocation shall be permitted; nor any land, building, or structure used for any purposes except:

- (a) Conservation of water, plants, and wildlife.
- (b) Outdoor recreation, including play areas, nature study, boating, fishing and hunting, where otherwise legally permitted, but excluding buildings and structures.

- (c) Noncommercial signs (as permitted in the residential districts), wildlife management areas, foot, bicycle, and/or horse paths and bridges, provided that such uses do not affect the natural flow pattern of watercourses.
- (d) Grazing and farming, including truck gardening and harvesting of crops.
- (e) Forestry and nurseries.

2742a In the floodway, designated on the Chelmsford floodplain and floodway district map, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) All encroachments including fill, new construction, substantial improvements to existing structures, and other development are prohibited unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided by the applicant demonstrating that such encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the one- hundred-year flood.
- (2) Any encroachment meeting the above standard shall comply with the floodplain requirements of the state building code.
- (3) If a property owner questions the location of a floodplain or floodway district, the owner may engage at his own cost a registered licensed surveyor with the approval of the town engineer to determine if the land in question is within the floodplain or floodway district. The landowner shall be responsible for the cost for this determination. **The board of appeals, in consultation with the town engineer, shall decide whether or not to accept the surveyor's determination.**
- (4) **No new building or portion thereof located within the Floodplain District, shall be allowed to connect to the municipal wastewater system or to a private wastewater system which discharges to the municipal wastewater system.**

2743. The portion of any lot within the area delineated in subsection 2720 above may be used to meet the area and yard requirements for the district or districts in which the remainder of the lot is situated.

2750. Exemptions. In the floodplain district, the board of appeals may grant a special permit for exception for uses or structures in addition to those allowed under section 2740, subject to the following:

- (a) The request has been referred by the applicant to the planning board, the town engineer, the board of health, and the conservation commission for review and recommendation as provided in Section 11, Chapter 40A, M.G.L.;
- (b) The land is shown to be neither subject to flooding nor unsuitable for the proposed use because of hydrologic and/or topographic conditions;
- (c) The proposed use will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
- (d) The proposed use will comply in all respects to the provisions of the underlying district or districts within which the land is located; and,
- (e) Any loss of floodplain or floodway shall be compensated for at a similar elevation within the same local watershed.

The Moderator Dennis McHugh stepped down from the Chair for the next article. Before doing so, he appointed Selectman Peter Lawlor to be the Acting Moderator for the article. . Selectman William Dalton then moved to waive the reading of the article 24. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 24. Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained the article. He said that there were amendments to the wording of the article since the Finance Book had been printed and went over them for the Body. The actual motion included the amended wording. He went on to say that this would protect the Town's two aquifer protection districts. Its purpose is to keep commercial and industrial facilities from contaminating the Town's ground water. It would bring the Town into minimum compliance with the State's drinking water protection standards. Questions were asked. The Acting Moderator asked for the Board's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen were in favor of the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article IV, Special Regulations, Section 4800, Aquifer Protection District, by deleting Section 4800 as it now reads and inserting a new Aquifer Protection District.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment will bring the Aquifer Protection District into compliance to meet minimum Department of Environmental Protection requirements. Changes include amending the use and dimensional regulations in the District and adopting a revised Aquifer Protection District map.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted 3-2 not to recommend the original version of article #24. The Planning Board subsequently voted 4-1 to recommend article #24 as amended. Therefore the Planning Board recommends article #24 as amended.

Dennis McHugh, representing the Business Men's Association wanted to make a motion to accept the map but postpone use regulations until the spring. He felt that the wording was too restrictive. Dennis Ready moved to delete sections 4860 Use Regulations and 4870 Procedures for issuance of Special Permits and insert in its place the following:

4860: Use Regulations

The use schedule for all zoning districts shall apply, except as modified in this section. In all cases the more stringent provision shall apply. Cross references- Use regulations, section 2200; use regulations schedule, section 2300

4861. The following uses are prohibited in the APD

- (a) The manufacture, use, storage, transport, or disposal of toxic or hazardous materials as a principal activity.
- (b) Solid waste disposal facility, sanitary landfill, refuse incinerator, salvage yard junk yard, storage yard, road salt stockpile.
- (c) Truck/bus terminals and contractor's yards with more than ten (10) vehicles, service station and auto repair shops.
- (d) Car washes, or coin-operated and commercial laundries, where not connected to public sewers.
- (e) Subsurface storage of toxic or hazardous materials, fuel oil or gasoline.
- (f) Solid waste disposal or sewage treatment facilities with onsite disposal of the effluent, unless tertiary treatment is used.

4862. The following uses require a special permit from the Planning Board within the APD:

- (a) Above ground storage of more than five hundred (500) gallons of toxic or hazardous materials, fuel oil or gasoline.
- (b) Any residential use with lot size less than the intensity use schedule required for that particular residential zone.
- (c) Any use except for residential with an estimated sewage disposal greater than ten (10) gallons of sewage per day per one thousand (1,000) square feet of lot area, based on Title V of the State Environmental Code, 310 CMR 15.00.

- (d) Any use which renders impervious more than fifty (50) percent of the total lot area.

4870: Special Permits. Special permits may be granted by the Planning Board, if the requirements of the APD are met and if the granting of such a permit follows the general intent of the zoning by-law. Prior to granting a special permit, the Planning Board shall review the proposed control measures and shall determine if these control measures are adequate with respect to possible groundwater contamination if a failure occurred. If the Planning Board denies a special permit, the reason for denial must be state. After receiving a special permit application, the Planning Board shall distribute one (1) copy each to the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission and the Building Inspector for their review. If a response is not received with thirty-five (35) days by these agencies, the Planning Board will assume the agencies approve. A special permit may be granted by the Planning Board, if, after review of the applications and comments from the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission and the Building Inspector, the Planning Board finds that the groundwater quality will not fall below state or federal drinking water standards, or if the groundwater quality is below these standards no further degradation of the water will occur.

4871. Special permit application. Eleven (11) copies of the special permit application shall be submitted to the Planning Board in accordance with section 1250. In addition, the application shall include:

- (a) A complete list of all fuels, chemicals, pesticides, and other potentially toxic or hazardous material which are being used or stored on the premises in quantities greater than average household use.
- (b) Detailed plans shall be submitted of the storage tank or pipeline being used to store or transport the toxic or hazardous materials, fuels, chemicals or pesticides. These plans should also show how the storage tank or pipeline is protected from corrosion, leaks, spills, and vandalism.
- (c) Evidence of qualified professional supervision of the design and installation of above and below ground storage of toxic and hazardous materials.
- (d) Evidence of qualified professional supervision of the design and installation for any use with an estimated sewage flow greater than one thousand (1,000) gpd (other than single family). Impacts of nitrates, chlorides, and coliforms on groundwater quality must also be addressed.

Cross reference - Application procedure for special permits or variances, section 1250.

The Acting Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance was against the motion to amend. The Board of Selectmen were against the amendment. The Planning Board did not have a vote on the motion to amend. Discussion took place. Representatives Ready and Latina spoke for the amendment. Robert Morse and Andrew Sheehan spoke against the motion to amend. David McLachlan spoke against the motion, and urged the Body to defeat the amendment and vote on the article. The Acting Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to amend. **Motion defeated.** More discussion took place under the main motion. Barry Balan moved to continue the Town Meeting beyond the 11:00 PM curfew. The Acting Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.** Further discussion took place. The Acting Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. **The Acting Moderator declared that the vote passed by the 2/3's rule.**

Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article IV, Special Regulations, Section 4800, Aquifer Protection District, by deleting Section 4800 as it presently appears:

SECTION 4800 AQUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT

4810. Purpose. The purpose of an aquifer protection district, hereinafter known as APD, is to protect the public drinking water supply and the public health by preventing the contamination of Chelmsford's groundwater.

4820. Aquifer protection district[; boundaries.] The APD is established as an overlay district to the town's zoning map. This APD was defined by the surficial geology of the area and groundwater flow (based on a U.S. Geological Survey Surficial Geology Map and the Chelmsford Facilities Plan by Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc.). Any area in which groundwater flow is directed toward a well and the surficial geology is stratified sand and gravel deposits (soils which yield groundwater to wells) is included in the APD.

If a property owner questions the location of any boundary of an APD, the owner may engage at his own cost a professional hydrogeologist or soils engineer who must be approved by the planning board of the town, to determine if the land in question is in a recharge area.

4830. Use regulations. The use schedule for all zoning districts shall apply, except as modified in this section. In all cases the more stringent provision shall apply.

Cross references- Use regulations, section 2200; use regulations schedule, section 2300

4831. The following uses are prohibited in the APD

- (a) The manufacture, use, storage, transport, or disposal of toxic or hazardous materials as a principal activity.
- (b) Solid waste disposal facility, sanitary landfill, refuse incinerator, salvage yard, junk yard, storage yard, road salt stockpile.
- (c) Truck/bus terminals and contractor's yards with more than ten (10) vehicles, service station and auto repair shops.
- (d) Car washes, or coin -operated and commercial laundries, where not connected to public sewers.
- (e) Subsurface storage of toxic or hazardous materials, fuel oil or gasoline.
- (f) Solid waste disposal or sewage treatment facilities with onsite disposal of the effluent, unless tertiary treatment is used.

4832. The following uses require a special permit from the planning board within the APD:

- (a) Above ground storage of more than five hundred (500) gallons of toxic or hazardous materials, fuel oil or gasoline.
- (b) Any residential use with lot size less than the intensity use schedule requires for that particular residential zone.
- (c) Any use except for residential with an estimated sewage disposal greater than ten (10) gallons of sewage per day per one thousand (1,000) square feet of lot area, based on Title V of the State Environmental Code, 310 CMR 15.00.
- (d) Any use which renders impervious more than fifty (50) percent of the total lot area.

4840. Special Permits. Special permits may be granted by the planning board, if the requirements of the APD are met and if the granting of such a permit follows the general intent of the zoning by-law. Prior to granting a special permit, the planning board shall review the proposed control measures and shall determine if these control measures are adequate with respect to possible groundwater contamination if a failure occurred. If the planning board denies a special permit, the reason for denial must be stated. After receiving a special permit application, the planning board shall distribute one (1) copy each to the board of health, the conservation commission and the building inspector for their review. If a response is not received within thirty-five (35) days by these agencies, the planning board will assume the agency approve. A special permit may be granted by the planning board, if, after review of the applications and comments from the board of health, the conservation commission and the building inspector, the planning board finds that the groundwater quality will not fall below state or federal drinking water standards, or if the groundwater quality is below these standards no further degradation of the water will occur.

4841. Special permit application. Eleven (11) copies of the special permit application shall be submitted to the planning board in accordance with section 1250. In addition, the application shall include:

- (a) A complete list of all fuels, chemicals, pesticides, and other potentially toxic or hazardous materials which are being used or stored on the premises in quantities greater than average household use.
- (b) Detailed plans shall be submitted of the storage tank or pipeline being used to store or transport the toxic or hazardous materials, fuels, chemicals or pesticides. These plans should also show how the storage tank or pipeline is protected from corrosion, leaks, spills, and vandalism.
- (c) Evidence of qualified professional supervision of the design and installation of above and below ground storage of toxic and hazardous materials.
- (d) Evidence of qualified professional supervision of the design and installation for any use with an estimated sewage flow greater than one thousand (1,000) gpd (other than single family). Impacts of nitrates, chlorides, and coliforms on groundwater quality must also be addressed.

Cross reference- Application procedure for special permits or variances, section 1250.

and replacing it with the following Section 4800:

SECTION 4800 AQUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT

4810: Purpose of District

Groundwater is the sole source of drinking water to the residents, businesses and industries of the Town of Chelmsford. The purpose of the Aquifer Protection District is to protect the health, safety, and general welfare by protecting the Town's limited present and future drinking water supply; to ensure a sufficient quantity of potable pure drinking water for the present and future residents, institutions, and businesses of the Town of Chelmsford; and to limit the adverse effects of use and development of land on the quality of the groundwater and surface water resources of the Town of Chelmsford.

4820: Scope Of Authority

The Aquifer Protection District is an overlay district superimposed on the zoning districts and whose regulations are in addition to any other regulations established by this Bylaw. This overlay district shall apply to all new construction, reconstruction or expansion of existing buildings and new or expanded uses. Applicable activities or uses in a portion of one of the underlying zoning districts which fall within the Aquifer Protection District must additionally comply with the requirements of this district. Uses that are prohibited in the underlying zoning districts shall not be permitted in the Aquifer Protection District.

4830: Definitions

For the purposes of this section the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

AQUIFER - Geologic formation composed of rock, sand, gravel or other geologic material that contains significant amounts of potentially recoverable water.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE - Material or structure on, above, or below the ground that does not allow precipitation or surface water to penetrate directly into the soil.

TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL OR WASTE- Any substance or mixture of physical, chemical or infectious characteristics posing a significant, actual or potential hazard to water supplies or other hazards to human health if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or water of the Town of Chelmsford. Toxic or hazardous materials include, without limitation, synthetic organic chemicals, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious wastes, acids and alkalis, and all substances defined as Toxic or Hazardous under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 21 C and 21 E and 310 CMR 30.00. For the purposes of this section, sanitary domestic wastes from residential sources shall not be considered toxic or hazardous waste.

4840: Establishment and Delineation of Aquifer Protection District:

There is hereby established within the Town of Chelmsford the Aquifer Protection District. This area is described on a map entitled Aquifer Protection District Town of Chelmsford, dated October, 1997. Said map is incorporated herein by reference.

4850: District Boundary Disputes

If the location of the district boundary in relation to a particular parcel is in doubt, resolution of boundary disputes shall be through a Special Permit application to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Any application for a special permit for this purpose shall be accompanied by adequate documentation according to the normal application requirements of the Board of Appeals. If the applicant is able to demonstrate that groundwater flows will not be impacted by the activity on the site, or that groundwater from the site does not contribute to the aquifer, the Board may grant a special permit relieving the applicant of the obligations of the Aquifer Protection District.

The burden of proof shall be upon the owner(s) of the land in question to show where the bounds should properly be located. At the request of the owner(s), the Town may engage a registered professional engineer, hydrologist, geologist, or soil scientist to determine more accurately the boundaries of the district with respect to individual parcels of land, and may charge the owner(s) for all, or part of the cost of the investigation.

4860: Use Regulations

In the Aquifer Protection District, the following regulations shall apply:

(a) Permitted Uses

The uses permitted within the Aquifer Protection District shall be the uses permitted in the underlying zoning district, and not prohibited by Table 4860(b) below. In the following Table of Use Regulations "O" indicates the use is prohibited, "P" indicates that the use is permitted, and "PB" indicates that the use may only be permitted by a Special Permit from the Planning Board.

TABLE 4860 (b)

USE REGULATIONS WITHIN THE AQUIFER PROTECTION DISTRICT

1.	Sanitary landfill/solid waste disposal site, refuse treatment and disposal facility, landfilling of sludge and septage, storage of sludge and septage.	O
2.	Generation, treatment, disposal or storage of Toxic or Hazard Materials or Waste, except for the following: a) municipal uses associated with the provision of public water and sanitary sewer services; b) very small quantity generators, as defined by 310 CMR 30.00; c) waste oil retention facilities required by MGL Ch. 21S. 52A; d) treatment works approved by DEP designed in accordance with 314 CMR 5.00 for the treatment of contaminated ground or surface waters; e) household hazardous waste collection centers or events operated pursuant to 310 CMR 30.390	O
3.	Motor vehicle repair facility	PB
4.	Automobile graveyards and junkyards as defined in MGL Ch 140B, s. 1	O
5.	Car, truck and equipment washing facility where all wastewater discharges to the municipal sewer system or to a private sewer which discharges to the municipal sewer system or to an approved disposal facility.	PB
6.	Commercial laundries not connected to the municipal sewer system or to a private sewer which discharges to the municipal sewer system.	PB
7.	Dry cleaners with on-site cleaning facilities	PB
8.	Furniture/wood stripping, painting & refinishing	PB
9.	Disposal of snow contaminated with deicing chemicals and originating from outside the district	O
10.	Outdoor storage of fertilizer, animal manure, soil conditioner, pesticide, herbicide and deicing chemicals	O
11.	Chemical, bacteriological or radiological laboratory or production facility	O
12.	Treatment disposal works for non-sanitary wastewater that are subject to 314 CMR 5.00, except replacement or repair of existing treatment works that will not result in a design capacity greater than the existing treatment works, or treatment works approved by Mass. Department of Environmental Protection designed for the treatment of contaminated groundwater or surface water, or treatment works for pretreatment of industrial discharges to the municipal sewer system	O
13.	Individual sewage disposal systems designed and/or maintained in accordance with the current requirements of Title 5 (310 CMR 15)	P
14.	Earth removal, consisting of the removal of soil, loam, sand, gravel, or any other earth material (including mining activities) within four feet of historical high groundwater as determined from monitoring wells and historical water table fluctuation data compiled by the United States Geological Survey, except for excavations for building foundations, roads or utility works	P
15.	The enclosed storage of road salt or other deicing chemicals	PB
16.	Modification of groundwater flow through use of underdrains or similar devices, except that a Special Permit shall not be required to maintain, modify or expand single family residential structures lawfully in existence on the effective date of this section	PB
17.	Enlargement or alteration of existing uses that do not conform to the Aquifer Protection District	PB

18.	Storage of hazardous materials as defined in MGL Ch. 21E, and/or liquid petroleum products unless such storage is: (a) above ground level (b) on an impervious surface, and (c) either (i) in container(s) or above ground tank(s) within a building or (ii) outdoors in covered container(s) or above ground tank(s) in an area that has containment system designed and operated to hold either 10% of the total possible storage capacity of all containers, or 110% of the largest container's storage capacity, whichever is greater; however, these storage requirements shall not apply to replacement of existing tanks or systems for the keeping, dispensing or storing of gasoline provided the replacement is performed in a manner consistent with state and local requirements	O
19.	The construction of dams or other water control devices, ponds, or other changes in water bodies or courses, created for swimming, fishing or other recreational uses, agricultural uses, or drainage improvements	PB
20.	Any use that will render impervious more than 15% or 2,500 square feet of any lot, whichever is greater (see section 4860(c))	PB
21.	Any discharge to the ground through an interior floor drain.	O

(c) Lot Coverage

Any use proposed to render impervious more than 15% or 2500 square feet of any lot, whichever is greater, shall be subject to a Special Permit from the Planning Board. On any such lot a system for groundwater recharge must be provided which does not degrade groundwater quality. Any project drainage design that satisfies the Stormwater Policy issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, dated 11/18/96, and as amended, shall be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this section.

4870: Procedures for Issuance of Special Permits

(a) Special Permit Granting Authority

The Special Permit granting authority under this section of the Zoning By-Law shall be the Planning Board, acting under the Site Plan Review Process, Section 1400. The Planning Board may issue a special permit if it determines that the intent of this by-law, as well as its specific criteria, are met.

(b) Findings

The Planning Board may grant the Special Permit upon a finding that the proposed use meets the following performance standards, those specified in Section 4860, and any regulations or guidelines adopted by the Planning Board. The proposed use:

1. shall not, during construction or thereafter, adversely affect the existing quality or quantity of water that is available in the Aquifer Protection District;
2. shall be designed to avoid substantial disturbances of the soils, topography, drainage, vegetation and other water related natural characteristics of the site to be developed which are likely to affect existing quality or quantity of water that is available in the Aquifer Protection District;
3. shall be designed to meet State and Federal drinking water standards at the property line and
4. shall utilize the Best Management Practices which are available for the proposed use.

Dennis Ready moved to appoint a committee consisting of one representative from each voting precinct to be selected by that precinct's representatives before the close of business for this Annual Town Meeting and one member from the Planning Board to be selected by the Planning Board, and one member from each water district board of commissioners which Committee will elect a chairperson, to study the proposed Aquifer Protection District By-law and make recommendations at the next Annual Town Meeting.

The Acting Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the motion. The Board of Selectmen were in favor of the motion. The Acting Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion defeated.**

Dennis McHugh returned to the Chair and resumed his position of Moderator. Henrick Johnson moved to adjourned the Town Meeting until Monday October 27th, at 7:30 PM at the Senior Center on Groton Road. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the motion to adjourn, motion carried unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 11:10 PM.

Dennis E. McHugh, Moderator

Mary E. St.Hilaire, Town Clerk

Adjourned Annual Town Meeting October 27, 1997

The Adjourned Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center by the Moderator Dennis E. McHugh, at 7:35 PM, who recognized the presence of a quorum. There were 124 Town Meeting Representatives present.

UNDER ARTICLE 25. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning By-law, Town of Chelmsford, Article V, Definitions, Lot area, by deleting "eighty (80)" where it currently appears and replacing it with "ninety (90)".

James Creegan, Member of the Master Plan Review Committee explained the article. Reduces the impact on existing homes. Reduces the impact on wetlands concerns with drainage and erosion and doesn't take away grandfathered lots. The current size is 32,000 sq ft. this would be increased to 36,000 sq ft. From 1992-1996 there were 174 lots created. If this by-law had been in effect 12 would have been eliminated. 9 would have been effected, 2 unaffected. There are 1,500 acres of developed lots left. This by-law would have a positive impact on any future development. Questions were asked. Ronald Wetmore wanted to know why this article was back before the Body again. It had just been defeated recently within the last year, and he questioned the two year time period. James Creegan said that there is a two year wait unless the Planning Board unanimously recommends the article, which in this case it did. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee deferred to wait and hear further debate. The majority of the Board of Selectmen were against the article. Jeffrey Stallard asked that the Selectmen be polled on how they voted: Selectman Lawlor was in favor. Selectman Eliopoulos, Dalton and Gates were against. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article V, Definitions, Lot Area, by deleting "eighty (80)" where it currently appears and replace it with "ninety (90)".

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would change the contiguous dry area requirement from 80% to 90%.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #25.

Robert Morse spoke in favor of the article. Ronald Wetmore spoke against the article. Selectman Lawlor asked that Town Counsel give a brief explanation. Town Counsel Joel Bard explained that this would only effect future lots. Any lots that were approved within the last 8 years are grandfathered. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, which left the Chair in doubt. He asked for the tellers to come forward and conduct a hand count. The following tellers came forward and a hand count was taken. Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, Dorothy Frawley and John Maleski. The result of the hand count: Yes 63 No 54, the **motion defeated**.

UNDER ARTICLE 26. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2110, Official Zoning Map, by changing the following Town-owned parcels from their current zoning classification to P Public:

- 1) Elm Street and Park Road. Map 234; Lot 5, change from RB Single Residence to P Public.
- 2) Park Road, Park Place and Farley Brook Road. Map 164; Lots 1 & 16, change from RB Single Residence to P Public.
- 3) Bartlett Street, Map 170; Lots 19 & 80, change from CD General Commercial to P Public;
- 4) Boston Road, Map 170; Lot 15, change from RB Single Residence to P Public.

Andrew Sheehan, Community Development Coordinator explained that these parcels are Town owned land that should reflect the classification of Public. Number 1 is the Cranberry Bog Reservation. Number 2 is the Chelmsford Country Club. Numbers 3 & 4 are the Adams Library Land. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2110, Official Zoning Map by changing the following Town-owned parcels from their current zoning classification to P Public.

1. Elm Street and Park Road, Map 234, Lot 5 change from RB Single residence to P Public.
2. Park Road, Park Place and Farley Brook Road, Map 164, Lots 1 & 16, change from RB Single residence to P Public.
3. Bartlett Street, Map 170; Lots 19 & 80, change from CD General Commercial to P Public.

4. Boston Road, Map 170; Lot 15, change from RB Single Residence to P Public.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would change the zoning classification of these Town-owned parcels from the current classification to P Public.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #26.

The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 27. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning By-law, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2110, Official Zoning Map, by changing the zoning classification of 162A, 162B, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172 & 174 Mill Road, Map 137, Lots 20, 21, 22 & 23 from P Public to RC General Residence.

Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained that the Fire Department discovered that the above mentioned lots were zoned as Public Town owned land and should be listed as General Residence. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2110, Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning classification of 162A, 162B, 164, 166, 170, 172 and 174 Mill Road, Map 137, Lots 20, 21,22,and 23 from P Public to RC General Residence.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would correct an error on the zoning map by rezoning these parcels consistent with their current use.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #27.

The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 28. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2110, Official Zoning Map, by changing the zoning classification of 143 and 145 Littleton Road, Map 190; Lots 2 & 4, change from P Public to RB Single Residence.

Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained that this was another zoning correction. There are two lots of land privately owned next to the Lime Quarry that were zoned as Public and should be Single Residence. The Moderator asked for the recommendations of the various boards. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2110, Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning classification of 143 and 145 Littleton Road, Map 190; Lots 2 & 4 from P public to RB Single Residence.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would correct an error on the zoning map by rezoning the lots at Littleton Road consistent with their current use.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #28.

The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously.**

UNDER ARTICLE 29. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2110, Official Zoning Map, by changing the zoning classification of 95 Boston Road & Acton Road, Map 169; Lot 9, from RB Single Residence to RA Single Residence.

Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained that the Master Plan Review Committee had reviewed this parcel of land and felt that the zoning should be changed from RB Single Residence to RA Single Residence. The difference in the zones are the requirements regarding square feet of buildable land. RB is 40,000 square feet and RA is 60,000 square feet. This property contains fifty-six acres which includes 28% wetland or high land. Under the present RB zone there are twenty buildable lots. Under the RA zone requirements there would be 14 buildable lots. Ronald Wetmore asked if this was the "Warren Land" in question? Yes it was. Dennis Ready wanted to know if the Committee was presenting any more privately owned land for rezoning? Yes this article and the next article one will be the only two for this meeting. Land in the Pine Hill Road area will be addressed at the Spring of 1998 Town Meeting. Numerous questions were asked. Was the owner aware of the proposed change. Yes he was. He said that he was not planning on developing the land, mainly concern on the effect if any this would have on his property taxes. Could the owner challenge the rezoning at a later date? Town Counsel Joel Bard said he could challenge the change but may not be successful. The Town did as required. Held a public hearing after advertising it for two weeks prior. It was the intent of the Master Plan Review Committee to identify areas which still had a rural character. A lower density would have more effect then a higher one. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. A majority of the Board of Selectmen recommended against the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2110, Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning classification of 95 Boston Road and Acton Road, Map 169; Lot 9, from RB Single Residence to RA Single Residence.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would rezone these lots from medium density residential to low density residential.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #29.

David McLachlan spoke in favor of the article. A discussion took place. Peter Dulchinos and Wendy Marcks, members of the Master Plan Review Committee spoke in favor of the article. They expressed that the Committee's purpose was to preserve the Town's open space but not discourage future building. Glenn Thoren felt that the Committee should show all the land that the Committee wanted to rezone all at once, not parcel by parcel. Claire Jeannotte and Liz Marshall spoke in favor. Philip Eliopoulos and Kim MacKenzie spoke in favor. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, which left the Chair in doubt. He asked for the tellers to come forward and conduct a hand count. The following tellers came forward and a hand count was taken. Patricia Plank, Lucy Simonian, Dorothy Frawley and John Maleski The result of the hand count: Yes 91 No 28 2/3's is 79 the **motion carried.**

UNDER ARTICLE 30. Planning Board Member Robert Morse moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Town of Chelmsford, Article II, District Regulations, Section 2110, Official Zoning Map, by changing the zoning classification of 79 Elm Street, Map 232, Lot 30, from RB Single Residence to RA Single Residence.

Andrew Sheehan Community Development Coordinator explained that this article was about thirty acres of land, which included wetland. Present zoning would allow 24 lots. If changed then there would be 19 lots. Glenn Thoren questioned if the land owner was aware of the proposed change? Andrew Sheehan said that he hadn't personally spoken with the land owner. The only notification had been the advertisement and the public hearing. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article. A majority of the Board of Selectmen were against the article. Kim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Planning Board read the Planning Board's recommendation:

The Planning Board of the Town of Chelmsford held a public hearing on September 24, 1997 at 7:15 PM to consider amending the Town of Chelmsford Zoning Bylaw, Article II District Regulations Section 2110, Official Zoning Map by changing the zoning classification of 79 Elm Street, Map 232; Lot 30 from RB Single Residence to RA Single Residence.

A legal advertisement was published in the Chelmsford Independent on September 4, 1997 and September 11, 1997, a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing. A copy of the legal ad was mailed to all abutting cities and towns and to the appropriate agencies as required in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5.

The proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the proponents, residents and the Planning Board at the meetings on September 24, 1997 and October 8, 1997.

The proposed amendment would rezone this lot from medium density residential to low density residential.

The public hearing closed on October 8, 1997 and the Board rendered its Decision. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend article #30.

The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, this left the Chair in doubt. The tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. Yes 67 No 47 2/3's is 76, **motion defeated.**

UNDER ARTICLE 31. Selectman Peter Lawlor moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,100,000 for the purpose of acquiring in fee simple a certain parcel of land located on Oak Hill Road, shown as lot 1 on Assessor's Map 77, containing 66.37 acres more or less and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds in Book LCD10, Page 5995; and a certain parcel of land located on Tyngsborough Road, shown as lot 2 on Assessor's Map 8, containing 10.8 acres more or less and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds in Book 2560, Page 143 and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire said parcels of land by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$1,100,000. under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 (3), and that the Town Manager be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

Selectman Peter Lawlor explained that this involved 66.37 acres of land off of Ledge Road/ Oak Hill Rd area. Also a 10.8 acreage parcel by the Southwell Fields Recreational area. The owner of the land is Raymond Carye and related entities. Selectman Lawlor explained that the large acre is zoned IA and is before the Planning Board for Development. It would be in the Town's best interest to keep the land open and undeveloped. The Town may have a future use if necessary for a municipal building or school. A part of the land abuts up to residential development. The Town paid for its own appraiser to protect the Town's interest. The appraiser said that the land is worth between \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 dollars. The other land would enhance the Southwell Recreational Field. Raymond Carye owes the Town back property taxes. James Doukszewicz asked how much was owed? The Town Manager said \$1.3million. He explained that \$98,000 is owed on the smaller parcel and other properties owed throughout the Town make the up the \$1.3 million. The taxes are paid on the sixty-six acres. The purchase would be done by eliminating the tax debt. It is a friendly transaction. A number of Representatives spoke in favor of the article. The Finance Committee supported the article. The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the article. Michael McCall said that this was a win win situation, due to the persistence of the residents in the area contacting their Town Meeting Representatives and Town Officials everyone will benefit. Jeffrey Stallard a board member of the North Congregational Church, said that the Church owns property that directly abuts this land and that the Church fully supported the land remaining as open space.

The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands. **He declared that the vote passed by way of the 2/3's rule.**

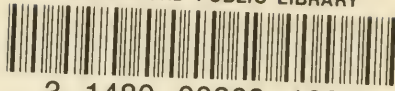
Seeing that there was no further business at hand the Moderator declared the meeting closed, and moved to adjourn the meeting. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, **motion carried, unanimously**. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Dennis E. McHugh, Moderator

Mary E. St.Hilaire, Town Clerk



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For Reference

Not to be taken

from this library

“Disabled individuals requiring auxiliary aides to fully benefit from the Town of Chelmsford’s programs should contact the Personnel Coordinator at 250-5288. It is necessary to give the request at least one week in advance.”