

Annual Report by the Town Manager

Fiscal Year 2005

Greetings to All Gray Citizens;

It is my privilege to report the general administration of the Town during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 indicated strong fiscal integrity as well as being responsive to the continually increased demands placed upon the services being provided. The demand trend has continued for the past few years and can be witnessed by the number of building permits being issued as well the real estate transaction in our town.

As reported in the State of the Town Report in January, 2005 the management of the Town was working towards a complete revision of the Town's website, www.graymaine.org. I am pleased to report that the new site is up and running and we will continue to add new features that allow you to access information at your convenience.

The Council remained focus on their efforts to amend several of the town's zones and the official map, while working towards a resolution about the Pennell Institute. The extended and costly winter weather was a challenge but met successfully by the Public Works staff. The addition of the new sand and salt shed aided in their efforts. The Transfer Station and the Solid Waste Committee continued to serve residents and prepared for the requirements of universal waste collection effective July 1, 2005.

The Town initially contracted its code enforcement services and then hired Mr. Paul White on a full time basis just after the end of the fiscal year. Planning Board activity is at an all time high with many new subdivision applications to process. The number of transactions at the Town Office counters appears to be on a steady rise. Library and Recreation Services continue to be in demand and provide a wide range of

opportunities. Our Public Safety services reports a very busy year as they move towards the 125th anniversary of Gray Fire and Rescue. Their commitment is best described by the terms protection and service. Jon Barton brought recognition to Gray as he completed his term as President of the New England Fire Chiefs Association.

When looking at our tax rate it is important to look at three fiscal years. First, the Town Meeting approved a reduction in town expenditures which set the tone for a town side reduction in FY 2005. During the year we witnessed profound changes coming out of Augusta which guided the preparation in the proposed budget ('06) for the June 2005 Town Meeting. As expected the overall tax rate was projected to decrease from Fiscal Year 2004 to 2005 and with the new state aid to education, the tax rate was further reduced. We now know the decrease of \$1.00 to a rate of \$12.40 occurred for FY 2006.

The charts below indicate what the tax collection changes were from 2004-2005. They indicate where your local tax dollars go. We expect this trend to continue in 2006.

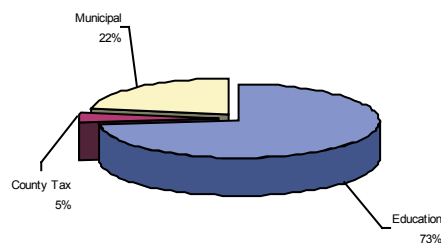
All of the town's services report increased demands which is reflective of this community being at the "Cross Roads of its History". Gray must move forward with solid plans for growth and services. From the Council who adopt policies to the many staff who deliver your services, we are prepared to meet the challenges of our future and must continue to work together for that success.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mitchell A.

Town Manager

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