

# Country Journal

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HUNTINGTON

## Police Chief offers warning

Garriepy advises policy does not meet new state standards

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Returning Police Chief Robert Garriepy met with the Huntington Select Board at their Wednesday, Sept. 23 meeting and advised them that the town's Use of Force policy is not aligned with standards in new state policies.

He said that he and former Chief Brian Kowal had brought all of the policies up to date during Kowal's first year. But Police Officer Standards and Training now mandates that municipal policies be aligned with new state policies, Garriepy said.

He needs to report this to the state on Friday, Sept. 25, which does not allow time for the policy to be updated, reviewed by legal council and approved by the Select Board.

Garriepy said he will file the report with that policy listed as non-compliant. Select Board Chairman Roger Booth said to tell them that the town just got a new police chief and that work is underway.

"The state is never thinking to reach out to smaller communities," Garriepy said.

Selectman Rob Drabiuk offered to work with Garriepy on aligning the two policies. He can create an automated process to compare the two documents so that

**WARNING**, page 2

HUNTINGTON



Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

Above, Finance Committee members Andre Alguero and Bonnie Boguszewski counted the ballots on the firetruck debt exclusion vote, as Moderator George Peterson looks on. Right, Selectman/Deputy Fire Chief John McVeigh Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger fielded questions from voters regarding funding sought to replace a 30 year-old fire truck at the Norwich Hill Fire Station.



## Vote for new firetruck fails

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington's Special Town Meeting opened on a somber note on Monday, Sept. 21 with Selectman John McVeigh announcing that Andre "Andy" Girouard had an accident while working on the kitchen ceiling fans at Stanton Hall.

He had been up in the attic and fell through the ceiling. Fortunately, other people were in Stanton Hall setting up for the

Special Town Meeting and the ambulance was called immediately.

McVeigh said Girouard was in critical, but stable condition in the ICU. A prayer was led by Huntington resident Pastor Eric Little of the Cornerstone Christian Church in Chester.

A STM article asked voters to again consider a debt exclusion to purchase and equip a new fire engine for Station 2 on Norwich Hill in Huntington. Approval was sought to appropriate \$850,000 to purchase and

equip the new fire engine.

As required, the measure had passed by a majority vote during the town's ballot election last spring and now required a 2/3rds vote at a town meeting. Once again, the majority of voters approved the measure but failed to meet the 2/3 approval required.

The STM had 84 registered voters attend and vote. A newly formatted voting card allowed voters to check Yes or No on the

**FAILS**, page 2

BLANDFORD

## Select Board hears about tree work

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Chester/Blandford Police Sgt. Frank Murphy met with the Select Board at the Monday, Sept. 21 meeting to inform the board of the tree work and road closure of Beech Hill Road through last week-end.

All emergency personnel had been notified as well. Murphy said that a crane involved in tree cutting would take from seven to ten minutes to move. Eversource was responsible for the tree cutting.

The road was closed to all traffic except residents.

Building has begun on the solar farm on Chester Road.

**Highway/  
Fire Station project**

The Select Board will take on the highway/fire station project going forward. According to Chair Jackie Coury, who did not want to put another committee together, the board will take the lead and "how do we want to manage it going forward?"

They would like to have someone from town, who has construction background participating along with the Fire Department, Highway Departments. Coury cited

the need for an Owners Project Manager and an engineering team.

Member Corinne Shartrand stressed the "need for accountability."

The board will have an information session for the town on Friday, Nov. 13.

**Veterans programs**

Discussion on programs for the town's Veterans included a plea from Shartrand to have local Veterans reach out to her as the list of Veterans' names and addresses is not public information.

The board has funds available for use for Veterans and Veterans programs and Clerk Ted Cousineau wanted to know what kinds of programs might be available for in-town. Shartrand proposed a list of "what we can provide."

**Job descriptions**

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera brought to the board's attention that two job descriptions for the Water Department have been posted and there are already several applicants, one for a Water Manager and the other for a Water Laborer.

**Highway Department**

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay told the board of required

**SELECT BOARD**, page 7

HUNTINGTON

## Huntington Town Administrator issues scam alert on town website

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin issued a scam alert on the town website after business owner Rosemary Barrett stopped in on Thursday, Sept. 17 over an emailed bill for \$4,950 she had received, purportedly from the town.

Peloquin said she reviewed the email and

assured Barrett that it was a scam and she did not need to pay the bill. Barrett had recently applied for a special permit, Peloquin said.

Peloquin then posted a scam alert on the home page of the town's website. It read, "We want to make local residents and businesses aware of a fraudulent email circulating that appears to come from the Town of Huntington Zoning

Board of Appeals and Town Clerk. The email references a special permit application in Huntington and requests payment of an "Application Review and Approval Fee."

"It instructs the recipient to reply to the email to obtain payment instructions and then send the receipt back by email."

The notice told residents to not send money, not provide banking or personal

information, not reply to the email and to not open attachments or click any links.

It went on. "If you receive something like this, verify it by contacting the relevant Town department directly using contact information from www.huntingtonma.us or call the Select Board/Town Administrator office at 413-512-5200.

Peloquin has further advised people to careful-

ly check the address that the email is sent from. "In this case, the sender name was listed as "Town of Huntington, MA (Zoning Board of Appeals)" but the email address was

**SCAM**, page 3



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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Yvette stands on top of a boulder at Boulder Park in Chester during one of the Hilltown Hikers summer hikes.



Hilltown hikers explore the Woroncco Potholes one of the most amazing Hilltown rock formations.



Submitted photos  
Stephanie looks out over Round Rocks in New Ashford.

## Looking back at an eventful summer

This summer was jam packed full of adventure nature and history for the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers.

The Hilltown Hikers took on new adventures including Westfield River Paddling, Deerfield River tubing and some great rock hounding and historical journeys.

At the end of the day, it's just the local Hilltown Hikers discovering new amazing places. Over the years we have pretty much tried everything out there and I can tell you it has kept us young.

Bottom line the best place to live and play is right here in Western Mass on the west side of the Connecticut River. So what does the group do?

The Western Mass Hilltown Hikers connect people with recreation and education. For fifteen years, we have hosted monthly public hikes and tours that highlight the regions most remarkable places including the National Historic Landmark Keystone Arch Bridges Trail and the annual First Day Hike at Sanderson Brook Falls in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit since 2019, they conserve land, preserve historic sites and share the stories that define the Hilltowns. Founded by Karen McTaggart and Liz Massa,



Above, Littleville Lake and Dam in Huntington and Chester was great for a kayaking adventure. Left, they enjoyed tubing on the Deerfield River and survived it.



South Worthington Falls was another summer destination for the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers



The Hilltown Hikers never can resist climbing boulder at Flag Rock in Housatonic.



The Hilltown Hikers can never resist an old growth tree at Stone Hill in Williamstown

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