

# *TORRINGTON CONNECTICUT*



## *ANNUAL REPORT*

2014 – 2015



## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014 - 2015 Annual Report



### *From the Office of the Mayor*

Greetings! It is hard to believe that another year has flown by. This past year, Torrington continued to grow and progress in many ways. We continued our efforts to clean and repurpose contaminated brownfield properties, invested in infrastructure, and celebrated a few very special milestones.

During the last year, the city remained committed to brownfield redevelopment. This is a priority of my administration and an area in which we have achieved great results. Through the hard work of our Economic Development Director, the city was the recipient of a \$100,000 Brownfield Assessment grant which will help to assess and identify contaminants in a former dry cleaning property in downtown Torrington. Through the assessment and cleaning of these properties, we are working to return underutilized parcels into higher tax revenue producing properties that increase our grand list and spur economic development. This year also saw the demolition of blighted properties such as the former duckpin bowling alley and the Nidec property located on Franklin Drive adjacent to the Naugatuck River. These buildings sat vacant and deteriorating for many years. The demolition and the planned cleanup of the Nidec site will make this property more attractive to developers and further advance our vision of recapturing the riverfront, increasing our tax base, and creating valuable green space with trails along the river's edge.

I have remained vigilant in my efforts to secure funding for infrastructure improvements. The addition of a budget allocation for this purpose will provide for sidewalk improvements, river levee maintenance and road repaving in areas that need it most. It is imperative that we maintain and grow our infrastructure to ensure that our community is safe, accessible, and attractive.

In September of 2015, the city completed a refinancing of municipal bonds from a construction project several years ago. Through this process, we are able to save the City of Torrington nearly \$400,000 over the next several

years. I'm proud of the hard work of city staff, and our treasurer in making this happen. Being fiscally responsible is not simply about trying to cut spending, but also about making smart moves with our bonds and investments. Torrington taxpayers deserve leaders who will be proactive and strategic with our finances and I'm proud that we have been able to lead on this issue.

The City of Torrington celebrated our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a wonderful day of events organized by our Municipal Historian Ken Buckbee and a number of amazing volunteers. It was great to be a part of such a special event in our town's history and I know that many residents enjoyed being a part of it as well.

With the groundbreaking and construction of the new Litchfield County Courthouse, the City of Torrington is poised to experience a surge in economic activity in our downtown. This project, administered by the State of Connecticut, will be completed in 2016 and will result in nearly 300 employees working in Torrington, a boost to our local economy. I'm excited to see this project, which has been in the works for many years, come to fruition.

This is an exciting time for Torrington. We are seeing new industries grow and expand, our arts and culture scene flourishes, and we are investing in our community to prepare for the next 275 years ahead of us. As always, I'm immensely grateful to the many citizens, businesses, and civic groups that help to make Torrington a great community for all.

*Warmest regards,*

*Elinor Carbone  
Mayor*

CITY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**

*Mayor – Elinor C. Carbone*

*Administrative Aide – Timothy Waldron*

*Secretary – Maurette Wall*

**CITY COUNCIL**

*Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, Anne Ruwet,*

*Paul Samele, Jr., Christopher Anderson, Drake Waldron*

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

*William Lamoin, Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka,*

*Thomas Scoville, Frank Rubino, Joshua Ferreira*

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

*Angelo LaMonica, Richard Zaharek, Douglas Benedetto,*

*Robert Conforti, Glenn McLeod, Darlene Battle*

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**ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT**

Assessor: Donna L Patchen, CCMA II

Deputy Assessor: Gail Sartori, CCMA II

The Torrington Assessment Department's primary mission is to discover, list, and value all taxable and non-taxable real property, business personal property, and motor vehicles within the city. This function involves maintaining accurate configurations of land and ownership, and establishing valuations upon which the city levies its property taxes. The office provides important mapping, parcel data, and ownership/assessment information and assistance to taxpayers and government agencies.

Assessments are compiled annually into a document known as the Grand List. We strive to develop values with fairness and impartiality in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut. The individual assessments in the Grand List represent an individual taxpayer's property tax liability. The office also administers certain state and local tax exemption programs for the blind, totally disabled, elderly homeowners, local option freeze, State freeze, local option veterans, State veterans, local veterans, farm land, forest land, Enterprise Corridor zone, MME exemptions, 490 farm building exemption and manufacturer's equipment and machinery.

The Assessor's office is used by a wide range of professionals as well as individual taxpayers.

Customer Volume

The office generated approximately \$1,998 in copying fees (e.g. copies of property record cards, tax maps, etc.) which is submitted to the City's General Fund. Most of this revenue literally comes across the counter \$1 at a time and represents the large volume of customers we serve throughout the year. The office wrote approximately 2,368 Certificates of Correction during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Most of these were motor vehicle related.

2013 Grand List Totals

Here are the assessment totals for the 2013 Grand List of taxable property. The Net Taxable Value of \$2,376,949,095.

ASSESSMENTS:

Real Estate	2,041,731,570
Personal Property	184,343,560
Motor Vehicle	<u>215,659,986</u>
<b>Gross Grand List</b>	<b>2,441,735,116</b>

EXEMPTIONS:

Real Estate	24,173,350
Personal Property	36,721,540
Motor Vehicle	<u>3,891,131</u>
Total Exemptions	64,786,021
<b>Net Taxable Grand List</b>	<b>2,376,949,095</b>

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes the City is required to implement a full physical revaluation of all property in the City every ten years and an interim statistical revaluation every 5 years. The City contracted with Total Valuation Services in Waterbury, to collect all data, physically inspect and assist the Assessor in the 2008 Grand List valuation process. However; the new assessed values were implemented for October 1, 2009. The next scheduled "interim" City-wide revaluation will be for the Grand List of 2014.

The Assessor's office continues to update the website, [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org) Choose 'Departments', then 'Assessor'. The Assessor's Office offers various types of forms for your use, in a printable version. We also offer multiple pages of information and answers to most frequently asked questions. If the specific information you are looking for is not available, please feel free to call our office (860) 489-2222 to obtain the most current information regarding all State and Local programs.

Donna Patchen, CCMA II  
City Assessor

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**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

*Brett Zuraitis, Building Official*

*John Palladino, Building Inspector*

*Ed Scarpati, Building & Electrical Inspector*

*Emily Barbero, Senior Account Clerk*

*Brenda Summers, Senior Account Clerk*

The Building Department's primary function is to protect life and property. It is also to ensure that first responders have an environment to function as safely as possible in the event of emergencies. The Building Department inspects all buildings, single family to apartments, commercial to industrial.

Public safety is vital. The purpose of the department is to establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress, facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment.

Hazards of existing facilities are addressed as a team effort and the department has a good working relationship with TAHD, the Fire Marshal, Police, the ZEO, Yankee Gas, and CL&P, to name a few.

A joint committee headed by the Building Official has rewritten many ordinances to effectively work as a team and to foster better communications.

The Building Department works to help resolve tenant/landlord disputes. This department also has the final say on relocation issues.

The department works with State Marshals in eviction proceedings.

Located on the second floor in City Hall, the door is always open during business hours and the staff makes every effort to answer and assist the Public.

Collections of permit fees help defray the cost of services given by the department. On average, the department issues 1900 permits per year. Revenue on average is approximately \$350,000.00.

Inspections and site visits average 2460 per year. This does not include complaint-driven inspections.

Compliance is the priority of the department and we have a good working relationship with both the State Attorney's Office and the City Corporation Counsel.

*The staff has expertise  
in all phases of  
construction, and  
mechanical and  
electrical installations.  
They are available to  
answer questions on  
code issues.*

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*OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK*



*Joseph L. Quartiero, City & Town Clerk*

*Carol L. Anderson, Asst. City Clerk*

*Pam Prevuznak, Senior Acct. Clerk*

*Lynn Florio, Senior Acct. Clerk*

*Ruth Febroriello, Senior Acct. Clerk*

*City Clerk Revenue for year 2014 – 2015*

Conveyance Tax	\$220,051.39
Copies	\$ 31,632.00
Notary Fees	\$ 1,010.00
Dog Licenses	\$ 20,351.50
Marriage Licenses	\$ 1,804.00
Sports Licenses	\$ 10,063.00
Recording Fees	\$236,191.00
Vital Record Fees	\$103,415.00
Comm. Investment Acct.	\$ 23,224.00
Historic Pres. Acct.	\$ 4,981.00
<b>TOTAL CITY MONEY</b>	<b>\$652,722.90</b>

*STATE MONIES COLLECTED*

MERS Fees	\$ 81,385.00
Historic Pres. Fees	\$ 14,943.00
Conveyance Tax	\$813,112.98
<b>TOTAL STATE MONEY</b>	<b>\$909,440.95</b>



City Clerk Land Record images dating back to 1988, and index listing dating back to 1936 are available and can be purchased online.

Visit [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org) to access land records and learn how to obtain certified copies of birth, death & marriage certificates.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

*The office operates as the cornerstone of Municipal Government, in touch with and on track with Legislative responsibilities and operations.*

The Town/City Clerk's Office has been and continues to be one of the most important offices in government. The wide variety of services provided by this office is what makes it so unique. The office serves as a revenue collector for both local and state government. It acts as a liaison between the public and other branches of government. The clerk is tasked with maintaining the historical documents pertinent to the municipality and its citizens.

The Town/City Clerk's Office is one that needs to remain versatile and adapt to changing technologies and laws, all the while maintaining the level of service that is expected by its constituents.

ELECTIONS:

The Town/City Clerk performs a wide range of election duties including preparing the ballot and verifying the candidates' names, issuing and tracking absentee ballots, reporting the totals by district and identifying any discrepancies.

LAND RECORDS:

The town's most important documents are entrusted to the Town/City Clerk. Whether it is a marriage license, birth of a child or buying the home of your dreams, the Town Clerk's Office will have what you need.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Town/City Clerk maintains the town's meeting minutes and lists of members for the Board of Councilmen, the Board of Public Safety, and the Board of Finance. The Town Clerk is also the Secretary to the Police and Firemen's Pension Fund and the City Employees' Retirement Fund. The Town/City Clerk is also the Agent for Service to the Town. The Town Clerk issues and maintains a wide variety of records including Dog Licenses, Liquor Permits, Trade Name Certificates, Notary Public Lists, Justice of the Peace Lists, Campaign Financing Reports, Lists of Elected Officials and Lists of all City Committee members.

When someone has a question for the town, chances are the Town Clerk will know how to help them get the right answer. Customer Service and Satisfaction are the focal point of the Clerk's Office.

*"No other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager (when there is one), and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon the Clerk, almost daily, for some service or information. The work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together."*

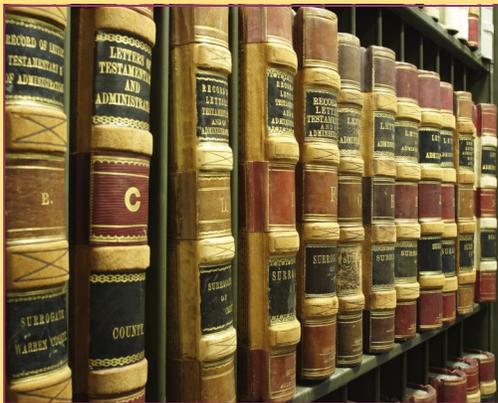


CORPORATION COUNSEL

*Corporation Counsel: Ray Rigat*

*Administrative Assistant: Elaine Fabiaschi*

The Corporation Counsel office serves as the chief legal advisor of and the attorney for the City and all City officers and departments in matters relating to their official duties. The Office of the Corporation Counsel works closely with all departments of the City government and provides preventative and proactive counsel to the City Council, Board of Finance, Board of Public Safety, and also provides legal support to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Inland Wetlands and Zoning Enforcement office, and all other boards, commissions, committees, and municipal agencies as well.

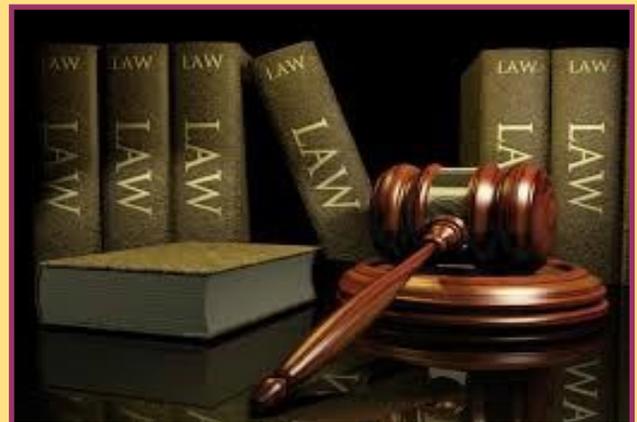


The Corporation Counsel acts as the legal advocate for the City in suits involving individual claims against the City, brings suits on behalf of the City, and coordinates the services of outside legal counsel.



The Corporation Counsel is responsible for research and writing legal opinions; review and drafting of ordinances, contracts, agreements and various other legal documents.

In addition, the Corporation Counsel oversees and facilitates the City's acquisition and sale of property, including the acquisition of certain easements and assists other departments in the enforcement of the law.



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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Economic Development

*Economic Development Director –  
Erin Wilson (February 2014 to Present)  
Administrative Assistant –  
Elaine Fabiaschi*

#### Economic Development Commission

*Members – Bill Battle, Ed Cannata,  
Dawn Gutowski, JoAnn Ryan, Nancy  
Sieller, Lisa Soliani, Christopher Beyus*

#### Arts & Culture Commission

*Members – Jacque Williams, Kim  
McAllister, Mike McAllister, William  
Haygood, Ed Cannata, Fiona de Merell,  
Marie Soliani, Vincent Chaigne*

*The mission of the Torrington Office of Economic Development is to provide extensive support to current and prospective businesses of all sizes. The Office is charged with diversifying the City's tax base, creating new employment opportunities and strengthening Torrington's role as the regional heart of Litchfield County. The Office acts as a Community liaison for public, private and not-for-profit entities.*

#### Business Climate

The City of Torrington is the hub of Connecticut's Northwest Region and is an ideal place to start or expand a business. Torrington provides direct access to affordable commercial, industrial and retail properties; a dedicated and skilled workforce; outstanding educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities; and offers competitive business incentives to new and expanding companies.

#### Pro-Business Climate

Mayor Carbone has continued to support business and promote a pro-business environment in the City of Torrington. Over the past year, we have seen over 62 new businesses open in Torrington including restaurants, medical facilities, manufacturers, and locally-owned businesses. In addition, we have seen several businesses expanding their operations and/or new ownerships of existing businesses.

#### New in 2015:

In 2015 the City finalized the first phase of the 100 Franklin Street remediation project that utilized a \$630,000 EPA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) under the

City's RLF program. More notably, the City was able to save our RLF program by utilizing the \$630,000 of funds which ultimately will be paid back in order to utilize those funds in the future for other brownfield projects. On August 2, 2014 the City completed the remediation efforts for which a 45 parking space parking lot was utilized as an environmental cap which now supports local businesses along the Franklin Street area. The City then went on and was awarded an additional \$1,000,000 from the State Department of Economic and Community Development to continue our clean-up efforts for phase 2 of the project. An additional \$100,000 was awarded to perform assessment work for the former Nidec Corporation property at 100 Franklin Drive. Combined, both 100 Franklin Street and 100 Franklin Drive equate to approximately nine acres of riverfront redevelopment. Once cleaned, the City envisions that these properties would be redeveloped with private investment which will not only increase the tax base but also revitalize the riverfront. The City has named this project the Riverfront Recapture Project and has focused its efforts on this area specifically.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In January 2015, the City was awarded a \$10,000 Historic Preservation of Place Grant from the CT Main Street Center (partially funded by the Department of Economic and Community Development) in order to do a market review and downtown branding & imaging study. The City contracted with The Causeway Agency in May of 2015 and the project kicked off in June of 2015. The project is expected to close out in September of 2015. The overall goal of the project is to understand the downtown businesses and property owners and to identify how residents, businesses and visitors perceive the downtown area as a way to understand how the City brands and markets its downtown. The intent of the study is not to recreate the Arts Placemaking Grant, rather expand upon the "It's Happening Here" campaign.

Main Street Marketplace continues to be a wonderful summer event. First implemented in 2010 by Torrington's Arts Culture Torrington Commission (ACT), it continued to grow even more popular. In 2014, the City moved the event north on Main Street and included theme nights each week. Every Thursday evening in July and August from 5-9 PM, Main Street is transformed into a European open air market, complete with street performers, jazz concerts, artisans, Farmer's Market vendors, and outside dining cafes. One of its many goals was to prove that downtown can be vibrant. This highly successful event brought close to 3000 visitors to Torrington every week. Local merchants experienced increased sales, and greater visibility. The community enjoyed the many attractions that were offered and investors became interested in Torrington.

Due to an eminent sidewalk streetscape project for Main Street and the focused revitalization of Franklin Street, the City plans to relocate Main Street Marketplace to Franklin Street for the summer of 2015. With that, in March of 2015, the City worked with a local artist, Maurice Casas to re-brand Main Street Marketplace to The Marketplace to make the event flexible for any relocations.



Business Incentives

In an effort to attract, retain, and expand business Torrington offers a number of business incentives that include the following:

Enterprise Zone

The City of Torrington and the Town of Winchester were designated in July of 2005 as an Enterprise Corridor Zone. This designation allows the municipality to provide incentive benefits for eligible business relocation/expansion projects within the zone. Eligible businesses, including manufacturers, warehouse distributors, and certain designated service-related businesses are eligible for the following benefits:

- A 5-year, 80% abatement of local property taxes on all qualifying real and personal property that are new to the grand list of the City of Torrington as a direct result of a business relocation or an expansion or renovation project.
- A 10-year, 25% or 50% credit on that portion of the Connecticut Corporate Business Tax that is directly attributable to the business relocation, expansion or renovation project as determined by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services and as provided under section 12-217(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- In 2015, one new business/property owner took advantage of the program. Currently, 5 property owners are obtaining real estate abatements while 7 businesses are taking advantage of the personal property tax relief.

*The goal of the Zone is to expand the commercial industrial base and to help lower the tax burden on the business community by revitalizing once-productive industrial areas.*

Façade Program

In 2012, Torrington was awarded a \$500,000 Façade Improvement grant from the State of Connecticut. By 2015 all the funds were allocated and property owners were wrapping up their projects. The program is designed to improve and beautify the exterior appearance of store fronts and commercial buildings while preserving their architectural heritage. This grant resulted in over 38 businesses and organizations located throughout Torrington receiving funds to improve the exterior of their

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

properties such as, landscaping, window replacement and signage. Total project costs equated to \$1.4 million of private investment where approximately \$460,000 was rebated back to these businesses. The Façade Improvement program also aims to utilize local contractors to perform improvement work. This program has been a great benefit to many businesses throughout the City of Torrington and is expected to fully close out in the fall of 2015.



#### Assistance to Small Businesses

The City of Torrington offers low interest financing for eligible small businesses through the Litchfield Hills Regional Micro-Loan Program. The purpose of the program is to diversify the economic base, create and retain jobs (especially for low- and moderate-income persons), and encourage and leverage private investment.

#### Brownfield Remediation Programs

Between 2014 and 2015 the City has begun to ramp up its brownfield remediation efforts. Some neighborhoods that once housed employed industrial workers now contain large vacant abandoned campuses, which contain environmental contaminants that are preventing redevelopment and the creation of new job opportunities. The City is committed to revitalizing our neighborhoods especially those affected by these vacant manufacturing spaces. Previously, the City was awarded two grants to achieve this very important goal.

Brownfield Assessment Grants: The assessment grant allowed Torrington to develop an inventory of brownfield properties, from which properties were prioritized and assessed in a streamlined and cost-effective manner in order to facilitate the properties' redevelopment. The assessment funds were fully utilized and the program ended in the earlier part of 2013.

Brownfield's Revolving Loan Fund: The Revolving Loan Fund will provide Torrington the ability to offer the necessary incentives to allow interested parties to undergo the clean-up expense of these sites and the ultimate redevelopment of them. The Revolving Loan fund will offer low

interest loans to eligible parties to clean and redevelop abandoned or vacant sites. In early 2014, the City of Torrington borrowed against the Revolving Loan fund in order to leverage funding for future loans. The City was able to borrow approximately \$630,000 which will be paid back over the next 10 years. This will allow the City of Torrington to provide small loans and grants to support the redevelopment of brownfield properties in the community. At the end of 2015, the City began repayment of this loan.



In early 2015, the City of Torrington was awarded two grants from the State Department of Economic and Community Development to further focus our efforts on brownfield remediation. The City was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant to continue our clean-up efforts at 100 Franklin Street. The City was only able to remediate 1/3 of the property and the state stepped in to continue that effort in order for the City to take back our riverfront and begin to revitalize the Franklin Street area. Lastly, the State awarded the City a \$100,000 assessment grant in order to further investigate the former Nidec Corporation property that sits adjacent to the City's 100 Franklin Street. Both grants are expected to kick off at the end of 2015 and early parts of 2016.

For more information about doing business in Torrington, please contact the Mayor's Office at (860) 489-2228, or visit the city's webpage at [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org).

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### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Engineering Department's mission is to provide professional, well-organized and the most cost effective municipal engineering services to the citizens of Torrington as well as other Divisions and Departments of the City. Our objectives include being good stewards of the public infrastructure and using state-of-the-art technologies and construction materials to produce longer lasting and cost effective infrastructure improvements. Objectives include providing engineering services within budget and required timeframe while protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Torrington.

*We also strive to administer and uphold the City's ordinances, policies and regulations in a consistent manner without compromising the intent of such standards. Our goals include providing dependable and high-quality customer service.*

The Engineering Department provides a high level of expertise required in the planning, design and administration of public infrastructure improvement projects. The Engineering staff provides technical services to City Departments, Boards and Commissions and is responsible for ensuring compliance with established standards and specifications of the City of Torrington. The Engineering office personnel provide information on City services to the public and document complaints from residents for further investigation and response. The staff monitors and inspects the construction of all improvements that are to become part of the City's infrastructure system and maintains those plans, maps and files. Responsibilities include coordination with utility companies on scheduling their utility infrastructure upgrades with City street paving work. The Engineering Department maintains the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) and provides GIS-based database and mapping support to town residents, consultants, contractors and City Departments.



*Jerry Rollett, Public Works Director*

*Ed Fabbri, City Engineer*

*Matt Walsh, Asst. City Engineer*

*Mark Zordan, Engineer Assistant*

*Dale Carter, Engineer Assistant*

*Dave Scherf, Manager GIS/TECH Services*

*Mary Zordan, Senior Secretary*

*Linda Albert, Senior Secretary*



# CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

*Treasurer – Art Mattiello*

*Deputy Treasurer – Sheryl Lewis*

*Comptroller – Alice Proulx*

*Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper*

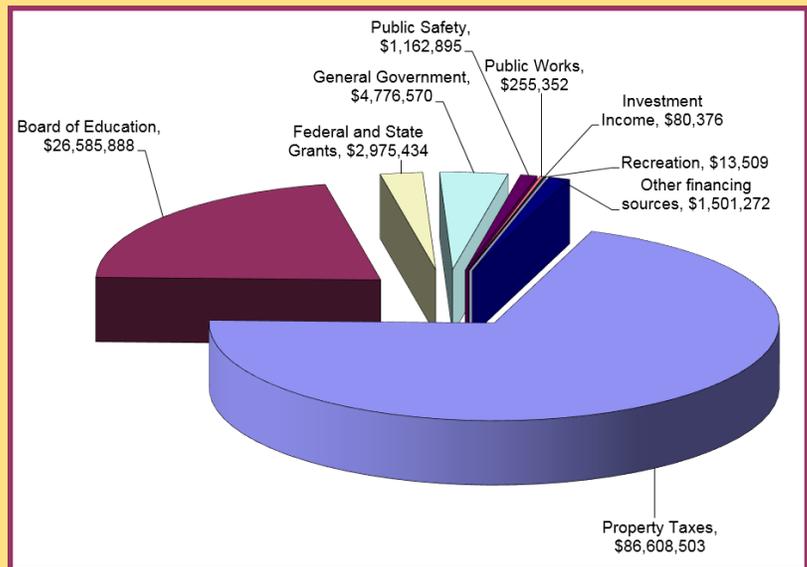
*Purchasing Agent – Pennie Zucco*

The Finance Department of the City of Torrington currently consists of the Treasurer, Comptroller, and Purchasing Agent offices. All financial activity for the City of Torrington (excluding the Board of Education) is maintained and monitored by employees of the Comptroller and Treasurer offices. All revenues, Small Cities Grant activities, bond issues, bond payments and wire transfers are processed and recorded by the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer. All vendor, payroll, and pension payments, as well as benefits administration and general ledger activities are processed by the Comptroller staff. This office is also the central location for the annual independent audit as well as the annual budget process.

All purchases of services, supplies and materials through the purchase order process (excluding the Board of Education) are made by the purchasing department by authority of the City Charter through competitive bidding and negotiations. Orders for materials and services over \$10,000 are procured through a sealed bid process and are posted on the City of Torrington’s website while orders under \$10,000 are procured using quotes, proposals and other methods from qualified sources, through negotiation and/or price comparisons from multiple vendors.

**Total Revenues were \$123,959,799. The chart below identifies individual revenue sources.**

Mill Rate for 2014—2015 was 36.32



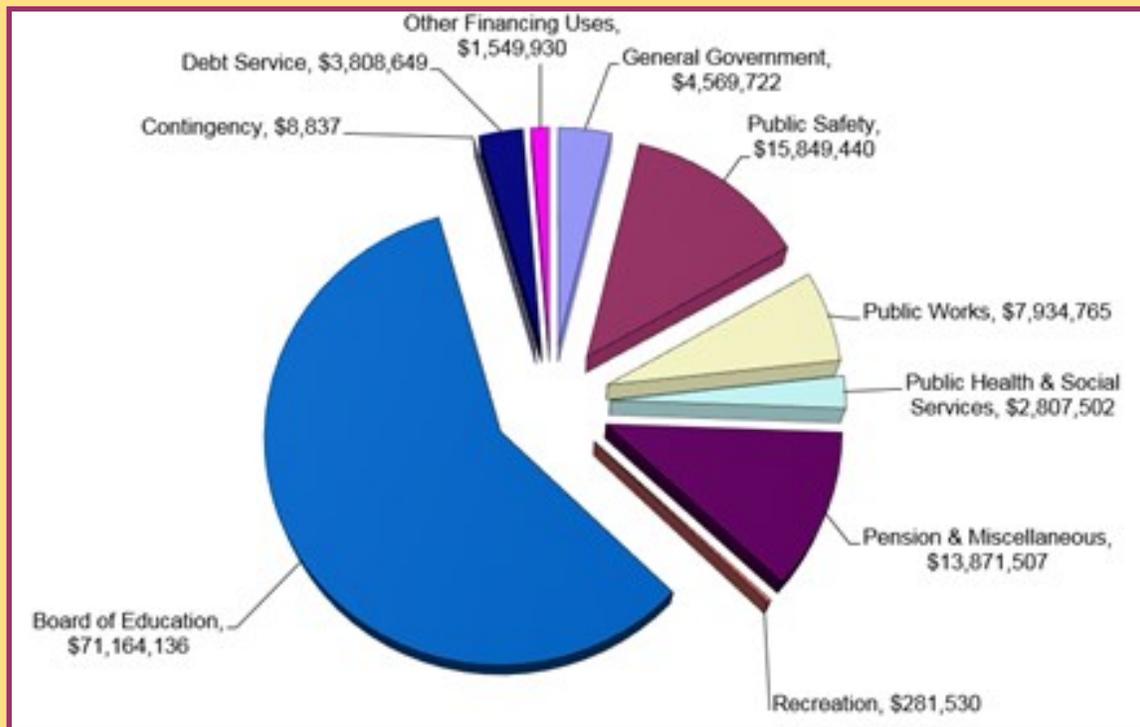
Revenues	Actual	Percentage
Property Taxes	\$86,608,503	69.8682%
Board of Education	\$26,585,888	21.4472%
Federal and State Grants	\$2,975,434	2.4003%
General Government	\$4,776,570	3.8533%
Public Safety	\$1,162,895	0.9381%
Public Works	\$255,352	0.2060%
Investment Income	\$80,376	0.0648%
Recreation	\$13,509	0.0109%
Other financing sources	\$1,501,272	1.2111%
<i>Total revenues and other financing sources</i>	<i>123,959,799</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

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*FINANCE DEPARTMENT*

**Total expenditures and encumbrances were \$121,846,018. The chart below shows how those expenditures were allocated.**

General Government	\$4,569,722	3.75%
Public Safety	\$15,849,440	13.01%
Public Works	\$7,934,765	6.51%
Public Health & Social Services	\$2,807,502	2.30%
Pension & Maintenance	\$13,871,507	11.38%
Recreation	\$281,530	0.23%
Board of Education	\$71,164,136	58.40%
Contingency	\$8,837	0.01%
Debt Service	\$3,808,649	3.13%
<u>Other Financing Uses</u>	<u>\$1,549,930</u>	<u>1.27%</u>
<b>Total Expenditures and other Financing Sources.</b>	<b>\$121,846,018</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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### FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### Administration:

Gary Brunoli, Chief of Fire Services/  
Administrator of Emergency Management  
Christopher Pepler, Deputy Fire Chief

#### Members:

##### Prevention/Investigation Division:

Edward Bascetta, Fire Marshal  
Jarred Howe, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Todd LaMothe, Deputy Fire Marshal

##### Training/Safety Division:

David Tripp, Training/Safety Officer

##### Operations Division:

Four (4) Captains - Shift Commanders  
Twelve (12) Lieutenants - Company Officers  
Thirty-Six (36) Firefighters  
Volunteers: Torrington, Burroville, Drakeville  
One (1) Chief  
One (1) Deputy Chief  
Two (2) Captains  
Five (5) Lieutenants  
Twelve (12) Firefighters (interior)  
Fifteen (12) Support FF. ( exterior)



#### MISSION

The Torrington Fire Department is committed to serving the City of Torrington with the highest level of life and property protection. They will provide preventive measures, excellent and compassionate service, and a safe work environment; in an atmosphere that encourages innovation, professional development, and diversity.

#### VISION STATEMENT

"The Torrington Fire Service shall continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel."

#### CORE VALUES

Core values are the basic elements of how we perform our duties. They form the foundation as to how we conduct ourselves while performing our duties. Personal and organizational values are discussed in detail to ensure we find common ground between both. The Torrington Fire Service has identified the following values as those displaying the personality of the entire service.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Personnel shall have *compassion* for their family, the community and their families.

The organization shall be *diverse*, turning limitations into creativity and opportunities into realities.  
The Organization shall be *committed* to serve the Community. Decisions and actions will be responsive to the customer's needs.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HEALTH & SAFETY

Personnel within the Organization shall maintain the highest level of *competency* while performing their duties.

The Organization shall be *innovative* by being open to the exchange of ideas and willing to foster the practice of careful listening. *Training and Safety* shall be the foundation of the Organization. The Organization shall provide *public education* that focuses on the health and safety of firefighters and the public.

### PROFESSIONALISM

Personnel shall maintain *integrity*, always striving to do what is right, even when it's difficult or unpopular, so that what we do individually and as an organization will stand up to public scrutiny. Members of the Organization shall take *pride* in their Community. The Organization shall maintain *loyalty* to the Community. Members of the Organization shall maintain a high level of *respect*; being tolerant of differences; using good manners; not using hurtful or bad language and being considerate of the feelings of others. The Organization shall recognize individual's independence but foster a sense of *teamwork* with internal and external stakeholders. The Organization shall encourage *professional development* for those individuals who aspire to progress in the Organization. Members of the Organization shall exhibit *honesty* in every aspect of its operation.

Members of the Organization shall maintain the highest *ethical* standards in words and actions. The Organization shall maintain *consistency* within its operations and in the performance of its duties. The Organization shall maintain a sense of *fairness*.

### COMMUNICATION

The Organization shall maintain formal and informal channels for communication with its stakeholders.

The Organization shall utilize a marketing strategy that creates customer interest in the service it provides.

Members of the Organization shall obtain and maintain positive relations with internal and external stakeholders.

### TEAMWORK

The Organization shall utilize effective communication to transfer information to internal and external stakeholders.

The objectives of the Organization shall be accomplished utilizing coordination of the stakeholders.

The Organization shall support teamwork to accomplish goals and objectives.

Members of the Organization shall exhibit considerable effort to assure all goals and objectives are accomplished.

Members of the Organization shall bond together in such a way as to sustain their will and commitment to each other, the Organization, and its mission.

<i>Annual Incidents:</i>	2013	2014
Structure Fires	36	99
Vehicle Fires	15	29
Vegetation Fires	11	11
Other Fires	71	6
Motor Vehicle Crash	335	353
Rescue other calls	43	5
EMS	465	455
Hazardous Condition	241	321
Service Call	390	424
Good Intent	231	226
False Call	405	47
Other	<u>16</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	2259	2353

### Administration/Operations:

The Torrington Fire Department has gone through some changes, the Fire Chief has assumed responsibility of the Emergency Management Division for the City of Torrington. Rick DallaValle has been given the responsibility as the Deputy Director Emergency Management/Shelter coordinator and reports directly to the Fire Chief. Emergency Management Division has been very busy working with other emergency services responding to numerous large storms that have affected our City.

The City of Torrington Fire Service is also going through a transition where the Fire Chief is responsible for the consolidation of all personnel to work under his direction. The Board of Public Safety with the appointment of the new Fire Chief has directed the new Chief to write a plan that will encompass consolidating services for a more efficient use of resources and personnel.

Litchfield County Dispatch assumed dispatch and communications responsibility for the City of Torrington's Emergency Services in 2011. The new communications system has combined the efforts of the police, fire, and emergency medical services into one system utilizing civilian personnel. This consolidation has been going along very well.

The Torrington Fire Service will be reviewing the Strategic Plan which will provide direction for the next five years.

As with all municipalities the City asked for reductions in overall spending. The Fire Department was asked to provide a budget that meets the service needs of the community. This current year the Fire Department reduced their request to assist with the overall budget of the City while still maintaining the majority of services.

### Fire Department Budget

2012-2013	\$4,939,470
2013-2014	\$5,064,430
2014-2015	\$4,803,846

*CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report*  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
*(Citywide IT Support)*

Director of Information Technology: Gerald Crowley  
IT Department Head: Rodolfo F. Pullano  
Systems Admin: Steve Pienczykowski

The Information Technology Department's mission is to effectively and efficiently provide municipal staff access to a secure and highly available data infrastructure.

2014-2015: The IT Department continued to replace outdated workstations across the City. A major focus this year was the network infrastructure at City Hall. All networking gear was upgraded to improve performance and reliability. Upgraded data storage systems and systems management have improved efficiency in the City's data centers.

The Police Department upgrades included a new email server and an AVL system for vehicles. Major upgrades to the law enforcement software allowed the Police Department to comply with current state mandates.

2015-2016: Future goals for the IT Department will be focused on expanding the City's website offerings to improve communication with the public, finalizing connectivity to the state fiber optic network and expanding support services for mobile devices.



PERSONNEL

*Personnel Director – Tom Gritt*

*Personnel – Kelley Pleil*



The City of Torrington’s Personnel Department provides for the centralized administration of personnel policies affecting municipal employees and job applicants.

Recruitment is a major responsibility. This past year, thirty two people were hired as regular full-time employees. Four competitive testing sessions were conducted to qualify candidates for Recreation, Police, Engineering, Street, and Fire department openings.

In the area of labor relations, contract negotiations were conducted with the unions representing Supervisory, Police, Fire, Public Works, and City Hall employees. In addition, numerous hearings were held on employee issues and grievance arbitrations at the State Labor Board.

The Safety Advisory Committee met throughout the year to ensure the continuation of safe work environments for City employees. Work site inspections were periodically done to identify potential hazards and drug testing was accomplished in accordance to city, state, and federal standards.

During the past year, Personnel again served as the liaison between the City and Torrington High School’s Career Internship Program. This cooperative venture provides students with an exposure to the variety of employment opportunities available in a municipal setting and earns them high school credits for volunteer work in City departments. Eleven students participated in the program this past year.



## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with various organizations on events including the Mayor's Committee on Youth, Arts and Culture Commission, Torrington Lions Club, Torrington Police Activities League, First Congregational Church of Torrington, and Torrington Municipal and Teachers Federal Credit Union.

In addition to organizing programs, the Recreation Department administers facility rentals at the Armory and Coe Memorial Park Civic Center. The Parks and Recreation Department also schedules and prepares athletic fields for use by many local organizations.

Several Capital Projects were completed in the parks during 2014-15 including: the installation of a new scoreboard and repairs to the Little League field backstop at Oak Avenue Sports Complex, Side Improvements at several City Parks and Recreation Facilities, construction of play-scape at Jiggs Donahue Park, tennis court renovations at Pleasant View Park, as well as several other projects.

The department also started design work on a roof renovation project at the Armory, and an Infield Renovation Project at Fuessenich Park. Both projects are scheduled to be completed in Fiscal Year 2015-16.

The Parks and Recreation Department looks forward to continuing to offer new and exciting programs and events during the upcoming year, and will continue to collaborate with local organizations to provide an assortment of programs and special events to the community.

The Parks Department will continue to move forward with improvement projects such as basketball court renovations, athletic field improvements, playground renovations, sidewalk repairs, paving parking lots at City parks, and repairs and renovations to buildings owned and operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.

We would like to thank the dedicated staff at the Torrington Parks and Recreation Department, the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and other City Departments for their time and commitment.



**J. Brett Simmons, Superintendent  
Parks & Recreation**

**Robert Lizotte, Superintendent  
Streets & Parks**

**Patricia Fairchild, Chairwoman  
Parks and Recreation Commission**



The Torrington Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of two divisions. The Recreation Department is responsible for organizing and administering a comprehensive assortment of recreation programs, athletic leagues, and special events for youth, teens, adults, senior citizens, and families. The Parks Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 26 parks and facilities, comprised of over 230 acres of both active and passive parkland. The Torrington Parks and Recreation Department is proud to offer an outdoor pool, pond, playgrounds, picnic shelters, athletic fields, trails, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, ice rink, sledding hill, indoor gymnasium, Skatepark, Teen Center, Recreation Hall, Civic Center, Gardens at Coe Memorial Park, and Carl Bozenski's Christmas Village. The Recreation Department administered a wide variety of programs during 2014-15 including: tennis, golf and swim lessons, babysitting courses, Mad Science Camps, Lego Clinics, summer playground program, trips, dance and fitness classes, adult and youth sports leagues, and more. Torrington Parks and Recreation Department has many popular special events that are available to the community throughout the year. Some of the special events offered in 2014-15 included: Trunk or Treat, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Christmas Village Toy Shower, Christmas Village Parade, Holiday Decorating Contest, Last Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Northwest Idol Contest, Northwest Kid Rock, Summer Concert Series, Winter Carnival, Polka Night, Dr. Seuss Breakfast, Community Tag Sale, Lions Club Craft Fair, Fireworks, and Touch-A-Truck.

**CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING**

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

*Chairman: Richard Calkins*

*Vice-Chairman: Greg Mele*

*Members: Doris Murphy (Inland Wetlands Liason), Gregory Perosino, Paul Summers*

*Alternates: James Bobinski, Donna Greco, Jon A. Sheaffer, Jr.*

*Ex-Officio Members: Mayor Elinor Carbone, Public Works Director Gerry Rollett, City Planner*

*Martin J. Connor, AICP, Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer Rista Malanca,*

*Assistant Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Vacant*

*Land Use Secretary, Lona Kirk*

**PLANNING:**

**Function:**

To prepare plans for the development of the City for the use of land for residential, recreation, commercial, industrial, and other purposes.

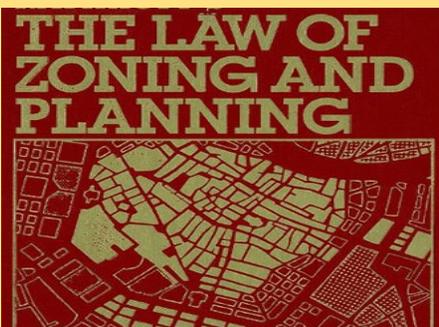
To recommend thoroughfares, parks, and other public improvements.

**ZONING:**

**Function:**

To regulate the height and setbacks of buildings, the use of land, the number of parking spaces, and the minimum size of building lots.

To perform inspections for all zoning permits issued, issue all zoning violations, certificate of compliances, and check compliance for certificate of occupancy.



The Planning and Zoning Commission (City Planner for applications in the Local Business and General Business zones) reviewed 31 Site Plan Applications. The Commission reviewed applications for 7 Special Exceptions, one Zone Change application, one Zoning Regulation Amendment, one Location Approval and two Section 8-24 referrals to City Council.

The Planning and Zoning Department Staff issued 148 Zoning Permits for new construction, additions, accessory structures, conversions and changes of use.

Four hundred sixty-one Certificates of Zoning Compliance were issued. Regular inspections are made to determine compliance for all permitted work, prior to signing off on the Certificate of Occupancy.

PLANNING AND ZONING



*Highlights of the past year:*

- ◆ *New building and site improvements approved for parking, walkways and landscaping for Kelly Housing on 4 Terrace Drive*
- ◆ *6,000 sq. ft. building on 945 New Harwinton Road*
- ◆ *The Commission implemented an Artist (Live/Work) in Residence regulation change.*
- ◆ *Addition to gas station/convenience store on 857 Main Street*
- ◆ *Addition to existing funeral home on 82 Litchfield Street*
- ◆ *Approved a plan for a disk golf course at Alvord Park on Kennedy Drive*
- ◆ *A three-story addition and major renovations to the Torrington Library on 12 Daycoeton Place*
- ◆ *A “Torrington Walks” one day design workshop was held, to identify necessary steps and actions to connect sidewalks with the Naugatuck River Greenway and surrounding wood land trails; planning to improve pedestrian trails in the downtown area.*
- ◆ *New parking lot for a credit union on 777 East Main Street*
- ◆ *The Commission endorsed the Preservation of Place Grant, Connecticut Main Street Center, for way-finding signage in the downtown area.*
- ◆ *65 units of senior housing approved on 380 Torrington West Street*
- ◆ *A new 4,513 square foot gas station and convenience store approved for 1237 East Main Street*
- ◆ *Additions and modifications to existing supermarket at 990 Torrington Street*
- ◆ *Medical training school at 339 Main Street was approved*
- ◆ *9,000 square foot storage building approved at 300 Technology Park Drive*
- ◆ *Corporation Counsel Ray Rigat and Rista Malanca, CZWEO, using the court system were successful in resolving several long standing zoning violations.*

**CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

David Moraghan, Chairman  
Kathleen Perrotti, Vice Chairwoman  
Jenn Healy  
Marc Trevalla  
Ken Edwards  
James Steck  
Alan Diulio  
vacancy

*The Committee reviews each project for aesthetic matters pertaining to planning and design as they relate to the Physical characteristics and appearance of the site, neighborhood and City.*

**TORRINGTON HEARING OFFICERS**  
Joel Perlotto, Esq.  
James Steck, Esq.

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of eight citizen volunteers who hear and decide upon all requests for variances from the City of Torrington’s Zoning Regulations as well as appeals of any order, requirement or decision made by an official responsible for the enforcement of Torrington’s Zoning Regulations.

During Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 the Zoning Board of Appeals denied one Variance and had no appeals of the Zoning Enforcement Officer’s decisions.

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

Jay Bate, Jr., Chairman  
Christine Altman, Vice Chairwoman  
& Conservation Commission Liaison  
Doris Murphy, Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison  
Jane Bakker, Secretary/Member  
Bill Sorti, Member  
Tom Telman, Member  
Johnathan Andrews, Member



The City of Torrington’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission consists of 7 regular members, all of whom are appointed by the City Council. This Commission holds their regularly scheduled meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month and will hold special meetings if necessary. During the fiscal year 2014/15 the Commission held 8 regular meetings.

It is the responsibility of these Commissioners to enforce the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations within the territorial limits of the city. This includes approving/denying applications for Regulated Activities, determining jurisdiction for as of right uses, and holding show cause hearings for all enforcement actions.

The Inland Wetland regulations define the regulated area to be any wetlands or watercourses as well as the area within 75 feet from any wetland soil types and 100 feet from any watercourse or waterbody (either manmade or natural). Any regulated activity occurring within these areas require a permit.

## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Christine Altman, Chairman

Butch Klug, Member

Brian Reardon, Member

James Fedorich, Member

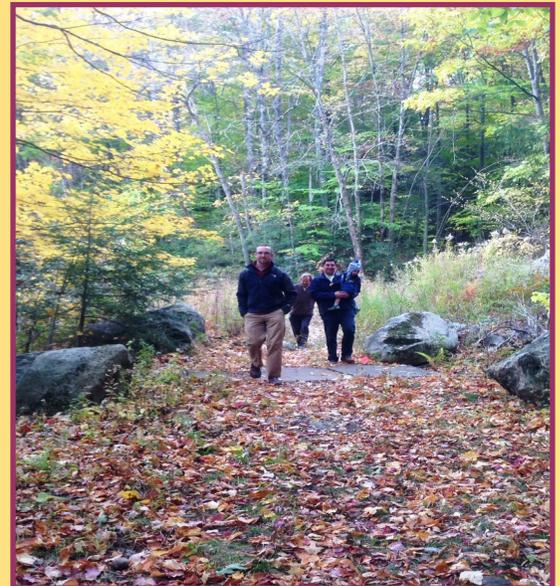
Dan McGuinness, Member

Chris Rabago, Member

John Czapor, Member

Vacant, Alt. Member

Vacant, Alt. Member



The Conservation Commission consists of 7 regular members and 2 alternate members, all of which are appointed by the City Council for a 3 year term. This Commission holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month and special meetings as necessary. This year the Commission held six Regular meetings and three special meetings.

The main purpose of the Conservation Commission is to advise the Planning and Zoning Commission on the cultural and natural aspects of the City's environment as it relates to planning issues and development applications. The Conservation Commission also is responsible for maintaining the Open Space Inventory for the Planning & Zoning Commission, increasing environmental awareness and is constantly working to meet the goals set down in the Plan of Conservation & Development's Open Space section.



During Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the Conservation Commission:

- ◆ Sponsored the Earth Day Clean Up. There were over 100 participants for this event.
- ◆ Co-sponsored the Naugatuck River Clean Up with *Torrington Trout Unlimited*.
- ◆ Co-sponsored Clean up the World Day with *Torrington Family Kempo*.
- ◆ Continues to work with and support the *Torrington Trails Network* in their efforts to connect trails within Torrington.
- ◆ Reviewed application for Disk Golf course at Alvord Park – Gave a favorable recommendation to Planning and Zoning.
- ◆ Reviewed proposal from Danielle Mailer to place a mural on the back of the “Staples” building. Gave letter of support for this project.
- ◆ Donated \$500 to the Torrington Trails Network for improvements at Buttrick Trail, placement of a Kiosk and installation of a gate.

**CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**City of Torrington's new Certified Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Rista Malanca**

- Chairman:** Marc Trivella  
**Members:** Robert Mileti  
Roberta Boe  
John Sullivan  
James Bobinski  
Martin Connor, AICP, City Planner  
Ed Fabbri, City Engineer

The purpose of the Architectural Review Committee is to advise the Planning and Zoning Commission on the physical aspects of the City's environment. The Committee reviews each project for aesthetic matters pertaining to planning and design as they relate to the physical characteristics and appearance of the site, neighborhood and City. The Committee reviews and makes written recommendations on all site plans, changes to facades of non-residential buildings and all

signs, except those on one two and three family residential properties and those less than 35 square feet in area.

During Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015, the Architectural Review Committee reviewed eleven applications and made recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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**CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**

**TORRINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*On behalf of all the men and women at the Torrington Police Department I would like to invite everyone to check us out at the Torrington Police Department website or on Facebook. We are an extremely proud organization and take great pride in the services we provide to our community. Our motto "Quality Service through Continuous Improvement" has become the hallmark of our ongoing Community Policing philosophy and our officers' daily responsibilities.*

*Even though the law enforcement profession becomes more and more challenging each and every year, the men and women of the Torrington Police Department rise up to each and every challenge with respect for the community, dignity in their presence and professionalism in their actions. We have always made, and will continue to make Torrington a safe place to live, work and visit.*

*It is my great honor to lead a department of such fine officers and I invite you to feel free to stop in and visit with us at any time. We will make you feel at home.*

*Sincerely,  
Michael Maniago  
Chief of Police*

# CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

## TORRINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Michael Maniago, Chief*

*Christopher Smedick, Deputy Chief*

### Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the back bone of the Torrington Police Department and provides services to the citizens 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Torrington's population is approximately 40,000 people and has approximately 561 streets and 44 square miles. The Patrol Division handles a variety of calls including; but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, burglaries, missing persons, larcenies, domestic violence incidents, shopliftings, civil disturbances, robberies, and assaults. In 2014 the Torrington Police Department responded to over 55,000 calls for service with the greatest majority of them investigated or initiated by the Patrol Division.

The Patrol Division is commanded by a patrol captain and is comprised of three shifts that are each commanded by a lieutenant. Assigned to each shift are three patrol sergeants who supervise and direct officers in the field. Each shift is staffed with varying numbers of officers as determined by the patrol commander based on staffing requirements and community needs.



Patrol's 2016 utility vehicle

The Patrol Division has several officers certified for bicycle patrol. The bicycle patrols allows officers to patrol the downtown area, Coe Park, schools, shopping plazas, July 4<sup>th</sup> firework events and the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway which runs for nearly 3 miles through a wooded corridor between Lanson Drive and Harris Drive in Torrington. The officers are able to interact with the public during their patrols and quickly cover more territory than traditional foot patrols.



Officer Bernabucci on bicycle patrol.

In 2015 the Torrington Police Department received a generous gift from several local businesses when they purchased a three wheel Segway to assist officers while patrolling the downtown area. The Segway is battery powered and can travel at speeds up to 25mph with a range of 40 miles without the need for recharging. The Segway is popular with the community and allows the officer assigned to the downtown area to interact with the public and patrol a greater distance than a normal foot patrol would allow.



Officer Simon on patrol with Segway

The Torrington Police Department currently has two officers assigned to the K-9 unit. Each officer is assigned a shift and the K-9 units are a great asset to the Police Department. The K-9 units have assisted patrol with conducting tracks for missing, endangered persons, tracking of suspects and searching buildings during alarms or burglary investigations. The K-9 units are also trained for evidence collection and drug detection. The K-9 units are popular with the community while they conduct demonstrations during the downtown market event, school events and safety fairs.

Officer Deloy with K-9 partner Titus



## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### TORRINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

In addition to commanding the Patrol Division, the patrol commander has overall command of the Field Training Program, Special Response Team, Accident Investigation Team, School Resource Officer, liaison with Litchfield County Dispatch and radio communications.

The Field Training Officer Program (FTO) is directed by the Training Division. FTO's provide training, mentoring, and assistance to officers upon graduation from the police academy. Upon successfully completing the program, trainees are assigned to a shift in the Patrol Division.



**Members of the Special Response Team**

The Special Response Team is commanded by the Patrol Commander who has an executive officer and two team leaders. The SRT conducts high risk warrant service and high risk motor vehicle stops and responds to barricaded suspects, hostage situations, and searches for high risk subjects. Team members are highly trained in handling weapons, conducting building searches, and preparing and executing search warrants. Team members have attended training from the National Tactical Officer's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Smith and Wesson, Armor Holdings, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In addition, the team consists of crisis negotiators trained by the FBI.

**"The Torrington Police Department's Patrol Division is committed to "Quality Service to the Community through Continuous Improvement."**

The Accident Investigation Team (AIT) is supervised by three sergeants that report to the patrol commander. Accident Investigation Team members come from the patrol, detective, and support divisions. The AIT is highly specialized and trained and responds to fatal accidents, accidents that are life threatening in nature, and any other accident where their special skills are required. Team members are sent to a variety of training classes, in varying locations, to prepare them and keep them current on accident investigation techniques. Members are trained in Advanced Accident Investigation and Reconstruction, as well as Commercial, Pedestrian, and Motorcycle accident investigation. The AIT has highly specialized equipment consisting of laser mapping and computer programs to assist them in their very technical investigations.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is a police officer that is assigned to the Torrington High School. The SRO is responsible for providing security and crime prevention services in the school environment. SROs work closely with school administrators in an effort to create a safer environment for both students and staff. SROs have additional duties to include mentoring, conducting presentations on youth-related issues and introduction to the criminal justice program at the high school level.



**School Resource Officer Cooper**

**Police Department Support Services  
Commander – Captain Wayne Newkirk  
Executive Officer – Lieutenant Linas Venclauskas  
Division Supervisor – Sergeant Steven Krzanowski**

## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### TORRINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### SUPPORT SERVICES:

##### RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is responsible for a myriad of tasks including, but not limited to, filing of all police reports, data entry, payroll, court liaison, F.O.I. requests, maintaining Restraining and Protective Order files, Pistol Permit applications, Vendor permits, maintaining Sex Offender registry, requests for background checks, requests for copies of police reports, records retention and audits. The Court Liaison Officer is also attached to the Records Division and the duties include preparing all paperwork for transmittal to court and being a general liaison between the Police Department and the State's Attorney's Office.

##### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The I.T. manager is responsible for running and maintaining the second largest computer network in the city, as well as maintaining 21 Mobile Data Terminals, the A.F.I.S. fingerprint scanner, telephone and voice mail system, and being the local control for the State Law Enforcement Telecommunications Network. The I.T. manager also provides statistical reports, crime mapping, and crime analysis for the department.

##### SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

The Executive Officer oversees the following areas:

Records Division, Traffic Division, Service Contracts and Budgeting, Building Maintenance, Building Planning and Research, Fleet Maintenance, Radio Communications Equipment, Public Safety Dispatching Liaison, Overtime Administration, General and Specialized Administrative Functions.

##### TRAINING DIVISION

Research and assignment of all general and specialized training, recruitment and P.O.S.T. certification as well as mandatory annual training and semiannual firearms training are the responsibility of the Training Division. The Training Division also performs the department's quartermaster duties.

The department's Field Training Officer Program (FTO) is directed by the Training Division. FTO's provide training, mentoring, and assistance to officers upon graduation from the police academy. Upon successfully completing the program trainees are assigned to a shift in the Patrol Division.

##### TRAFFIC DIVISION

- ◆ Manages the Traffic Operations Unit and supervises civilian employees including the Signs & Marking Technicians, Traffic Signal Electricians and Parking Enforcement Officers.
- ◆ Handles traffic laws and ordinances, traffic zoning regulations, and street closures, and parking meter operations.
- ◆ Responsible for installation and maintenance of all city owned traffic signals.
- ◆ Applies for state and federal traffic grants, manages DUI and Traffic Safety enforcement, and administers Extra Duty Assignments.

##### Community Policing Unit

The following areas fall under the control of this unit: Crime Prevention / Block Watch Program with currently sixty six Block Watch groups within the city. The Community Policing Officer administers Problem Oriented Policing assignments, Intern-ship Program, Police Explorers Program and the Police Activities League (PAL). PAL has grown tremendously in recent years as a result of the collaboration with a variety of community-based organizations.

Currently there are seven hundred participants in the PAL program. PAL currently has basketball for youths in the K-12 grade for both girls and boys. PAL collaborates with Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts and the Connecticut Junior Republic facilitating camps and after school programs. PAL also has a dance program and a homework help program.

Currently there are seven hundred participants in the PAL program. PAL currently has basketball for youths in the K-12 grade for both girls and boys. PAL collaborates with Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts and the Connecticut Junior Republic facilitating camps and after school programs. PAL also has a dance program and a homework help program.

##### The Animal Control Division

The Animal Control Division is supervised by the Animal Control Officer. Assisting the Animal Control Officer is one part-time Assistant Animal Control Officer (AACO). The AACO works twenty hours per week assisting the ACO.

The Animal Control Division responds to a variety of animal calls, maintains a kennel facility, and conducts education and licensing programs for citizens in the community. Animals up for adoption can be viewed on the department's web site at [www.torringtonpd.org](http://www.torringtonpd.org).

TORRINGTON AREA PROBATE COURT

PROBATE JUDGE

MICHAEL MAGISTRALI

The Torrington Area Probate Court serves the towns of Torrington, Goshen, Winchester, Colebrook, New Hartford, Barkhamsted and Hartland. The present Court is the result of probate court consolidation in 2009 that reduced the number of probate courts statewide from 117 to 54. The then Torrington Probate Court merged with the New Hartford and Winchester Probate Courts. The new court began operation on January 5, 2011.

The jurisdiction of the Probate Court is broader and the types of matters handled more diverse than most citizens are aware. In addition to its traditional role of overseeing decedents' estates and trusts, the probate court handles a wide range of sensitive issues affecting children, the elderly, persons with intellectual disabilities, and individuals with psychiatric impairments. In carrying out these responsibilities, the probate court strives to protect the rights of individuals while affording those involved in probate matters an approachable and consumer-friendly environment.

Probate judges are the only elected judges in the State of Connecticut and serve four year terms. The present Torrington Area Probate Judge, Judge Michael F. Magistrali, was first elected as Judge of the Torrington Probate Court in the statewide election of November 1998 and took office on January 6, 1999. He has served continuously as a probate judge since that date and now presides over the Torrington Area Probate Court. He is a graduate of Torrington High School, Boston College and Boston College Law School.

He began his law career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston, Massachusetts and also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He practiced for fifteen years in Winsted before moving his private practice to Torrington.

The Torrington Area Probate Court is staffed by *Chief Clerk Gale Pellegren, Clerk Suzanne Pombar (formerly Clerk of the New Hartford Probate Court), Assistant Clerk Paula Marchetti, Assistant Clerk Michelle Considine, and Court Assistant Yuberkis Batista, who speaks Spanish and can assist Spanish-speaking users of the Court.*

The Torrington Area Probate Court is located on the first floor of Torrington City Hall and is open Monday through Friday. Hearings are held every Tuesday and Thursday, and other specially scheduled days. Most, but not all, hearings are open to the public. Children's matters, commitment actions, and guardianships of intellectually disabled persons are confidential.

The public is invited to visit the Torrington Area Probate Court for more information on the Court's operation. Information is also available on-line at [www.ctprobate.gov](http://www.ctprobate.gov), the official web site of the Connecticut Probate Courts.

Hours of Operation:

Mon., Tues and Weds.: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thurs.: 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Fri.: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For Information contact: 860-489-2215



REGISTRARS OF VOTERS



*Ed Wilmot, Republican Registrar*

*John Ciesco, Democrat Registrar*

*Nan Gallicchio, Registrar's Clerk*

*Democratic Deputy Registrar, Debra Whitten*

*Republican Deputy Registrar, Tracy Bolan*

*Assistant Clerks, Annette Caputi and Rebecca Mogub*

The duties include registration of voters, taking enrollments in the respective parties, party transfers and erasures, hiring and training election day officials, preparing all material and having all records up to date to ensure an orderly election process. This office also conducts any party primaries and all city referenda. We do an annual canvass to verify the addresses of each elector in Torrington. We hold voter registration sessions at THS and OWTS. With the constant changing of election laws, the Registrars and deputies must be in close touch with the Secretary of the State and always be aware of new laws and calendar deadlines. Two conferences with workshops and meetings with ROVAC are attended each year.

Due to redistricting, Torrington is split between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional districts, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Senatorial districts, and the 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly districts. We have 8 polling places and use optical scan voting machines. During the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, there were 936 new registered voters: 178 Democrats, 206 Republicans, 504 Unaffiliated, and 48 minor parties. We currently have 18,543 registered voters. Voter registration cards are available at City Hall, the Library, social service agencies, and the Dept. of Motor Vehicle. The form can also be downloaded from the City of Torrington website.



## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

#### Services for the Elderly July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

The mission of the Edward E. Sullivan Senior Center is to provide an environment to enhance and enrich the lives of older adults by offering recreational activities, nutrition services, educational and wellness programs and social services to meet the diverse needs of all people.

A dedicated staff of 59 and over 250 volunteers passionately work to administer services to senior center members and members of our community. The Sullivan Senior Center, located at 88 East Albert Street, is a multipurpose Center and hub for people age 60 and over. The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., evenings and weekends for special events. A 12-page newsletter entitled, "All About Us @ the Sullivan Senior Center" is published monthly with information outlining the activities, travel itineraries, menus, calendar of events and timely informational articles focusing on topics of importance and interest to older adults. Newsletters may be picked up at the Senior Center, mailed for a nominal fee or read online @ [www.seekandfind.com](http://www.seekandfind.com) or the City's website [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org). The goal is to offer one stop shopping to older adults to fulfill their social, wellness, recreational and quality of life issues by delivering excellent service.

#### Highlights

The Senior Center continues to expand our technological offerings. iPad classes were added to the senior computer courses this year. Wi-Fi is available in the building and five (5) used Laptops were granted to the Sullivan Senior Center through the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut. The lap tops are available to seniors for use anytime the center is open.

This past Year saw the upgrade of the buildings two AC units and a Heat exchanger were replaced, Carpeting in Building B was replaced and New Tables were purchased for Building A.

The Wii Bowling League has partnered with 18 other senior centers across CT and together they are forming the CT Senior Bowling League. This league will promote friendly competition, socialization and offer travel opportunity to seniors while experiencing other senior centers & towns around CT. The inaugural season will culminate in May and be one of the highlights of Older Americans Month featuring a day long End of Season Tournament to be held in Bristol.

The Bowman Community Gardens thrived again this year with our largest number of participants in recent years. The senior Center also established a Walking Club that had almost 60 members!

Historical Cabinets that were saved from the City Hall renovations were refurbished and added to our foyer at the senior center. Our members are so proud to have those display cases built in the 1960s by the city's carpenters union adorning our entrance.

**The Services for the Elderly Commission** consists of seven voting members and three alternates and one member selected to represent Winsted. The Commission meets monthly to review and evaluate the conditions, needs and programs for older adults living in the City of Torrington and the greater Torrington area. The Commission forwards recommendations to the Mayor and City Councilors regarding grant funding and awarding of bids for projects at the Sullivan Senior Center. *Their guidance is invaluable. Thank you for another successful year.*

Six programs, funded by the state and federal government, municipalities, client donations, fundraising and private donations, were administered by the staff. Revenue totaled \$1,984,328.



Joel Sekorski, Director, Sullivan Senior Center

**Elderly Nutrition Program:** Served 33,876 congregate meals and 206,526 Meals-on-Wheels to 1,898 individuals age 60 and over

**Medical Transportation:** 404 elders were given 6,719 rides to medical appointments

**Chore Program:** 115 elders received 6,597 hours of in-home services

**Special Diet Meals-on-Wheels:** 4,746 therapeutic meals delivered to 24 individuals under the age of 60

**Bend and Stretch Balance and Fall Prevention Program:** 573 hours of training attended by 80 people

**Health Screening:** 140 people screened in three months

Additionally, 548 individuals applied for rent rebate and 315 for fuel assistance. During Medicare Part D open enrollment, Oct 15 - Dec.7, 2013 386 people were processed to determine which plan best suited their prescription drug needs. For a complete list of all assistance programs, please call the Sullivan Senior Center at 860-489-2211.

## **CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**

### **STREET DEPARTMENT**



**Robert Lizotte,**  
**Superintendent of Streets**

The Street Department continues to look for ways to increase the efficiency of manpower and equipment through ever changing technologies. This is accomplished with training and equipment changes and upgrades.

The Street Department maintains and makes repairs to an estimated 170 miles of roads, streets and bridges. During construction season the work includes reconstruction of existing roads, catch basin repairs and replacements, installation of new drainage systems, pothole patching, roadside mowing and road sweeping. The work for the winter season includes plowing and treating roads to remove ice and snow, snow removal when necessary, roadside brush control and tree removal. Gutters and swales are cleaned when weather allows. Throughout the year street signs are maintained, garbage totes are delivered, repaired or replaced, and catch basins are cleaned.

We serve the tax payers of Torrington and the traveling public. We strive to continue providing the high level of service the tax payers and public have become accustomed to. The Street Department also provides services to other City departments as needed.



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## **CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

**Tax Collector:**

**Launa M. Goslee, CCMC**

**Asst. Tax Collector: Joanne Matarese**

**Staff: Leo DiNicola,**

**Maria Ponte, Christine Moskaitis**

The Tax Collector's Office is responsible for collection of payments for Real Estate taxes, Sewer Usage Fees, Personal Property taxes and Motor Vehicle taxes. The office has a duty to provide a thorough accounting of all records and funds administered. The Tax Office takes great pride in the efficiency with which tax matters are handled and believes that a courteous attitude is mandatory while upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and operating in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws.

Since 1923, the Torrington City Charter has provided for a private party to operate the tax office under contract. The current contract was entered on June 1, 2015 between the

City, Launa M. Goslee as Tax Collector, Leonello DiNicola as Assistant Tax Collector and Torrington Tax Collector, LLC ("TTC") to provide services for the billing and collection of Grand List 2014 through Grand List 2018 taxes and sewer usage fees. Prior to June 2015, from May 1999 to May 2015, the City had contracted with R. Thomas Crovo Tax Collector, LLC ("RTCTC") for tax billing and collection services ("RTCTC Contract"). Under both the RTCTC contract and the TTC contract, the City's service provider is obligated to pay to the City on each respective annual installment date 100% of the rate bills not paid by the respective obligor(s). The City uses this tax billing and collection method to assume that City budget requirements will be funded in a timely fashion.

The City of Torrington October 1, 2014 Grand List mill rate is 45.75 mills. This means that for every \$1,000 of assessment a taxpayer will pay \$45.75. Example: If a motor vehicle is assessed at \$1,500, taxes would be \$68.63.

## CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

### TAX COLLECTOR

The WPCA has set the sewer usage fee for the fiscal year 2015-2016 as \$212 per unit for Residential properties and \$212 per 65,000 gallons for Commercial/Industrial properties.

A few things to remember regarding the 2014 GRAND LIST TAXES AND FEES:

- ◆ Regular Motor Vehicle Bills were due in full regardless of the amount on July 1, 2015 for all vehicles registered on 10/1/2014. Supplemental Motor Vehicle Bills are due in full on January 1, 2016 for vehicles registered or renewed after 10/1/2014 but before 8/1/2015.
- ◆ Real Estate, Sewer and Personal Property Bills over \$100.00 may be paid in full or in two installments. The first installment was due July 1, 2015; the second installment is due January 1, 2016.
- ◆ The July tax billings were payable through Monday, August 3rd without interest and the January tax billings are payable through Monday, February 1st without interest. Taxes not paid within the stated periods will be considered delinquent, and taxpayers will be charged interest at the rate of 1.5% monthly from the original due date or 18% annually with a minimum of a charge of \$2.00 per installment.
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Tax Delinquencies will be promptly reported to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicle, and you or your co-registered owner will not be able to register your vehicle(s) until all delinquent taxes in your name(s) are paid in full.
- ◆ New this year, Sewer Usage fees will be online to look up and to pay. You will need your UNIQUE ID number to access this information online; the UNIQUE ID number will ONLY be printed on your usage bill as it is not public information as it is considered a utility.
- ◆ If you need to change your mailing address, we need a written request for all real estate, sewer and personal property accounts. Motor vehicle address changes need to be changed online with the DMV at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv).

### METHODS OF PAYMENT

*(one check for all payments is great!)*

By mail in July & January *ONLY* with the payment envelope provided in your original mailing at the beginning of July or using your own envelope

Please Mail to:

*Torrington Tax Collector, LLC  
P.O. Box 150508  
Hartford, CT 06115*

All other times of the year, please Mail payments to:

*Torrington Tax Collector, LLC  
140 Main Street  
Torrington, CT 06790*

At the office of the Tax Collector, Pay in person during office hours only: Mon-Wed 8:30-4:00; Thurs 8:30-6:30; Fri 8:30-12:30. at:

*Torrington City Hall  
140 Main Street, Room 134  
Torrington, CT*

Credit/Debit Card or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT from savings or checking account - \$1 fee). Go to [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org)  
Varying fees are charged for these services.

We have other valuable information online on our website. Please visit [www.torringtonct.org](http://www.torringtonct.org). Once there, go to 'Departments' and then choose 'Tax Collector'. DMV has many new services available online now as well. Please visit [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv) for a list of their complete services. If you are having trouble finding information or need help navigating the City's website, please call us at (860) 489-2209 ext. 6, our staff will be pleased to assist you.



**CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report**  
**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**WPCA Administrator:**     *Raymond E. Drew*

**Function:**

To administer the financial assurance of the Water Pollution Control Authority; Operate and Maintain a Seven (7) Million Gallon Per Day Advanced Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF); Operate and maintain 170 miles of Sanitary Sewer Collection System, and 15 Wastewater Pumping Stations; Operate a drop site recycling facility for used motor oil, batteries, antifreeze, fluorescent bulbs, and electronics; Operate and maintain a regional septage receiving facility and regional grease processing facility; Administer the sewer use billing system, industrial pretreatment monitoring, maintenance, and construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant, Collection System and Pumping Stations.

For the year 2014-2015 the WPCA generated approximately \$4,099,567 in revenue from approximately 11,800 customers located in Torrington, Harwinton, and Litchfield, Twenty One Septage and Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG) haulers serving eighteen (18) towns in the North-west Region.

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
Salaries & Wages	\$982,322	\$1,002,834
Employee Benefits	\$398,674	\$383,861
Utilities	\$386,350	\$372,321
Materials & Supplies	\$128,000	\$117,560
New Equipment	\$99,400	\$92,561
Repairs & Maintenance	\$70,000	\$72,550
Contractual Services	\$609,711	\$586,465
Contingency	\$25,000	\$10,132
Sinking Fund	\$580,000	\$580,000
Debt Service	\$656,373	\$656,372
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,935,828</b>	<b>\$3,874,656</b>

**Projects:**

- ◆ Pump Station SCADA Upgrades
- ◆ WPCF Facility Design
- ◆ East Drainage Basin Sewer Replacements



# CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### 2015 Report from the Superintendent of Schools

The Torrington Board of Education serves a student population of 4,172, consisting of five neighborhood-based elementary schools, one middle and one high school. Each of the elementary schools has a distinct culture and student population with different racial, ethnic, and socio-economic profiles. Three of the elementary schools are designated as Title I schools due to the high number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch.



#### DIVERSE RESOURCES FOR A DIVERSE POPULATION

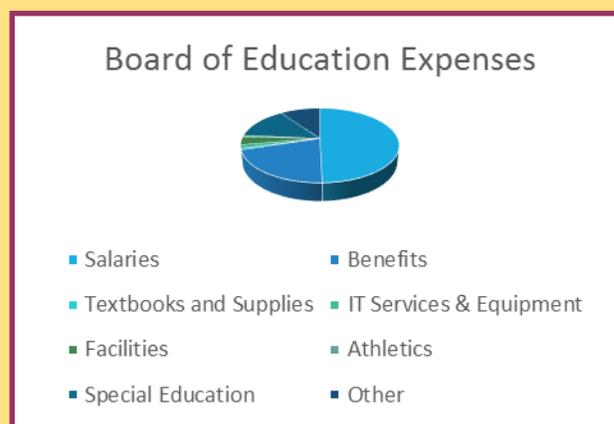
Torrington is a community of increasing demographic diversity. The school system celebrates the diverse perspectives of students, parents, and staff as we prepare our students to function effectively in a global society. Torrington Public Schools is committed to providing an excellent, accessible learning experience to all of our students. To this end, district staff has worked to identify and secure resources to ensure this experience. The district utilizes funding from grants, donations, and PTO fundraisers to develop and administer programs such as the Pre-K programs located at East School and other locations throughout the district. These funds also defray the cost of field trips to a variety of locations locally, regionally, and even internationally so that all students are able to participate. The district also utilizes local, state and federal grant funding to assure that staff has opportunities for professional growth experiences in each school, resulting in improved instruction and curriculum at all levels. Curriculum materials are evaluated to assure that they are representative and respectful of diverse groups.

#### SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

- ◆ Each school administrator works closely with Central Office administration to review student data to determine school needs.
- ◆ All schools serving the same grades utilize the same curriculum and are provided with the same level of resources and instructional support across the district.
- ◆ Each of the elementary schools has been provided with the opportunity to offer some type of extended day programming based upon their student performance data.
- ◆ At the secondary level, after school programs include tutoring and academic support for students in addition to the full complement of extra-curricular activities.
- ◆ The district looks for creative ways to assure that student needs are being addressed within budget development and approval.

#### THE COST OF EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS

The Board of Education represents approximately 60% of the total budget for the City of Torrington.



*CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*2015 Report from the Superintendent of Schools*

The largest portion of the BOE expenses is salaries, including 371 teachers, 163 paraprofessionals, 55 special services support personnel, 26 custodians, 20 clerical staff, and 14 administrators located across our seven schools. In our district office, we house additional staff and administrative personnel who manage our district-wide functions, such as the business, curriculum and instruction facilities, human resources, and special services offices. The total cost of salaries for the district in 2014-15 was \$34,727,672. Benefits, including health insurance and retirement, totaled \$14,382,732.



Ensuring that we appropriately care for and educate our neediest students is another significant expense to the district. Our costs to provide special education services, which include tuition, special services, and transportation, totaled \$9,698,290.

In order to remain competitive as they enter the world beyond high school, our students need to have the skills and abilities necessary to perform a wide variety of job and school-related work, and technology is a large part of their preparation. In addition, the district reports a broad array of information, such as student progress and performance, compliance information, and fiscal performance data, to myriad agencies and individuals. To accomplish this, we rely on efficient and up-to-date informational technology. The cost for IT services and equipment was \$1,074,287.

The cost of maintaining the school grounds and buildings was \$2,436,162. The district facilities director actively works to secure grant funding whenever possible, and has successfully done so in the following areas:

- A security grant for the implementation of a security system that allows each school (user) to immediately activate or deactivate entry codes for staff and which gives us the ability to lock down all entry devices district wide from a separate location,
- an energy incentive grant to install LED lighting and occupancy sensors throughout Vogel-Wetmore School allowing the district to reduce energy, and
- a state energy construction grant to install a solar photovoltaic system at Forbes School, providing a fully functional renewable power generating resource to meet a portion of the building's base electrical demand.

The district is proud of the work it has completed throughout the year, and looks forward to continuing the important work of educating Torrington's youth in the years to come.



## *CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report*

### TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

#### ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

The TAHD served over 137, 000 people in twenty boroughs, cities and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD Community Health Program investigated the following communicable diseases: 27 Campylobacteriosis, 9 Salmonellosis and 11 Giardiasis. TAHD conducted a contact investigation for 1 case of tuberculosis. Ten clinical samples were submitted to state lab for respiratory viruses. TAHD monitored several travelers from West Africa for Ebola virus symptoms. TAHD provided guidance to school nurses, daycares and community members on a variety of health issues. TAHD nurses administered 651 doses of flu vaccine and 6 doses of pneumonia vaccine to local residents. TAHD consulted with 44 residents regarding potential rabies exposures which resulted in TAHD submitting 29 raccoons, bats, and other animals to the State of CT Laboratory for rabies testing. Guidance on post exposure prophylaxis was provided as well. Ticks brought in by 83 residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

The TAHD is a member of Fit Together, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. This past year, Fit Together has worked to introduce "Let's Go -5210" The program works in a multi-sector setting to spread the message of: 5 - servings of fruits and vegetables, 2 - hours no more of recreational screen time, 1 - hour or more of physical activity, and 0 - sugary drinks, more water every day.

The TAHD is also an active member of the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force. More than 60 members from community agencies have joined to help strategize and develop solutions to the growing heroin/opiate addiction and overdose epidemic. The task force focuses on intervention, prevention, and community education. The task force was instrumental in creating an Opiate Addiction Counselor position at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital to assist those seeking substance abuse treatment.

The TAHD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provided case management for more than 115 children with blood lead levels ( $\geq 5\mu\text{l}$ ). TAHD collaborated with the Connecticut Children's Healthy Housing Program (CCHHP formerly the LAMPP Program) to assist property owners with lead abatement of their properties. Abatement / Remediation Orders were issued for 8 properties. Of these, five completed abatement and three other properties under old outstanding orders also completed abatement. Lead Poisoning Prevention materials were distributed to daycares, health centers, etc. TAHD Healthy Homes Program conducted a total of 30 home inspections (26 initial and 4 follow-up). Healthy Homes Presentations were provided to 2 community groups.

The TAHD Immunization Action Program (IAP) continues to work with local providers to ensure compliance with immunization laws among the pre-school population. The focus this past year has been on vaccine handling and storage as well as proper documentation. The TAHD conducts site visits and serves as a resource for local providers.

The TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program was active this year in Ebola Virus planning, education and monitoring of travelers from West Africa. TAHD worked with community partners to develop and implement consistent Ebola protocols and plans. TAHD participated in "Operation Get Smart", a full scale exercise designed to test Region 5's response to a mass casualty incident. TAHD continues to work on exercising and refining plans to mass distribute medications to the population in event of a public health emergency.

The TAHD-Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program partnered with the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Educational Association at Troop B as well as some Fire Explorer Units in Canaan and Norfolk in an effort to attract members. The MRC is doing the MRC \* B \* FIT & MRC \* B \* READY school age preparedness and nutrition education programs training for both, and the program will be presented in local communities this summer. The TAHD hosted an AmeriCorps Team during the summer of 2014. The TAHD partners with Phoenix Labs for its Water Testing Program. Phoenix Labs, a full service lab located in Manchester, CT offers a wide range of testing of drinking water, wastewater, groundwater/landfills, storm water, soil and more. TAHD collects samples when requested, and offers free technical advice on water testing results.

TAHD Environmental Health Program resulted in the following inspections, licenses and permits: 1886 food inspections, 704 temporary food permits, 68 new septic systems, 179 repaired septic systems, 152 private well permits, 50 private pool permits, 147 beauty salons & barber shops inspections, 549 house addition permits, 227 soil tests, 22 subdivision lots, 60 public pool and beach inspections, and 31 daycare center inspections. Records show that 671 samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water and paint, asbestos, food, sewage and volatile organic compounds and pesticides in water. Sanitarians investigated 338 complaints of various public health concerns; 38 legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

**Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health**

***CITY OF TORRINGTON 2014-2015 Annual Report***  
**NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) opened the doors to its new office this year at the Village Market Place in Goshen Center to serve our 21-town region. The COG's work program includes activities in both regional planning and regional service delivery. Planning activities include developing a regional plan of conservation and development, a regional transportation plan, natural hazard mitigation plans, emergency management planning, and village center revitalization. For more information, news, events, and planning resources please visit our website: [www.northwesthillscog.org](http://www.northwesthillscog.org).

This year, the COG began work on two new grant funded projects, the NW CT Food Hub Feasibility Study to better connect local farmers with wholesale buyers and the 8-Town Shared Economic Development Services project to help small towns attract and retain businesses and keep their village center areas vital. The COG also worked with the NWCT Economic Development Corporation and the NWCT Chamber of Commerce, on an action plan to implement the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and to gain formal State and Federal Economic Development District designation for our 21-town region to open it to additional funding possibilities.

The COG board consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from the 21 member towns. The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee existing COG programs, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation to enhance local government efficiency. A variety of issues of regional significance were discussed at the monthly meetings of the COG this year including maintaining local roads, municipal grants for supporting agriculture, municipal waste oil disposal, and regional health insurance collaboration. Guest speakers included the State Comptroller, Commissioner of Economic Development, and Secretary of State. In addition to the COG's regular monthly meetings, a special meeting of the COG was held to discuss legislative priorities with local legislators.

The COG also coordinates a number of popular regional service delivery programs including household hazardous waste collection days, a prescription assistance program, a fuel bank program, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program. The COG also provides assistance to a number of organizations in the region including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Public Safety Task Force, Recycling Advisory Committee, Housatonic River Commission, and Torrington Facade Improvement Program Committee. In addition, the COG hosts a quarterly "5<sup>th</sup> Thursday" forum for area Planning and Zoning Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

COG member towns include Barkhamsted, Burlington, Canaan (Falls Village), Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Washington, and Winchester.