



Town of Leicester
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square
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www.leicesterma.org

Leicester Highlights 2023

- Fire Department – Worked with PD to obtain new portable radios via grant funding, 14 ballistic vests and helmets are now in service, new backup repeater is installed and operational, Town's water cisterns are now cleaned, Fire prevention systems throughout Town buildings inspected and upgraded where necessary; High School Fire Academy started in the Fall of 2023; Fire staff participated in live fire aircraft training; Hydrant repair program ongoing.
- Police Department – Seven New Hires, First K9 Implementation, Multiple Fundraising Events including Stuff-A-Cruiser, Shop-With-A-Cop, Breast Cancer Awareness, and community events such as Cocoa with a Cop and the Winter Coat Program, Public Safety day, Community Reading Day, and the Veteran's Day Ceremony on Bean Square.
- Town Clerk - Town Clerk Election & Introduction to Staff & Residents; new poll pads introduced.
- Select Board New Member – Kevin Menard. Dianna Provencher re-elected.
- Negotiated and voted a new 10-year cable access agreement with Spectrum.
- Engaged a vendor to perform an analysis for water quality and recharge rates at Moose Hill, through a state grant.
- Building Department – Permitted the gas station/restaurant building by Walmart, the proposed Eastern Pearl restaurant at Crossroads, and Ziggy Bombs in the old Wings & Co. location.
- Treasurer – Collection Policy revisited, revamped and updated.
- Treasurer – Virtually all properties owing FY2023 taxes placed in tax title
- Highway Department re-vamped to become Department of Public Works.
- DPW: Chapter 90 road work commenced once more.
- DPW: All past due Chapter 90 reimbursements submitted and collected. Auburn Street Bridge redone with a state grant.
- DPW: Purchased a clean used large combination truck to replace a truck that had to be taken out of service at a savings of \$125,000 over new.
- DPW: Purchased a hot box with state funding to better address potholes.
- Obtained online permitting funding; now doing vendor interviews.
- Senior Center – Awarded \$106,950 in two highly competitive grants; continued the monthly Senior breakfasts; and hosted the High School Senior-Senior Prom. Weekly programming continues to be a success, Christmas for Children and the Veterans Breakfast featuring honor roll students serving.
- Up to \$330,000 in ARPA funds voted by the Board to support local businesses.

- Used ARPA funding to offer one-time bonuses to first responders.
- Successful Employee Appreciation Day.
- Fruitful Auction of five former Becker dormitories ; 4 properties sold, one pending. Auction proceeds: \$1,235,000.
- Over \$500,000 in competitive grants obtained.
- Accounting – Development of zero-based budgeting model.
- Special Projects and Awards Obtained Through State Funding – RFP for Online Permitting, Turnout Gear for FD, Municipal Vulnerability Program and Seed Funding, Marshall Street Culvert, Financial Classes for Veterans, K9 Equipment, Master Plan & Downtown Parking Plan Initiative to Boost Economic Development, Crash Scene Investigative Tools & Website Overhaul.
- Bidding and construction completed on ADA bathroom, fire alarm system, and railings, allowing the first floor of the Borger building to be opened for school use in Fall of 2023.
- MSBA Preliminary Approval for High School campus property, including a full remodel of Borger Building, Vet Clinic and Swan Library.
- Borger used as a filming location for independent film. Leicester students and faculty used as extras.
- Successful full year for the School Superintendent – Implementation of Trade Programs; 5 in total – Building & Property Maintenance, Early Education and Care, Certified Nursing Assistant, Advanced Manufacturing and Fire Science.
- License granted for temporary housing for homeless families in three former dormitories, worth \$2,000,000 gross each year.
- Obtained \$150,000 as part of the funding arrangement through the temporary housing program to modify and modernize those dormitories.
- Rental agreement reached with Worcester Community Action Counsel (WCAC) with a portion of the Winslow Avenue school for a Head Start program.
- Board of Health being moved back to Town Hall after safety check of Marsh Hall.
- RFP issued for Memorial School; one bid received but judged to be insufficient, to be rebid in 2024.
- Capital: Shelter funding proceeds used to fund the following acquisitions:

DPW Dump Truck	\$50,000
DPW Ford F450	\$100,000
Police Flooring	\$44,000
DPW Mower	\$40,738
School Boiler	\$65,853
Fire Forestry Truck	\$80,000
Town Hall Generator	\$125,000
Police Detective Station	\$32,862
Library Computers	\$21,000
Total	\$559,453



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- Library: Circulation of physical item increased 15%, Circulation of electronic items increased 30%, held 450+ programs, issued 354 new cards in 2023, a 9% increase, increased programming due to the ARPA grant, mobile hotspots continue to be the most popular items, Mobile Printing is new to the library this year. An electric car charging station was installed February, 2023, purchased new software that allows online booking of our meeting rooms and event registration. In November, the Assistant Director, Kae's dog, Nellie, passed her Therapy Dog Certification, so she occasionally spends the day at the library, offering her services. The library leaves the free Wi-Fi on 24/7. It was used over 1400 times in 2023.