

TOWN CLERK

2006 was a busy year in the town clerk's office. In addition to May's annual town meeting and election, there were two state elections, the September State Primary and the November State Election. The May annual town meeting was a record setting event because it was the first time in many years that all of the forty plus town meeting warrant articles were acted upon in one evening. A typical annual town meeting may take two or three nights to complete the same number of warrant articles. We set another record with voter attendance with only one hundred ninety-nine voters attending and approximately eighty-seven of those town meeting voters were required to be in attendance, i.e. Moderator, Deputy Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Capital Planning, School Committee, town meeting workers and volunteers.

The work in the Town Clerk's office continues to increase as the town grows and requirements increase. There are seventy-three chapters and four hundred fifty-one statutes of the Massachusetts General Laws that direct the Town Clerk's duties. This office interacts with all of Stow's town boards, as well as, several state agencies on a regular basis. All of the municipal committee meeting minutes and agendas are required to be filed in the town clerk's office. There are approximately 1000 dogs to license, 4300 voters and 6300 residents to enter into the voter/census database, and numerous filings by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Due to the Homeland Security Act, banks are now requiring business certificates from all businesses when previously only companies 'doing business as' (DBA's) had to apply for business certificates. The town clerk assisted with the official town website (www.stow-ma.gov) by updating information and assisting other departments with their web pages.

I am especially appreciative of the people who assisted me in the office this year. Kay Desmond, assistant town clerk, was responsible for street numbering, typing all of the vital record index cards and the vitals log book. She also assisted with town meeting, elections and various other projects over the course of the year. Ellie Beaudette worked in the office ten- fifteen hours per week assisting with filing, dog licensing, and a multitude of other clerical tasks. Pam Weathers, a Registrar of Voters, completed a lot of the census data entry in 2006. The remaining Registrars, Ted Perry and John O'Connell, also assisted with data entry and/or absentee ballots. The town clerk is a member of the Board of Registrars. Volunteer Bill Byron assisted with the tedious task of opening all the census envelopes again this year. Thank you to all of you for all of your help.