Personnel Board 2023 Annual Report

In 2023 town services were back to normal with all staff back in their offices on a regular schedule. The only aspect of town hall business that has not completely returned to normal is that not all town board and committee meetings are being held in person

We welcomed Larry Schilmeister to the Board in July. Thanks to Jim Klingensmith for serving on this board for 3 years.

Town Meeting approved the Board’s recommendation of a 4.4 % wage adjustment for all Town employees. Additionally, Town Meeting approved a one-time 10% increase in hourly wages to help employees deal with the high cost of living on Martha’s Vineyard. For FY2025, the board is recommending a 4.4 % wage adjustment for all employees effective July 1, 2024.

The Town had the following staffing changes in 2023:

* Omar Johnson, the Board of Health Agent moved back to Connecticut. Alex Lam who was the Assistant Agent moved into the lead position and Susan Toste became the Assistant Board of Health Agent.
* The Community Preservation Committee hired Maura Valley to replace Cindy Kraus to serve as their Administrative Assistant.
* After more than 20 years Rhonda Conley retired, and Wanda Higgins has joined the staff to work for the Affordable Housing Committee.
* At the Library, 7 substitute circulation assistants have been added to fill in as needed, and Hannah Burdige is our new Children/Youth Services Librarian
* Noah Stobie joined the Police Force

Welcome to all our new employees.

Bruce Stone, the Town Accountant announced that he will retire in June. Bruce will be sorely missed. He has been a steady, confident explainer of all matters related to the Town Budget. Happy golfing Bruce!

Part of the Personnel Board’s mission as outlined in the Personnel Bylaw is the administration of the classification and compensation plans for the town. The classification plan which is required to be reviewed and updated every five years, seeks to establish and provide a uniform system of classifying all positions to establish proper relations between positions based on the level of responsibility assumed and the minimum qualification required to perform the job so that the same schedule of compensation may be applied to each class, ensuring equal pay for equal work.

In addition to an employee’s compensation, the Town provides health care benefits, paid vacations, sick and personal time to all employees who work over 20 hours a week.

The Board continues to review and approve performance evaluations, new hires and other personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon A. Brathwaite, II, Chair

Janice Haynes, Employee Representative

Hunter Moorman

Larry Schilmeister

Brian Smith

Maria McFarland, Board Administrator