



The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services and programming to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. The FRCOG's 2016 Annual Report, which will be available in April of 2017 and on www.frcog.org shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of New Salem in 2016 included the following.

Administration and Special Projects

- Individual members of several Town energy committees met together informally on a bi-monthly basis to share news from their respective towns and to learn from each other and from invited guests about energy-related topics of mutual interest. FRCOG staff provided assistance in facilitating meetings, presented information, and conducted follow-up communication.

Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program

- New Salem contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY17 is \$128,027.
- New Salem participated in the Elevator Maintenance Program.
- New Salem participated in the Dog Tags and Licenses collective bid program.

Partnership for Youth

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to R. C. Mahar Regional School administrators on results from 294 Mahar students, representing 72% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.

Planning and Development Department

- Staff explored the feasibility of fixed route transit service for the towns of Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell.
- Staff provided support in working on developing a kiosk for the Route 122 Scenic Byway to be installed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- Staff conducted traffic counts as requested on Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202) and Wendell Road.

Regional Preparedness Program

- New Salem entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRCOG to recognize the Multi-Agency Coordination Center as the official organization to assist them with emergency management needs.

Town Accounting Program

- Staff produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and department heads.

- At year end, staff completed Free Cash certification, and Schedule A was submitted. In addition, staff provided assistance in completing the Recap for tax rate submission.
- Customized reports for committees and departments were developed and distributed.
- Staff assisted with the annual audit.
- All accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office. Staff completed backups daily and there was no unscheduled down time.

Workshops & Training

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that New Salem public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance.

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

The Shifting Marijuana Landscape — 1

Public Records Law — 2

Partnership for Youth

Advanced LifeSkills — 3 representatives of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

Vermont Vigilant Guard Fullscale Exercise — 1

Cooperative Public Health Service health district

ServSafe/Choke Saver/Allergen Training Series — 2

Regional Emergency Preparedness

Multiple Casualty Incident Exercise — 2