



## 2020 Annual Report

### For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020

**DRAFT**

January 3, 2022

In April 2021, the Town’s auditor, King, King & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants completed its audit of the Town’s financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2020 (FY2020) and shortly thereafter met with the Board of Finance to present and explain the results of that audit.

#### **AUDIT SUMMARY**

The Town ended FY2020 with an available Unassigned General Fund Balance (surplus) of \$2,911,851. The fund balance is 17.78% of FY2020 expenditures and provides a healthy reserve for unanticipated needs. The Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and every Town department should be congratulated for their contributions to making FY2020 another fiscally positive year for Preston.

The following pages present more detailed data extracted from that audit report. The full audit report is available for review in the Town Hall and can be downloaded on the Town web site at

<https://ct-preston.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/2370/Preston-CT-Combined-Reports-2020>

**TABLE 1** is a budget summary of the actual revenues and expenses for FY2020.

**TABLE 1**

**TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT**  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance  
Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis)  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Amended	Budgetary Basis	
<b>Revenues</b>				
Property Taxes, Interest, and Lien Fees	\$ 11,603,091	\$ 11,603,091	\$ 11,748,032	\$ 144,941
Intergovernmental	4,413,474	4,413,474	4,505,917	92,443
Licenses, Permits, and Charges for Services	209,300	209,300	256,805	47,505
Investment Income	25,000	25,000	25,832	832
Other	34,166	34,166	119,800	85,634
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>16,285,031</b>	<b>16,285,031</b>	<b>16,656,386</b>	<b>371,355</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
General Government	1,586,052	1,585,552	1,482,295	103,257
Land Development and Control	64,456	64,456	59,602	4,854
Public Works	606,368	606,368	505,352	101,016
Public Safety	1,074,015	1,074,015	1,016,214	57,801
Health Services	180,838	180,838	180,006	832
Public and Social Services	408,715	408,715	337,164	71,551
Miscellaneous	181,990	182,490	192,725	(10,235)
Education	12,026,999	12,026,999	11,794,392	232,607
Debt Service	805,598	805,598	805,598	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>16,935,031</b>	<b>16,935,031</b>	<b>16,373,348</b>	<b>561,683</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>(650,000)</b>	<b>(650,000)</b>	<b>283,038</b>	<b>933,038</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Use of Fund Balance	650,000	650,000	-	(650,000)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(650,000)</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>283,038</b>	<b>\$ 283,038</b>
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning of Year</b>			<b>3,320,925</b>	
<b>Fund Balance, End of Year</b>			<b>\$ 3,603,963</b>	

Source: Town of Preston Audit Report Year Ended June 30, 2020 p.16.

FY2020 results were favorable for both revenues and expenditures versus the budget. Both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education returned unspent budget funds to the Town. The budget anticipated using \$650,000 from the surplus (Unassigned General Fund) to balance the budget. However, as Table 1 shows, surplus funds were not required, and in fact the surplus balance increased by \$283,038.

**TABLE 2**  
**TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT**  
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
 Governmental Funds  
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Preston Redevelopment Agency Fund	Small Cities Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
Property Taxes, Interest, and Lien Fees	\$ 11,748,032	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,748,032
Intergovernmental Revenues	5,740,793	-	1,970,231	-	453,606	8,164,630
Licenses, Permits, and Charges for Services	258,805	-	-	-	183,629	440,434
Investment Income	25,832	13,325	2,072	-	315	41,544
Other Revenue	119,800	-	-	-	39,692	159,492
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>17,891,262</b>	<b>13,325</b>	<b>1,972,303</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>677,242</b>	<b>20,554,132</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Current:						
General Government	1,519,601	30	725,172	-	-	2,244,803
Public Works	512,608	-	-	-	25,113	537,721
Public Safety	1,019,557	-	-	-	8,186	1,027,743
Health Services	180,006	-	-	-	-	180,006
Public and Social Services	337,164	-	-	10,730	94,106	442,000
Education	12,920,585	-	-	-	484,212	13,404,797
Debt Service	805,598	-	-	-	-	805,598
Capital Outlay	121,420	888,743	-	-	40,574	1,050,737
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>17,416,539</b>	<b>888,773</b>	<b>725,172</b>	<b>10,730</b>	<b>652,191</b>	<b>19,693,405</b>
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	474,723	(875,448)	1,247,131	(10,730)	25,051	860,727
<b>Other Financing Sources/(Uses)</b>						
Transfers In	-	-	-	-	42,772	42,772
Transfers Out	(42,765)	-	-	-	(7)	(42,772)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)</b>	<b>(42,765)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,765</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>431,958</b>	<b>(875,448)</b>	<b>1,247,131</b>	<b>(10,730)</b>	<b>67,816</b>	<b>860,727</b>
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	3,368,038	2,558,291	(581,920)	41,826	758,937	6,145,172
<b>Fund Balances at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 3,799,996</b>	<b>\$ 1,682,843</b>	<b>\$ 665,211</b>	<b>\$ 31,096</b>	<b>\$ 826,753</b>	<b>\$ 7,005,899</b>

Source: Town of Preston Audit Report Year Ended June 30, 2020 p.14.

**TABLE 3**

**TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT**  
Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
June 30, 2020

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Preston Redevelopment Agency Fund	Small Cities Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,439,616	\$ 2,091,118	\$ 799,016	\$ 31,096	\$ 660,367	\$ 8,021,213
Restricted Cash	428,610	-	-	-	-	428,610
Investments	-	-	-	-	28,162	28,162
Receivables, Net of Allowance	365,077	-	-	357,561	166,824	889,462
Prepays	-	-	-	-	27	27
Inventory	-	-	-	-	5,471	5,471
Due from Other Funds	310,967	-	122	-	162,673	473,762
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,544,270</b>	<b>\$ 2,091,118</b>	<b>\$ 799,138</b>	<b>\$ 388,657</b>	<b>\$ 1,023,524</b>	<b>\$ 9,846,707</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts Payable and Accrued Items	\$ 855,447	\$ 264,474	\$ 112,424	\$ -	\$ 25,340	\$ 1,257,685
Unearned Revenue	7,556	-	21,503	-	4,265	33,324
Performance Bonds	428,610	-	-	-	-	428,610
Due to Other Funds	162,795	143,801	-	-	167,166	473,762
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,454,408</b>	<b>408,275</b>	<b>133,927</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,771</b>	<b>2,193,381</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Unavailable Revenues:						
Property Taxes and Interest	289,866	-	-	-	-	289,866
Receivables	-	-	-	357,561	-	357,561
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>289,866</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>357,561</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>647,427</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	24,435	24,435
Restricted	2,112	-	665,211	31,096	174,367	872,786
Committed	-	1,682,843	-	-	627,951	2,310,794
Assigned	886,033	-	-	-	-	886,033
Unassigned	2,911,851	-	-	-	-	2,911,851
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>3,799,996</b>	<b>1,682,843</b>	<b>665,211</b>	<b>31,096</b>	<b>826,753</b>	<b>7,005,899</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 5,544,270</b>	<b>\$ 2,091,118</b>	<b>\$ 799,138</b>	<b>\$ 388,657</b>	<b>\$ 1,023,524</b>	<b>\$ 9,846,707</b>

Source: Town of Preston Audit Report Year Ended June 30, 2020 p. 12.

**Board of Finance**

2019	2020
Jerry Grabarek (D), Chair: July-Nov 2019	John Moulson (R), Chair: Nov 2019-June 2020
Stacey Becker (R), Clerk	Robert Congdon (R), Vice Chair: Nov 2019-June 2020
Sandra Allyn-Gauthier (D): July-Nov 2019	Stacey Becker (R), Clerk
Keith Wucik (R): July-Nov 2019	Denise Beale (D): Nov 2019-June 2020
Ken Zachem (R): July-Nov 2019	Andy Depta (R): Nov 2019-June 2020
Ian Stammel (D): July-Nov 2019	Zachary Maurice (D): Jan-June 2020
Lennie Spencer (R) <i>Alternate</i> : July-Nov 2019	Zachary Maurice (D) <i>Alternate</i> : Nov-Dec 2019, <i>Vacancy Alternate</i> Jan-June 2020
Denise Beale (D) <i>Alternate</i> : July-Nov 2019	Matt Davis (R) <i>Alternate</i> : Nov 2019-June 2020

## Health Department

### *Uncas Health District*

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CHIEF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR: Patrick McCormack

PHONE NUMBER: (860) 823-1189

**MISSION:** “The Uncas Health District exists to promote and protect the public’s health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents.”

**VISION:** The Uncas Health District will continue to monitor changes and trends to prepare for emerging Public Health issues.

**GOALS & ACTION PLANS:** The Uncas Health District utilizes regional, state, and national data to develop programs and provide resources to meet the mandated functions of local public health, while incorporating additional programming to address trends and needs to improve the health of residents.

**FY 2019/20 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- COVID-19 required the Uncas Health District to implement its pandemic influenza plan. The District has been responsible for managing local data, Contact Tracing, Vaccination and education within the schools, businesses, and general public.
- The Uncas Health District is comprised of eleven municipalities and 98,897 residents.
- The Uncas Health District’s full-time public health nurse continues to provide prevention services including vaccination services and screenings.
- The Uncas Health District helps with access to health insurance in the State of Connecticut.
- The Uncas Health District provides Certified Food Protection Manager training monthly and FAST (Food Awareness Safety Training) as needed to individuals and groups serving food on a temporary basis.
- The Uncas Health District continues to implement grants to support the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, Medical Reserve Corps, Teen Outreach Program, Falls Prevention, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Prescription Drug Prevention, Tobacco Cessation, and Hepatitis C prevention.
- Syringe Services Programming is now available to provide a linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.
- The Uncas Health District staff members participated in numerous coalitions, advisory groups, boards, commissions, and other partnerships to collaborate on various initiatives intended to improve the lives of the residents including the Eastern CT Health Collaborative, the SCCOG Human Services Advisory Committee and the UCFS Board of Directors.

MEASURES OF ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE (Health District)

FY 2019/2020

<b>Town of Preston</b>		2019-2020
INDICATOR		ACTUAL
	Restaurant Inspections	11
	Complaints Investigated	0
	Complaints Closed	0
	Septic Permits	12
	Discharge Permits	2
	Well Permits	8
	Public Bathing Area Samples	0
	Group Home / Daycare Inspections	0
	Campground Inspections	3
	Public Pool Inspection	6
	Septic & B100a Plans Reviewed	23
	Temporary Food Permits	4
	Salon Inspections	1
	Tattoo facility	0

\* Reflects COVID closures and virtual inspections.

## Tax Collector

**Jill Keith**

**Tax Collector**

Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 111

[townclerk@preston-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@preston-ct.org)

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the Tax Collector's Office received \$11,556,528 in property taxes for the current year and \$114,445 for prior years. An additional \$77,558 in interest and lien fees brought the collection total to \$11,748,531.

There were 9,459 accounts as follows:

Real Estate	2,353
Personal Property	692
Motor Vehicle	5,517
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	897
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>9,459</b>

Source: Grand Rate Book Balance Sheet Report-Grand List Year 2018

TABLE 4 is the annual report of the Tax Collector. The taxes paid to support the FY2020 budget are based on the October 2018 Grand List.

**TABLE 4**

TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT  
Schedule of Property Taxes Levied, Collected, and Outstanding  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

List of 10/1:	Outstanding July 1, 2019	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Collectible Taxes	Collections During the Year				Transfers to Suspense	Outstanding June 30, 2020
			Additions	Deductions		Taxes	Interest	Liens	Total		
2018		\$ 11,751,043	\$ 10,266	\$ 36,406	\$ 11,724,903	\$ 11,556,528	\$ 45,275	\$ 160	\$ 11,601,963	\$ -	\$ 168,375
2017	\$ 159,000	-	662	3,840	155,822	88,106	17,904	668	106,678	-	67,716
2016	54,019	-	177	762	53,434	15,449	4,770	474	20,693	10,322	27,663
2015	16,889	-	-	-	16,889	4,047	2,748	183	6,978	-	12,842
2014	8,973	-	-	-	8,973	2,263	1,562	24	3,849	-	6,710
2013	3,723	-	-	-	3,723	1,688	810	24	2,522	-	2,035
2012	(1,056)	-	-	-	(1,056)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,056)
2011	1,642	-	-	-	1,642	-	-	-	-	-	1,642
2010	1,985	-	-	-	1,985	-	-	-	-	-	1,985
2009	388	-	-	-	388	-	-	-	-	-	388
2008	347	-	-	-	347	-	-	-	-	-	347
2007	(43)	-	-	-	(43)	-	-	-	-	-	(43)
2006	238	-	-	328	(90)	-	-	-	-	-	(90)
2005	2,024	-	-	-	2,024	-	-	-	-	-	2,024
2004	2,052	-	-	-	2,052	-	-	-	-	-	2,052
	<b>\$ 250,181</b>	<b>\$ 11,751,043</b>	<b>\$ 11,105</b>	<b>\$ 41,336</b>	<b>\$ 11,970,993</b>	<b>11,668,081</b>	<b>73,069</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>11,742,683</b>	<b>\$ 10,322</b>	<b>\$ 292,590</b>
Net Grand List - October 1, 2018			Total Suspense Collections			2,892	2,956	-	5,848		
Tax Rate: 26.43 mills			Total Collections			<b>\$ 11,670,973</b>	<b>\$ 76,025</b>	<b>\$ 1,533</b>	<b>\$ 11,748,531</b>		

Source: Town of Preston Audit Report Year Ended June 30, 2020 p. 63.



## **Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

### **The Year COVID-19**

The Annual Report of the School Year 2019-2020 reflects the general operation, status, and progress of the Preston Public Schools during July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, fiscal year.

This is the year that COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) struck our community and the world. Through the first half of the school year until March 12, 2020, things were calm and routine. On March 12, 2020, schools were closing and challenged to begin the transformation to virtual instruction. When the shutdown first occurred, many thought it would take just a few weeks to resolve. We know now that schools did not return to full face-to-face instruction for the rest of the school year. During this time, many changes and modifications occurred. We learned much about how to implement the basics of virtual instruction. We worked to ensure that teachers and students had access to vital technology and each other. Families had to make significant changes in the homework areas, their family routines, and their use of technology. During the spring we served over 30,000 meals in a Grab 'n' Go style pick up. Anxiety and worry steadily increased. The symbolism of the end of the year 8th-grade transition ceremony outside in a drive-in movie style ceremony was not lost on anyone.

The district was required to create a reopening plan for the following September 2020. After the plan was created and submitted in June 2020, over 15 Amendments were made to the plan and the Governor issued almost 90 Executive Orders. Throughout this process, we learned to conduct rigorous contact tracings, and we implemented extensive mitigation strategies, including mask-wearing, hand washing, proper signage, intensive cleaning, and social distancing strategies.

Our staff learned to pivot on a dime and reconstructed their entire teaching modality. Every employee in the district stepped up and redefined the way they worked. Our students demonstrated determined-flexibility and adjusted with us in many areas. The social construct of school was reshaped into a unique partnership of families, teachers, staff, and community members all focused on safety, wellbeing, and providing the best education available. To our entire learning community, thank you for all your past support and all your future advocacy for quality learning experiences both virtual and face-to-face for all our students.

## **Students PK-12**

The Preston Public Schools enrolled 434 students in grades PK-8 during the 2019-2020 school year. This number included 287 students PK-5 at Preston Veterans' Memorial School, 30 enrolled in Pre-K, 42 enrolled in Kindergarten and 147 students in grades 6-8 at Preston Plains Middle School. Two hundred sixty-one (257) students attended the following high schools: NFA, Ledyard High School, Ledyard Agri-Science, Norwich Tech, Grasso Tech, the Science and Technology Magnet High School, Griswold High School, and the Marine Science Magnet High School. Preston's out-of-district special education students numbered 32, while 73 students received Special education services in-district.

The Class of 2020 chose the following colleges: Bay Path University, Bryant University, Duquesne University, Three Rivers Community College, University of Connecticut, Eastern CT State University, Connecticut College, Endicott College, Framingham State University, Hofstra University, King's College, Plymouth State University, Porter and Chester Institute - Wethersfield, St. Petersburg College, Western CT State University, the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, University of Delaware, University of New England, University of New Haven, University of Rhode Island, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of South Carolina-Columbia, Southern Connecticut State University, Springfield College, Stonehill College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Western Connecticut State University, and Western New England College.

## **Personnel PK-8**

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Preston Public Schools employed 40 Teachers, 20 Instructional Assistants, 1.0 Superintendent, 2.0 Principals, .5 Director of Special Education, .8 Director of Finance, 1.0 Executive Administrative Assistant, 1.0 Assistant to the Special Education Director, 1.0 Fiscal Assistant, 2.5 School Secretaries, 2.0 School Nurses, 2.0 school psychologists. .5 School Social Worker, 1.0 Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, 4.0 Custodians, 3.0 Food Service Employees, 1.0 Director of Transportation, 1.0 Mechanic, and 15 bus drivers.

## **Board of Education**

Members of the Board of Education included Sean Nugent; Chair, Charles Raymond; Vice-Chair, Deborah Burke-Grabarek; Secretary, Cindy Luty, Daniel Harris, Ed Gauthier, George Carver. Ed Gauthier left at the half-year and Tom Turner returned to the Board. The BOE accomplished much, including continued work on the Capital Improvement Plan, finishing a remodel of the middle school science room, budget improvements based on a modified Zero-Based Budgeting process, student recognitions, and adding a student liaison to the Board, policy reviews, and other important actions.

## **Education Programs, PK-8**

The district, at all levels, continued to work to improve the social-emotional learning opportunities for all students especially during the months from March until the end of the year. Important positions like the school nurse, school psychologist, and part-time school social worker coordinated with staff, administration, and parents to provide a warm, safe, and welcoming learning environment, whether face-to-face or virtual. With safety as the utmost concern and a balanced response to the COVID-19 mitigation strategies, the district was able to transform virtual instruction and support to teachers, families, and students throughout the disruption. Standardized testing programs during this year were suspended due to COVID.

Preston Veterans Memorial School students and staff hunkered down and conducted virtual instruction from March 2020 through to the end of the year. There were no assemblies, no spirit weeks, no citizens of the month, and no special events like Grandparent's Day, Senior Citizens Day, or an end-of-the-year field day. Still educators and students tried to stay connected with a parking lot reverse parade and the house-to-house ice cream delivery in town.

Preston Plains Middle School did not hold any extracurricular activities. The fifth-grade orientation was presented virtually with a prerecorded presentation. A similar virtual celebration was prepared for 8th graders, including prerecorded speeches by the Board of Education Chair, Superintendent, and the PPMS Principal, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The grade 8 transition ceremony did occur in person; the event was held outside in the PVMS parking lot.

The Preston Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) are often the center of many community-wide activities held at both schools and they supported a variety of student activities; however, most of this year their activities were severely curtailed.

During the first part of the year, the district transported PK-12 students to two Preston schools, NFA, Norwich Tech, Grasso Tech, Ledyard High School, Marine Science Magnet H.S., and Science and Technology H.S., Integrated Day Charter School, and the Regional Multi-Cultural Magnet School. During the transition to virtual instruction, bus drivers delivered instructional materials, maintained buses, and assisted building and grounds in multiple projects.

### **School Facilities, PK-12 Finance**

The Board of Education and Board of Finance monitor school expenses each month. The Preston Public Schools' net budget for 2019-2020 was \$12,026,999. This year, the Board of Education continued to expand and improve the budget process that many community members have touted as transparent and informative. In addition, the Board of Education transitioned to virtual meetings and began using the new strategic plan, created a technology plan, and began recognition practices such as awarding the first Paw Award to a staff member who exemplified the highest qualities of professionalism, humanity, honesty, and humility. The Board continues to acknowledge students from grades PK through 12 and it took the first steps to invite a student liaison into its membership.

The Board of Education accepted a draft of the first-ever comprehensive Technology Plan that is being integrated into the Strategic Plan, and the upcoming Facility Plan. The Board was also impacted by the transition to virtual meetings although they continued to review and respond to safety priorities throughout the district that focused on enhancing various safety protocols to promote a warm, safe, and welcoming environment whether face-to-face or virtual.

### **The Future**

The 2019-2020 fiscal year was a dynamic and challenging time requiring stamina, compassion, and creativity. We all made it work, but we all know the changes we patched together under health department guidance are not sustainable. The District learned from the multiple transitions and adjustments and worked to build off the policies, practices, systems, and a thoughtful vision to further improve the budget development process, the student learning environment including both face-to-face instruction and virtual instruction. All the new mitigation strategies that assure the safety and well-being

of all staff and students will not likely go away any time soon, so this standard becomes a large part of our immediate and future planning. Our future is also framed by hope and defined by perseverance, commitment, humility, and care. The Preston Public Schools Learning Community is ready for the challenge, and we welcome the reader's support.



**Dr. Roy Seitsinger, Jr.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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[https://www.prestonschools.org/home\\_page](https://www.prestonschools.org/home_page)

<https://www.prestonschools.org/boe>

[https://www.prestonschools.org/central\\_office](https://www.prestonschools.org/central_office)

[https://preston-plains-middle-school.echalksites.com/home\\_page](https://preston-plains-middle-school.echalksites.com/home_page)