

## CHAPTER 6 SERVICES AND FACILITIES

*"Shall provide an inventory of existing and forecasted needs for the facilities and services used by the public such as, but not limited to, educational facilities, public safety, water, sanitary sewers, libraries, and community facilities. The policies and implementation techniques must be identified for inclusion in the implementation program element " -Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act.*

### 6.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to provide an accurate description of the Town's facilities and services (see Figure 6-1). This element will summarize existing conditions, and where appropriate, relate these to general planning principles and concerns. Included are Town Administration, school, library, fire, police, parks/recreation, and highway department. On the whole, Town services were rated "good" by the highest percentage of those responding to the community survey (AVA, L990). However, Little Compton is not a "full service" community, providing residents with a municipal sewage collection system with advanced treatment and municipal water distribution systems. Water supply and wastewater disposal are provided by individual wells and facilities. Additionally, the Town does not have a staffed highway department, but does have an elected highway superintendent who handles the private contracts for road resurfacing, maintenance including grass cutting, culvert and ditch repair, and snow plowing.

The Facilities Committee, as a sub-committee of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, was responsible for collecting data and conducting the inventory of Town facilities. The following information was collected (where available):

- Number of personnel;
- Equipment-type/age/condition;
- Available studies of needs;
- Department budget.

### 6.2 Town Government

Little Compton is governed by a five member Town Council which is headed by the Council President. Council members are elected for 2 year terms. Other elected posts in the Town include:

Position	# of Posts	Term	Position	# of Posts	Term
Town Clerk	1	2 years	Town Moderator	1	2 years
Treasurer	1	2 years	Tax Assessor	3	6 years
School Committee	5	4 years			

The following are administrative positions appointed by the Town Council:

- Local Emergency Management Agency Director
- Police Chief
- Fire Chief
- Building Official
- Director of Public Works
- Town Sergeant Welfare Director

The Little Compton Town Hall, located on the Commons, functions as the Town's center of local government. The structure houses the operations of the Town Clerk and associated storage, the Building Inspector's Office, Town Council Office and Chambers, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and the Tax Assessor's Office. Recent renovations and expansions have been made to accommodate the space needs of various offices and to bring the building into compliance with handicap accessibility needs. The building, with new additions, appears to provide adequate space for operations, at present and anticipated staffing levels.

Storage space within various offices is inadequate. Rearrangement of existing space could alleviate the storage space problems in some areas. Expansion into the Legion Hall should be the next option explored for meeting the space needs of the town Hall. Future expansion of the building could be achieved by adding a second story above the recently completed addition.

**Table 6-1  
 Town Hall Budget Trends 1984 - 1990**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Real 1989 Dollars</b>	<b>% Change in Real Dollars</b>
1984	\$278,185	\$339,740	
1985	\$275,632	\$326,995	-4%
1986	\$325,730	\$377,038	15%
1987	\$367,185	\$407,069	8%
1988	\$424,165	\$447,846	10%
1989	\$494,379	\$494,379	10%

Source: Town of Little Compton, 1990.

### 6.3 Schools

Currently Little Compton operates one school facility, located on the Commons. This facility houses classrooms and associated activity space, cafeteria, a gymnasium, and administration for grades K-8. The Town does not provide a school for high school students. Students in grades 9-12 within the Town, attend other public high schools in the area on a tuition basis. The majority of these students attend Middletown High School.

Money to upgrade the existing facility was appropriated in May of 1990. Overall, the building is in fair condition. The School Building Needs study done by KLQ Inc. provides a detailed analysis of the school facilities including a description of the building conditions and observations as to the adequacy of spaces in the newly constructed areas, as well as the older parts of the building. The study identified many deficiencies in the school facilities.

These deficiencies generally fall into one of the following categories:

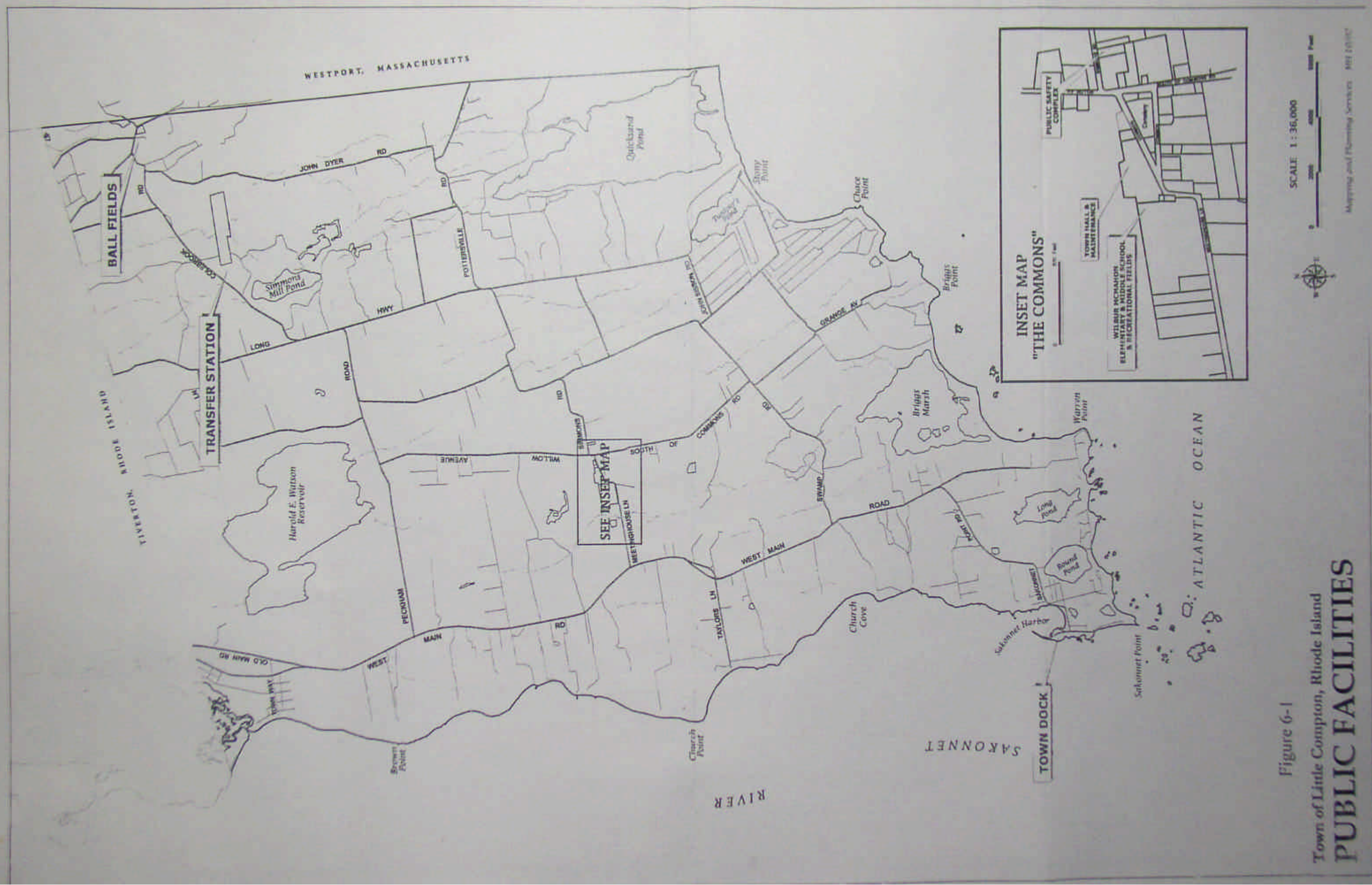


Figure 6-1

Town of Little Compton, Rhode Island  
**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

SCALE 1 : 36,000



Mapping and Planning Services, MBT 00102

- handicapped access (nearly non-existent)
- space for programs
- ventilation
- heating systems
- acoustical problems
- roof systems
- fire code compliance
- asbestos removal
- protected play yards
- Town shelter

Money has been appropriated to address many of the problems identified in the study. Of the \$2.2 million appropriated for improvements, \$988,000 was allocated for internal repairs and \$1,016,000 is being used to construct 2 new classrooms and 2 resource rooms at the rear of the building and 2 administrative offices in the front of the building, and also to improve handicapped access. The remaining \$.19 million is being used for asbestos removal and financing.

As of July 9, 1991, additions and renovations were approximately 50 percent complete. The facility is slated to be completed for occupancy in early September, with punch list work items continuing into the early part of October.

Additions at the rear of the building have effectively eliminated a playground area previously used by older children. This area may now be suitable for some staff parking, possibly 10 vehicles, which would alleviate some of the problems with on-street parking in the Commons area.

Enrollment trends and two set of projections based on different assumptions were done by KLQ Inc. in July of 1989 (see Tables 6-2 to 6-4). The first set of projections indicate that total enrollment will decrease slightly (2.2 %) by the 1998-99 school year. The projection of school aged children using two year averages for number of birth-to-kindergarten students, and average survival ratios using the last three years, has school enrollment increasing through 1991-92, with a total enrollment of 335, and then decreasing gradually to 309 by the 1998-99 school year.

**Table 6-2**  
**Enrollment Trends by Grade Group**

Year	Grade									Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1978-79	38	44	50	46	41	48	53	40	58	418
L979-80	24	42	41	46	40	40	42	54	41	370
1980-81	26	30	34	40	45	45	37	42	57	356
1981-82	25	25	29	30	38	46	41	38	40	312
1982-83	25	29	30	31	33	39	46	38	41	312
1983-84	31	25	30	32	31	32	38	47	39	305
1984-85	50	32	27	35	35	36	34	39	47	335
1985-86	41	41	33	27	3L	38	33	36	39	319
1986-87	44	38	41	30	27	27	39	31	34	311
1987-88	29	44	38	40	29	24	28	37	28	297
1988-89	39	34	39	37	44	29	24	33	37	316

Source: KLQ Inc. School Building Needs Study, December, 1989.

**Table 6-3**  
**Enrollment Projections by Grade Group - Projection No. 1**

Year	Grade									Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1989-89	39	34	39	37	44	29	24	33	37	316
1989-90	47	40	33	37	38	40	30	24	31	320
1990-91	35	48	38	31	38	35	42	31	23	321
199L-92*	42	36	46	36	32	35	36	43	29	335
1992-93	30	43	35	44	37	29	36	37	41	332
1993-94	36	31	4L	33	45	34	30	37	35	322
1994-95	36	37	30	39	34	41	35	31	35	318
1995-96	36	37	36	29	40	31	43	36	29	317
1996-97	36	37	36	34	30	37	32	44	34	320
1997-98	36	37	36	34	35	28	38	33	42	319
1998-99	36	37	36	34	35	32	29	39	31	309

Birth-to-kindergarten average of the last 2 years (.89) is used.

For grades 1-8, average survival ratios of the last 5 years are used.

Source: KLQ Inc. School Building Needs Study, December, 1989.

\* 1989 through 1992 - Actual Figures.

The projection of school aged children using five year averages for number of birth-to-kindergarten students, and average survival ratios using the last five years, has school enrollment increasing through 1998, with a total enrollment of 309. By 1999 enrollment is expected to drop from 406 to 392 students. Actual enrollment figures for kindergarten students for the 1990-91 school year (43 students) was closer to Projection #2 (Table 6-4) using five year averages (42 students) than to Projection #1 (Table 6-3) using two and three year averages. However, School Department estimates for kindergarten enrollment in the 1991-92 school year are closer to the figures used in Projection #1.

**Table 6-4**  
**Enrollment Projections by Grade Group - Projection No. 2**

Year	Grade									Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1989-89	39	34	39	37	44	29	24	33	37	316
1989-90	57	39	34	39	37	44	30	25	31	336
1990-91	42	56	39	34	39	37	45	31	24	347
1991-92	50	42	56	39	34	39	38	46	29	373
1992-93	36	50	42	57	39	34	40	39	44	381
1993-94	43	36	50	42	58	39	35	41	37	381
1994-95	43	43	36	51	42	58	40	36	39	388
1995-96	43	43	43	36	52	42	59	41	34	393
1996-97	43	43	43	43	36	52	43	61	39	403
1997-98	43	43	43	43	43	36	53	44	58	406
1998-99	41	43	41	43	41	43	37	55	42	392

Birth-to-kindergarten average of the last 5 years (1.07) is used.  
For grades 1-8, average survival ratios of the last 3 years are used.  
Source: KLQ Inc. School Building Needs Study, December, 1989.

Additions to the existing school facility are thought to be sufficient to handle the number of students in either set of projections. According to Projection #2, staffing levels may have to be increased within the next 10 years to handle an additional 90 students.

**Table 6-5**  
**School Department Budget Trends 1984 - 1990**

Year	Actual Expenditure	Real 1989 Dollars	% Change in Real Dollars
1984-85	\$1,584,548	\$1,935,165	
1985-86	\$1,787,831	\$2,120,988	10%
1986-87	\$1,923,455	\$2,226,429	5%
1987-88	\$2,109,781	\$2,338,947	5%
1988-89	\$2,149,030	\$2,269,009	-3%
1989-90	\$2,558,587	\$2,558,587	13%
1990-91	\$3,081,187	\$2,923,238	14%
1991-92 (Budgeted)	\$3,152,807	\$2,990,362	2%

Little Compton School Department, Annual Reports.

## 6.4 Library

Little Compton is served by the Brownell Library located in the Commons area. With improvements made to the physical plant in recent years, the building is in excellent condition. A Library Building Committee was formed to select an architect, raise funds and oversee the Library expansion and renovation. Approximately \$100,000 of the estimated \$250,000 necessary for the project has already been donated by various foundations. The Little Compton Library Building Campaign Fund was started in August of 1991, with the goal of raising \$150,000 to finance the balance of the project. The plans for the expansion call for new children's reading room, staff room, general reading room and lavatories facilities to be built. The front desk will also be moved and the existing children's reading room will

be renovated. The citizen survey suggests that the vast majority of residents (78%) would strongly support initiatives to improve and expand the library services and facilities.

The library should be a place where activities for all ages are held and should have a balanced collection representing a wide range of subject matter. The library with its current resources is not meeting all the needs of the residents. The collection is not balanced nor comprehensive in representing Western intellectual tradition. The math and science collection is outdated, and the collection is lacking for junior and senior high school students wishing to pursue intellectual development in the humanities or sciences.

Activities for children have been improved in the past few years with the addition of a Saturday morning Storyhour, and a Monday afternoon Story Program geared for Grades 1 - 3, in addition several special storytelling sessions with raconteurs and children's authors have been held during the Summer months.

The library has not complied with many of the 24 standards or the 54 guidelines set by the RI. Department of State Library Services. The library does not have a full-time professional librarian as is required by the state standards, and the librarians are among the lowest paid in the state<sup>1</sup>. The lack of a full-time professional librarian is probably the greatest short coming of Little Compton's Free Public Library. The library does produce an annual report and is developing a long-range plan as is required. An integral part of the plan to improve services is to join the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network (CLAN) which will link the Brownell and hopefully the school library to the statewide data base. The library trustees recognize the inadequacies of certain sections of the collection, and will be conducting evaluations to determine where to allocate resources.

The library does meet the standards for hours but is in non-compliance with guidelines for reference services, programs and "outreach". Some of the comparative statistics for the Brownell Library are given below.

In 1990, the library collection consisted of 28,875 books, had no serials or other non-print materials, and had an annual circulation of 10,311. No items were loaned, 147 items were borrowed, and there were 2,860 reference transactions.. The library had a 91.3 percent fill rate, with 147 of the 161 requests for materials being filled. The number of visits increased.

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<sup>1</sup> A professional librarian is defined as one who holds a graduate degree in library science from a school accredited by the American Library Association.

from 8,788 in 1989 to 9,100 in 1990 and 14 people attended library programs in 1990. Sixty-six percent of library users were adult. The minimum Services standard for items (books and other materials) per capita for towns serving a population of less than 10,500 is 2.5 items. Little Compton's items per capita is 8.64 and its circulation per capita is 3.0. The Library exceeds the minimum collection size which is set at 10,500 items.

The Brownell Library is open 30.5 hours a week. The majority of the library's funding comes from the Town (92%) the balance is funded by State. Little Compton spent \$8.27 per capita on library services in 1990, up from \$6.66 in 1988 (see Table 6-6). The statewide per capita for library sending was 16.38 in 1990 average

**Table 6-6**  
**Library Budget Trends 1984-1990**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Real 1989 Dollars</b>	<b>% Change in Real Dollars</b>
1984	\$13,000	\$15,877	
1985	\$16,710	\$19,824	25%
1986	\$17,771	\$20,570	4%
1987	\$19,029	\$21,096	3%
1988	\$21,931	\$22,518	7%
1989	\$24,350	\$24,350	31%
1990	\$27,224	\$25,828	6%

### **6.5 Police Department**

The operations of Little Compton's Police Department occupy the ground floor of the IOOF Hall, located on the Commons. The structure provides adequate space for operations. The ground floor provides office space for the Chief, standing room and counter space for public interaction, a soundproof conference room, detention cell, records and file storage, lockers for personnel, break room, restroom, and permanent locations for the operation of various types of equipment. Expansion of the operation to the second floor of the Hall is a viable alternative if additional space is needed, as the Town owns the building.

The Department has 3 patrol vehicles, a patrol boat, an animal control van and a four wheel drive jeep. Parking at the present location is in short supply for personnel and the public. A study of the parking needs in the Commons area will encompass the specific needs of the Police Department.

The Police Department has taken advantage of federal drug forfeiture laws which allow local law enforcement agencies to confiscate and use money and property used in the corn-

mission of crimes involving controlled substances. The Department has acquired a boat which it uses for rescue operations, and in the last two fiscal years has spent over \$380,000 in drug forfeiture money for law enforcement purposes including new vehicles, communications equipment and computers. The Town has received consent to use drug forfeiture money for the construction of a new fire / police station. Most or all of the cost of the new facility will be financed with drug forfeiture money.

The staff of the Police Department includes the following:

- Chief
- 2 Lieutenants
- 1 Sergeants
- 4 Sr. Patrolmen
- 3 Special Officers
- 1 Animal Control Officer
- 4 full-time dispatchers (civilian)
- 2 part-time dispatchers (civilian)

**Table 6-7  
 Police Department Budget Trends 1984-1990**

Year	Actual Expenditure	Real 1989 Dollars	94 Change in Real Dollars
1984	\$130,638	\$159,545	
1985	\$127,102	\$150,787	-5%
1986	\$142,511	\$164,959	9%
1987	\$140,431	\$155,685	-6%
1988	\$182,485	\$192,673	24%
1989	\$294,781	\$294,781	53%
1990	\$343,615	\$326,000	11%
1991	\$373,620	\$354,370	9%

### 6.6 Fire Department

The Fire Department is staffed with a full-time Chief, 2 full-time captains, 2 lieutenants, 5 full-time firefighters, the remainder of the Department consists of volunteers, 3 volunteer EMT's, and 17 volunteer firefighters. Capital equipment currently in service include the following:

<u>Vehicle type</u>	<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Model Year</u>
Pumper truck	#64	(1960)
Pumper truck	#63	(1973)
Brush truck	#68	(1977)
Tanker truck	#1	(1993) - Housed offsite
Tanker truck	#2	(1954) - Housed offsite
Ambulance	#66	(1986)
Chiefs car	#61	(1987)
Rescue boar	#69	(1990)

The operations of Little Compton's Fire Department are housed in a single building located on the Commons. The garage portion of the building is approximately 1,875 square feet, the balance of the building consists of the Chief's office, a dispatch room, and bunk room for three people with associated facilities. The current facility is in violation of fire codes for the State of Rhode Island, the department's tankers are not capable of being housed within the existing space and there is little space for maintenance of vehicles.

The inadequate space and state fire code violations associated with the existing fire station clearly point to the short term need for a new fire station. Furthermore, there is general agreement among town officials and department heads the new fire station should be located in the Commons area. While there is no short or long term need for new or expanded police facility, inclusion of the police department in any construction plans for a new public safety facility is necessary and sensible because the drug forfeiture money (\$600,000) available to Little Compton must be used for the enhancement of law enforcement services.<sup>2</sup>

The Town Council has approved plans to build a new public safety complex on the Peckham lot at the southwestern approach to the Commons.

Prior to the Town Council's decision, the Facilities and Services sub-committee had recommended three locations:

1. The space occupied by the existing fire station, police station and if necessary the tennis court;
2. Part of the field north of the existing fire station;
3. On Willow Avenue.

If for whatever reason the new complex cannot be built on the Peckham lot; these 3 alternate sites, chosen by the services and facilities group are available for consideration by the Town Council.

The existing buildings which are occupied by the *fire* station on the Commons may be utilized by the Town's Maintenance Department for storage of equipment, and the offices of

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<sup>2</sup> Letter from Egbert D. Hawes, Jr., Chief of Police to Little Compton Town Council, September 26, 1991

the Town Hall could utilize space in the existing police station for storage or operation of some of its departments.

The Fire Department's budget trends are shown in Table 6-8.

**Table 6-8**  
**Fire Department Budget Trends 1984-1990**

Year	Actual Expenditure	Real 1989 Dollars	% Change in Real Dollars
1984	\$130,638	\$159,545	
1985	\$127,102	\$150,787	-5%
1986	\$142,511	\$164,959	9%
1987	\$140,431	\$155,685	-6%
1988	\$182,485	\$192,673	24%
1989	\$225,084	\$225,084	17 %
1990	\$229,640	\$217,868	-3%
1991	\$247,816	\$235,048	8%

### 6.7 Emergency Management

The Town of Little Compton has a "Local Peacetime Disaster Plan," which was adopted in 1980 and is reviewed annually. The Town's Emergency Management Director is the President of the Town Council, who works with the Police and Fire Chiefs to review and, if necessary, update the Local Peacetime Disaster Plan. Copies of the Plan are on file in the Town Hall and at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Little Compton Police Station, 32 Commons.

The Plan identifies the Police Station as the HOC, where the Director and Chiefs of Police and Fire Departments would gather to direct emergency operations. Local officials work with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and has received the most recent State Emergency Operations Plan dated February, 1995.

The Fire Chief attends all State and County meetings to coordinate mutual aid with other fire Departments. All Police and Fire Department vehicles carry Hazmat Handbooks.

The Town has identified the Wilbur/McMahon School as the primary public shelter in agreement with the Red Cross. Local and Red Cross officials will staff the school site in the event of an emergency.

Since the Town appointed its own Council President as the Director of Emergency Management, there has not been the need to apply for federal funding for the position.

### 6.8 Health and Human Resources

In May of 1991 a committee was formed to address health and human resource issues in Little Compton. Prior to the formation of this committee there was no coordinated effort to support or disseminate information regarding health and human resource services within the Little Compton. Nine Little Compton caregiving organizations formed a network that has become the Little Compton Health and Human Resources Committee (LCHHRC). The LCHHRC has a fourfold purpose:

1. To support existing programs and organizations, being a coordinating network in their provision of resources for the health and well being of the citizenry.
2. To inform town residents about the resources which are available both locally and statewide.
3. To identify future community needs and to assist in initiating solutions.
4. To increase the community's awareness of its own resources and its responsibility to all residents.

The LCHHRC is composed of representatives from the following constituencies with additional representatives from the community at large:

Little Compton Assistance Association  
Little Compton Fire Department  
Little Compton Nursing Association  
Little Compton Police Department  
Little Compton School Nurse  
Senior Citizen Program

The Substance Abuse Task Force  
The Town Council  
St. Andrew's By-the-Sea  
St. Catherine's Church  
Old Stone Baptist Church  
United Congregational Church

The Town works with several public and private agencies to provide assistance to disabled residents of Little Compton. These include:

1. **School Department** - The School Department provides transportation for disabled students. In the classroom, computers are supplied for special needs pupils. Wheelchair elevator facilities are available.
2. **Public Buildings** - The Town Hall and all public buildings are accessible for the handicapped, with elevators and ramps. In addition, both the Police Station is equipped with TDD facilities for telephone calls from the hearing impaired.
3. **Nursing Association** - The Little Compton Nursing Association provides a van for disabled persons and the elderly for transportation to a day care center on East Main Road.
4. **New Visions** - A local social service agency that receives funding from the Town, provides assistance to the disabled.
5. **Church Community Housing Corporation** - A regional housing agency supported by federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) finding, provides assistance and low interest loans to residents who need to retrofit existing homes with facilities, such as ramps and elevators, for disabled and elderly residents.

## 6.9 Public Works

The Public Works Department is headed by an elected superintendent who oversees various contractors selected for snow removal, road maintenance, and major road repairs. In addition, the Town has a small Maintenance Department that is responsible for maintaining all public buildings and grounds with the exception of the school property. The Maintenance Department has no office or storage space.

**Table 6-9**  
**Public Works Department Budget Trends**  
**1984-1989**

Actual Year	Real 1989 Expenditure	% Change in Dollars Real Dollars
\$143,725	\$175,527	
\$156,062	\$185,144	5%
\$173,144	\$200,417	8%
\$181,807	\$201,555	1%
\$210,674	\$222,436	10%
\$241,048	\$215,917	-3%
\$271,893		

Note: Budget includes costs for operation of transfer station

## 6.10 Transfer Station

The Town operates a transfer station where refuse is prepared for disposal at the State landfill and materials handling facility in Johnston, RI. The Town does not have a waste pick-up program. Residents are responsible for transport of waste to the transfer station and many contract with private haulers for this service. The Town's waste disposal cap for fiscal year 1991 was set at 2,568 tons per year.<sup>3</sup> In the 1989-90 fiscal year, the Town was charged \$13/ton below the cap and \$59/ton above the cap for waste disposed at the landfill. Little Compton came close to exceeding the cap in fiscal year 1988-89, and exceeded the cap for nine days in fiscal year 1989-90.

The Municipal Cap information for fiscal years 1991-95 is provided below:

FY	CAP	AMOUNT OVER CAP
FY95	2,072 tons	185.95 tons
FY94	2,059 tons	381.55 tons
FY93	2,059 tons	67.44 tons
FY92	1,985 tons	156.92 tons
FY91	2,568 tons	n/a

The 1995 tipping fee for Little Compton is \$32.00/ton for anything under the cap, and \$40.00/ton for anything over the cap.

Tipping fees below the cap, for fiscal year 1991-92, have increased to \$15/ton. Fees above the cap have decreased to \$49/ton. Little Compton's cap has been reduced to 1,985 tons. The new

<sup>3</sup> Solid Waste Management Corporation uses 1990 population figures and a material generation multiplier of .628 in determining the municipal cap.  $\text{Pop. } 3,339 * .628 \text{ (Town Multiplier)} + 359 \text{ tons (allowance for seasonal population)} = 2,568 \text{ tons.}$

cap is based on a statewide multiplier for material generation, where a town specific multiplier had been used in the past.<sup>4</sup> The reduction in the cap will result in a significant increase in the cost of solid waste disposal for the Town. In 1991 the Town paid approximately \$43,758 for disposal of some 2,787 tons of waste.

A lower cap will result in a greater tonnage of waste being assessed at excess tonnage municipal rates.

On August 22, 1994, Little Compton became the 28th municipality to join the state's Mandatory Recycling Program. The town operates a drop-off recycling program, which allows residents to come to the transfer station and place their recyclables in designated containers. The containers containing bottles and cans are then hauled to the Solid Waste Management Corporation's (SWMC) Materials Recycling Facility in Johnston, RI for processing. The newspapers collected under the program are taken by a local farmer who uses the paper for animal bedding. Large metal items, and white metals are taken by a scrap metal firm in Massachusetts. (*Source: RI Solid Waste Management Corporation*).

In fiscal year (FY)1989-90 the transfer station spent \$115,244, and in FY 1990-91 a total of \$155,190 was spent for the operation of the transfer station and tipping fees.

### **6.11 Community Center**

Little Compton currently has no one facility to house community activities. Close to 50 community groups and activities are held in a number of public and private buildings on the Commons. The demand for meeting and activity space is in excess of what can be currently supplied. The 1990 citizen survey showed that there is support for the development of a community center which would provide adequate meeting space for the various civic groups, and which could accommodate the newly formed Teen Center Program which currently uses the Wilbur School facilities. The Grange building, if restored could serve as the Town's community center, and would fulfill the goal of preserving and using a valuable historic building on the Commons.

### **6.12 Wastewater Management**

Septic systems (referred to as Individual Sewage Disposal Systems - - ISDS) are a major concern for Little Compton residents because of the potential for contamination of public and private drinking water supplies and other health hazards caused by failed systems. The Town has no municipal wastewater treatment facility.

These individuals systems, when properly designed, installed and maintained, are a reliable means of disposing wastewater. The RIDEM ISDS Section regulates the design and installation of new systems, system repairs and alterations. Over the past several decades, the design technology and the regulatory requirements for ISDS have evolved to reflect the experience of siting systems. The critical design criteria are the number of bedrooms per dwelling unit, the

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<sup>4</sup> Pop. 3,339 \* .487 (statewide multiplier) + 359 tons (allowance for seasonal population) = Municipal Cap 1,985 tons.

percolation rate of the soil, and depth to groundwater. The presence of bedrock close to the ground surface is also an important factor.

More densely populated areas of town such as the Commons, Windmill Hill, Adamsville Village, Indian Rock and Sakonnet Point could be considered for the enactment of Wastewater Management Districts in order to ensure for periodic inspection, maintenance, and pump-outs.

### **6.13 Drainage and Stormwater Management Facilities**

The National Urban Runoff Program has shown that the stormwater from residential and commercial areas can contain a variety of pollutants, including heavy metals, fecal coliform, pesticides, suspended solids, nutrients and floatables. These findings have advanced the art of stormwater management to a state where comprehensive stormwater management provides not only flood protection, but water quality protection and soil erosion and sediment control. The *State of Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual* (RIDEM & CRMC, 1993) and/or the latest edition of *Rhode Island Erosion and Sedimentation Control Handbook*, prepared by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture should be included in the Town's new Subdivision Regulations as a mandatory provision for designing a soil erosion and sedimentation plan in all minor and major subdivisions in the Town. The Planning Board's Subdivision Regulations, adopted pursuant to the Rhode Island Land Development and Subdivision Review Enabling Act of 1992, does include mandatory language with respect to erosion and sedimentation control and surface water drainage. The pertinent section of the Subdivision Regulations is reprinted below:

#### **D.6 Erosion, and Sedimentation Control and Surface Water Drainage**

Measures and improvements designed to provide soil erosion and sedimentation control shall be designed and installed in accordance with a Soil Erosion and Storm Runoff Control Plan that shall be prepared and submitted by the subdivider. Said measures and improvements shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the Administrative Officer and shall be covered by the required surety to assure satisfactory completion.

- a. The Soil Erosion and Storm Runoff Control Plan shall include measures during and following the development of the subdivision and the improvements designed to carry storm runoff from the subdivision.
- b. Measures to control soil erosion and sedimentation shall meet the standards of the latest edition of the *Rhode Island Erosion and Sedimentation Control Handbook*, prepared by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. All engineering calculations in connection with the design of said measures shall be submitted with the Plan.
- c. The standards for the design of all surface and subsurface storm drainage facilities shall be in conformity with the appropriate provisions of the *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, published by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. (*Little Compton Subdivision Regulations*)

## 6.14 Issues

### 6.14.a The Commons

The Commons in Little Compton is fine example of the traditional New England town common and residents have expressed strong feelings towards the preservation of its character. The debate over the "Grange-Community Center", the siting of a new fire / police complex, and the results of the Comprehensive Plan Attitude Survey illustrate these feelings. Survey results show that 96 percent believe that it is important to protect historic areas and properties, 96 percent believe that it is important to preserve open space, 76 percent believe that a review of the exterior design of all new or renovated buildings on the Commons should be conducted, 73 percent believe that no new commercial buildings should be permitted in the Commons area, 78 percent believe that it is important to improve and expand the library facility and services, 73 percent support a community center. The majority (67%) of people responding to the community survey question concerning parking at the Commons indicated that they were not willing to give up on-street parking for a parking lot or lots.<sup>5</sup> However, a study of the current parking facilities on the Commons revealed that capacity is inadequate and that provisions for additional off-street parking need to be made (see Circulation Element for parking study). All of these results focus on the Commons area and must be taken into consideration when planning the town's facilities and services.

Other issues identified by the Services and Facilities sub-committee of the Citizens Advisory Committee included overall protection of the Commons' resources and water supply and wastewater management. An aging septic system and problems related to both water quality and quantity were noted *as* inadequate.

The Wellhead Protection Program is a program administered by the Groundwater Section of RIDEM to prevent contamination of groundwater resources that are used by public drinking water systems. It applies to public wells which provide drinking water to 15 or more service connections, or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily, at least 60 days of the year.

This includes community wells that serve resident populations such as trailer parks, nursing homes, major municipal wells, and non-community wells that serve hotels, restaurants, schools etc.

RIDEM will provide the town with wellhead protection area delineations and other technical assistance, and will review the local protection programs. The town will be responsible for developing a wellhead protection plan, including potential pollution source inventories, protection strategies and contingency plans. These are due to RIDEM in mid-1992. Management

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<sup>5</sup> Comprehensive Plan Attitude Survey Question #36 - Do you agree or disagree that the Town should reduce the on-street parking spaces within the Commons and replace them with municipal parking lots? 67% Disagreed. The question as posed may not reflect people's attitude towards siting parking lots in the Commons area but instead may reflect their desire to retain existing on-street parking.

options include public education, land acquisition, groundwater monitoring, groundwater amendments to local zoning ordinances and local regulations for design and operating standards.

#### **6.14.6 Sakonnet Harbor**

In 1987, the Henderson Planning Group completed a Sakonnet Harbor Master Plan for the Town Council and the Harbor Advisory Board under a grant received from the federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The primary objectives of the plan were to provide a town-owned/leased dock for commercial fishermen and to protect coastal resource through a number of goals, strategies and partnerships. Harbor resources are discussed in more detail in the Natural and Cultural Resources Element. Primary issues in the Harbor area include: parking, mooring placement and enforcement, and protection of adjacent natural resources such as the barrier beach and wildlife refuge. A number of protective regulatory mechanisms have been established locally and regionally for the area and in effect, limit development of the harbor area. Both the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and the RIDEM Division of Water Resources have established goals and policies for the area for maintaining water quality and aesthetics.

For example, the CRMC requires CRMC Council Assent for any alteration or activity which takes places within the state's tidal waters that results in any physical alteration, construction or potentially hazardous discharge as described in CRMC policies and regulations.

The policy in the Sakonnet Harbor Master Plan regarding parking, whether expressed or implied through action of land owners, indicates that land in the Harbor area should be used for recreation, open space, residential, and water related commercial activities rather than for parking, and further, that the need for parking in the Harbor acts to limit water side development. The majority of those responding to the 1990 AVA community survey generally agreed that services and facilities in and around the harbor should be improved.

Despite land owners' reluctance to create new parking opportunities at the harbor, two new parking areas were proposed in the plan. Ten spaces were proposed at the head of the harbor and an additional 30 spaces were planned for a portion of a lot on the corner of Pennsylvania Road and Bluffs Head Avenue. With the addition of these new spaces, the total number of parking spaces available at the harbor, including the parking available at the Sakonnet Yacht Club, will be approximately 99. An estimated 50 to 60 spaces may be gained at the harbor, if the large lot on Bluff Head Avenue is developed for parking.

### **6.15 Goals and Recommendations**

#### **6.15.a Goals**

- A. To improve the effectiveness and continuity of Town government to effectively meet the needs of the present and future population of Little Compton.
- B. Provide facilities and programs necessary to provide balanced educational experiences for students.

- C. Expand the resources and the technical support of the library in order to provide a balanced collection and spectrum of opportunities for residents.
- D. Foster local partnerships and expanded service delivery to meet community needs.
- E. Formulate regulatory and non-regulatory wastewater and soil erosion management programs.
- F. Promote the protection of the environment on a Townwide basis.
- G. Protect and preserve the visual, architectural, historic and spatial values which are now present in the Commons.
- H. Provide satisfactory space and facilities to allow for more efficient delivery of services in public buildings.

#### **6. 15.b Recommendations**

- 6.1 Study the recommendations concerning the town's municipal departments, including but not necessarily limited to:
  - Town Administrator/Planner
  - Town Engineer/Building Inspector
  - Tax Assessor
- 6.2 Encourage and support the School Committee's plans and programs for academic excellence.
- 6.3 Continue to monitor building permit and other conditions impacting school enrollment trends.
- 6.4 Encourage use and improvement of school playground and sports facilities with the Town's recreational plans and programs.
- 6.5 Support collection modernization and development.
- 6.6 Establish cross-referencing and cooperation with the school library, and with the Middletown High School library.
- 6.7 Assess the Town's contribution (annual and capital) to the Library and its distribution.
- 6.8 Establish a volunteer "Friends of the Library" group to assist with fundraising and outreach activities.
- 6.9 Continue to strengthen the membership and commitment to the Substance Abuse Task Force.
- 6.10 Assess the town's goals and strategies for disaster preparedness and civil defense planning.

- 6.11 Assess the options for improved public communications by the police and fire departments.
- 6.12 As a policy, consider the benefits of regional versus local programs where there are cost reduction and service delivery benefits to be gained by the Town.
- 6.13 Consider contracting engineering review services for soil erosion and sediment control, stormwater management and ISDS permitting to ensure environmentally sound development practices.
- 6.14 Encourage the study for staffing and program development for a community center, and coordinate the use of existing space for meetings of various Town boards.
- 6.15 Recognize and support the recently formed Little Compton Health and Human Resources Committee.
- 6.16 Consider establishing wastewater management districts in densely populated areas and areas of ISDS failure in order to provide periodic inspection, maintenance and connection of ISDS systems.
- 6.17 Support a public education program in conjunction with public awareness group (e.g. Cooperative Extension Service, Save the Bay ) to make property owners aware of the importance, of proper ISDS maintenance and the need for periodic pumping.
- 6.18 Consider a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, utilizing the services of the Soil Conservation Service and the local Conservation District.
- 6.19 Continue to maintain a townwide recycling program in coordination with State efforts.
- 6.20 Continue to maintain an igloo for waste oil collection at the transfer station, and vigorously promote its use.
- 6.21 Work with RIDEM's OSCAR program to develop a public education program toward reducing the waste stream and encourage private and commercial recycling through municipal assistance in the form of newspaper drop-off spots, multiple large item trash pick-ups, and announcement or sponsorship of the OSCAR program's household Hazardous Waste Clean-up Day(s).
- 6.22 Retain Town service departments (police, fire, town hall) in the Commons area. 6.23
- 6.23 Fully utilize existing public buildings.
- 6.24 Consider establishing standards for design review for any construction or building alterations in the Commons areas.
- 6.25 Contract for a professional technical and economic study for a comprehensive analysis of water supply and sewage treatment for all public buildings on the "Commons."
- 6.26 Fully clarify the Town's legal position for the use of Watson Reservoir water for the school and other public facilities on the Commons.

- 6.27 When and if it becomes available, lease/purchase a small amount of land behind the school, town hall and police department for provision of additional off-street parking facilities and for the safe drop-off of school children from buses.
- 6.28 When and if needed acquire additional land behind the library and St. Catherine's for off-street parking and for an alternate route out of the Commons.
- 6.29 Complete a detailed study of municipal administration space needs.
- 6.30 As necessary, expand town offices into space in the Legion Hall and/or expand to a second floor above the existing addition to relieve congestion.
- 6.31 Efficiently utilize the Oddfellows Hall and the existing fire station if they become available.
- 6.32 As funding becomes available, complete renovation of Grange Hall for use as a community center.
- 6.33 Select a site for the new police/fire complex, that includes, but is not limited to:
  1. The space occupied by the existing fire station, police station, and if necessary the tennis court;
  2. Part of the field north of the existing fire station;
  3. On Willow Avenue/Common's End;
  4. Peckham Lot.