

Kellie Ruccolo

On March 15, a few selected eighth grade students and I had the opportunity to shadow a town official for the day. Some positions we “took over” were the Town Clerk, Town Assessor and Selectman. I was the Student Town Clerk for the day, and I learned many things I never even knew about the job.

First of all, what is a Town Clerk? That had been a question I’d been trying to figure out as soon as I heard I’d be shadowing her for the day. From what I’d gathered from asking a couple of people, they’d told me that it was basically a secretary, much like what I am for the Junior Honor Society. Although Town Clerks do take notes at town meetings, they also do many other things. I learned one of those things before even being sworn into office.

I was called into Mrs. Labonte’s office and my hands were shaking because I had no idea what was coming next. I didn’t know one of the jobs of a town clerk is to swear people into office. After she had sworn me in, I actually had the chance to swear in the rest of the students, which was nerve-racking but also pretty fun and prestigious.

As it turns out, my father not only got to watch me being sworn in and swearing everyone else in, but he was also my first customer. He needed to get my dogs re-licensed, and because he was already going to be at the Town Hall, he figured he’d do it while he was there. I didn’t know that the Town Clerk handled things like dog licenses or any licenses in general, so it came as a shock to me when they asked me if I wanted to license my own dogs.

Unfortunately I didn’t get the chance to go into the basement to see any of the vital records like birth certificates or to count any ballots because we ran out of time, but I did learn many other things about a Town Clerk’s job. They keep records of the censuses, watch over the ballots, and they also keep the seal, which I also had the opportunity to use.

Throughout the entire morning, I was learning what it was like to not only have many responsibilities, but to also know what

it's like working with people and the government. If I had the choice of becoming a town clerk, I think I would take the job because it seems like something that would appeal to me and like something that I'd be good at. I looked at this experience as something to learn from and something that would prepare me for life later on. I feel very honored to have been picked for Student Government Day, and those students that get picked to do something like this in the future should feel the same way.