

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I would like to recognize Jack Flynn, Sign Maintenance Technician in the Highway Division, for sixteen years of service, Gerald Coletti, System Technician in the Water Division, for thirteen years of service, Bruce Morse, H.V.A.C. Technician in the Building and Grounds Division, for nine and a half years of service, John Ames, System Technician in the Water Division, for three years of service and Pamela Almeida, Record Account Clerk in the Water Division, for two and a half years of service. Their dedication and hard work will be greatly missed at the D.P.W.

Martha White, Town Administrator, and I have worked with the Landfill Committee, the consulting firm of Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. of Cambridge, MA and the construction contractor, E. T. & L. Corp. of Stow, MA to complete the capping of the Prospect Street Landfill. The installation of the active flare system to burn and pre-treat the gas by manifolding all the gas wells throughout the landfill into one automated vacuum system at the rear of the landfill has resulted in no odors since its start up. The Town will be responsible for monitoring air and ground water samples at the site and maintaining this twenty plus acres with mowing the top and side slopes at least once a year. Camp Dresser and McKee has been retained to provide weekly monitoring of the computerized flare system and will be on-call for emergency outages.

The D.P.W. continues to face cutbacks in personnel due to severe budget restraints. The Record Account Clerk position was eliminated and the office staff was restructured and consolidated with all office staff now working out of the Water Division office.

Bob Dunn of our Engineering Division was reassigned to the new Department of Land Use and Permitting as a Land Use Engineer, eliminating the D.P.W. Engineering Division entirely. These cutbacks have reduced the D.P.W. staff to thirty-two positions losing eleven positions in the past three years.

There must be serious considerations made to replace some of the lost positions at the D.P.W. to allow us to provide the much needed basic services of maintaining roads, sidewalks, trees, drainage, engineering, water, building and grounds maintenance and vehicle maintenance for our ever growing community.

Assistant School Superintendent, Dr. Michael Green, and Building and Grounds Supervisor, Paul O'Neill, have met with me on a weekly basis to discuss the maintenance schedule of the six school buildings and all athletic fields and playgrounds.

Dr. Green and myself serve on the Municipal Building Committee, attending meetings which are being held twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at the Richardson/Olmsted School. Interaction with our maintenance staff will be intense

during the three year school building and renovation project at the Junior High and High School.

From January to December 2003, the D.P.W. responded to thirty-two snow emergencies, seven storms that required plowing, with the most severe storm occurring on Friday evening, December 5, 2003 and lasting through Sunday evening, December 7, 2003. Twenty-two pieces of town owned equipment and twenty-five pieces of hired equipment were used throughout this storm. The national weather service reported 21.1 inches of snow in Easton with a water content of 3.25 inches, the greatest amount of any community reporting in the state. This storm ranked as the 11th worst storm on record for Boston and the 7th worst storm on record for Providence RI. Crews worked throughout the following week, clearing snow from sidewalks and intersections and trying to widen the narrow roads due to the extreme weight of the snow.

I am presently serving as Easton's delegate on the Old Colony Planning Council's Joint Transportation Committee that meets monthly in Brockton. Maurice Goulet serves as the alternate member.

We have two projects that are under design - Route #123, Depot Street from the five corners to Fox Ridge Road, is at the 75% design stage and listed on the FY 04 Transportation Improvement Program list with an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. We have hired the firm of Vanasse Hagen Brustlin Inc to design improvements to route #123, Foundry Street from the Norton town line to Eastman Street, 8,751 feet. This project is at the 25% design stage with an estimated value of \$3.1 million.

We are also working with Vanasse Hagen Brustlin Inc. in a PWED (The Public Works Economic Development Program) Grant Application for \$1 million to fund improvements to Foundry Street from the Five Corners to Eastman Street. Construction costs for these three projects would be federally funded.

Major Construction Projects Completed

Depot, Central and Purchase Streets – installation of 14, 023 feet of 12” ductile iron water main and the reconnection of 113 water services.

Purchase Street – The full length, 10,777 feet was reclaimed and paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Highland Street from Foundry Street to the Mansfield town line – 4,610 feet was paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Bay Road from Prospect Street to the Norton town line – 3,987 feet was paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Elm Street from Main Street to Washington Street – 5,200 feet received drainage improvements, granite curbing and a new concrete sidewalk.

The D.P.W. filed the EPA Phase II Storm Water Permit with the MA Department of Environmental Protection and has begun the Educational Phase of the Plan. Informational flyers, prepared by the Southeastern Regional Services Group, will be

mailed out with the next tax billing and Storm Water Management has been added to the Water Division's Educational Curriculum.

A Storm Water Management Article is being prepared for the next Annual Town Meeting to update the Zoning Bylaws.

Much effort has been put into the development of a vulnerability assessment of our entire water system as required by the Federal E.P.A. Security measures have been implemented at all of our drinking water supply facilities to insure against any threats to our water supply system.

Thanks to Jan Fowler for her continued donation of time and effort into the development and maintenance of our Demonstration Xeriscape Garden at 417 Bay Road.

I would like to thank my management team, Jack Marsh, John Fresh, Jr., James Luke, Paul O'Neill, and Maurice Goulet along with Robert Dunn from the Land Use & Permitting Department for their impact at our bi-weekly staff meetings and their commitment to undertake and complete all the construction projects that we dealt with throughout the year.

Shirley Tufts, Jan Jacobson, and Peggy Hannigan deserve much praise for undertaking additional tasks as the staff has been reduced, and for dealing with the ever increasing requests from the public for D.P.W. services.

I am very proud of the entire D.P.W. staff and how they have all worked together as a team, accomplishing whatever tasks are requested of them. "Thank you"

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Southworth, D.P.W. Director
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