

## **THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Easton:

The Department of Public Works has been working with the Town Accountant, Wendy Nightingale, on a fixed asset inventory of the town's infrastructure to date. Information has been provided on our fleet inventory, accepted town roads and a comprehensive list of our drainage systems.

I would like to urge the residents to contact National Grid and report any street light outages @ 1-800-322-3223 or [www.nationalgrid.us.com/streetlights](http://www.nationalgrid.us.com/streetlights).

The D.P.W. is responsible for the cost of 1,361 street lights with a budget of \$148,000.

Monthly meetings have been held regarding the 16 mile Aquaria Pipeline that will be supplying desalinized water to the City of Brockton.

A committee of representatives from Taunton, Raynham, Easton and West Bridgewater was formed to coordinate the installation of the pipeline through the four communities, insuring equal compensation for all towns along the pipeline route and proper installation and notification of the project to all residents and businesses affected. Construction is scheduled for Spring of 2007.

The D.P.W. has been hosting a steering committee formed to work with the Old Colony Planning Council as part of a comprehensive corridor study of the state numbered routes through Easton (routes #123, #106, and #138). The study will assess existing conditions and develop recommendations and implementation strategies.

Roadway improvements have been completed at the Highland Plaza intersection of Eastman Street with modification to the signal lights, roadway widening and new curbing with no cost to the town as part of the Plaza expansion.

The Old Colony Planning Council Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) lists the Town of Easton Route #123 Roadway Project from Eastman Street to the Norton town line to be funded in FY 2008 as a federal project with an estimated cost of \$4.1 million.

The firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) has been contracted with to redesign the Five Corners intersection with a realignment of Bay Road, the installation of modern traffic signals and overall widening of the intersection to accommodate the 20,000 plus cars that travel along Route #123 daily. Funding for this project will be requested through the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The D.P.W. has been working with VHB and the town's legal counsel to complete the recording of deeds of the 65 easements necessary for this project, which will include complete roadway reconstruction, new sidewalks and drainage improvements.

The Central Street Bridge project is listed by Mass Highway to accept bids on January 23, 2007. This project, once started, is scheduled to be completed in 18 months, which will include replacement of the two bridge superstructures, plus roadways and sidewalks from Route #138 to Water Street with both water main and gas line improvements.

The estimated cost of this project is \$1.4 million, which is totally funded by MassHighway.

The D.P.W. Water Division has been renewing all water services on Central Street from an old 6" cast iron water main to a newer 12" ductile iron water main.

Once completed, the 1915 vintage 6" water main will be completely disconnected from the system.

The roadway construction project on Depot Street between Fox Ridge Road and the intersection of Bay Road will be completed in 2007 with the final course of top pavement on both the road and sidewalk. The project was delayed while Verizon installed new poles for the overhead utilities. This roadway improvement is funded through MassHighway as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at a cost of \$1.3 million.

The Building and Grounds Division celebrated Arbor Day on April 28<sup>th</sup> with a ceremony at the Water Division facility at 417 Bay Road. A tree was planted in honor of Raymond Keyes, celebrating 40 years of employment with the Water Division.

The Water Division celebrated National Drinking Water Week on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at their office on Bay Road with an Open House and storm water poster contest.

The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the D.P.W. facility at 130 Center Street with 398 residents participating on a very rainy day.

The Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee held their annual Awareness Day on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with a tour of the new Mansfield Water Treatment Plant.

The D.P.W. Water Division was honored on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at the State House in Boston during the Annual D.E.P. Drinking Water Awards ceremony by being presented with the Massachusetts Public Water System Award in the medium and large system category.

On Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Water Division hosted a Regional Water Conservation Workshop as a result of a grant from the Massachusetts D.E.P. Water Division employees from Easton, Mansfield, Foxboro, Sharon and Norton received day-long training from national speaker Amy Vickers which included:

- Water Conservation Program Planning
- System Water Loss and Leakage Prevention
- Conservation Rate and Runover Issues

On Wednesday, August 2, 2006, Easton was hit with a severe rain and wind storm causing serious damage throughout the community. D.P.W. crews worked late clearing downed trees on Main Street, Elm Street, Bay Road, Foundry Street, Prospect Street, and Depot Street. The Water Division ran generators at the water storage tank and pumping stations due to power outages.

The greatest damage was along a path between Elm Street and Main Street toward Brockton. The D.P.W. spent several weeks clearing trees on town property at the Town Office, Elm Street Cemetery, and Unionville Playground.

The Town is very fortunate to have 37 talented and professional employees working at the D.P.W. I would like to thank them for their dedication, working many long hours dealing with not only the daily issues but the multitude of emergencies that arise during the course of a year. The office staff, Shirley Tufts, Jan Jacobson and Karen Gallo, continues to provide quality customer service.

The management team of Jack Marsh, Maurice Goulet, John Fresh, James Luke and Paul O'Neill has provided outstanding leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Southworth  
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