

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Year ended June 30, 2019

As I have done each year I would like to begin by once again bringing attention to the Town's dedicated department managers, employees, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all their hard work and commitment. Paxton would not be the Town it is without the involvement of these people. I would like to especially thank the Board of Selectmen for their continued leadership of the Town.

The Town had another busy year including the following in fiscal 2019:

The Water Department was awarded a MIIA grant of \$5,000 for a safety trench, this is assisting in the compliance of the new OSHA standards that were implemented for municipalities in February 2019.

The Police Patrol/Supervisors contract was negotiated in house and ratified.

The Town Hall staff hosted for the 8th consecutive year a visit from the Paxton Center School 3rd grade class. Employees enjoyed providing an insight into the fundamentals of their department and Anita and Richard Fenton provided the history.

The Holden Road Reclamation project received notice to proceed in November 2018, Amorello was awarded the state contract and work started in April 2019. I want to thank Holden Road residents for their patience throughout the construction process that will continue throughout 2019 and the spring of 2020. Also to all motorists that use this road and may have experienced delays.

Police Chief Robert Desrosiers resigned in October 2018 after thirty years of service to the Town. We wish Bob all the best for his future endeavors.

Lieutenant Mark Savasta accepted the position of Police Chief and is doing a great job.

Kim Peloquin resigned from the Treasurer/Collector position; we wish Kim all the best in her future endeavors.

Donna Couture accepted the position of Treasurer/Collector; a change from her previous Town Accountant role. Although a complete change for Donna she is doing a great job.

Larissa Kennedy moved from Assistant Treasurer/Collector to take on a new role as Town Accountant. Larissa is being trained by Donna Couture and doing a great job.

Deirdre Malone agreed to return from retirement for six months to assist in the Collector/Treasurer office. Her invaluable help was very much appreciated by all.

Susan Stone resigned from the Town Clerk's position after over ten years, we thank Susan for her service to the Town and wish her all the best for the future.

Laurie Becker accepted the Town Clerk's position after several months under the guidance of Susan Stone and is doing a great job.

Michael Savasta, our IT Technician has been kept busy responding to many department technical issues, dealing with new employees and new equipment. We all appreciate Michael as our in-house IT support.

We applied and were awarded two Community Grants 1) To perform a wage and compensation study – this will be finalized in November 2019 2) To conduct a Capital Improvement Plan – this will be completed by October 2019.

We applied and was awarded a grant for \$25,130 to conduct a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. This study will start in August 2019 and gather information as to how climate change effect our Town and how we can prepare for any potential incident that could cause injury or property/land damage.

We negotiated in-house the first contract with the DPW. A three-year contract will be ratified in fiscal 2020.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate from the Road Improvement Stabilization Fund of \$107,688.

The implementation of the meal tax brought in \$13,270 revenue for the first year. Although not a substantial amount, it is a new source of revenue for the Town.

We ran our first rain barrel program and provided residents with substantially discounted rain barrels. I would like to thank the Water Commissioners for their support.

To round off the year we held our eighth Paxton Days on the Common. The weather once again was beautiful and all who attended appeared to enjoy the music, vendors and food.

In closing I would like to once again thank all Department Managers, and Town employees for their continued hard work and support. This year has been especially challenging within Town Hall due to the many staff changes in such a short time. I want to thank Laurie Becker, Donna Couture, Larissa Kennedy, Deirdre Malone, Sheryl Lombardi, Donna Graf-Parsons, Kathy Stanley, Tiffany Sidholm, Susan Stone, for all their help during the transition of changes. We have a great team in Town Hall.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Donna Graf Parsons, Executive Assistant for all the valuable help she provides to everyone daily.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Town Administrator