

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

### **Year ended June 30, 2013**

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all the dedicated department managers, town employees, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Paxton a better place for everyone.

Fiscal year 2013 was a tough year for everyone with the passing of Frederick Goodrich a twelve year selectman and a person involved in many committees in town.

Budgets took precedent throughout the year with many departments struggling to make their reduced budgets work following a cut below the fiscal year 2012 town's budget.

However we still had many accomplishments as a Town including:

In July the Water Commissions signed a new contract with the City of Worcester

In September we saw the completion of the roof and windows repair at Paxton Center School for a total of \$1,296,980. The town received a total grant reimbursement through the MSBA Green Repair Program of approximately 52%.

In October Baypath Vocational School successfully passed their \$73.8 million renovation project through a special ballot of the ten member towns. Paxton in turn passed a debt exclusion vote to fund this expense.

The Sale of Town Owned Land Committee completed an inventory of the town owned land and recommend that no land is sold at this time.

In November we successfully obtained a Massworks \$200,000 grant to repair the Davis Road culvert. Work will start in August 2013.

Paxton along with Spencer and Holden was selected and funded for a corridor study of Route 31. The study will identify key areas including high volume areas, intersection traffic, flooding concerns and danger areas.

January the Fire Department successfully acquired a grant for \$76,000 to purchase defibrillators.

In March started the process to bring CodeRed an emergency alert system into town; this will be fully functional in July 2013

Also in March work began on the senior residential development on Holden Road/Grove Street.

In April as part of the expanded thirty town stormwater coalition, we received \$115,000 under the Community Innovation Grant.

We received reimbursement for Hurricane Irene totaling \$5419.

In June Town Hall employee tired of the drab first floor foyer took it upon themselves to spruce it up with a fresh coat of paint; the first time in many years.

To round off the year we held our second Paxton Days event at the Wentworth pool area which was very successful with over fifty vendors and Town organizations taking part in the event.

In ending I would like to thank Donna Graf Parsons, Administrative Assistant for her continued support that she provides on a daily basis to my office, the Board of Selectmen's office, and many other town boards and committees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol L. Riches  
Town Administrator