

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Year ended June 30, 2014

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 2014 welcomed Julia Pingitore as the Town's newest member of the Selectboard.

Fiscal year 2014 budgets voted in for the most part were as departments requested; with the exception of the Highway Department who once again went without additional blacktop money and relied solely on the Chapter 90 state award.

As a Town we experienced many accomplishments during the year including:

- In October we were unable to finalize a satisfactory contract with Spencer Rescue Squad for the Town's ambulance service. Under Chief Conte, the Paxton Fire Department took over the Basic Life Support (BLS) service for the Town – utilizing Medstar for Advanced Life Support (ALS) service calls. In June 2014 both ambulances received ALS licenses which will allow the Paxton Fire Department to take over running both services in FY15.
- October also saw the ground breaking ceremony at The Hills at Paxton Village Senior Residential Facility; in fact by this date it was almost ready for occupancy which started to take place in December 2014. By May 2014 the fifty unit complex was seventy five percent occupied and becoming part of the community.
- In December we saw the start of the Paxton Shuttle – a Worcester Regional Transit Authority owned bus operated by the Town running two days a weeks between Anna Maria College and Union Station. The service is being funded through the MBTA Assessment that the Town is obligated to pay. We are hoping that this service can be expanded sometime in the future.
- March saw the delivery of the new pumper truck that the Fire Department acquired through a \$450,000 FEMA grant. This piece of equipment will be in service for many years to come.
- The Cable Committee negotiated and finalized the new cable contract with Charter Communications for a further ten years.
- In May as part of the Stormwater Coalition we were once again awarded a CIC grant of \$115,000 to continue the work in preparation of the new DEP Permit being introduced.

- In May the students from Baypath Vocational School completed updating one of our bathrooms in the Town Hall; a vast improvement.
- The Town voted at the May Annual Town Meeting to replace the Maple Street Water Tank. This eighty year old tank will be the site of a new elevated water tank.
- In June we saw the completion of the replacement of a culvert on Davis Hill Road – this was funded through a MassWorks grant of \$200,000.
- To round off the year we held our third Paxton Days at the former Wentworth pool area. This was a great event with over sixty vendors and Town organizations participating. This event gets bigger every year!

In closing I would like to thank all Department Managers, Town Hall employees, Town employees and Donna Graf Parsons, Administrative Assistant for all the continued hard work and dedication to the Town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Town Administrator