

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Year ended June 30, 2016

I would like to begin by once again 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 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 2016:

- ❖ The year kicked with by the Town hosting FOX Zip Trip. This highlighted Paxton during the Friday morning news show and provided residents an opportunity to meet television celebrities.
- ❖ The Ambulance Service had a very busy year under the leadership of Fire Chief Conte and Captain Pingitore. This is a valuable service of the Town.
- ❖ The Cable Committee through the efforts of members Nicholas Powlovitch and Scott Wilson introduced Video on Demand through the Towns website, allowing residents without cable access to watch Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings.
- ❖ Paxton signed the Community Compact in January 2016; an initiative of the Baker/Polito administration. Paxton chose cyber security and regionalization as best practices. A grant was awarded to conduct a Data Security Audit. CMRPC was assigned to Towns in their region to with regionalization projects.
- ❖ Throughout the year the Town Administrator and public safety personnel worked on the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. This plan prepares the Town for natural disasters such as snow and ice storms, hurricanes etc. The plan is expected to finalized by the end of the year.
- ❖ The Town was successful in the MassWorks grant program and was awarded \$39,200 to reline two problem culverts on Route 56. The work will be completed in July 2016 under the direction of Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent.
- ❖ The Town approved the replacement of the COA roof. This was greatly needed as it had been patched for many years and the leaking caused damage to interior ceilings and floors. The project cost was \$59,000.
- ❖ The Town Hall staff hosted for the 5th consecutive year a visit from the Paxton Center School 3rd grade class. Employees gave an insight into the fundamentals of their department and Anita and Richard Fenton provided the history.

- ❖ Jerry Ryan, COA Director retired in April 2016 and we will all miss Jerry's contribution to the Town. Jerry was also a member of the Capital Committee, the Cable Committee and the Conservation Commission. Cindy Love stepped into the Directors position and is doing a great job.
- ❖ Lois Shorten, Children Librarian also retired in late April and will be missed. Lois was replaced by Kim Cooke and his doing a great job.
- ❖ In April the full-time firefighters petitioned to unionize. The negotiations for the first contract will start in early fiscal 2017.
- ❖ Fiscal 2016 budgets also saw the effects of a less severe winter from the previous one. The Snow & Ice, Diesel and Heating Oil accounts survived and were sufficiently funded.
- ❖ In an effort to avoid new borrowing or leasing, no new equipment purchases were requested at the May Annual Town Meeting. The Town did vote to accept a Road Improvement Stabilization Fund for \$100,000 that will allow the DPW Superintendent to have this funding in place each year for Town road maintenance.
- ❖ In June we paid the final bill for the construction of the new elevated water tank on Maple Street. This has been on line for a few months and the old one was demolished and removed.
- ❖ The Town Hall floor was finally restored from the drab gray paint to a beautiful shining wood finish. What a difference this makes to the foyer.
- ❖ To round off the year we held our fifth Paxton Days on the Common, unfortunately the weather did not cooperate this year and we had to cancel after two hours.

In closing I would like to once again thank all Department Managers, Town Hall employees and Town employees for their continued hard work and support. I would also like to give a special thanks to Donna Graf Parsons, Administrative Assistant for all the valuable help she provides.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Town Administrator