

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Ashburnham, I submit my fourth annual report as Town Administrator.

In 2014 our goal stayed steady. “to operate within budget, remain committed to a high level of customer service, with high ethical conduct.”

We have also been extremely fortunate in the promotion of Paul Rekos Sr. as our new Fire Chief. His vision for the department and technical knowledge has been well received and marks an exciting period in our Town.

Emily Donnelly also became the new Librarian/Director. Her enthusiasm and fresh approach to the importance and operation of our library will allow us the opportunity to move on from the recent bumps in the road.

This year marks the **third** year in a row that Ashburnham was awarded second place in the MMA town report contest, for communities with population of 5,000 to 12,499. Sylvia Turcotte, my Executive Assistant, continues to produce and enhance a town report that serves as an historical document to be used in the years ahead. Sylvia is again producing the report with a goal to officially become number 1. Great job!!

Technology continues at the forefront and as we complete the transition of our networking system from Town Hall to the Public Safety facility we have added new upgrades to the Library. They are now networked into the system and other enhancements are being addressed.

At the Annual Town Meeting a warrant article was presented to design and build a new DPW, Water and Sewer facility on Williams Road. Although this did not receive the support of the Town, it has not eliminated or reduced the need. We will continue to look at alternatives and hopefully come back to the Town with another proposal.

This year with the grant of 38% from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the water lines on Williams Road, Holden Street, Westminster Road, Turnpike, and South Maple Avenue were replaced. Due to favorable costs the project was completed well under budget. As a result, all the roads mentioned

will be fully paved in the late spring at no cost to the taxpayers. This is an immense boost to our pavement plan.

Our major road project this year was Hastings Road as well as East Rindge Road to Young Road. We were notified by our new governor that the monies in FY15 that were held back were released. This will give us an additional \$173,000, plus the \$520,000 from Ch.90 for FY16 along with the \$100,000 from the capital program. This coupled with the money left over from the water line project of \$600,000 will total approximately \$1.4 million which should prove to be a very good paving year. The Town has also committed \$100,000 to do the engineering layout of Route 101 South from Main Street to the Gardner town line. This will enable us to complete the requirement to get State and Federal monies to repave from Willard Road to South Pleasant Street. The cost which is estimated to be \$3 to \$4 million completing the engineering will put us in line for the FY17 program.

We also received a Green Community designation and with that have pledged to decrease our energy footprint by 20% over the next five years. Steps that are to be taken include detailed energy audits for the Library, Town Hall, Public Safety Building and the Light Department. The audits will be completed with monies from the Library as well as from a grant from the Green Communities office. The upgrades will be paid for out of the \$150,825 grant that we have received. This is an exciting time to review our energy footprint and to do something "Green".

Our goal continues to be to look each and every day for opportunities to improve the quality of life in Ashburnham. We are here every day to work for you. My office is always open. I want to thank the employees of the Town of Ashburnham, as their dedication and commitment to the people of Ashburnham inspires me and working with them makes coming to work a pleasure.

Respectively submitted,  
Doug Briggs  
Town Administrator