



## TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT November 2, 2015

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

#### **TOWN COMMITTEES**

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (1) Council on Aging Board, (2) Historical Commission, (1) Trust Fund Commission and (1) Parks & Recreation Committee. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

#### **DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

MassDOT held a Design Public Hearing on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. on the Williams Road, Corey Hill, and the Route 101 intersection. This Public Hearing took place in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building. There were thirty residents in attendance to hear the proposed 4 way stop statistics to support alternative designs which were not available and the town would be responsible for any costs associated with land taking which is estimated to affect 9 different parcels. Residents can send any comments on the proposal by November 10, 2015 to Patricia Leavenworth, Chief Engineer MassDOT- Highway Division , 10 Park Plaza, Boston MA 02116-3973. I believe the board needs to review the project to see if it is worth pursuing, prior to the state or town doing any more work. This will also affect the Light Department.

#### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday October 27, 2015 with 7 articles on the warrant, which all passed.

#### **CUSHING**

I met with Joe McPeak from Cushing about future plans for Pleasant Street regarding paving. It looks like they are planning an early fall completion of their new sports complex and they wanted to know how that would tie into the paving program.

#### **BUDGET FY 17**

I received a call from Superintendent Mazzola about the ensuing budget season. Hopefully we will have many more discussions as the season gets underway.

I also met with Capital Planning Chair Jamie Piedrafite to start the review of the Capital Plan for FY17.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

We have been working through Edd Byrnes our insurance rep for new rates starting in January. Early indications are that we will be around a 10% increase in cost for insurance. This is not good, and we are working to get that number down. Even a 4-5% increase is not sustainable.

#### **TAX RATE**

Everything has been sent to the state to get our tax rate certified; we are several weeks ahead of last year and hopefully will receive it in early November.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Linda Ramsdell, our Town Clerk has retired after almost 30 years with the Town. She did a great job for us and will be missed. Michelle Johnson is our new Town Clerk and Jackie Osolin will replace Michelle at the COA Today is their first day and we look forward to working with both of them.

**SENATOR GOBI OFFICE HOURS**

Tyler Wolanin, District Director, from the office of Senator Anne M. Gobi, will hold office hours in the Center Meeting Room at Town Hall on Monday, November 23, 2015 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.