

## Board of Selectmen 2012 Annual Report

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To the Citizens of Ashburnham:

Following the April Town Election, the Board welcomed Leo Janssens II to the Board. At its first meeting, the Board organized, electing Edward Vitone, Chairman, Gregory Fagan, Clerk and Leo Janssens, Member. On October 1, 2012 Mr. Fagan resigned his seat on the Board of Selectmen and at its next meeting, the Board elected Mr. Janssens as Clerk. At the recommendation of Mr. Janssens, it was later decided to hold a special election to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Fagan's seat, and on January 8, 2013, Mr. Duncan Phyfe was elected as the third member of the Board.

During the past year the Board:

- Through a State grant, repaved Route 101 North in the spring of 2012.
- Built and commissioned the new water tank and refurbished the water tank on Gardner Hill.
- Secured a State grant of \$250,000 to regionalize dispatch services with the Town of Ashby. Unfortunately, after the grant was received, Ashby reconsidered its decision to regionalize and elected not to go forward with the grant.
- Successfully negotiated the purchase of land on Williams Road as the future site of the DPW. As availability of funds dictate, the DPW will be relocated freeing up land in the Center Village District for commercialization. Monies from the Capital Fund were used for the acquisition. At the fall town meeting the funds used for the acquisition were restored to the Capital Fund as a transfer from free cash.
- The Town has approximately \$980,000 in combined free cash, capital improvement and stabilization fund accounts. This represents approximately 7.5% of the annual budget of the Town which is on the lower end of the desired 5% to 15% range.
- Sold the obsolete fire station in South Ashburnham to an abutter thereby reducing insurance costs, avoiding maintenance cost and generating additional property taxes.
- Commissioned a study staffed with volunteers from the Town to assess the future of the VMS Building. The results will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in early February.
- Commissioned a second study to recommend the most cost effective approach to improve ambulance response time.

We are fortunate to have outstanding employees who remain committed to delivering exemplary service in the face of these financial difficulties. The Board also expresses its gratitude to the Town Boards, Committees and Commissions for their accomplishments during the year. Please take the time to read their individual reports. It should be remembered that these Boards, Committees and Commissions are composed of volunteers who give many long hours of their free time to work on issues and projects that benefit the Town of Ashburnham. The Board acknowledges the cooperation we have received from our Town Officials, Town Employees and the Townspeople. To all of these people we say: **THANKS!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Leo Janssens II  
Duncan Phyfe  
Edward Vitone