

## Board of Selectmen 2013 Annual Report

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To the Citizens of Ashburnham:

Following the April Town Election Ed Vitone stepped down from the Board of Selectmen. As many of you know, Ed has served the Town in many capacities, including more than one term on the Board of Selectmen. With his obvious dedication to the welfare of the Town, I'm sure we will see him involved in other Town activities. As Ed departed, having won the April election for the open Board of Selectmen seat, the Board welcomed Nicholas "Nick" Davis. With his fresh perspective, Nick brings a youthful vitality to the Board and gives voice to an important demographic of our diverse community.

In light of the election, in accordance with tradition, the Board of Selectmen was reorganized, designating Leo Janssens as Chairman, Nick Davis as Clerk and Duncan Phyfe as member.

Following a brief outline of some of the highlights, and key activities/decisions, etc. that the Board of Selectmen were involved in or believe should be mentioned in this annual report.

**Early May 2013** – The Board of Selectmen had a working meeting with the Town Administrator covering the Town Charter and Bylaws governing the authority and responsibilities of the Board. This meeting served to familiarize all members with the charter and provide a brief overview of both the Board's and the Town Administrator's responsibilities and expectations.

**June 2013** – The Board of Selectmen were treated to a tour of the Piano Museum. The tour was prior to the negotiation process for the renewal of the lease on those premises.

*On a personal note, I would recommend our citizens take advantage of tours of this fascinating museum even if they are not musically inclined or have an interest in pianos. It is my feeling that touring the building and seeing first-hand the beauty and preservation of one of our historical buildings and the beauty of some very old pianos is worth the visit.*



**July 2013** – The Town's newest paramedic joined the ranks of the Ashburnham EMS coverage and heralded in a new era in the Town's EMS coverage history. As of this report, we are pleased to say it has been very successful.

**Fall 2013** – Construction was complete on Dunn Road and part of Lake Road which is within the schedule to continue to improve roads. This process is often done in small sections as Town appropriated funds and earmarking all of our Chapter 90 money is available for this purpose.

**October 2013** – Longtime employee, Battalion Chief Bob Salo retired from the Fire Department after over 30 years of service to the Town. We will miss him and wish him well as he begins retirement.

### In other business:

As has been done for the past few years, you, the voters, have voted money into the Stabilization and Capital Improvement funds. This is working toward putting the Town on a better financial footing and has helped to improve the Town's credit rating with Moodys.

This complicated process requires a significant amount of work and dedication in keeping the Town's best interests in mind. I would like to thank Doug Briggs for his fiscal conservative handling of the Town's finances.

This report wouldn't be complete without saying "thank you" to all of our employees and volunteers. Working in the public is not always easy as we serve a diverse population. As Selectmen, we hear more compliments than we do complaints, which is a direct reflection of the dedication and professionalism of our employees. Our volunteers give many hours with no pay to help make the Town function, these people deserve a thanks for their selfless acts. Lastly, we would like to thank all of the boards and committees for their cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Davis  
Leo Janssens II  
Duncan Phyfe