

BOARD OF SELECTMEN 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Citizens of Ashburnham:

Following the April Election the makeup of the Board changed as follows:

Duncan Phye (Chair)
Leo Janssens II (Member)
Kyle Johnson (Clerk)

We welcomed the newly elected Selectman, Kyle Johnson onto the team. Kyle was elected to complete the term that had been vacated due to the resignation of Nick Davis, which was expiring April 2016. Also re-elected was Leo Janssens II for another three year term, expiring April 2018.

The Town saw four long-term employees retire this year. We want to thank them for their years of faithful service:

Paul Pollastri (Treasurer), 23 years of service
Barbara Brown (Assistant Treasurer), 29 years of service
Linda Ramsdell (Town Clerk), 30 years of service
David Whitney (Hwy. Foreman), 28 years of service

We welcomed the following personnel who replaced them:

Tammy Coller (Treasurer)
Mary Ellen Kelly (Assistant Treasurer)
Michelle Johnson (Town Clerk)
Phil Fischer (Hwy. Foreman)

Ashburnham celebrated its 250th anniversary of incorporation throughout the past year. The 250th Committee did a great job of creating events that brought the Town's citizens out to celebrate. The Town enjoyed the year-long celebration and the number of events gave everyone a chance to participate and enjoy even with their busy schedules. To highlight the success of all the events, some of the major events were:

- Family and Community Day including fireworks
- Ashburnham 250th Celebration Parade
- Paint the Town
- Oktoberfest

The DPW Building remains a tough topic for the Town as there is a critical need to improve the working conditions and safety of our employees. The Board has taken up the DPW on two fronts with a Committee specifically looking at the DPW facility to ensure the best cost effective facility for the taxpayers to fund; and the Downtown Focus Committee has been re-established to provide feedback to revitalize our downtown area. The Downtown Focus Committee has a mix of new members and members from the previous Committee back in 2006.

Over the past few years there has been much talk about the dangerous intersection at Corey Hill Road, Williams Road and Route 101. In June myself, the Town Administrator and DPW Superintendent participated in a meeting to discuss the options of a rotary or 4-way stop to improve the safety and traffic flow through this intersection. The result of the meeting was to focus on a 4-way stop solution and to review if there could be relief for the land takings. Although many of the Town's concerns in that June meeting were not addressed, MASSDOT held a public hearing in October at the Public Safety Building showing the final selection of a 4-way stop. The MASSDOT design would require the Town to take land (10 properties) through eminent domain funded by the taxpayers. Following that public hearing, the Ashburnham DPW and Police looked at how the Town could solve the safety issues for less cost than the MASSDOT 4-way stop design. The Town believes the solution developed in Town would solve the safety issues and would save the taxpayer money.

At this time I want to thank all of our employees, committee and board members. Our employees are always there to help and respond. Our committee and board members serve on a voluntary basis. It's people who make a community and I urge everyone to become involved by voting, attending Town Meeting or joining a board or committee. Please consult the Ashburnham Town Website (www.ashburnham-ma.gov) to find where you can volunteer to help the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
Duncan Phye, Chair
Leo Janssens II, Member
Kyle Johnson, Clerk