



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT January 20, 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, (1) Parks and Recreation, (2) Historical Commission, and (2) Zoning Board of Appeals. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

FY 16 BUDGET

The AWRSD Budget will be presented at their February 3, 2015 meeting.

I would like to set up a series of meetings with the Board so that we can review to ensure information can be given at the annual town meeting and so that the general public will have more opportunity to become more informed.

Need for the Board to open the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and set a closing date of March 18th at 4:00 p.m. for all articles.

I attended the Worcester County Regional Retirement program and received the assessment for FY 16, which increased the unfunded liability portion by 8%. Total increased by 3.8% to \$570,879.

BRIGGS REIMBURSEMENT

Received email from MSBA that they are reviewing our project and we are moving closer to receiving the \$970,000 that was held back on the project. The Commission meets every other month and it looks like we are not on their agenda so March is more realistic.

FIRE UNION

We met on January 7, 2015 and the Board will discuss tonight in executive session.

DISPATCH UNION

First scheduled meeting for the Dispatch union is Wednesday the 4th of February. I will be meeting with the Board in executive session at the February 2nd meeting.

MIA

I will attend the MMA conference the 22-24 of January.

CHAPTER 90

Received notification from Governor Baker that he has released the final \$173,000 due Ashburnham for our allotment of FY 15 Chapter 90 monies. This with next years \$520,000 allotment will make for a busy and productive paving season.

GREEN COMMUNITY

I filed application for project funding on the 13th of January. Also there have been several residents that have inquired as to how to become a member. Once the letters of interest are received they will be passed on to the Board for approval of appointment.

I am still waiting for quotes for the level II audits for town hall and public safety.

DPW

We are currently down two DPW employees due to resignations. One employee from the Water and Sewer has been transferred over to DPW. We have also hired additional contractors to cover for snow removal.

ASST. TREASURER

Barbara Brown after 30 years is retiring on February 27th. Mary Ellen Kelly who currently works in Land Use will take over her position. Mary Ellen comes highly qualified as she has a Bachelor's Degree in Business and has prior experience as the Asst. Treasurer in Templeton and the Asst. Accountant in Westminster. We have currently posted Mary Ellen's position in Land Use.

COA

We have been approached by Westminster to share their new senior center. The new facility will increase programming and enhance the services that we now offer. The new facility is located on West Main Street where they have plans to develop a senior housing project. The COA has sent out and made available questionnaires for the seniors of Ashburnham to determine whether the services that Westminster will offer falls in line with their needs. The cost to transition will be about \$26,000.

ASSESSORS

I met with the Assessors on Wednesday the 14th to discuss a proposal by RRG to enhance their service by having one of their staff to cover the counter 16 hours per week over four days and do the other assessing function currently done by the assessor's clerk. This was endorsed by the Assessor's. I have talked with another town that has done this with RRG and they are extremely happy with the results. The cost to transition will be about \$3,500.