

Board of Selectmen
 Extension 109
Town Administrator
 Extension 109
Town Accountant
 Extension 120
Town Clerk
 Extension 114
Tax Collector
 Extension 113
Treasurer
 Extension 112 or 110
Board of Assessors
 Extension 111
Land Use Office
 Extension 117
Planning Board
 Extension 121
Conservation Commission
 Extension 115



Animal Control
 Board of Health
 Building Commission
 Conservation Commission
 Council on Aging
 Cultural Council
 Electrical Inspector
 Gas & Plumbing Inspector
 Historical Commission
 Municipal Planning
 Parks & Recreation
 Planning Board
 Zoning Board of Appeals

PHONE: (978)-827-4100
FAX: (978) 827-4105

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

Town Hall, 32 Main Street
 Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
July 21, 2014

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, (3) Council on Aging Board, (1) Parks and Recreation. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

BUDGET

FY 14 Budget has been finalized. I met with the Advisory Board on July 14th to finalize transfers for the year.

I am working with financial team to establish the FY 15 financial calendar. I will be looking to schedule our fall town meeting on October 28th at the J R Briggs School.

VMS

Update on the VMS Budget

| <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Action</u> | <u>Amt Appropriated</u> | <u>Amt Spent</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY 13 STM 10/16/12 Article 8 | VMS Inspection | \$2,500 | \$2,500 |
| FY 14 ATM 05/04/13 Article 14 | VMS Asbestos/oil tank | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| FY 14 STM 10/29/13 Article 3 | VMS Demolition | \$75,000 | \$72,478 |

Total appropriated \$127,500 Spent \$124,978.05 Balance \$2,521.95

There will be a final cost for the water associated with the grass, but that should be minimal. The grass is coming in good and looks very nice. A special thanks for all those that worked on the project!!

DPW

I asked the police department to review the signage at the intersection of Willard and Fairview which currently has a "Yield" sign. Lt. Parsons evaluated the intersection and determined a "stop" sign is more appropriate then a "yield". I ask that the Board support this change.

Bid opening for the water line replacement project was on June 5th and there were 8 bidders with the low bidder being Cedrone Corp out of North Billerica MA at \$1,289,409.70. Pre-construction meeting was held on June 26th.

Construction started on July 11th and the schedule shows that they will be done through Williams Road by August 29th well ahead of original schedule.

Working with Rep Jon Zlotnik to try and get some grant money for the Sewer Upgrades in Gardner.

Steve and I attended the MPO meeting on June 25th where they voted to approve the design phase on the Rt. 101 and Corey Hill Road intersection. The engineering has already begun.

Weston and Sampson has started on the engineering for RT 101. This will allow us the get on the TIP schedule hopefully for FY16.

Town crews are doing the preparation on Hastings Road. The paving should be started the beginning of August and it will include full reclamation of Hastings from the cemetery to Stowell.

BOS CONCERN

It was inferred at the last BOS meeting that the zoning enforcement agent handling of the signage on the east side of 49 Main Street has led to unfair treatment, and at least one business to feel that it was the reason that people may think they don't exist (they had no sign on the wall). A letter was sent out to the owner of the building with a picture of the signs in question. Due to the changing configuration of advertising media our sign bylaw needs to be updated, but it is also very difficult to identify "illegal" signs because of lack of signage records that were destroyed years ago, specifically to identify when signs were put up and any special circumstances that relate to them. It has therefore been the policy to go forward with "new" signage. We have limited resources and will investigate "old" signage upon request.

FIRE UNION

I started negotiations with the new Fire Employees' Union on June 25, 2014. I have scheduled meetings on July 24th and August 7th.

CABLE CONTRACT

I have contacted Attorney Bill Solomon to work with us on the new Cable Licensure process. The AWCATV approached Board and presented a plan where they will cover most of the cost if we use Bill. The town went to the cable hearing in Westminster on June 18th and we have scheduled departmental and committee hearings on July 21st and July 14th. All departments and committees were encouraged to attend. A joint RFP with Westminster is scheduled to be completed the end of July.

RETIREMENTS

Stan Herriott from the Light Department is retiring on July 31st after 16 years as the Manager. There is a reception at Cushing Academy on the 2nd of August. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Anne Olivari at 978-827-4423 to RSVP.

Fire Chief Paul Zbikowski is retiring on July 24th after 36 years of service to the Town. I am going to request the money to cover the costs of Paul's retirement (\$35k) at the next Special Town Meeting. This would allow the search for the new chief to begin in early September. If anyone is interested I am looking for two people as at-large to serve on the committee, please contact Sylvia.

PLEASANT STREET

I received a letter from Joe McPeak representing Cushing Academy. They would like to discuss the abandoning of Pleasant Street from Academy Street to Central Street and transferring ownership to Cushing Academy.

EMAIL

Sylvia has setup town email accounts for all the Library Trustees which will now cover most of our Boards.

VACATION

I will be on vacation from July 28th to August 1st. Sylvia will be in charge.

GREEN COMMUNITY

Mark Carlisle, Stan Herriott, and I are gathering information to generate an application to the State for Green Energy status. Project is going well and we are looking for a fall submission.