

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

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TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

*Town Hall, 32 Main Street
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430*

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT January 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, and (1) Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

DPW

I heard from Tighe & Bond that the USDA has accepted our loan application for a loan for the water line project, which includes Williams, Holden, Westminster, and South Maple. It looks like we will be in the 25 to 30% grant range, but we will have to wait for the next funding round which happens Sept 1st, unless monies become available in the spring.

Steve Nims and I met with Weston & Sampson about the new proposed DPW facility. They will be working on a site plan, more definitive costs, and a presentation that will be presented to the Board on March 3rd to prepare for the ATM in May. I will be contacting USDA for possible funding.

Public Hearing tonight for the CDBG projects request we will be submitting in February.

IT

Guardian is working to complete the connectivity of Library, Town Hall, DPW, and Public Safety. Police and Dispatch are done, Fire should be complete by today, and Library and DPW should be on-line by Thursday 1/23. Library needed additional electrical work and DPW needed a board mounted for server.

BUDGET FY 15

All budgets have been received for FY15 and being reviewed with department heads. I will have an initial meeting with Advisory Board on January 27th, and Capital Planning on the 29th. The Governor will be submitting his budget and it will be available on the 22nd of January. I would like to set a date for the BOS to discuss and review.

Attended meeting with Worcester County Regional Retirement and our assessment for FY 15 went up 8.5%, partly due to the methodology change from Salaries to Actuarial.

Met with Water and Sewer Commissioners to review FY 15 budget and discussed rates for the remainder of FY 14 and FY 15.

Edd Byrnes will be generating budget number recommendations for the balance of FY 14 and FY 15 health care costs for Westminster, Ashburnham, and AWRSD to be used for budgetary purposes.

BOND RATING

The town has received a Moody's bond rating of A1 for the permanent borrowing for the Briggs' project and a MIG A1 for temporary borrowing. This is the same rating as with our prior borrowing and a very good rating for a town with our demographics.

On Wednesday January 15th the bids came in and there were 10 bidders on our Bond. The successful bid came in at 4.43% with a yearly payment of \$1,268,475. This represents a 10% increase to tax rate. Paul Pollastri will look to the Board for their approval and signature tonight.

MUNICIPAL HEARINGS OFFICER

On Wednesday, January 15, 2014 I attended a certification class on being a Municipal Hearings Officer with a purpose to hear appeals for both Fire and DPW citations. It was very informative about how to hold hearings, but I question our need right now.

VMS

Sylvia continues to send monthly bills to the North Country Sustainability Center for the rent monies they still have in arrears. Have not received any payment since October 2012, balance due \$5,829.15.