

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As directed by the Selectboard the town office worked on the following projects during 2016:

Health Insurance Change: Reacting to changes from the national health care law the town shifted its health insurance plan to a coverage model that included higher deductibles and cost sharing between the town and employees. By design the new plan is commensurate with the program offered to the Plainfield Elementary School support staff.

Facility Manager: After discussing this part time position for many past budget cycles, the Selectboard approved for the concept as part of the 2016 budget. In July, local contractor and resident Brad Atwater was hired for the job which is intended to be about 50% hands on repair work and 50% long range planning for the care maintenance of our various town buildings.

Fire Department Study: Reacting to a request for help from both departments the Selectboard approved an expenditure with town counsel to determine whether or not the town's two fire departments are in fact municipal as outlined in New Hampshire law. The distinction is important because it clarifies whether or not the departments enjoy various protections under New Hampshire law that are reserved for municipal departments. The opinion resulting from this study is that without additional action, neither department is truly a municipal department as outlined in the statutes.

Highway Department Study: Reacting to a suggestion from the Highway Garage Study Committee the town has contracted with Municipal Resource Inc to perform an evaluation of the highway department. This being the first step in the long planning process for the eventual replacement of the highway garage facility.

Replacement Grader: Facing an expensive transmission repair the Selectboard decided, upon careful study and consultation with town's finance committee to use the authority granted at the 2015 town meeting as agents to expend for the highway equipment fund and purchase a used grader. The replacement, a 1989 John Deere 672B all wheel drive grader with 3,000 hours cost \$40,000. A brand new machine would cost closer to \$400,000. The hope is that the replacement can remain in service for 6-8 years.

Plainfield Cemetery Expansion: At the request of resident Bev Widger the Board of Trustees began the process for planning the eventual opening of the new section of the Plainfield Plain Cemetery. This work will, in time, result in the relocation of the existing north entrance to the cemetery further toward the north where the access can be much less steep and prone to erosion. Since much of the work is still many years away, in the short term the existing access ramp will be modified to improve sight lines for cars pulling out onto Route 12A

Stephen Halleran, Town Administrator