

Department of Public Works

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Athol;

The Town of Athol Department of Public Works is a consolidated department of 26 full time employees and three part time employees who are responsible for streets, sidewalks, drainage, water and sewer, solid waste and administrative duties. We maintain a roadway network of over 103 miles. We are also responsible for mowing and maintaining 9 cemeteries, 60 acres of parks and ball fields, pruning and removal of town trees. The DPW operates and maintains 4 wells and three water storage tanks. There are also 26 buildings under the DPW's direct responsibility ranging from small sheds to multi-million dollar facilities including a wastewater treatment plant, six wastewater pump stations; two water treatment facilities, and a maintenance depot. We also operate the Transfer Station. We are nearing 5 successful years of operation as a fully enterprised, self sustaining operation. We now provide a location for disposal of solid waste and demolition and more importantly, provides the opportunity to recycle.

Our current staff represents a significant cut in manpower. In 2003 there were 31 on staff and in the 1980's there were 42. In spite of the cuts in manpower, the need for service has not decreased. Many dedicated volunteers and Senior Tax Abatement participants have helped with the increased maintenance needs. We sincerely appreciate their efforts.

Our normal maintenance activities include; snow & Ice control, sweeping and sand removal, pothole patching, cleaning and rebuilding collapsed manholes and catch basins, clearing sewer blockages, reading and repairing water meters, fixing water and sewer pipes, rebuilding pumps and motors, installing signs, mowing grass in parks and cemeteries, burials and roadside brush control, managing and maintain a solid waste handling facility and maintaining a fleet of vehicles; as well as maintenance of several buildings. There are also many administrative duties including customer relations, water and sewer billing, cemetery records, grant coordination, project preparation, review and inspection; contract preparation and bidding; and many other miscellaneous tasks.

The following are just some of the many projects that have been in progress or completed in fiscal 2012:

- Replaced 20 fire hydrants
- Started replacement/conversion of all water meters to allow for radio read meter reading
- Replaced 150 feet of sewer on Summer St.
- Replaced 60 feet of sewer on Highland St.
- Started the Traverse Street / South Street realignment Project and building of a new parking lot at the former 51 School St. property.
- Resurfaced the following streets:
 - Ward St. with new sidewalk
 - Goddard St. with new sidewalk

Pitman Road.
Sunrise Terrace.
Orange St.
Benton Place
Crescent St. Extension with new sidewalk
Lee St.
South St. from Traverse St. to Freedom St. (new sidewalk from Freedom
St. to Tunnel St.)
Crescent St. from Main St. to Wellington St. with new sidewalks

Respectfully,
Doug Walsh, Superintendent