

# CHAPTER ONE

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Reports of the Town Clerk, Board  
of Selectmen, Finance Warrant &  
Advisory Committee, Library  
Trustees, Housing Authority

## FACTS ABOUT ATHOL

**HISTORY** April 20, 1733, General Court of Massachusetts laid out the township of Pequage. September 17, 1735, the first five families settled here. March 6, 1762, the township was incorporated and the name changed to Athol.

**LOCATION** North central Massachusetts, 38 miles north of Worcester, and 71 miles west of Boston.

**AREA**

Land	32.34 square miles
Water	.73 square miles
Total	33.07 square miles

**POPULATION** 11,584

**REGISTERED VOTERS** 6,327

**POLLING PLACES** Precinct 1 – 3: Athol Senior Center  
82 Freedom Street

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION** First Monday in April

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** Second Monday in June

**FALL TOWN MEETING** Third Monday in October

**TOWN GOV'T** Open Town Meeting  
Five Member Board of Selectmen  
Town Manager

**TAX RATE** \$18.43

**TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS** Mon, Wed., Thurs. 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Tuesday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Friday CLOSED

## STATE OFFICIALS

### **Governor**

Charles D. Baker  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133  
Tel: 617-725-4000  
Fax: 617-727-9725

### **Lieutenant Governor**

Karyn E. Polito  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133  
Tel: 617-725-4000  
Fax: 617-727-9725

### **Attorney General**

Maura Healy  
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108-1698  
Main number connecting all bureaus 617-727-2200  
TTY: 617-727-4765  
Fax: Call for specific fax numbers  
**Attorney General Hotlines:**  
Consumer Hotline: 617-727-8400  
Elder Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-AG ELDER (243-5337)  
Fair Labor: 617-727-3465  
Insurance Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-830-6277  
Insurance Fraud Tipline: 617-573-5330  
Utilities Division Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-514-6277

### **Secretary of the Commonwealth**

William Francis Galvin  
State House, Room 340  
Boston, MA 02133  
Executive Office: 617-727-9180  
General Information: 617-727-7030

### **Treasurer and Receiver-General**

Deborah B. Goldberg  
State House, Room 227  
Boston, MA 02133  
Executive Office: 617-367-6900  
Connecting all divisions: 617-367-3900

### **State Auditor**

Suzanne M. Bump  
State House, Room 230  
Boston, MA 02133  
Tel: 617-727-2075  
Fax: 617-727-5981

### **State Senator** (*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex*)

Ann M. Gobi  
State House  
Room 513  
Boston MA 02133  
Phone: 617-722-1540  
Fax: 617-722-1078  
[anne.gobi@masenate.gov](mailto:anne.gobi@masenate.gov)

### **State Representative** (2<sup>nd</sup> Franklin District)

Susannah Whipps Lee  
State House  
Room 540  
Boston MA 02133  
Phone: 617-722-2090  
[Susannah.WhippsLee@mahouse.gov](mailto:Susannah.WhippsLee@mahouse.gov)

## FEDERAL OFFICIALS

### **U.S. Senators**

#### **Elizabeth Warren**

##### *Boston Office*

2400 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston MA 02203  
Phone: 617-565-3170

##### *Springfield Office*

1550 Main Street  
Suite 406  
Springfield MA 01103  
Phone: 413-788-2690

##### *Washington Office*

317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-4543

#### **Edward Markey**

##### *Boston Office*

975 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston MA 02203  
Phone: 617-565-8519

##### *Fall River Office*

222 Milliken Blvd, Suite 312  
Fall River MA 02721  
Phone: 508-677-0523

##### *Springfield Office*

1550 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield MA 01101  
Phone: 413-785-4610

##### *Washington Office*

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2742

### **U.S Congress** (2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District)

#### **James McGovern**

##### *Washington DC Office*

438 Cannon HOB  
Washington DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-6101

##### *Leominster Office*

24 Church Street, Room 29  
Leominster MA 01453  
Phone: 978-466-3552

##### *Northampton Office*

94 Pleasant Street  
Northampton MA 01060  
Phone: 413-341-8700

##### *Worcester Office*

12 East Worcester Street  
Suite 1  
Worcester MA 01604  
Phone: 508-831-7356

## **ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS**

### **MODERATOR**

Lawrence P. McLaughlin, 2016

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Mitchell R. Grosky, 2016  
Stephen R. Raymond, 2016  
Anthony A. Brighenti, 2017  
Alan D. Dodge, 2017  
Lee E. Chauvette, 2018

### **ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

From Athol:

Dale H. Lougee, 2016  
Joseph F. Maga, 2016  
Amber Parker, 2016  
Lee E. Chauvette, 2017  
Mitchell Grosky, 2017  
Joao Baptista, 2018  
Deborah Kuzmeskas, 2018

From Royalston:

Charles Pretti, 2016  
Nancy D. Melbourne, 2017  
Carla Rabinowitz, 2018

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Sharon A. Brighenti, 2016  
Margaret Feldman, 2016  
John R. Greene, 2017  
Margaret L. Young, 2017  
Francis W. Foster, 2018  
Christine Miranda, 2018

### **ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Cathy Muzzy, 2016  
Cathy Savoy, 2017  
Edward Ledgard, 2019  
Edward C. Sawin, 2020  
Charles Winn, 2011 (State Appointee)

### **CONSTABLES**

Leon A. Lozier, 2016  
Randy Mitchell, 2017  
Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2018

## APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Admin. Asst., Board of Selectmen/Town Manager	Heather Brissette
Alternate Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Brian Gale
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Arsenault
Assessor	Lisa Aldrich
Asst. Agent Board of Health	Lori A. Wiita
Assistant Collector	Susan M. Sargent
Assistant Gas Inspector	Robert Mallet
Assistant Municipal Coordinator	Jeffrey Parker
Assistant Plumbing Inspector	Rick Geyster
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	Duane Truehart
Assistant Town Accountant	Kala Fisher
Assistant Town Clerk	Carol Forand
Assistant Treasurer	Bridget Jowder
Assistant Wire Inspector	Gordon Dickie
Board of Health Agent	Deborah Karan
Civil Defense Director	Thomas Lozier
Collector/Treasurer	Eileen Bristol
Deputy Fire Chief	Jeffrey Parker
Director, Council on Aging	Cathy Savoy
Director of Veterans' Benefits & Services	Neil McGuirk
Emergency Management Director	John Duguay
Fire Chief	John Duguay
Inspector of Animals	Jennifer Arsenault
Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Brianna Skowyra
Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances	Daniel Joly
Inspector of Wires	Gary Terroy
Library Director	Debra Blanchard
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Committee	Toni L. Phillips
Municipal Coordinator	John Duguay
Parking Meter Attendant	Ronny Cote
Plumbing Inspector	Daniel Joly
Police Chief	Timothy Anderson
Police Lieutenant	Kevin Heath
Sealer of Weights & Measures	John R. Greene
Superintendent of Public Works	Douglas Walsh
Superintendent of Schools	Anthony Polito
Town Accountant	Christine Mailloux
Town Clerk	Nancy E. Burnham
Town Counsel	Mark Goldstein
Town Manager	Shaun Suhoski
Town Planner	Andrea Buglione

## TOWN BOARDS/COMMITTEES

### AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Pam Browning, 2017  
Laurie Parker, 2017  
Nora Weaver, 2017  
Sydney Adams, 2018  
Rance LaPointe, 2018

#### Alternate Members:

Casey Smith, 2016

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

### ATHOL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Robin Brzowski, 2016  
Brenda Buck, 2016  
Anne Cutler-Russo, 2016  
Joann Deacon, 2016  
Tabitha DeHays, 2016  
Marie Lehmann, 2016  
Jean Shaughnessy, 2016  
Brianna Haskins, 2017  
Christine Hause, 2017

### BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2017  
Heather Brissette, 2018  
Lisa Aldrich, indefinite

### BOARD OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Aimee Hanson, 2016  
Kathy Norton, 2016  
Andrea Buglione, 2018  
David Small, 2019  
Jacqueline Doherty, 2019  
Richard Hayden, 2020  
Steve Wills, 2020

### BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Timothy Anderson, 2016  
Nancy Burnham, 2016  
Kala Fisher, 2016  
Toni Phillips, 2016  
Jean Robinson, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

### CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Daniel Carey, 2016  
Mark Wright, 2016

### CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Erik Euvard, 2016  
Dennis Killay, 2016  
Michael Butler, 2017  
John Lambert, 2017  
Linda Oldach, 2017  
Robert Muzzy, 2018  
James Smith, 2019

### CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Heather Brissette, 2016  
Nancy Burnham, 2016  
Lee Chauvette, 2016  
Ben Feldman, 2016  
Joan Gross, 2016  
Jason LeRay, 2016  
Lawrence McLaughlin, 2016  
Charles Ponusky, 2016  
Keith Williams, 2016

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Katheryn Harrow, 2016  
Dennis Killay, 2016  
James Smith, 2016  
John R. Greene, 2017  
Laura Smith, 2017  
Walter Lehmann, 2018  
Robert Muzzy, 2018

#### Associate Members:

Elwin Bacon, 2016  
Jamie Briggs, 2016

### COUNCIL ON AGING

Stephen Larry, 2016  
Margaret Young, 2016  
Ruth Black, 2017  
Kathy Cygan, 2017  
Linda Grenier, 2017  
Lillian Bachelder, 2018  
Walter Lehman, 2018  
Jean Ryder, 2018  
Cathy Savoy, Director

### DOWNTOWN VITALITY COMMITTEE

Carol Ambrozy, 2016  
Diana Beland, 2016  
Richard Godin, 2016  
Rance LaPointe, 2016  
Stephen Raymond, 2016

#### Associate Members:

Paula Robinson, 2016  
David Small, 2016  
Shelly Small, 2016

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (EDIC)**

Richard Plotkin, 2016  
Martin Robichaud, 2016  
James W. Meehan, Jr., 2017  
Keith McGuirk, 2017  
Mark Wright, 2017  
Clinton Sykes, 2018  
Calvin Taylor, 2018

Associate Members:

Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

**FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ben Feldman, 2016  
Paul Nelson, 2016  
Kenneth Duffy, 2017  
Erik Euvrard, 2017  
Jo King, 2018  
Cynthia Caldwell, 2018  
Gary Deyo, 2018

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Joan Hamlett, 2016  
Earle Baldwin, 2017  
Norma Purple, 2018

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Carolyn Brouillet, 2016  
John R. Greene, 2016  
Shelly Small, 2017  
Jean Shaughnessy, 2017  
Vacant, 2018

**HOLIDAY DECORATING COMMITTEE**

Anthony Brighenti, 2016  
Patrick DiPietro, 2016  
Karen Rathburn, 2016  
Stephen Raymond, 2016  
Charles Shatos, 2016  
Roger Watts, 2016  
Herbert Wheeler, 2016

**INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Lisa Aldrich, 2016  
Ben Feldman, 2016  
Kevin Heath, 2016  
Robert Hughes, 2016  
Doug Kaczmarczyk, 2016  
Paul Landry, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

**MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Anthony Brighenti, 2016  
Nancy E. Burnham, 2016  
Lee E. Chauvette, 2016  
Ben J. Feldman, 2016

John R. Greene, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

**MEMORIAL HALL REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

Bonnie Benjamin, 2016  
Rene Lake-Gagliardi, 2016  
Joanne Rich, 2016  
Ethan Stone, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Earle Baldwin, 2016  
Robert Curley, 2016  
Erik Euvrard, 2016  
Joshua Feldman, 2016  
Brian Hall, 2016  
David Small, 2016

Associate Members:

Richard D. Godin, 2016  
Robert Muzzy, 2016

**PLANNING BOARD**

Ann Taylor, 2017  
John Lambert, 2018  
Garrett Knapik, 2019  
Calvin Taylor, 2020  
Vacant, 2016

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

Sandra King, 2016  
Joni Paulino, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016  
Vacant, 2016

**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Gerard Lozier, 2016  
Hugh A. Horrigan, 2017  
Vacant, 2018  
Nancy E. Burnham, Town Clerk

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Anthony Brighenti, 2016  
Sharon Brighenti, 2016  
Andrea Buglione, 2016  
Margaret Feldman, 2016  
Travis Knechtel, 2016  
Gregory McGuane, 2016  
David Small, 2016

**TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING COMMITTEE**

Lisa Aldrich, 2016  
Ken Duffy, 2016  
Christine Mailloux, 2016  
Vacant, 2015  
Vacant, 2015

**TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE**

Andrea Buglione, 2016  
 Aimee Hanson, 2016  
 James Maxwell, 2016  
 Vacant, 2016  
 Vacant, 2016

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Richard Coburn, 2016  
 Susan Mondy Sykes, 2017  
 Elvin R. Chartrand, 2018  
 Henry D'Orto, Jr., 2019  
 Robert Mallet, 2020

**VACANT & UNOCCUPIED BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Anthony Brighenti, 2016  
 Alan Dodge, 2016  
 John Duguay, 2016  
 Harry Haldt, 2016  
 Deborah Karan, 2016  
 Robert Matthews, 2016  
 Brianna Skowrya, 2016  
 Calvin Taylor, 2016  
 Bruce Winters, 2016

## Associate Members:

Kala Fisher, 2016  
 Richard Godin, 2016

**ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE**

William Aucoin, 2016  
 Pam Browning, 2016  
 Richard Godin, 2016  
 Vacant, 2016  
 Vacant, 2016

**WHEN BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEET**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>TIME OF MEETING</b>	<b>PLACE OF MEETING</b>
<b>ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY</b>		
1st Wednesday	9:15 AM	21 Morton Meadows
<b>ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE</b>		
3rd Wednesday	6:30 PM	Middle School
<b>BOARD OF ASSESSORS</b>		
Tuesday	As posted	Room 15
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>		
4th Tuesday	4:00 PM	Room 1
<b>BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES (no meeting July &amp; August)</b>		
3rd Wednesday	6:00 PM	Library
<b>BOARD OF PLANNING &amp; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Room 21
<b>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>		
4th Tuesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
<b>CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	9:00 AM	Room 3
<b>COUNCIL ON AGING</b>		
3rd Tuesday	1:00 PM	Room 21
<b>EDIC</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday      7:00 PM      Liberty Hall

PLANNING BOARD

1<sup>st</sup> Monday      7:00 PM      Room 21

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday      7:00 PM      Room 21

ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday      7:00 PM      Room 21

All meetings are held in Memorial Building unless otherwise noted.

Meeting notices and agendas are available on the Town of Athol website at [www.athol-ma.gov](http://www.athol-ma.gov)

**VITAL RECORDS**

	7/1/13 -	7/1/14 -
	6/30/14	6/30/15

Births	103	91
Marriages	58	63
Deaths	178	181



**Lee E. Chauvette**, *Chairman*  
**Anthony A. Brighenti**  
**Alan D. Dodge**  
**Stephen R. Raymond**  
**Susannah M. Whipps Lee / Mitchell R. Grosky**

**Shaun A. Suhoski**, *Town Manager*  
Email: [ssuhoski@townofathol.org](mailto:ssuhoski@townofathol.org)

**Heather J. Brissette**, *Administrative Asst.*  
Email: [selectmen@townofathol.org](mailto:selectmen@townofathol.org)

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### To the Citizens of the Town of Athol:

The Board of Selectmen had a busy fiscal year in 2015 starting with the hiring of a new Town Manager in July. Shaun Suhoski will be Athol's fourth Town Manager since the inception of the Town Charter in 2000 and comes to the Town via Sturbridge. The Board met with Suhoski and set several goals for him to work towards in his first year, chief among them was Economic Development. In February the Board met again and provided Suhoski with a favorable six month review.

The Board celebrated the successful campaign of Selectwoman Susannah Whipps-Lee to State Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> Franklin District but reluctantly accepted her resignation in March. Long time school committee member and school administrator Mitchell R. Grosky was elected in April to complete her term ending in 2016.

### Policy Discussions:

Despite the changes the Board stayed on task and worked on several key policy initiatives. In August the Board moved forward with regionalizing its animal control services and worked with Police Chief Timothy Anderson and FRCOG Representative Ted Harvey finalize the Regional Animal Control Agreement with Orange and Royalston.

The Board also took a big step towards regional police and fire dispatch by entering into a 25 year agreement with the city of Gardner. This agreement was signed contingent upon receipt of grant funding, successful collective bargaining, and provides multiple "escape hatches" for both communities should things not progress as anticipated. The regional dispatch final agreement is anticipated for FY17.

After a presentation from Kinder Morgan, inc regarding a natural gas pipeline proposal thru the North Quabbin Region the Board voted unanimously not to support the project and asked that boards and committees representing Town owned land not allow Kinder Morgan access to town owned property for surveying or other actions related to the pipe line.

In response to several residents who brought forward the idea that the Board of Health members should be elected rather than appointed the Board asked the Charter Review Committee to consider the issue and whether it should be brought before the voters. The Charter Review put the question before voters and it was defeated by a wide margin.

Another topic debated by the Board was a tag sale policy. The Board weighed the pros and cons of several ways to successfully manage yard sales in town, especially those along Main St. Ultimately a policy, limiting the number of sales one resident can have and requiring a permit, was approved. The Board overturned their own policy a few months later, however.

## **Licensing:**

In November the Board completed its annual licensing by approving the following permits and licenses for the 2015 calendar year.

Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses for Bills Motor Mart, 12 Lewis St., C&D Towing located 158 Marble St., Dales Auto Body located at 25 Bickford Drive, Flint's Garage Sales located at 990 So. Main St., Hancock Motor Sales, 201 Daniels Shays Hwy., Tool Town Auto located at 2298 Main St., Victory Lane Motors located at 22 Chestnut Hill Ave., Wilson & Steely, Kustom Coachworks, LLC of Main St.

Class III Automobile Licenses for Hayes Auto Body of 81 Rich Place.

Common Victualler's Licenses for Global Montello Energy DBA Mr. Mikes, American Lithuanian Naturalization Club, Athol Pizza House, Blind Pig LLC, Bruce's Browser, Inc., Conway Petro, LLC, Country Convenience, Route 13 Donuts, Inc. Dunkin Donuts, 2143 Main St. and 1643 South Main St., Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Inc., Eight Dragon Restaurant, Franco American De Naturalization Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Athol Orange Aerie #4545, Inc., Hannaford Brothers Co., Larry's Meat & Produce, Losier's Café DBA The Dery Bar, McDonalds Restaurant, Olde Time New England Seafood Co., Tea Garden, Tool Town Pizza, Village Grill & Pizza, & Zedas of Athol.

All Alcoholic Liquor Licenses Issued under Section 12 for American Lithuanian Naturalization Club located at 365 South Main St. and managed by Paul Sundstrom, Blind Pig, LLC located at 98 Exchange St. and managed by David Veautour. Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Inc. located at 325 Pequoig Ave. and managed by Thomas Pierce, Ellinwood Country Club located at 1928 Pleasant St. and managed by Vicki Johnson, Franco American De Naturalization Club of Athol located at 592-594 South St. and managed by Norman LaFountain, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Athol Orange Aerie #4545, Inc. located at 99 Hapgood St., and managed by Clyde Woodbury, Losier's Café DBA The Dery Bar of Athol located at 5 Pine St. and managed by Richard Dery, Mark IV Lounge DBA Traverse St. located at 73 Traverse St and managed by David Caldwell, The Steel Pub located at 11 Exchange St. and managed by Irvin Hartin.

Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses Issued under Section 12 for Athol House of Pizza located at 522 Main St. and managed by Agathi Spanakis, Olde Time New England Seafood located 2143 Main St. and managed by Leon Drouin, Tool Town Pizza located at 246 Exchange St. and managed by Ayman E. Fares.

All Alcoholic Liquor Licenses Issued under Section 15 for Foster Liquors Corp DBA Athol Spirits located at 9 Tunnel St. and managed by Shawn Foster, Stan's Liquor Mart located at 1586 South Main St. and managed by Constance Milusich, Uptown Package Store located at 2280 Main St. and managed by John Cotter and Brad Cass.

Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses Issued under Section 15 for Athol General Store located at 390 Crescent St. and managed by Bhavikaben (Jake) J. Patel, Country Convenience located at 49 So. Main St. and managed by Gaurang Patel.

Auto-amusement licenses for American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club for six (6) video, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables, Blind Pig, LLC for 3 video, Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Inc. for 3 video machines, Franco-American de Naturalization Club for 4 video, 1 jukebox, 2 pool tables, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Athol Orange Aerie #4545, Inc. for one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables, three (3) video, Losier's Café for 4 video, 1 jukebox, 1 pool table, 1 target game, Traverse St Café for 1 pinball, 4 video, 1 jukebox, 1 pool table, Tool Town Pizza for one (1) pool table and five (5) video, The Steel Pub for two (2) video, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables.

Live Entertainment Permits for American Lithuanian Naturalization, including Sunday, Blind Pig, LLC, NOT including Sunday, Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Inc., including Sunday after 1 p.m., Franco American De Naturalization Club of Athol, including Sunday, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Athol Orange Aerie #4545, Inc., including Sunday, Losier's Café DBA / The Dery Bar of Athol, NOT including Sunday, The Steel Pub, including Sunday after 1 p.m.

Lodging Permit for the Athol Area YMCA, 545 Main St. Chauvette seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

In the next several months the Board added three new All Alcoholic Liquor Licenses for the Tea Garden, Atholl House and Bon Appetite. The Board continues to honor a vote taken in 2012 saving at least one of the final three restaurant licenses for use in the North Quabbin Business Park. The Board also welcomed Market Basket Store Manager Ron Lambert to a meeting and approved a Common Victualler's license in advance of the new store's Grand Opening on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015.

**Financial Notes:**

In November the Board met with Unibank and signed the bond documents to borrow the first four million dollars of the construction cost of the new elementary school. The \$43 million school building project is projected to ultimately cost the Town approximately \$14 million.

In January the Town held an auction of town owned property and tax title property which brought in close to \$200,000 which will be certified and available for use in fiscal year 2016.

It was a good year for the Town of Athol and the Board thanks the citizens for their support.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Chauvette, Chairman  
Anthony A. Brighenti  
Alan D. Dodge  
Stephen R. Raymond  
Susannah M. Whipps Lee / Mitchell R. Grosky

## TOWN MANAGER ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that I am writing my second report as your Town Manager. My first 18 months in this position was a whirlwind of activity: improved financial procedures, reducing reliance on one-time revenues to balance the operating budget, and developing the framework of a sustainability plan for Athol's longer-term economic growth and health.

This report reflects the fiscal year running from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

After beginning my duties in August of 2014, the Board of Selectmen voted a series of goals focused around internal financial reforms and longer-term economic development planning.

As such, I began to convene regular "Finance Team" meetings with the Town's top financial officers, namely, Town Accountant Christine Mailloux, Treasurer-Collector Eileen Bristol and Principal Assessor Lisa Aldrich. Throughout my first full year as Town Manager, we worked closely and collaboratively to assess the January 2014 MassDOR report, to implement recommendations and to complete our primary goal; establishment of the first written set of financial policies for the Town.

In October 2014, the Board of Selectmen formally adopted the "Fiscal Management Policies" which were subsequently also voted by the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee. These policies, which can be reviewed on the "Sunshine Page" of the Town's Web site, formalized the Town's budgeting, free cash, borrowing, capital and reserve fund processes.

In addition, at the recommendation of the Finance Team, the fall Town Meeting endorsed creation of an Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund (OPEB) to begin planning for future unfunded liabilities.

The establishment of written policies and the creation of the OPEB trust fund helped the Town to improve its bond rating from the "single A" level to "double A" (AA- Standard & Poor's) in November 2014. In turn, the improved bond rating helped the Town achieve a competitive interest rate for borrowing related to the new elementary school.

In early 2015, the Finance Team prepared and issued a final response to the DOR report before the Board of Selectmen.

During the spring and early summer of 2015, public and private investment in the community soared as construction began on the new Athol Community Elementary School and the first building at North Quabbin Commons (for an 80,000 sf Market Basket).

These projects are but a portion of over \$100 million in public and private investment into Athol projected from 2014 through 2016.

In the coming year, my office will release a comprehensive economic development plan that seeks zoning reform along primary transportation corridors, creates new access to Route 2 at South Athol Road, makes sites "ready" for investment (including downtown sites) and develops a unified permitting board to improve efficiency while also ensuring better development outcomes for the Town.

But this work cannot be accomplished by a wave of the Town Manager's hand.

My office will work with the Board of Selectmen, Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, Economic Development Industrial Corp., Dept. of Planning and Development, North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, major private employers, social service groups such as the North Quabbin Community Coalition, and neighboring communities so that we, collectively, raise the economic bar in Athol and the North Quabbin region.

Athol is a jewel. But it requires effort from all of us – government, business and residents – to make it shine. Email me directly at [ssuhoski@townofathol.org](mailto:ssuhoski@townofathol.org) should you have any questions or suggestions surrounding the operations of local government. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaun A. Suhoski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

**Shaun A. Suhoski**  
Town Manager

**Fiscal Year FY15**  
**Finance Committee Report – June 9, 2014**

The members of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee are appointed by the Town Moderator to be an independent advisory committee, representing our fellow citizens and taxpayers of the Town of Athol in the process of local town government.

The committee, comprised of seven members, reviews all warrant articles including the town budget and advises the citizens attending the town meeting what we feel is the best course of action to take on a given article.

The committee holds bi-weekly meetings throughout the year, meeting with the Town Manager along with various boards, committees and department heads as needed – reviewing any matter of importance that may come up during the year. We also review the current fiscal year budget on a regular basis – assisting the Town Manager in oversight of the town’s finances.

I would like to spend a few moments to discuss with the assembly how the town finances its operations in any given year – as it is important to realize how we get the needed funds to provide the various municipal services that we all have come to expect.

The budget you will be acting on this evening totals just over 20 million dollars. While most of us focus on expenses – it is just as important to understand that income or revenues allow us to expend the funds that provide the services in the town. If there are not sufficient revenues – then the best – well-planned and managed budget is doomed to failure.

Annually, the municipal budget is funded by 4 sources. The largest source is the tax levy. This source includes real estate taxes, including the yearly 2.5% allowable increase along with associated new taxes from recently built properties (called “New Growth”) and any Debt Exclusions voted by the townspeople. In total this funding source accounts for roughly 52 percent of any yearly budget.

The next funding source is known as “Local Receipts”. Local receipts include items such as Motor Vehicle Excise taxes, ambulance revenues,

various license fees and permits, rental of town facilities, parking tickets, late penalties and interest – along with other fee for services such and water and sewer fees. This funding source supplies about 29 percent of the needed funds for the town budget.

Next we have State Aid. About 13 percent of our yearly municipal budget is fund with monies from the State. The money we receive in Athol as “Local Aid” is less than in some other cities or towns in the Commonwealth because the State Chapter 70 educational funds are distributed directly to the regional school district. State Aid comes in the form of lottery money – known as Unrestricted General Government Aid. Also received are partial reimbursements for Veterans Benefits, State owned land within the town, various exemption reimbursements for certain veterans and elderly citizens and aid for the local library.

Lastly we have about 6 percent of miscellaneous funding. This funding source can be in the form of grants received from the federal government or state government. Funding can also be from the sale of town real estate or other property or equipment. In general this funding stream is a one-time source of revenue for the budget.

These are the four funding sources available to the town. All expenses must be covered by these four funding sources. Unlike the federal or state government – by law, we must have a balanced budget every year.

At some point this evening you will hear mentioned the term “free cash”. Over the years this has become a most popular term for cities and towns and a very important asset in any communities operations.

Simply put “free cash” is unspent, unrestricted funds from operations of a previous fiscal year. These funds can be a combination of actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates, unspent amounts in budget line items or unexpended free cash from a previous year. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as “free cash” by the Department of Revenue. This calculation is based on the town’s Balance Sheet as of the end of each fiscal year - June 30. These monies cannot be appropriated for use until certified by the Department of Revenue.

The certified amount of “free cash” at this time is \$767,330.00, which is up from the previously certified amount of \$488,218.00.

Concerning the expense portion of the budget, annually the town tends to appropriate about two-thirds of the budget almost equally on three major categories: education, public safety and fixed costs. The remaining third of the budget is typically spent towards public works, general government, human services, cultural and recreational programs and debt service.

In our most recent fiscal status review – Moody's Investors Service gave the town an upper-medium, A-1 credit rating citing Athol's fiscal stability, conservative budget practices, sufficient reserve levels and manageable debt profile.

Going forward – the key to reducing the tax burden of the residential taxpayer is through two avenues. First and foremost - prudent budget management practices. Which means becoming more efficient and business-like in our day-to-day operations and oversight. The second key is through economic development. Bringing new businesses and industry not only provides needed employment opportunities along with increased real estate values, it also adds to the existing tax base. As an example – even at the early stages of development at the business park uptown – the FY15 taxes being received equal the same amount as the average tax bill of 56 residential tax bills (\$140,000). Economic development is crucial to expanding the tax base and helping provide relief to the residential taxpayers of Athol.

At this time - on behalf of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, I would like to thank all department heads, committees and boards for their cooperation during the past year. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted,

Ken Duffy  
Chairman, FWAC

The Athol Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee:  
Ken Duffy, Chairman, Ben Feldman, Vice Chairman  
Members: Cynthia Caldwell, Gary Deyo, Erik Euvrard and Paul Nelson.

## Athol Public Library

### Report of the Board of Library Trustees 2014-2015

*To: The Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol*

Construction continued outside the new library building as part of the PARC Grant project. The flood wall along Millers River was beautified with a new stone face and a fence was installed along the top for safety. Grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted and, in some cases, replanted. The raised garden beds were put into place, filled with compost and soil, and families planted vegetables and flowers as part of a series of programs. Two of the boulders unearthed during the building project were transformed into the wings of a butterfly as part of the park walkway. A Liberty Elm was donated by the Shade Tree Commission and planted in the park near the Butterfly. A change in the size and shape of the amphitheater was made in order to use granite blocks reclaimed from the old South Main Street Bridge, adding to the interesting history of the space and its connections to the river.

The Trustees requested that the Board of Health designate the library and its property as a Smoke Free Campus and signs indicating this were installed. A fence was installed between the upper and lower parking lots for the safety of people trying to cross the divider and climb the banking. An issue with businesses using many of the prime parking spaces was resolved with a compromise with the Town Manager. Non-patrons of the library will be asked to park in the far lot to save the closer spaces for customers using the library.

Inside the building, the heating system continued to be an issue. The electricity bills for several town departments were far above budget and a solution was reached with the finance committee to transfer funds to help cover the costs. The Trustees approved money that had been set aside to purchase a generator to cover the rest of the electricity expense. Snow build up in the air exchange units off the driveway and on the roof was a problem. The director, Deb Blanchard, cleared snow from the units on the roof at least twenty times in a two week period. The snow on the roof also played a part in the delay in activating the solar panels that were finally installed. A final walkthrough with the general contractor, project manager, architect, and others involved in the building project was held in December before the warranties expired on December 31, 2014.

The Trustees approved room use for several new programs and groups, including an Adult Chess Club on night a week, a homeschool music program, a diabetes prevention workshop, a Girl Scout sleepover, and filming of a movie by a group of young people. The library hosted a Legislative Breakfast attended by Trustees, Friends, and staff, as well as politicians and many

representatives from other libraries in the area. The Trustees also heard a presentation by Linda Mack of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts on investing in a foundation. Upon the resignation of their office staff, the Literacy Volunteers of Orange and Athol moved out of their office space here at the library and the Friends of the Library took over the space as their office and storage area for their book sale.

The Trustees appointed six people to the newly established Art Committee: Susan Paju, Heidi Kleiner, Susie Feldman, Shelley Small, and David Brothers, and the library director as a non-voting member. The Committee promptly organized their first exhibit and reception with K.C. Pearson.

Policies that were revised or instituted this year included: Art Gift Acceptance, Art Exhibition, Bulletin Boards and Exhibition, Social Media, Patron Confidentiality, and Telescope Lending.

In staff news, Debra Blanchard announced her retirement. After being interviewed by the Trustees and the Town Manager, Jean Shaughnessy was promoted to Director upon Deb's retirement, and the search for a new Children's Librarian began. Carol Ambrozy, trustee, decided not to run for re-election. Newly elected trustee, Christine Miranda was welcomed at the April 2014 Trustees' meeting. The board elected the following officers: Margaret Young as chair and Susie Feldman as clerk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret L. Young, Chairman  
Margaret "Susie" Feldman, Clerk  
Sharon Brighenti  
Frank Foster  
J.R. Greene  
Christine Miranda

ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
7/1/15 – 6/30/16

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Athol Housing Authority provides affordable housing to low and moderate income families, as well as to the elderly and disabled. Housing is available based on Federal and State Program Regulations.

The Authority owns 78 Elderly/Handicapped units under the Massachusetts Chapter 667 Housing Program as well as 16 units of Family units under the Massachusetts Chapter 705 Housing Program.

Additionally, the Authority administers housing subsidies for 45 families under the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program and 58 families under the Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Effective January 5, 2015, the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) shares office space with the Athol Housing Authority (AHA). The combined staff is made up of the following:

Christi Martin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board (AHA)  
Bridget Sullivan, Program Administrator (AHA)  
Connie Parmenter, MRVP Administrator (AHA)  
Linda Lefebre, Receptionist (OHA)  
Barbara Smith, Receptionist (OHA)  
Stephen Larry, Maintenance Supervisor (AHA)  
Steven Belanger, Maintenance Supervisor (OHA)  
Nicholas Tarara, Maintenance Staff (AHA)

The Authority is overseen by the Board of Commissioners, which meet on a monthly basis. The Board is made up of the following:

Cathy Savoy, Chairperson  
Edward Sawin, Vice-Chairperson  
Ted Ledgard, Treasurer  
Cathy Muzzy, Commissioner

The office of the Athol Housing Authority is located at 21 Morton Meadows and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone 978-249-4848. Fax 978-249-9604.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christi Martin  
Executive Director  
Athol Housing Authority