

CHAPTER FIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

Report of the Department of
Public Works

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The Town of Athol Department of Public Works is a consolidated department of 24 full time employees and two 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 110 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 four 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, two booster pump stations, and a maintenance depot. We also operate the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is nearing 8 successful years of operation as a full enterprise, 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

streets 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, removal of hazardous roadside trees, managing and maintaining 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; environmental permitting and many other miscellaneous tasks.

The following are just some of the many projects that have been in progress or completed in fiscal 2015:

- Completed the installation of the new water main, booster pump station, and water storage tank for the Athol Commons project
- Continued replacement of fire hydrant
- Continued replacement/conversion of all water meters to allow for radio read meter reading
- Completed West Royalston Road reclamation and drainage project from Silver Lake Street to town line
- Completed reclamation and drainage work on Chestnut Hill

Avenue from south end of
Townsend Road to the town line

- Completed reclamation, drainage, and detention pond on Partridgeville Road and Gage Road
- Applied leveling course to south end of Townsend Road distance of 1000'
- Installed 965' of single face guardrail on North Orange Road and Pinedale Avenue
- Crack Sealed North Orange, Riceville, and New Sherborn Roads a total of 26,736 LF
- Notice to Proceed on Grove/Highland Street CDBG project May 5th, 2015. Scope of project includes new water, sewer, drainage, and replacement of unsafe retaining walls, road surface and sidewalks.

Respectfully,

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS**