

CHAPTER THREE

PUBLIC SAFETY

Reports of the Fire, EMS,
Police & Inspectional Services



**ATHOL FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**



To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and the Citizens of Athol

The Fire Department as in years past has had a very busy year. Medical calls and non-emergency transfers were a major workload for the members of the department. The amount of work being done in the EMS Division of the Fire Department by 18 full-time personnel is taking a physical toll on them but we are committed to providing the best possible ambulance service to the citizens of Athol.

The Fire Department again received a Student Awareness of Fire Education Grant in the amount of \$4665.00. With this grant the Fire Department was able to provide fire safety education to elementary school children. Every first, second and fourth grade classrooms were visited to discuss fire safety as well as a visit from Firefighter Phil. The third and fifth grade classes were brought through the Safe Trailer to experience simulated smoke and evacuation drills. There is no doubt that the fire prevention program the Fire Department implements throughout the school year is getting the message across to these young children.

The Fire Department still continues to issue free battery operated smoke detectors to any resident in need. The detectors are generously donated by Dugas Music of Athol. It is extremely important to have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the home. If any citizens are in need of smoke detectors please feel free to contact the Fire Department at 978-249-8275. We will also assist with the installation of the detectors upon request.

It was approved at the 2014 annual town meeting to purchase a new ambulance with funds from the ambulance reserve account to replace a 2003 Ford ambulance.

In October of 2013 at the fall town meeting it was voted to petition the Massachusetts Legislature to abolish Civil Service for On Call Firefighters.

Athol Emergency Management Report 2013-2014

The Emergency Management Department has been purchasing supplies for the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) to help with the responsibilities they are assigned, such as major emergencies and local events. The team meets once a month under the direction of the new CERT leader Jerome Noyes..I would like to thank David Small for his time as leader of the team and his continued participation.

FIRE VEHICLE STATISTICS

Vehicle	Make	Year	Mileage
Engine 1 Comment:	Maxim	1976	38137
	Reserve Pumper-Not front line-Equipt with rapid intervention tools.		
Engine 2 Comment:	Central	2006	5783
	Excellent Condition		
Engine 3 Comment:	Central	1998	30933
	Fair Condition		
Engine 4 Comment:	KME	2012	9752
	Excellent condition.		
Ladder 1 Comment:	E-One	2006	964
	Excellent condition.		
Brush 2	Farrah	1970	10735
Comment:	Fair condition.		
Command Comment:	Ford	2011	21947
	Excellent condition.		
R-2 Utility Comment:	Ford	2005	65476
	Good Condition.		
R-3 Utility Comment:	Chevrolet	2002	83210
	Good Condition.		
Fire Alarm Comment:	Ford	1980	18896
	Fair Condition.		
Ambulance 1 Comment:	Ford	2003	
	Out of Service.		
Ambulance 2 Comment:	Ford	2008	140054
	Good Condition. Starting to have mechanical issues.		
Ambulance 3 Comments:	Chevrolet	2010	72844
	Excellent Condition.		

**FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS
FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

Fire Calls	796
Medical Calls	1471
Smoke Detector Inspections	153
Oil Burner Inspections	53
Oil Tank Inspections	30
LP Tank Inspections	32
Oil Tank Removals	8
Fuel Dispensers	10
General Permits	20
School Inspections	20
School Fire Drills	20
Nursing Home Inspections	4
Assisted Living Inspections	4
Clinic Inspections	4
Hospital Inspections	4
Hospital Fire Drills	4
Class II License Inspections	7
Multi-Unit Apartment Insp.	12
Alcohol License Renewals	10

Total Calls for Service 2662

There were 685 open air burning permits issued for the 2014 burning season.

The Fire Department wishes to thank the Town Manager, Board of Selectpersons, all Department Heads and most importantly the citizens of Athol for all their support and assistance throughout the year.

Respectfully,

John L Duguay,
Deputy Fire Chief



Athol Police Department

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

The staff at the police department is dedicated to our mission of preventing and reducing crime in the community, and providing the services that increase the quality of life for all of Athol's residence.

I would commend each and every member of the department for the dedication and devotion to duty that they have shown throughout these past difficult years. Their performance during these trying times has been exceptional.

I would like to thank all of the other town department, committees, officers, agents, and elected officials for there continue support of the efforts of the police department.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Athol for their continued support of the police department.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Anderson
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

Total Calls for Service **12,421**

Crime Statistics

FY 2014

Total Offenses Reported	1395
Criminal Homicide	0
Manslaughter	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0
Rape	8
Robbery	3
Aggravated Assault	36
Simple Assault	83

Intimidation	17
Arson	2
Burglary / B&E	67
Larceny – Theft (no vehicles)	113
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	12
Fraud	2
Vandalism	103
Drug/Narcotics Violation	33
Weapons Law Violation	10
Disorderly Conduct	30
OUI	38
Liquor Law Violation	7
Town Bylaw Violation	351
All Other Violations	479

Total Arrests	225
Juvenile Arrests	8

Persons Summoned to Court 285

Persons Held in Protective Custody 16

Traffic Statistics

FY 2014

M/V Citations	423
Civil	87
Warning	185
Arrest	54
Criminal	97
Parking Tickets	473
M/V Accidents	364
Over \$1000	203
Under \$1000	161



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Athol Board of Health; FY 2014 Annual Report

To: The Honorable Board of Selectman and the Citizens of Athol

A wide range of responsibilities are mandated under state law and regulation to protect the health and safety of the community each and every day.

- ❖ *Protection of the food supply:* Our office conducted eighty-two (82) inspections to ensure public food safety at restaurants, school cafeterias, church kitchens, farmer's market and food concession stands including three (3) inspections due to complaints received from the public. The Board issued permits to eighty five (85) food service and food retail operations, and twenty-one (21) temporary food vendors. Three (3) food establishment plans was reviewed.
- ❖ *Protection of the water supply:* Enforcement of the Title 5 Septic Code: The health agent reviewed fifty (50) Title 5 reports , observed twenty (20) perc tests, reviewed and issued twenty-five (25) Disposal Septic Construction Permits, and conducted thirty-five (35) septic system inspections. The Board issued permits to ten (10) septic system installers, nine (9) septage haulers and issued three (3) well permits. The office issued seven (7) beaver removal permits and applied for a MA Fisheries and Wildlife permit for to addle Canadian Geese eggs; measures to reduce nuisance wildlife posing health threats to Athol's open water.
- ❖ *Enforcement of state sanitary and lead poisoning regulations and Codes:* Fifty-one (51) trash complaints and 3 incidents of illegal dumping were investigated. The office conducted twenty-two (22) pre-rental housing, two (2) routine lodging inspections, thirty-two (32) sanitary code inspections for housing complaints and forty-one (41) follow-ups to ensure compliance. Four (4) court appearances were necessary to obtain compliance. The Health Agent is a member of the Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee and works closely with the Attorney General's Receivership program. There were sixty-nine (69) inspections of vacant buildings for code violations.
- ❖ *Enforcement of no-smoking and nuisance laws.* The Board issued twenty-one (21) tobacco permits to local businesses; one method to help prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. The Board issued nineteen (19) permits to refuse haulers. One (1) noise, three (3) odor, one (1) nuisance smoke and one (1) asbestos complaint were investigated.
- ❖ *Inspection of pools, beaches, camps, mobile home parks, tanning salons:* The Board licensed two (2) tanning salons, three (3) public and semi-public swimming pools, two (2) mobile home parks and one (1) recreational camp. This resulted in two (2) tanning salon, three (3) pool and one (1) camp inspections.

- ❖ *Participation in hazardous waste collection Day:* Residents are able to drop off hazardous materials free of charge at this yearly fall event funded by the Health Department.
- ❖ *Board of Health compost bin and rain barrel sales:* Thirteen (13) compost bins were sold to help reduce the waste stream by diverting organics into useable compost. Six (6) rain barrels were sold to encourage water conservation.
- ❖ *Disease prevention and health promotion:* The Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN) Nurse investigated thirty-two (32) communicable diseases reporting results the MA Division of Communicable Disease Control. The Board contracts Athol Hospital to provide public health nursing services; which included sixteen (16) blood pressure clinics and nine (9) flu & pneumonia clinics for Athol and surrounding communities. Seven hundred fifteen (715) flu and eight (8) pneumonia vaccinations were administered. Seven (7) animal bites were reported to the animal inspector for follow up on rabies prevention. The Health Department started a Facebook page in April 2014! ***Please “like” “Athol Board of Health on FB.***
- ❖ *Participation in emergency preparedness mandated by the federal government:* The Health Department participates in the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition consisting of seventy four (74) cities and towns in Worcester County and in the Athol Hospital Emergency Preparedness Group. The Health Agent participated with other coalition public health agents in a Table Top exercise simulating a hurricane disaster. The satellite phone, provided by the Coalition, is tested monthly. It would be used in time of a wide scale emergency when communications are also affected. The coalition provided funds to purchase two Galaxy Tablets to be used in times of emergencies but also for everyday work.
- ❖ *Public Health Regionalization:* The Athol Health Department is a member of the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN); the inter-municipal agreement was signed September 2013. Eleven (11) towns are participating; Athol, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Sterling, Templeton, and Westminster. Regionalization is one way to increase the capacity of the Health Departments in each town. MPHN provides infectious disease follow-up and beach testing services at a lower fee. A grant provided a SHARPS collection kiosk; available in the Police Station lobby 24/7. The Network pays the disposal cost. We continue to be a part of the Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative; a network grant received from the Department of Public Health to develop a regional response to opioid misuse and abuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah V. Karan, R.S.; Health Agent

Laurie A. Wiita; Assistant Health Agent

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen & the Citizens of the Town of Athol:

The building department is operated on a budget that is generated from the fees brought in and typically it pays for itself. However there has been a decline in building permits in the last few years. In FY14 the building department collected \$49,970.00 in permit fees with 1 municipal permit fees waived (totaling \$35.00). The operating budget was \$80,899.40. The number of building permits that were approved totaled 307 with a total valuation of \$3,171,237.00

Building Permits Issues FY2013	
Single Family Homes	0
Multi-Family Homes	0
Commercial, including Municipal	0
Additions	4
Garages/Carports	5
Decks/Porches	14
Pools	7
Wood/Pellet Stoves	11
Sheds	3
Demo	6
Other, Including roofs, siding, & signs	176
Foundation Only	0
Solar Panels	6
Vacant & Abandoned Property	12
CMR 780 sec. 110 Inspections	13
On Site Inspections	404

Plumbing Permits 54
Gas Permits 37

Total Plumbing & Gas Fees: \$14,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Skowrya
Inspector of Buildings

WIRE INSPECTOR

Annual Report

July 1,2011-June 30,2012

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen

The following is a report of the activities of the Wire Inspection Department for the fiscal year 2014

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEES COLLECTED
July	15	\$2,015.00
August	24	\$12,100.00
September	24	\$4,085.00
October	20	\$2,025.00
November	15	\$1,485.00
December	10	\$1,330.00
January	10	\$990.00
February	17	\$1,740.00
March	24	\$2,620.00
April	23	\$2,745.00
May	13	\$1,870.00
June	22	\$1,905.00
Totals	217	\$34,910.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E. Terroy
Wire Inspector