

CHAPTER THREE

PUBLIC SAFETY

Reports of the Fire, EMS,
Police & Inspectional Services



**ATHOL FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016**



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

Once again the Athol Fire Department has had a very busy year. Medical responses again as in years past were the major workload for members of the department. As is with every year the cost of patient care has risen and continues to do so. A new 2015 ambulance was added to the fleet in July of 2015. The department reduced it's fleet of three ambulance to two due to the fact we were no longer doing inter-facility transfers. Our 2008 Ford Ambulance was sold at auction on Municibid.

The department was trying to hire two Firefighter/Paramedics off of the Civil Service list but was unable to do so. It took several months to exhaust the list all the while filling the open shifts with overtime. Two individuals were eventually hired as Provisional Employees until such time a new Civil Service list is established. It is extremely difficult to hire anyone through the Civil Service process and it is very costly to the Town of Athol.

In February of 2016 Provisional Captain Chad Erali was promoted to a full-time Captain after passing the Civil Service Captains Exam.

The Town received a grant to replace all of the exterior lighting at the Fire Station to LED lighting which again as with the new interior lighting will save the Town a significant amount of money.

The Fire Prevention Division has been very busy with plan reviews for new commercial construction and the new Athol Community Elementary School. Home sales seem to be increasing which means an increase in Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector inspections. If any citizen of the Town of Athol is in need of Smoke or CO detectors please feel free to contact the Athol Fire Department at 978-249-8275 and arrangements will be made to provide and install if requested.

FIRE VEHICLE STATISTICS

Vehicle	Make	Year	Mileage
Engine 1	Maxim	1976	19189
Comment:	Reserve Pumper	Not front line apparatus. Declining Condition	

Engine 2 Comment:	Central Excellent Condition.	2006	6312
Engine 3 Comment:	Central States Body Deteriorating. Front Line	1998	38070 Engine Hours
Engine 4 Comment:	KME Excellent Condition. Front Line	2012	13638
Ladder 1 Comment:	E-One Excellent Condition	2006	1060
Brush 1 Comment:	Ford Good Condition	2005	68347
Brush 2 Comment:	Farrah Poor Condition	1970	10872
R-1 Command Comment:	Ford Excellent Condition	2011	31139
R-3 Comment:	Ford Poor Condition	2002	97559
Fire Alarm Comment:	Ford Fair Condition	1980	38400
Ambulance 1 Comment:	Dodge Excellent Condition	2015	16093
Ambulance 3 Comment:	Ford Good Condition	2010	80699

Support Vehicles: Boats, all terrain vehicles, MDU trailer, Decontamination Trailer and Cascade System Trailer all in excellent to good condition.

**Fire Department Calls For Service
Fiscal year 2015-2016**

Fire Calls	953
Medical Calls	1469
Smoke Detector Inspections	225

Oil Burner Inspections	53
Oil Tank Inspections	24
Propane Tank Inspections	57
Oil Tank Removals	7
Fire Reports	13
Medical Reports	18
Fuel Dispensers	3
General Permits	21
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 Inspections	44
Alcohol License Renewals	

Total Calls for Service

There were 477 burning permits issued for the 2016 open burning season.

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

Sincerely,

John L. Duguay
Fire Chief



Athol Police Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

All members of the Athol Police Department are dedicated to our mission of preventing and reducing crime in our community, and providing services that increase the quality of life for all of Athol's residents.

This is my first annual report that I submit to you as your Chief of Police. I would like to thank each and every member of the Athol Police Department for all their efforts and dedication to serve the mission to serve and protect our community. Each member of the department should be commended for the dedication and devotion to duty that they have shown throughout. Their performance has been exceptional. I see great potential, not only for the Town as a whole, but for the Police Department specifically.

I would also like to thank all of the other town department, committees, officers, agents, and elected officials for their continue support of my efforts as Chief of Police, as well as the efforts of all the members of the Police Department.

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

I am honored to serve as your Police Chief.

Sincerely,

Russell T. Kleber
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

Total Calls for Service **13,799**

Crime Statistics FY 2016

Total Offenses Reported	1368
Criminal Homicide	0
Manslaughter	0

Kidnapping/Abduction	0
Rape	6
Robbery	3
Aggravated Assault	67
Simple Assault	102
Intimidation	33
Arson	2
Burglary / B&E	78
Larceny – Theft (no vehicles)	138
Shoplifting	11
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	4
Counterfeiting/Forgery	13
Fraud	2
Vandalism	77
Drug/Narcotics Violation	32
Weapons Law Violation	19
Disorderly Conduct	49
OUI	36
Liquor Law Violation	10
Town Bylaw Violation	235
All Other Violations	447

Total Arrests 302

Juvenile Arrests 10

Persons Summoned to Court 245

Persons Held in Protective Custody 53

Traffic Statistics

FY 2016

M/V Citations 313

Civil	45
Warning	245
Arrest	64
Criminal	64

Parking Tickets 317

M/V Accidents 273

Over \$1000	242
Under \$1000	31

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. After a few years of decline in building fees, there has been a steady increase in the few last years. In FY16 the building department collected \$59,937.93 in permit fees, with 4 municipal permit fees waived (totaling \$350.00). The operating budget was \$148,216.40., out of that was the electrical inspectors budget of \$24,636.00. The number of building permits that were approved totaled 486, an increase of 22 % over last year, with a total valuation of \$8,155,915.85.

Building Permits Issues FY2016	
Single Family Homes	4
Multi-Family Homes	
Commercial, including Municipal	1
Additions	5
Garages/Carports	16
Decks/Porches	24
Pools	1
Wood/Pellet Stoves	36
Sheds	4
Demo	9
Other, Including roofs, siding, & signs	271
Foundation Only	2
Solar Panels	109
Vacant & Abandoned Property	80
CMR 780 sec. 110 Inspections	44
On Site Inspections	350

Plumbing Permits 79
 Gas Permits 50

Total Plumbing & Gas Fees: \$14,430.00

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 2016

MONTH	NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEES COLLECTED
July	16	\$3,325.00
August	24	\$2,470.00
September	49	\$5,050.00
October	43	\$4,440.00
November	30	\$2,930.00
December	37	\$3,690.00
January	25	\$2,670.00
February	16	\$1,870.00
March	23	\$2,285.00
April	30	\$3,440.00
May	25	\$3,155.00
June	34	\$3,995.00
Totals	352	\$39,320.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E. Terroy
Wire Inspector



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Athol Board of Health; FY 2016 Annual Report

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

The Athol Board of Health has a wide range of responsibilities which are mandated under state law and regulation to protect the health and safety of our community.

- ❖ *Protection of the food supply:* Sixty five (65) inspections were conducted to ensure public food safety at restaurants, school cafeterias, church kitchens, farmer's market and food concession stands. The Board issued sixty (60) food service and sixteen (16) food retail operation permits. Two major food establishment plans were reviewed for the Athol Community Elementary School and Starbucks.
- ❖ *Protection of the water supply:* Enforcement of the Title 5 Septic Code: Twenty five (25) Title 5 reports reviewed, thirteen (13) perc tests observed, reviewed and issued fifteen (15) Disposal Septic Construction Permits, and conducted thirty-seven (37) septic system inspections. The office obtained funding from MA Department of Environmental Protection to offer low-interest loans to residents with failed septic systems. The Board issued permits to eleven (11) septic system installers, nine (9) septage haulers and issued three (3) well permits. The office issued two (2) beaver removal permits and applied for a MA Fisheries and Wildlife permit 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:* Forty (40) trash complaints and three (3) incidents of illegal dumping were investigated and required seventy (70) follow up inspections. The office conducted thirteen (13) pre-rental housing, two (2) routine lodging inspections, thirty-five (35) sanitary code inspections for housing complaints and seventy (70) follow-up inspections and eight (8) court appearances to ensure compliance. Twenty-two (22) inspections of vacant buildings and receivership properties were conducted and six (6) court appearances as part of the Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee. The Board of Health works with the Attorney General's Receivership program to help mitigate the impact of foreclosures and combat its negative impact on neighborhoods.
- ❖ *Enforcement of no-smoking and nuisance laws.* The Board issued twenty five (25) tobacco and electronic cigarette device permits to local businesses; one method to help prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. The Board issued twenty one (21) permits to refuse haulers
- ❖ *Inspection of pools, beaches, camps, mobile home parks, tanning salons:* The Board issued two (2) tanning salon, three (3) public and semi-public swimming pool, two (2) mobile home parks and one (1) recreational camp permits. This resulted in two (2) tanning salon, two (2) 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.
- ❖ *Disease prevention and health promotion:* The Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN) Nurse investigated twelve (12) communicable diseases and reported the results to the MA Department of Public Health Division of Communicable Disease Control. The Board contracted Athol Hospital to provide four (4) flu clinics. Sixteen (16) animal bites were reported to the animal inspector for rabies prevention follow up. The Athol Board of Health maintains a Facebook page to post health/safety issues and announcements.
- ❖ *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. 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 Town of Athol/ Board of Health is the host for a regional Emergency Preparedness trailer.
- ❖ *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. We continue to be a part of the Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) and the Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC); network grants received from the Department of Public Health to develop a regional response to opioid misuse and abuse and to address underage drinking. The Network received a new grant to provide funding to low and moderate income owner-occupants and investors who rent to low income tenants in Athol, Gardner, Clinton and Fitchburg to remove lead paint hazards from homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah V. Vondal, R.S.:	Health Agent
Melanie J. Rajaniemi:	Assistant Health Agent
Joan Hamlett:	Board of Health Chair
Norma Purple:	Board Member
Marty Miarecki:	Board Member