

CHAPTER FIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

Report of the Department of
Public Works

Report of the Department of Public Works

To the residents of the Town of Athol and the Board of Selectmen:

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 9 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 cleaning catch basins, 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 the 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 or tasks that have been in progress or completed in fiscal 2016:

- Continued replacement of fire hydrants
- Continued replacement/conversion of all water meters to allow for radio read meter reading
- Completed Tully well field rehabilitation project
- Lined sewer main on Mechanic/Vine Streets

- Completed Phase #1 CDBG grant of Grove/Highland Street consisting of infrastructure renewal as well as full depth reconstruction of roadway
- Mobilized for Phase #2 Highland Street CDBG grant.
- Completed reclamation and drainage repairs on Bearsden Road
- Completed reclamation of Cass Circle
- Completed final paving of S. Athol Road from Partridgeville Road south to Stratton Road.
- Installed 625' of guardrail on S. Athol Road
- Established the community wood bank.
- C/P/T performed 23 full burials and 35 cremations.
- Issued 8 new street numbers
- Issued 5 driveway permits.

Respectfully,

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Transfer Station Enterprise
Income Statement
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

Receipts		Budget	Actual	Variance
	Transfer Receipts	399,610	403,690	4,080
	Retained Earnings	6,144	6,144	0
	Total Transfer Revenue	405,754	409,834	4,080

Expenses				
	Operational Expenses	347,449	332,889	14,560
	Debt	39,850	39,850	0
	Health Insurance	18,455	18,455	0
	Overhead			0
	Total Transfer Expenses	405,754	391,194	14,560