

REPORT OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

During calendar year 2013, longtime Water & Sewer Commissioner and perpetual Building Committee member, Stephen C. Lobik, opted to leave the Commission due to his busy schedule when his term expired in April. We wish him well and extend our thanks and gratitude to him for all his years of service to the Town and our Department. In turn, we welcomed newly elected Commissioner, Paul C. DeMaio, to the Board.

The Mechanic Street Bridge water main relocation project was completed under budget and on schedule. This job was part of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program which paid 75% of the total engineering and construction costs. We also began the long process of converting all of our water and sewer maps to a computerized GIS (Geographic Information System) which will allow more efficient access to our records. The Bunyan Road Wells underwent a routine cleaning and the Palmer Road well pump was replaced in order to improve pumping efficiency and extend service life at both locations. The Ely Road water storage tanks were both power washed to remove the exterior mold buildup which over time can eat away at the paint coating.

Other business for 2013 included the demolition of the old Town Offices at 110 Main and the installation of a new six inch service line for the new building. The repaving of Brimfield Road and Bethany Road was completed and involved the replacement of dozens of water services, a 118 year old street valve was re-packed, six street valve access boxes and two sewer manhole frames were replaced. We also accepted delivery of our new 150 KW Kohler tow behind generator which has the capability of powering either the Bunyan or Bethany Road pump stations in the event of an extended power outage like which occurred after the October 2011 snow storm.

In additional water operations activities, we repaired thirteen water service leaks and one water main break, updated / replaced thirteen water services from the main to the curb stop, assisted in the replacement of eight services from the curb stop to the house, replaced one hydrant, repaired two others and added two new connections to the water system. We pumped 119,123,000 gallons of drinking water from the town wells at an average rate of 326,364 gallons per day. Our peak day was May 1, 2013 when we pumped 838,000 gallons. We recorded 47.07" of precipitation at our Palmer Road Station and responded to 237 Dig-Safe requests throughout our area of responsibility.

Wastewater operations for 2013 included our ongoing inflow and infiltration remediation program where 8,754 feet of 18" reinforced concrete sewer main was tested and sealed. This is a painstaking process but has made a noticeable difference and will eventually pay for itself in reduced flows to Palmer. Other projects included the routine clearing and maintenance of the several sewer easements located throughout the Town and the much needed replacement of the cutter cartridge on the wastewater grinder unit. At our sewer lift station, we pumped a total of 140,038,000 gallons of wastewater to the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment at an average rate of 383,665 gallons per day. Three new connections were added to the sewer system, we assisted in the replacement of two sewer services from the property line to the house and four service repairs were inspected.

The Commission and staff of the Water and Sewer Department would like to thank all of the Town Departments and officials for their continued support. Special thanks go to Dorothy P. Jenkins and her staff at the Collector's Office for their superior collection efforts throughout the year. We are also grateful to the Highway Department and the Park and Recreation Department for their assistance this year. Thanks to the cooperation and support of Highway Surveyor John Morrell, we amassed 84.5 hours of backhoe time and 79 hours of truck time throughout the year at rates far below any outside contractor allowing our Department to operate more efficiently. Thank you to the Police and Fire Departments for providing assistance throughout the year. In closing, we most of all wish to thank our water and sewer customers for their patience and support as we strive to maintain and improve the water and sewer systems to provide you the best service possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas R. North, Chairman

Joseph M. Prior, V. Chairman

Paul C. DeMaio, Clerk

BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS