

## **REPORT OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

During calendar year 2015, the Monson Water & Sewer Department was awarded a Water Infrastructure Planning and Technical Assistance Grant from the MassDEP for the total amount of \$25,200. The grant will be used to fund an evaluation of Monson's water infrastructure and assist the department in determining and prioritizing needed improvements to ensure continued and dependable operation and management of the system.

The Bethany Road Well underwent a routine cleaning and overhaul. We completed a flow pacing update to our chlorine pump systems at all our pump stations that links the chlorine flow with the output of the well pumps. The update adds another layer of safety by preventing the possibility of over dosing the chlorine and allows the metering pump to be more precise. Ely Road water storage tank #1 was brush and power washed to remove the exterior mold buildup which over time will degrade the paint coating. We replaced 900 feet of old 1" plastic pipe with 2" 200 psi HDPE tubing on Stafford Road that begins at the last hydrant there and continues to house #43 and #58. Our quest to convert our maps and service records into a digital format and incorporate them into a geographical information system (GIS) is close to completion with only minor proofreading remaining. In other business for 2015, ground was finally broken for the new Parks and Recreation Department building where we assisted with the installation of new water and sewer services.

The Boy Scouts, led by Eagle Scout hopeful Cameron Dill, painted a total of 52 fire hydrants during the fall season. Cameron developed, organized and managed the project from beginning to end which was no small task. Congratulations and thank you to Cameron and his Boy Scout painting crew for an outstanding job.

In additional water operations activities, we repaired nine water service leaks and one water main break, updated / replaced seven water services from the main to the curb stop, assisted in the replacement of five services from the curb stop to the house, replaced two hydrants and added six new connections to the water system. A 120 year old valve at the corner of Main and Bliss was repacked and four street valve boxes were replaced throughout the system. We all endured a winter of record breaking cold and a snow pack that lasted into April. Water service freeze ups were commonplace throughout the region and Monson was no exception. Our department assisted four customers and their contractors with the necessary thawing efforts. We pumped 137,257,000 gallons of drinking water from the town wells at an average rate of 376,047 gallons per day. Our peak day was May 11, 2015 when we pumped 967,000 gallons. We recorded 37.96" of precipitation at our Palmer Road Station and responded to 307 Dig-Safe requests throughout our area of responsibility.

Major wastewater news for 2015 included the bid award for the Hospital Road Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. Barbato Construction of Middleborough, MA was deemed the lowest responsible bidder with work scheduled to commence in spring 2016. This much needed project will consist of replacing all internal wastewater piping and valves, pumps, motors and variable frequency drives, flowmeter, pH probe and motor control center for a total cost \$800,000. Fortunately, our application for funding from the USDA has been accepted and we will receive \$200,000 in grant funds and the remaining \$600,000 will be a loan at 3% interest. We pumped a total of 131,606,000 gallons of wastewater to the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment at an average rate of 360,564 gallons per day. Six new connections were added to the sewer system and we assisted in the replacement of three sewer services from the property line to the house.

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 Kathy Carr at the Collector's Office for their superior collection efforts throughout the year. We are also especially grateful to the Highway, Cemetery, Police and Fire Departments for providing their assistance during 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,

**Paul C. DeMaio, Chairman**

**Marshall L. Harris, Vice Chairman**

**Joseph M. Prior, Clerk**

**BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS**