

SELECTBOARD REPORT, 2008

The past year has been an eventful one for the Town of Lyndon. We are pleased that with the help of staff and townspeople we were able accomplish several significant projects while at the same time keep our expenses in line with our expectations and revenues.

In April of 2008 we hired a new Municipal Administrator, Dan P. Hill, to replace Art Sanborn who chose to pursue economic development work. Dan has been a tremendous new asset for us with his extensive background in municipal administration. He has overseen projects for the Town and Village, kept them on track and on budget, and given us a fresh perspective on how we might better serve the citizens. Dan is available in the municipal offices everyday and welcomes your visits and input.

We are glad that we were able to keep up with the heavy requirement of winter road maintenance in early 2008, however that left us with fewer funds than preferred for summer maintenance projects. Nevertheless, we were able to pave the end of Pinehurst Street to complement the work done by the Village on the water system. We also did extensive ditching work in Couture Flats and Little Egypt areas in order to improve drainage and help preserve the road bed. The historic Randall Bridge was converted to town ownership and we are undertaking an engineering study regarding its eventual rehabilitation. In addition, due to our yearly savings for equipment replacement we were able to add a new dump truck and a new loader to our fleet this year.

Services for trash collection are now provided by Myers Container Service Corp. with whom we were able to negotiate a flexible fuel surcharge which will enable us to take advantage of decreases in costs as well as pay for increases. Our curbside recycling pickup is now handled by FAD Enterprises. We encourage more households to take advantage of this service in order to reduce the ever increasing (and eventually ever more costly to you) landfill fees we pay for standard trash disposal. The NEKWMD recycling center is also available to townspeople for recycling and periodic Bulky Days.

In 2008 our Fire Department completed its acquisition of the rescue truck approved in 2007 and was also the very grateful recipient of a \$400,000 grant to acquire a new aerial truck. We certainly appreciate all the efforts of our volunteer force in advocating safe practices and protecting the community from fire.

Our wastewater treatment system is now operated by United Water with whom we negotiated a three year contract. United Water is a well known services company who operates systems for 145 municipalities nationwide. We will be continuing work in 2009 on the necessary upgrade of the aging plant.

Keeping an eye to the future, we are pleased that a new Town Plan has been adopted. This was a tremendous effort initiated and carried out by the Planning Commission and several dozen volunteers. It is the first significant revision of the Town Plan since 1993.

The draft versions generated quite a bit of discussion and additional work by the Planning Commission and Selectboard but we feel that the final version is a fair representation of the community. Please pick up a copy in the municipal offices or view it on line. Future work will concentrate on the ideas presented and realizing some of the goals mentioned.

Plans for a skateboard park for the enjoyment of area youth (and adults if you dare!) have been revived with the hope of accomplishing the project in 2009. Approximately \$10,000 in town funds were appropriated in 2004, but the balance of the project will be covered by donations, grants and gifts in kind. As a citizen of the community, please support this worthwhile effort when you are asked.

The Police Department has served us admirably for all of 2008. Our two person force has been especially challenged since May, 2008 when the Vermont State Police changed their arrangement of coverage. Although routine patrol areas remain with a concentration on the Village and adjacent populated areas, our force is now called upon to answer any calls for the entire Town when they are on duty. The change in scope has dramatically increased their burden and decreased their ability to offer more proactive services. It is the judgement of the Selectboard (with endorsement by the Village Trustees) that the time has come for the addition of a third full time officer to the force. The budget you are considering at Town Meeting 2009 includes this addition.

Our staff in all areas demonstrate their commitment to the Town as they endeavor to improve their skills and collaborate on ways to save the taxpayers money. Staff in every department have completed additional training related to their tasks. In addition, all employees are now enrolled in a health care program which not only saves the Town money in premiums, but also allows the employee to build a nest egg for medical emergencies or retirement savings. Working together for the benefit of the Town has been an increasingly important component of their daily jobs.

The Selectboard welcomes your attendance at our semi-monthly meetings or any other time you can catch us. Your comments help us understand all the different perspectives on issues that are important to us all. Your input is critical to the decisions we must make for the community as a whole. Please keep in touch!

Marty Feltus
Kermit Fisher
Kevin Calkins