

## SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2013

2013 was another productive year for the Town of Lyndon, and 2014 promises to be the same. The Board continues to abide by the philosophy that we need to provide essential services at the most reasonable costs, upgrading equipment and infrastructure at a measured pace to insure continued efficiency. That approach will continue in 2014.

Our highway department continues to provide excellent service, receiving many compliments on the quality of their work. To properly keep pace with reasonable equipment needs, we purchased a new dump truck in 2013 and intend to buy another in 2014. Subsequent to that purchase our fleet will include trucks no older than a 2004 model.

As briefed in the 2013 Town Meeting, the Selectboard and Village Trustees continue to explore possibilities for a new, joint garage. At minimum we would like to finalize site selection and we will continue to examine options in 2014.

Keeping up with paving needs remains a challenge because of the expense. In 2013 we rebuilt and repaved about 7000 feet of South Wheelock Road. In 2014 we plan to tackle Bean Pond Road but, in addition to that, the State has major paving plans for the Lyndon area. In two separate projects, Route 5/Memorial Drive will be paved from the St. Johnsbury/Lyndon town line north, through the Village and out to Route 122. Alternate Route 122 (Center Street) will also be paved from Route 5 through Lyndon Center to Route 122, and the Interstate will be paved from Exit 23 south to St. Johnsbury.

In addition to the town highway truck, other equipment upgrades were tackled in 2013. They included pumps in the wastewater system, computers in the town office, and a new police cruiser. A new wood pellet heating system was installed in the municipal building and gym, which should result in considerable fuel savings in the future.

Similar upgrades are planned for 2014, including another highway truck, completion of the computer upgrade in the municipal building, and another police cruiser. We also intend to rebuild some sidewalks in Lyndon Corner.

We also plan to continue fine-tuning the wastewater plant. In part due to odor complaints in 2013, we will install an environmentally friendly biofilter at the wastewater plant. This filter will further reduce odors and the use (and cost) of chemicals.

We changed contractors for our sanitation service last year and have received many compliments, and very few complaints, about the service now provided by Casella Waste Management. Their contract has been extended for another year, at the same price; accordingly the fee for sanitation service will remain the same for 2014, \$160.

Financially, our budgets were balanced in 2013 and, as expected and appreciated, the results of our 2013 audit showed solid financial management by town clerk Dawn Dwyer and her staff.

In terms of a tax impact of our proposed 2014 budgets, we expect no increase in the general fund tax rate based on the current grand list. Worst case scenario would be one cent increase in the highway fund tax rate. Sufficient growth in the grand list could reduce that to zero.

We do appreciate the challenges of serving the people of the Town of Lyndon and encourage residents to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
David Dill  
Marty Feltus  
Kermit Fisher