

SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2014

The recently completed year of 2014 was another productive period for the Town of Lyndon and we project continued progress in 2015. The Board continues to abide by the philosophy that we need to provide essential services at the most reasonable costs and upgrade equipment and infrastructure at a measured pace in order to insure continued efficiency. That approach will continue in 2015.

While business continued as usual in all our departments, perhaps the biggest changes in 2014 were in key management positions. After serving as Municipal Administrator for the Town of Lyndon for six years, Dan Hill retired in September. His leadership has effectively guided the Town's progress and we appreciate his dedication to the many issues that crossed his desk. We hired Justin Smith to fill the open position. Justin had served as Zoning Administrator and Planning Director for fifteen years and so arrives at the Municipal Administrator position with a broad background in Lyndon issues. To replace Justin, we hired Kaela Gray to the zoning spot. Kaela has professional experience in municipal planning and was eager to return to her hometown to apply her skills. Both Justin and Kaela have an "open door" policy and welcome comments or inquiries from residents.

In 2014 we replaced an aging dump truck in our highway fleet and also replaced a police cruiser. We continue to put money in savings each year so we can periodically fund these types of purchases. We are also working on a multi-year plan to replace the roof on the Municipal Building and a section was completed in 2014. The pedestrian bridge crossing the Passumpsic River, connecting the Municipal Building parking lot and the LI athletic fields, was refurbished with new screening, landscaping, and lighting. This is a popular feature for the walkers in our community and gives LI students easy access to the village center.

Damage to the lower floor of the Cobleigh Library is being remediated so that the Children's Room can reoccupy the space early in 2015. Later in the spring we will remedy the storm sewer problem that caused the flooding.

Our Planning Commission worked diligently during 2014 to revise our Town Plan. We invite you to view it on the town website. During 2015 the Planning Commission will determine if and how our zoning bylaws may need to be changed to implement the plan. Part of that work will be the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan that will guide us in preparing for future flood or other hazard events.

Also in 2015 we will continue efforts to resolve the problems with an inefficient system of odor control at our wastewater treatment plant. Under certain circumstances, adjacent properties along Broad Street are exposed to unpleasant odors. We are working with our engineering consultants and plant operators to find the appropriate and cost effective solution to the problem.

Universal recycling will be a norm in Lyndon beginning in June 2015. The Town plans to offer curbside pick up of the mandated recyclables, while individual residents will decide how to dispose of their household trash. Residents will have the option of contracting with a commercial hauler for curb side pick up or dropping off their trash at a “fast trash” facility. Both options will charge for the service based on a 31 gallon volume in accordance with changes in state law enacted two years ago.

The Town of Lyndon and the Village of Lyndonville have agreed to pursue the establishment of a joint garage facility to house the highway equipment and crews of both entities. The two current facilities have become inadequate with respect to space, efficient use, and environmental impact. At the present time we are planning to purchase the former Vermont Flex building and renovate it to suit our needs. The Town will own the property and rent space to the Village. It is hoped that details regarding building price, renovation costs, and financing options will be finalized in the next few months.

Our proposed budget for general municipal services for 2015 will require a one cent increase in the tax rate. This is presuming all special appropriation requests are approved. Our highway budget will require a two cent increase due to rising costs of salt and our need to attend to more road construction projects. These increases are projected on the current value of the Grand List. When the final value of all listed properties is known in July, there may be a downward adjustment in the tax rates needed.

Your Selectboard appreciates the input of all residents. If you have questions or concerns regarding municipal services, please contact any of us. We welcome your comments.

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