

SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2016

2016 was another busy and productive year for the Town of Lyndon with a number of completed major projects, as well as extensive planning for the future. The Board and all departments continue to search for the most efficient ways to provide essential services and maintain our infrastructure while keeping costs down.

One of the larger projects for the past year included upgrading the bio-filter and other equipment at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. These improvements were needed to help with odor control issues and replace existing parts that were quite old or that could be replaced with more modern technology. Fortunately, we were able to secure a grant from the USDA to help offset a majority of the costs associated with this project.

The major project however was the renovation of the former Vermont Flex building on Hill Street into the new Town of Lyndon and Village of Lyndonville joint garage facility. This project is desperately needed to replace the existing structures for both the Town and Village that are very old, in need of extensive repair, and unsafe. Besides providing new space for highway maintenance vehicles, the new garage will also house the Water and Sewer Department equipment and includes salt and other storage buildings. We expect that the building will fully operational and occupied by Town Meeting day and we anticipate an Open House to show off this fine building. The Board would like to thank everyone involved with this project for their exceptional advice, time, and hard work devoted to this project.

The Planning Commission did exceptional work this past year in developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan and revising in flood plain regulations in our zoning bylaws to comply with stricter FEMA regulations. A copy of these changes are available on the Town's website (lyndonvt.org).

The Town continues to work with Earley Rubbish and Recycling to provide curbside trash pickup at a very reasonable cost. Curbside recycling pickup was also added in 2016 and the volume is increasing. Going forward, the Town will need to decide how to assist in implementing the mandatory composting law which takes effect in the near future.

2016 saw Annie Geratowski replace Kaela Gray as Zoning Administrator and Planning Director. Annie came to Lyndon with extensive experience as the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Shelburne as well as work in zoning and planning for other towns. The Board would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Kaela for her excellent work.

The proposed General Fund budget for 2017 shows a modest 1.5 cent increase in the tax rate assuming all Special Appropriations are approved. The highway budget will essentially be level-funded this year.

As always, the Selectboard welcomes any comments, questions, or suggestions. Please feel free to contact us at any time. We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable and dedicated employees, and we greatly appreciate their efforts that continue to make Lyndon "A Gem in the Green".

Dan Daley
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