

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This has been another busy year for the Board of Selectmen, as every year is. The Board tries to balance keeping the small town quality and yet keep up to date with new technology and ever changing laws, both State and Federal.

The Board of Selectmen worked closely with all other departments and committee's in an effort to keep Newton a great place to live and bring up our children. I would like to thank everyone for being very dedicated and working together to make the Town of Newton what it is today. In December of 2008, we had an "Ice Storm" that was very devastating to the town. Most of the town was without power for a week or more. I would like to thank all the departments that came out to help the Town including the Highway Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Town Hall employees and elected officials. A special thanks to our Road Agent Mike Pivero who was able to facilitate the needs of the Town in clearing roads, handling well-being checks, and assisting emergency vehicles. All Town personnel kept the Fire Department open as an Emergency Center to help the townspeople. Everyone put in a lot of hours without sleep, working the phones and going door to door checking on our town residents.

Thank you to the Emergency Management Director and Road Agent for working with FEMA in obtaining multi pallets of water and food that we were able to give out to our residents. I was out on one of the four wheelers going door to door and was very impressed to see the townspeople pull together and help each other. I had seen generators set up with cords running to multi homes to keep them up and running. This is one of the reasons I personally enjoy living in Newton. The Board also would like to send a special thank you to the National Guard for helping with the door checks when the town employees were exhausted. We hope never to go through another storm like the December Ice Storm again, however, if we do, we know that we have good personnel to get us through another storm.

Another positive for Newton this year was the "Fee Free Day" at the Transfer Station. It was a great success! The town residents were able to bring in their tires and clean up the town where the final totals exceeded 1,700 tires, as well as TV's, appliances, and other water breeding materials. This helped to keep the mosquito population down and helped to protect the townspeople from EEE. Please vote "yes" on warrant article #29, to keep the Free Fee Day for 2009. This will be no tax impact to our residents.

The town now has a new sand shed to add to the town's updated growth. This is located next to the Transfer Station. This was built on town property at no cost to the town's people. We no longer have to rent a location to store the sand, which is a cost savings to the town. This was done with a lot of hours of research by the Road Agent and Selectman McCarthy. I would like to thank both of you for acting in the best interest of the town.

The Transfer Station has gone through some improvements in the last year. We are trying to make it as user friendly as possible and make it look better. Manager Andy Morse and the employees have done a lot to help the residents and keep the facility clean. The old broken sheds and trailers have been removed and we are putting up new buildings. This money came from warrant article #15 to help with the Transfer Station Site Improvements. With the townspeople's continued support and by voting YES on the warrant articles, these improvements will continue to improve our town function and appearance. This again is no tax impact to our residents.

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The Highway Department has done a great job this year. Road Agent Pivero worked to receive money to repair some of the roads that were basically unsafe. The culverts on Pond Street had caved in causing a very dangerous situation for vehicles and safety issues to our residents. At the time, emergency vehicles, fire trucks and other equipment could not respond over these damaged areas.

There have been a lot of decisions made by the Board of Selectmen, most were popular and unfortunately some not so popular. The Board puts in a lot of hours and tries it's best to do what is best for the town, especially during budget time. The Boards and Committee's worked a lot of hours to try and keep the cost down during these hard times. I am glad to let the townspeople know that with all the hard work, the Town's portion of your tax bill had no increase. This was possible through the dedication of all town departments, boards and committees.

I would like to thank everyone who put in the time to make this town a wonderful place to live and bring up our families. You are the true hero's of Newton. We couldn't do it without you and all the professional employees of Newton. I hope the townspeople stand behind them and support our town. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S. Donovan Jr., Chairman
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