

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2014 was a challenging but successful year for the Newton Board of Selectmen. The Board continued to manage the prudential affairs of the town while looking for opportunities for growth and financial savings.

Changes

We saw the retirement of long time Selectman Raymond Thayer. The Board thanks Selectman Thayer for his many years of service on the Board and as Town Clerk. Town Meeting took place on March 11, 2014. As decided by warrant the year before, the Select Board would grow from 3 to 5 members. In March, the Board welcomed new Selectmen Matthew Burrill, James Doggett and Lawrence Foote. This change in membership proved to be very successful, allowing the Board to better share responsibilities and hold meetings despite absences.

Arthur Graichen was elected as the new Treasurer and voters approved Theresa Caswell from part-time to full-time Director of the Gale Library.

In April, long time Newton Fire Chief William Ingalls notified the Board that he would be retiring in October after a 50 year career in the fire service. The Board of Selectmen began an in-depth and rigorous recruitment process that lasted several months. The Board worked with a search committee made up of members of the Fire Department, Police Department and Town Residents. Over twenty candidates were screened resulting in the appointment of Chief John Alcainho as Newton's new Fire Chief. The Board thanks Chief Ingalls for his many years of service to our town and we wish him the best in his retirement.

Events

There were many town sponsored events in 2014 designed to bring residents together. In May, Newton honored its men and women who died while serving, with the annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony. The ceremony highlighted Newton resident William Joseph Moisan, Jr, a decorated Veteran of World War II.

In July, the Red Sox 2013 World Series victory tour stopped in Newton. Residents and their families were invited to the Memorial School to view the trophy and take pictures.

In September, Newton celebrated "Town Day" with live music, exhibits, food and contests. There was even a dunk tank featuring a member of the Board of Selectmen. The festivities kicked off with the 4th annual Newton Memorial School 5k road race. Town Day 2014 was one of the most successful in recent years.

Improvements

The Board of Selectmen championed many projects to improve services and infrastructure. After many requests from residents, the Transfer Station voucher system was extended to give residents a full year to use their vouchers. The back-up generator at the Transfer Station was repaired and a new generator was installed at the Newton Junction Fire Station. The Board worked with the Historical Society to support the restoration of the barn at the Marshall House and the 80 year old stage curtains that hang at Town Hall.

Over the years the Board received many requests from residents to increase safety and security at Greenie Park and the Town Beach. The Board worked closely with the Recreation Commission to secure donations and other funding for security cameras. The cameras are set to be installed in the spring of 2015.

New Challenges

The Board worked with Town Departments and Committees to update and institute new policies, job descriptions and procedures. This is an on-going effort that is an important area of Risk Management for our town. One of the policies the Board of Selectmen adopted this year was a new Violence Prevention and Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy developed by the Safety Committee.

Data has shown that a large amount of paper and ink is used to support the Board of Selectmen's meetings. To help decrease this expense, the Board voted to go paperless for 2015. The Board has secured tablets for Selectmen to share documentation and eliminate the environmental and financial waste of using paper.

We look forward to the challenges ahead in 2015 and hope to see you all on Tuesday March 10, 2015 at Town Meeting to vote on all issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S. Donovan, Jr., Chairman, James L. Doggett, Vice Chairman,
Matthew A. Burrill, Lawrence B. Foote, and Charles R. Melvin, Sr.
Board of Selectmen

POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Residents and Taxpayers of Newton,

We continue to be busy. As most people are now aware, heroin has had a significant impact on society in general and Newton has not been exempt. I think our proximity to the Merrimack Valley has something to do with it but, I also think the issue has no borders. We live in a free society and we cherish our rights and liberties and, we respect those of others. Drug use, for the most part, is a clandestine activity and the enforcement of illicit drug use therefore becomes a fine line between individual rights and the police role as “community caretakers.” Accordingly, drug enforcement is a delicate and sensitive area and police activity in this regard requires acquired skills.

Over the past several years this department has focused its training on drug and drug related trainings and I believe we have had some impact. I’m not naive enough to think that drug activity will be eliminated here but, we do hear rumblings that our enforcement efforts have influenced people’s decisions to not openly “deal” here and not support their habits by burglarizing homes here. For the time being I believe that’s the most we can ask for.

Our efforts have not been accomplished alone. For several years we have strived to develop a police department that carries a level of professionalism such that good people would want to stay in town. The taxpayers have recognized and supported our growth not just fiscally, but with a community buy-in of mutual respect. We continue to work on this philosophy and we welcome feedback to let us know how we can do better.

I think “Facebook” has been a great means of communication for us but, it still doesn’t provide for complete and total feedback. Please don’t be afraid to pick the phone up and speak to me regarding any concerns. I will do my best to maintain your confidence and you can be assured anything commented on or discussed will not be an issue of retribution. This is your police department.

After six years of State Accreditation we look forward to a national assessment team spending three (3) days in Newton in July, examining our files, reviewing our operations and speaking with residents concerning our application for National Accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. If we “pass” and we are approved, we will be one (1) of only eleven (11) departments in New Hampshire to achieve this status.

Thank you for all your support in this regard. I believe we can be proud as a community!

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence E. Streeter
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS - 2014

ARRESTS:

All Other Larceny	2
All Other Offenses	7
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Driving Under the Influence	6
Drug/Narcotic Violations	12
Drunkenness	19
Liquor Law Violations	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Simple Assault	12
Statutory Rape	1
Theft from Building	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	26
Trespass of Real Property	1
TOTAL ARRESTS	98

Church Traffic	1
Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	6
Civil Problem	59
Civil Standby	43
Community Service	4
Court	35
Criminal Mischief	12
Criminal Threatening	8
Criminal Trespass	2
Cruiser Maintenance	585
Directed Patrol	4,080
Disturbance	16
Domestic Related	24
Domestic Disturbance	36
Despondent Person	2
Drug Related	46
Drug Take Back	4
Dumping, Illegal	9

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

911 Hang-up/Abandoned Call	16
Administrative	663
Administrative, Other	880
Alcohol Related	1
Alarm	139
Animal Complaint	200
Application to Peddle/Solicit	1
Assault	4
Assist Motorist	11
Assist Officer	46
Assist Other Agency	174
Attempted Suicide	1
Bad Check	4
Business Check	306
Burglary	10
Child Car Seat Assist	2

Emotionally Distressed Person	1
Escort/Transport	16
Fire Department – Assist	34
Fingerprint Non-Criminal	17
Follow-up	880
Fraud	15
Fireworks Complaint	3
Harassment, Other	8
Harassment, Phone	7
Juvenile Problem	20
Lockout, Residential	2
Lockout, Motor Vehicle	9
Mental Incompetent	1
Message Delivery	15
Missing Person	7
Motor Vehicle, Abandoned	5
Motor Vehicle Accident	50
Motor Vehicle, Other	51

CALLS FOR SERVICE Continued:

Motor Vehicle, Speed/Reckless	45	Serve Dog Fine	139
Motor Vehicle Stop	524	Serve Dog Summons	50
Mutual Aid	17	Serve Paperwork	218
Neighbor Dispute	16	Sex Offenses	3
Noise Complaint	67	Sex Offender Registration	11
Non-Criminal	10	Smoke/Fire Investigation	7
OHRV Complaint	3	Soliciting/Sales	3
OHRV Maintenance	4	Special Event	4
Parking Complaint	16	Speed Enforcement	323
Park & Walk	2	Suicide, Threatened	3
Police Information	374	Suspicious Circumstance	92
Property Damage	5	Suspicious Vehicle	66
Property Lost	14	State Lab	5
Property Recovered	8	Theft	34
Public Assist	150	Town Permit	1
Road Agent	8	Traffic Enforcement	61
Reported Hazard	35	Traffic Hazard	33
Restraining Order	12	Traffic Survey	1
Restraining Order Violation	1	Tree Down/Wires Down	21
Report Writing	622	Truancy Check	18
Ride Along Application	1	Unattended Death	2
Safe School Act	6	Unsecured Building	4
School Crosswalk	150	Unwanted Subject	4
Seabrook Station-Unusual Event	1	Vacation Watch	206
Seabrook Station-Event Term.	1	Vin Verification	82
Serve Warrant	29	Weapons Related	10
Fight/Brawl	3	Well-Being Check	43
Field Interview	4		
Assist Rescue	161	TOTAL CALLS for SERVICE	12,304

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence E. Streeter
Chief of Police