



Town of Ashland
New Hampshire 03217

TOWN OFFICE
OFFICE (603) 968-4432
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TOWN BULLETIN

Volume II issue #6
July 11, 2014

News from the Town Office:

The Board of Selectmen has been looking into ways to reduce the burden on taxpayers which has resulted in discussions on outsourcing, price comparisons for Internet technology (IT) and health insurance, and shared services with other communities.

At the end of last month, representatives came from the firm that currently handles the Town's water and sewer capabilities, namely Utility Partners LLC (UP), to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of outsourcing the Public Works Department (PWD). There is much to do before any decision can be made on whether this is a viable option and a team from UP would have to visit Ashland to conduct a thorough audit of the PWD.

The Town Administrator has invited two IT firms to meet to discuss the town's IT needs and see if a savings can be found by changing from our current provider. Also the Town Administrator shared health insurance benefit comparisons with the Selectmen that are provided by our current carrier, Health Trust, to see if any significant cost savings can be secured. At the first of January 2015, the five non-union employees will be contributing 10% towards their health care costs.

Last month the Chairman of the Board wrote a letter on behalf of the Ashland Selectmen to the Holderness Board of Selectmen requesting a meeting between the two Boards to explore the possibilities of shared services and collaboration of efforts within the two communities. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on July 7th, the Chairman announced that the Holderness Board had declined to participate.

At the July 7th meeting, the Board chose the type of performance evaluation forms they would like to see used for all town employees. The evaluations will begin next month. Performance evaluations provide an opportunity for open, two-way communications between managers and employees and foster a mutual understanding of performance expectations and goal setting.

Co-Emergency Management Directors, Fire Chief Heath and Electric Superintendent Nichols, have been updating the town's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in order to comply with the Annual Concurrence established by the Department of Homeland Security. Our EOP has been approved and in place since 2010 with its primary purpose being to initiate, coordinate and sustain an effective local response to disasters and emergency situations. Once signed by the Selectmen and all participating Department Heads, the plan will be available in the Town Office for review by the public.

The Town Office is collecting a sample of old ordinances and policies (those that are out of date or the referenced RSA has been repealed) for the Selectmen to review. While there is no specific statutory procedure for 'retiring' outdated or unenforceable ordinances, local government officials should address those that require amendments.

The Police Chief informed the Town Office that the total number of incidents, arrests, warrants and traffic citations/warnings for last month was up by 60 from their normal activity to 262. As a public reminder, the overnight parking ban on the side streets and Mechanic Street parking lot has expired as of May 1st. However, the Main Street overnight parking ban is in effect all year long.

This month the Budget Committee begins its mid-term budget reviews of town departments at the Ashland Fire Station. All meetings are to begin at 6:00 pm. On July 10th the Town Library and both utilities will come before the Committee; on July 17th it is the turn of the Town Office, Public Works and the Park & Recreation Department. On July 24th the Police and Fire Departments will be reviewed.

The Town Office received an official health alert from the NH Division of Public Health Services as respects the two identified cases of the Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) infection where the individuals in question had just returned from the Caribbean. The CHIKV infection is transmitted by mosquitoes; however the mosquito species that are capable of transmitting the virus have not been identified in New Hampshire. While there is no need for alarm at this time, the best way to prevent infection would be through

avoidance of mosquito bites. The general public will be kept abreast of any new developments.

There has been significant legislation lately affecting many municipalities and one that is of note affects four towns in District 2 including Ashland. This is Senate Bill 236 titled 'Procedural Changes for SB2 Towns.' This bill makes several changes to deadlines or procedures for SB 2 towns to address problems that have arisen in some towns. It extends the deadline for the Budget Committee to deliver its budget to the Selectmen; it also allows the Selectmen and the Budget Committee to vote on whether to recommend the operating budget warrant article if the article is amended at the Deliberative Session; the recommendation(s) would then appear on the ballot for the second session at the polls. Lastly it sets an earlier deadline for submitting a petitioned warrant article if the article proposes a bond.

In an earlier Bulletin, it was announced that the Town Office has established a 'Concerned Citizen Log' which the Selectmen are to review at their work sessions to see if any further follow-up is required or that resolution has been met satisfactorily. If any member of the public has an issue they would like to bring to the attention of the local governing body, then please come to the Town Office and complete a form. Nothing will be brought to the Selectmen's attention without a signature. Thank you.

In other news:

There is a Northern Pass opposition rally to be held on Sunday July 13th in Bretton Woods to demand that Northeast Utilities and Hydro-Quebec build the project underground all the way. The Governors from the six New England states and Premiers from eastern Canada are holding their annual meeting at the Mount Washington Hotel on July 14th to continue their talks on the energy plan that they created in 2013.

The Trustees of the Ashland Town Library have created a Building Fund to address the space needs of the Town Library. After seventy five years, the Library has outgrown its space as services to the public increase. The failed warrant article at the polls last March has prompted the Library Trustees to rethink their options to solving the problem. The Library Building Fund will collect donations for a future building project. Donations to the Ashland Town Library Building Fund can be mailed to the Library at PO Box 660, Ashland, NH 03217, delivered to the Library during open hours or paid by credit card through PayPal on the Library website at www.ashlandtownlibrary.org . As a kick-off to this fundraising campaign,

the Library will hold a free concert featuring popular musician Art Harriman on the Library lawn at 6:00 pm on Thursday, July 17th.

Although the Town`s 150th celebrations are still a long way off, donations may be made payable to the `Ashland 150th Committee` and sent to the `Ashland Historical Society, PO Box 175, Ashland, NH 03217.` All donations are tax deductible as the Society is a 501(c) 3 organization. The Committee is working diligently to ensure the success of this event celebrating 150 years of Ashland`s history. Planning meetings will be held this year at the Ashland Fire Station on the following dates: July 22, August 26, September 23, and November 25 with a `kick-off party` scheduled for Sunday, September 14, at the Ashland Train Station Museum from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The Historical Society Museums are now open for the summer. The Whipple House summer exhibit features the sixteen artworks of Ashland scenes bequeathed to the Society by Mary Ruell. The Pauline E. Glidden Toy Museum and the Railroad Station Museum both have some new exhibits. Hours of operation are as follows:

Whipple House-Noon to 3:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday

Glidden Toy Museum- 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursday & Friday

Railroad Station Museum- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Saturday

The Ashland Historical Society has been raising money over the past year specifically for the painting of the Ashland Railroad Station and for upgrades to its security system. If you would care to make a donation to the painting of this piece of Ashland history, you can do so by mailing it to the Society at PO Box 175 here in town.

Meetings and Events:

Please go to the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov to view the days/times and locations for meetings for: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, CIP Committee, Budget Committee, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Electric Commissioners, Conservation Commission and Housing Standards Board.

The Ashland Board of Selectmen`s meetings can be seen on public access local channel 3 at the following days/times:

Ashland BOS CH 3 Regular Schedule:

<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THU</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>
12:00 PM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	12:00 AM	07:00 AM	12:00 AM
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	5:00 PM	07:00 AM	12:00 PM	09:00 AM
09:00 PM	08:00 PM			05:00 PM	05:00 PM

Important Telephone Numbers

Town Office hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8am-4pm; Thursday 8am-5pm
Phone (603) 968-4432

Board of Selectmen: Chairman-Normand DeWolfe Phone (603) 968-9630
Phil Preston Phone (603) 968-7959
Jeanette Stewart Phone (603) 968-7240
Fran Newton Phone (603) 573-5330
Steve Felton Phone (603) 340-2801

Police Department Phone (603) 968-4000

Fire Department -NON EMERGENCY- Phone (603) 968-7772

Public Works Department Phone (603) 968-3166

Utility Department hours: 8am-4pm Mon-Fri.
Electric Phone (603) 968-3083
Water & Sewer Phone (603) 968-4002

Parks & Recreation Department Phone (603) 968-9209

Welfare Department Phone (603) 968-4432

Welfare hours: 5:00-7:00pm Tuesday.

Health Officer Phone (603) 573-5330

Transfer Station hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4pm;
Saturday 8am-4pm. Phone (603) 968-9032

Building Inspector hours: Mon. Wed. & Fri. Phone (603) 968-4432
Jim Van Valkenburgh cell Phone (603) 393-1274

Library hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs.1-7 pm; Friday & Saturday 10 am-2pm.
Closed: Wednesday & Sunday. Phone (603) 968-7928

Ashland Food Pantry hours: Thurs.12-6 pm; Fri. 12-6 pm; Sat.10 am-2 pm
Closed: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Phone (603) 968-9698

Reaching your U.S. Legislator

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2841

Sen. Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3324

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter
1530 Longworth House Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5456

Rep. Annie Kuster
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5206

Please remember the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov should be consulted when looking for specific information about the Town. This newsletter helps the Town Office share information and establish a direct connection with our audience, the residents (and taxpayers) of Ashland who are unable to view our website or attend Selectmen meetings. We try to keep them informed and remind them of the many ways their local government is working to improve their quality of life.

Paul C. Branscombe,
Town Administrator