

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Stanley Wysocki, Chairman.....2011
Curtis Plante.....2012
David Lindsay.....2013



David Lindsay, Stanley Wysocki, Chairman and Curtis Plante

The year 2010 ended with a significant snowstorm that left over one foot of snow in Bolton. Fortunately we have not experienced anything similar to the devastating ice storm central Massachusetts experienced a few years ago.

Building Projects: The new Library addition was dedicated on February 6, 2010 with proclamations made by Senator Flanagan and Representative Hogan. The Public Safety Building was dedicated on August 28, 2010 and is now fully operational. The Public Safety Building is a culmination of many years of planning and work of several building committees. The selectmen congratulate the Public Safety Building Committee for their outstanding efforts and offer our thanks to the contractors for a job well done. Now that the Public Safety Building is operating, the Houghton Building is now vacant. BATCO (Bolton Access Television) will occupy a portion of the building to house equipment and set up a broadcast area. Bolton receives approximately \$57,000 yearly from the cable provider Comcast as a percentage of Comcast revenues that is to be used for operating local access television in Bolton. These funds can only be spent on local access-related efforts such as equipment, operations, and facilities. So, rather than "moth-balling" the Houghton Building at expense to the town, BATCO will utilize a portion of the building for its operation, will provide a new first floor television-equipped meeting room for town use, and pay the town approximately \$1,000 per month rent. These funds will offset the cost to maintain the building.

Town Finances and Operations: House values decreased an additional 5% in FY 2010. While this does not directly affect the town's revenues and operations, it does have an impact on the tax rate that was set in late 2010 for the 2011 tax bills going out. While the tax rate has gone from \$17.61 to \$19.42 per \$1,000, a 10.2% increase, the average tax increase is closer to 4%. All of our departments continue to operate very frugally and have been able to deliver their services with few increases in costs and no extraordinary tax increases. The residents should know that of a total town budget of \$18,983,007 for FY 2011, \$11,337,571

is represented by Bolton's portion of the Nashoba Regional School District which is 59.72% of the total town's budget. Budgets continue to remain tight at both the school system and municipal departments. The predictions of some that the FY 2012 budgeting process would be a bit easier with the anticipation that economic conditions overall would improve were false. The upcoming budgeting season is proving to be more difficult than last year and the town is looking for departments to cut back at least 3% from the previous year. The Advisory Committee along with the Selectmen are scrubbing the FY 2012 budget with an eye to cut every dollar we can.

Cell Tower at the Transfer Station: The new cell tower at the transfer station is now in operation. Verizon Wireless has transmitters situated on the tower. It is expected that the town will receive \$24,000 in annual rental fees from Verizon. A second carrier AT&T has approached the town to install transmitters on the tower. The Town will receive 25% of AT&T's sublease rental amount.

Fyfeshire Dam: There has been continued discussion, meetings and work by consultants on how best to remedy the situation with the Fyfeshire Dam. The Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety has declared the dam to be a Significant Hazard Dam in Poor Condition. The town has two alternatives, repair or remove. Late in 2010 the Conservation Commission voted that their preference was for removal. Discussion will continue into 2011.

The Bolton Economic Development Committee: This Committee was formed to help attract, retain and grow business and jobs in Bolton to improve the economic environment and quality of life for its residents and meet the long term needs of the community.

Among the top priorities for this committee are to find tenants for the vacant Future Electronics building, the Skinner building and to fill available space in the Condyne building.

Bolton has been designated an ETA (Economic Target Area) and an EDA (Economically Distressed Area) by the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD). Bolton belongs to the Framingham-Marlborough Region ETA (Economic Target Area). This designation allows the Town to participate in Economic Development Incentive Programs.

Space Need Committee: On March 25, 2010 the Selectmen appointed a Space Needs Committee that was asked to determine and suggest implementation regarding space needs for all municipal employees. On October 21, the Committee came before the Selectmen with their report. Recommendations were made on the reallocation of space in the town Hall, the re-use of the Houghton Building, the availability of meeting space in the town and the need for a vault to store the Town's public documents.

Regional Hazardous Waste Facility: At the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, the voters approved participating in the Devens Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility. This facility is expected to be operational in 2011 and will provide a much more economical way for Bolton's residents to dispose of hazardous waste. Rather than having our own "hazardous waste day" once every two years, this new facility will be open 20 days per year and will cost the Town less to participate.

Town Employees: Bolton operates with a “lean and mean” staff. All departments work together in a collegial fashion and constantly come up to the challenge of finding creative and cost effective ways to provide the services the Town needs at the best possible cost. While we include every employee in this “shout out”, we want to thank all the department heads in working to come up with creative solutions in these difficult economic times.

The Board of Selectmen wants to thank the Police Department for putting their lives on the line each and every day. While we may still think that Bolton is just “a sleepy little town”, because we are on the crossroads of a heavily traveled state road (Route 117) and the interstate (495) we get more than our share of “bad guys” and the Police Department, along with the Dispatchers, help to keep us safe.

The Board of Selectmen wants to thank our Fire and EMS crews who also put their lives on the line each and every time they respond to an emergency.

The Board of Selectmen wants to thank the DPW Department for keeping our roads in good condition during all the unsettling winter weather we had this past year.

Volunteers: The Board of Selectmen wants to thank all those who volunteer and serve on the various boards and committees in town. They all provide a vital service and give up much of their personal time to help make Bolton a better place to live.

After 27 years as Selectman, Ken Troup chose not to run again. David Lindsay was elected to the board in May after serving on the Advisory Committee for several years. We thank Ken for his many years of service as a selectman and for his leadership and guidance throughout the years.

Those who have passed: Every resident helps to make Bolton the vibrant community that it is. It is with great sadness that we have lost family, friends and neighbors in 2010:

Francis J. Harmon	Thomas Fuller	Anna D. Ela	Jack Rogers
Ugo Iannetti	Deborah Sparrow	John F. Mucci	Robert Neville
Joseph Androski	Donald E. Sargent	Julius Livingston	Miriam Thomas
Hardy Smith	Stephen T. O’Neil	Francis L. Collin	Ronald Evans
Harold E. Babcock	Charlotte O’Shea	Nancy Martinek	George A. Bishop
Margaret J. Babcock	Arnold A. Dupuis	Linda Gogolin	Sarah Ix-Stephens
Carol Callahan			

**Financial Statement
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**

Salary

Appropriated	\$ 900.00
Expended	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund	\$ 300.00

Expenses

Appropriated		\$20,550.00
Expended	WHEAT membership	5,000.00
	Supplies	75.52
	Miscellaneous	447.87
		<u>\$ 5,523.39</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$15,026.61