

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Don Lowe



The year 2012 was a year that will be remembered not only as a challenging year economically but another extreme weather year as well. We had no snow storms in January or February but it did snow in early March. By mid-March, temperatures hit 70 degrees. Unfortunately, October brought us Hurricane Sandy. Bolton was spared much of the more severe weather which hammered the eastern seaboard but we did have some heavy wind and rain. The Emergency Operations Center was opened. Once again, our Public Safety personnel did an outstanding job in coordinating a unified response to any problems which resulted from the storm. Damage was kept to a minimum and we had only scattered power outages.

Bolton Access Television completed the work they started in 2011 on the interior renovations of the Houghton Building. The project was completed in April. The result was a beautifully renovated building which houses not only Bolton Access Television but provides space for the Friends of the Library and the Bolton Conservation Trust as well as an additional meeting room. A formal dedication ceremony of the new meeting room to Lois J. Alex was held in November.

The Annual Town Meeting was held on May 7th. Town Meeting approved spending \$250,000 of free cash to repair Fyfeshire Dam and to lower the water level so that it would no longer be under the jurisdiction of the state. Work continued through 2012 to plan for the design and permitting phase of the project, which will take place in 2013. At the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, the voters funded the following articles:

- \$2,210,000 district-wide for Nashoba Regional High School to renovate the existing track, install an artificial turf field, construct a five-court tennis facility and construct a new concession building with personal facilities.
- \$250,000 to lower Fyfeshire Dam sufficiently to remove it from the state's jurisdiction, along with any required design and permitting.
- \$178,450 for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Turnout Gear for the Fire Department.
- \$100,000 to repair a culvert on Sugar Road.

The town operating budget for 2012 was \$19,842,663, an increase of 2.74% over 2011. The Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen worked extremely hard to produce a budget that maintained the same level of town services as 2011 but did not require an operating override. Expenses were reduced

and operating efficiencies were achieved wherever possible. However, the town was able to produce a balanced budget without reducing hours for the services that we provide to our taxpayers.

The Capital Planning Committee was very involved in the early budget planning process for Fiscal Year 2013, which begins in July 2012. They met several times to review the capital needs of any town department which would cost more than \$25,000 and which would also have a five-year functional life span.

In an effort to improve accessibility to the second floor of the Houghton Building, a chair lift was installed. Subsequently, a new chair lift was installed in Town Hall as well. The Town Hall chair lift was a gift which was generously paid for by Mary Boyd.

The town continues to make good use of the Regional Hazardous Waste Facility located in Devens. Although we are one of now 10 member communities, Bolton was number three in overall usage. In July 2012 I became the Vice-Chair of the Oversight Board, having already been the Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee. At the end of 2012, the facility was covering all expenses and showing a small profit. I am confident that we will be able to hold the line on prices in 2013.

At the end of 2012, I was nearing the end of my fourth year as your Town Administrator. We were able to successfully manage our way through another difficult year. This level of success would not be possible without the continued involvement and support of the townspeople who offer so much of their time in volunteering on various boards, committees, and activities to help make Bolton the wonderful community that it is. It is with a great deal of pride that I continue to serve as your Town Administrator.

**Financial Statement
July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012**

Salary		
Appropriated		\$95,988.00
Expended		<u>\$92,216.20</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 3,771.80
 Wages		
Appropriated		\$ 56,919.00
Expended		<u>\$ 53,429.60</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 3,489.40
 Expenses		
Appropriated		\$7,400.00
Expended	Longevity	\$ 550.00
	Disability Insurance	866.30
	Supplies	347.67
	In-State Travel	856.21
	Dues	143.97
	Meetings	370.00
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		<u>\$3,124.15</u> \$4,265.85