

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Selectmen Stephen Brown (2020), Bruce Z. Cleveland (2020) and Darren Hudgins (2021) were the returning Board members for this year. Thomas Tombarello was reelected for a 3-year term and Eric L. Olsen was elected for a 3-year term.

### **TOWN BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

The most significant building maintenance project in 2019 was the repaving of the existing parking lot at Town Hall as well as paving a dirt portion of the parking lot on the Hampstead Road side of the building. This project was done with funds encumbered from 2018.

Other annual maintenance projects included furnace cleanouts in each building, water filtration system maintenance and regular upkeep to the grounds. We had a minor rodent and ant problem at a couple of buildings, but this was addressed and eradicated quickly. The police station had some well problems and the train depot had some plumbing issues, but all were fixed and in good working order. Again, a special thank you to the Sandown Garden Club for keeping the Town Hall, Library and Train Depot gardens blooming beautifully every year and decorating our buildings with beautiful hand-made wreaths during the holidays.

### **ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

The 2019 Roadway Improvement Plan was funded by the voters this year.

This year's plan included the full reconstruction of a portion of Wells Village Road. It is planned to reconstruct the remaining portion of Wells Village Road in 2020 if voters pass the warrant article.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF TOWN ROADS**

There were no new roads accepted by the Board of Selectmen in 2019, however the board addressed a NH 9-1-1 recommendation to rename Shady Lane. Although Shady Lane was the legal address for a few properties and listed on tax maps, it was no longer a utilized way. The access to properties in this area was done over Ridge Road and thus these properties now have Ridge Road addresses.

### **COMMUNITY**

As highlighted by the cover of this year's report, the Selectmen worked with the residents and various organizations to create a beautiful POW-MIA Chair of Honor in honor of all those who served and never returned home to their loved ones. Thank you to the Sandown Lion's Club, Joseph Gordon, Thomas Tombarello, Darren Hudgins, Sandown Republican Committee, Ken

Smith, Robert McGuigan and to all the residents who donated to this amazing project. YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

As reported in past years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued updates to the NH MS-4 Storm Water Permit in January 2017 which brought new mandates and requirements of managing our stormwater. The selectmen agreed this year to hire an engineering firm to help us through the process. We worked with Nick Cristofori from Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI) and met all requirements we could with the funding we had in place. We will be appropriating additional money in 2020 to complete the 2019 tasks and work on the 2020 requirements. CEI has been instrumental in helping us meet some of the more complicated plan development requirements and assisted us in other areas that we could do in order to save costs.

A few other highlights throughout the year include the purchase of a new ambulance for Fire/Rescue and a new dump truck for the Highway Department. It included the reappointment of our Public Work's Director, Arthur Genualdo for another 3-year term and the hiring of the new Finance Director, Gayle Hamel. 2019 also brought the loss of town employee Gregory "Scott" Atkins and volunteer Robert Brouder who will both be missed dearly. The selectmen implemented a new town website and hope the residents find it easy to navigate. The board changed its regular meeting start time to 6:30pm instead of 7:00pm. Lastly, all towns in New Hampshire were given Municipal Aid funds from the 2020-2021 biennial state budget. These funds will be allocated in two payments. Sandown received its first payment of \$67,366.18 and should receive the same amount in 2021. These funds are unrestricted and can be used to reduce property taxes or for any purpose a municipality may legally spend money. The selectmen decided to spend \$4,500 of these funds on a structural engineer to assess the Town Hall infrastructure. That report is currently pending. We will be proposing on the next ballot to use these funds to build a new salt shed for the Highway Department.

As always, the board would like to thank all those who volunteer as committee members and in various capacities throughout town. We also thank the employees for all they do every day. The dedication given by volunteers and employees is experienced by all residents of Sandown. As 2019 comes to an end we encourage members of the community to be involved and continue to make Sandown one of the best places to live.

We look forward to proudly representing Sandown in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandown Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator

