

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Newton Board of Selectmen had a year packed full of accomplishments during an economy that has been referred to as “Fragile”. We would like to share a quote from Henry Ford that we feel defines our year in 2012, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success”, and it’s not always easy. New Hampshire RSA 41:8, says it is the duty of the Board of Selectmen, “to manage the prudential affairs of the town”. We found ourselves in a default budget making it difficult to maintain services for our residents and employees. It requires a delicate balance, to think out of the box, but without the proper funding for our infrastructure, it becomes difficult to find ways to preserve the natural, cultural and historical resources that make our town unique. We looked at policies and procedures to determine if we were following our Master Plan. We will continue to provide services to our residents that will enhance the safety and general well-being of the community. Here is what we hope to do: Do the right thing for the right reason, share ideas to achieve uncommon results, work together in good times and bad, and when we need to say “NO” try to do it graciously and above all else, accept criticism without taking it personally.

Members of the Board of Selectmen are as follows: Raymond Thayer, Charles Melvin Sr., and Trisha McCarthy, Chairperson. We have had a very busy year. Our work has been difficult, debated, and yet it was still enjoyable. We acted in the best interest of the residents of the Town while working through controversial issues. The Selectmen had 50 selectmen’s meetings, 5 hearings, 2 Site Walks, 3 FEMA meetings, 2 Safety Committee Meetings, 2 Safe Route to Schools Committee Meetings, 3 Regional Selectmen Meetings, and multiple meetings with legal counsel. The Department of Revenue Administration met with us to calculate the tax rate, and ultimately were able to reduce the tax rate slightly. The Selectmen participated in over 48 meetings with other boards, committees and various social gatherings including, the Family Fall Fair at the Memorial School, the Grand Opening of our New Police Station at 8 Merrimac Road, “AKA, Federal City”, and the Memorial Day Parade in Newton and Kingston. We enjoyed the Historical Society’s events, including the Annual Wine and Cheese Gathering at the Merrimac Savings Bank as well as the second Holiday Tree lighting at the old Primary School on Route 108. On October 6, we were proud to participate in the Perambulation Site Walk with the East Kingston Selectmen and Engineer Dennis Quintal. In addition to all this we continued our required training on the National Incident Management System, which allows us to apply for and accept Federal Grant money. We are proud to announce that Selectmen Melvin attended the Local Government’s Selectmen Institute and Graduated in the fall.

The Selectmen also assisted the Emergency Management Director Larry Foote in the weather related event called “Storm Sandy” and worked with the Emergency Operating Staff. Please sign up our Emergency Alert Now phone service in order to be kept up to date during town emergencies. Contact our Emergency Management Director Larry Foote for the details at 978-804-0529.

We look forward to your involvement in our meetings. Our schedule and agenda can be found on the Town Web Site at www.Newton-NH.gov. Please take the time to read the minutes and sign up for News and Announcements. This will keep you educated on issues and decisions that come before all the committees and boards. We can only explain it to you, if we know your questions. New thoughts may lead to a new direction, and that could be good. We encourage positive thinking rather than destructive. It's okay to disagree, because many times a struggle can lead to resourceful results.

In an effort to preserve our rural character we will continue to search for feasible ways to develop our infrastructure, and quality of life for our residents and employees. In order to do this, we need your help. Please come to the polls and vote. Our most important Warrant Article is, **Article # 5** . We need your **"YES"** vote. You will be pleased to know that our 2013 Operating Budget is \$2,903,310.00. This is \$33,079 less than the 2013 Default Budget and a -1.07% tax impact. The Board of Selectmen worked diligently with our Department Heads in order to develop a budget without cutting services. They need your help by approving their operating budget by voting **"YES"** on **Article #5**. .

See you on March 12th 2013 at the Newton Town Hall.
Respectfully submitted,

Trisha McCarthy, Chairman for the Board of Selectmen
Selectman Raymond Thayer, Selectman Charles Melvin Sr.

APPEALS BOARD

The Board of Appeals held two public hearings in 2012. Variances were granted in both instances.

The Board of Appeals meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall, starting at 7:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas R. McElroy
Chairman, Board of Appeals

POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Taxpayers and Residents of the Town of Newton

Thanks to the taxpayers of Newton this has been a rewarding year for the Newton Police Department. After many proposals over the past several years, the police department finally moved into its new location last February at 8 Merrimac Road. The Town agreed to purchase the building and property based on an extremely generous offer, a fabulous price and a zero percent interest rate.

In addition to the purchase, the gratification was made even more satisfying by being able to move into an almost completed and operational building. Through pro bono community support, donations, encumbered funds, extra and additional responsibilities assumed by department personnel and a delay in the replacement of department personnel, we were able to achieve all this without impacting the tax rate one iota. Thank you everyone for your generosity and your support. It was truly a community effort.

As most of you are aware, for the past three years the police department has had an officer assigned full time with the Attorney General's Drug Task Force. Unfortunately, our Town, as well as almost every other southern New Hampshire community, has had considerable drug issues primarily based on our proximity to the Merrimac Valley. Because of the small size of our department and the general lack of investigative resources, we were able to secure a grant that allowed us to provide one of our officers to the task force. The department received grant monies for overtime and replacement costs of that officer and we also shared in the expertise of the professional investigative services of the task force.

In April, that officer along with five other task force officers and the Police Chief of the Town of Greenland attempted to serve a search warrant in the Town of Greenland. The result was a firearms engagement which concluded in four officers being injured and the chief, Michael Maloney, being mortally wounded.

Newton Officer Christopher Thurlow was one of two officers that did not sustain any injury. The New Hampshire State Police Major Crimes Unit and the NH Attorney General's office has credited him with literally saving the lives of the injured officers. In addition, Officer Thurlow wounded the assailant by having the composure to return fire while assisting the wounded officers to a position of cover. He also established a command post, coordinated support and extraction services, and applied direct pressure to a severely injured officer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Officer Thurlow for his presence of mind, his bravery, his commitment to regional drug enforcement and most of all for his dedication to the citizens and taxpayers of the Town of Newton. Chris also recently completed his commitment to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves after combat tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Chris has truly made a difference for our nation, for our state, and for the Town of Newton.

Thank you to the Taxpayers and the Residents of Newton for your continued support of this department. We endeavor to earn your respect, trust and confidence.

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence E. Streeter
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

ARRESTS:

All Other Larceny	8	Burglary	20
All Other Offenses	12	Business Check	607
Aggravated Assault	2	Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	1
Bad Checks	1	Code Enforcement Issue	1
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1	Civil Problem	33
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	6	Civil Standby	44
Driving Under the Influence	6	Community Service	10
Drug/Narcotic Violations	11	Court	31
Drunkenness	11	Criminal Threatening	5
False Pretenses/Swindle	1	Cruiser Maintenance	680
Intimidation	3	Despondent Person	5
Liquor Law Violations	6	Directed Patrol	7728
Simple Assault	16	Disturbance	46
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	38	Domestic Related	27
Trespass of Real Property	2	Domestic Disturbance	41
Weapon Law Violations	2	Drug Take Back	1

TOTAL ARRESTS 126

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

911 Hangup/Abandoned Call	33	Drug Related	9
Administrative	90	Dumping, Illegal	7
Administrative, Other	961	Escort/Transport	20
Alarm	153	Fight/Brawl	8
Alcohol Related	1	Field Interview	4
Animal Complaint	262	Fingerprint Non-Criminal	27
Assist Officer	123	Follow-up	819
Application to Peddle/Solicit	1	Fraud	9
Assist Motorist	23	Fireworks Complaint	8
Assault	10	Harassment, Other	20
Assist Fire Department	61	Harassment, Phone	18
Assist Other Agency	182	Juvenile Problem	21
Assist Rescue	121	Lockout, Residential	4
Attempted Suicide	3	Lockout, Motor Vehicle	5
		Message Delivery	26
		Missing Person	13
		Motor Vehicle Accident	59
		Motor Vehicle, Other	41
		Motor Vehicle, Speed Reckless	36

CALLS FOR SERVICE Continued:

Motor Vehicle Stop	1198	Seabrook Station-Unusual Event	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	Seabrook Station-Event Terminated	1
Neighbor Dispute	18	Serve Paperwork	189
Noise Complaint	57	Serve Dog Fine	36
Non-Criminal	24	Serve Dog Summons	49
OHRV Complaint	2	Sex Offender Registration	9
Park & Walk	2	Sex Offenses	2
Parking Complaint	19	Criminal Trespass	9
Police Complaint	4	Smoke/Fire Investigation	5
Police Information	353	Soliciting/Sales	1
Prisoner Transport	3	Speed Enforcement	320
Property Damage	11	Special Event	8
Property Loss	3	Suicide, Threatened	8
Property Damage, Unknown	1	Suspicious Circumstance	103
Property Recovered	6	Suspicious Vehicle	71
Public Assist	137	Theft	41
Report Writing	627	Town Permit	1
Reported Hazard	13	Tree Down/Wires Down	27
Restraining Order	8	Traffic Enforcement	67
Restraining Order Violation	1	Traffic Hazard	43
Criminal Mischief	12	Traffic Survey	9
Road Agent	6	Truancy Check	14
Safe School Act	6	Unattended Death	2
School Crosswalk	113	Unsecured Building	1
Seabrook Station – Alert	1	Unwanted Subject	8
Seabrook Station -- Site Area Emg.	1	Vacation Watch	549
Serve Warrant	38	Vin Verification	59
Mutual Aid	24	Well-Being Check	48
		Weapons Related	9

**TOTAL CALLS FOR
SERVICE**

16,839

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence E. Streeter
Chief of Police