

Memo

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Paul Branscombe
Cc: Pat Crowell, File
Date: March 3, 2014
Subject: Town Administrator's Report

- February saw a well-attended and lengthy Deliberative Session, a rewarding Candidates Night sponsored by the Ashland Woman's Club, the completion of our Town Report and a three day visit by our Auditors, all of which signals we are on track for the March 11th elections.
- The Town attorney has recommended that all BOS have Town e-mail addresses and refrain from using their personal e-mails. Selectmen Preston and DeWolfe now have Town e-mail addresses.
- On February 20th the Chairman of the CIP committee presented a schedule of upcoming meetings for the year regarding the 2015 CIP items that the committee need to review. All Department Heads, the Town Administrator, Utility Commissioners, School Board and the Board of Selectmen have been requested to attend a kick off meeting to be held at the Ashland Fire Station on March 19th at 6:30 pm.
- You heard this evening that Time Warner cable have accepted our Selectmen's condition of having the renewal contract run for a period of 7 years and not 10. Also the BOS will not sign the contract until TWC have confirmed that they will have the cable system extended to Blue Sky Drive. However now that the BOS have approved the contract with this condition we shall prepare for a public hearing shortly.
- The Public Works Department was kept busy, plowing, salting and sanding and hauling away snow. The Department did experience problems with several vehicles that required parts and repairs.
- The Parks & Recreation Department's Booster Club continued to see activity throughout February with the After School Program and the LRCS Counsel using the building along with 'Food for All' on Tuesday evenings. Kids Night Out on February 21st was well attended with fifteen children participating. The next program is scheduled to be held on Friday March 21st

from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. The fee is \$10 per child. Call the P& R Director on 968-9209 to register.

In addition the Parks & Recreation Department saw the return of the Vacation Day Camp for the February school vacation. 9 students enrolled for the week and an influx of 18 children on the field trip days.

- The Police Department wants to remind residents of the parking ban in Town that being no parking on any streets from 1 am to 5 am. Also if residents leave their vehicles for any reason.....breakdown or unable to navigate a hill in bad weather would they please notify the PD. The total number of incidents, arrests and traffic citations for the month of February was 198 which are 35 more than last month. Chief Randall has informed the Town office that the Drug Take Back Initiative will take place at the Ashland Police Station on Saturday April 26 from 10 am to 2 pm. The Chief also mentioned that it appears we are experiencing a problem again with dogs doing their business in the area of Mechanic Street and by the Ashland Insurance office. The latter location even has a sign indicating that no dogs are allowed. The Town has an ordinance which requires residents pick up after their dogs and if you do not comply you will be fined.
- The FD responded to 32 emergency calls in February. The FD lease for the copier/printer with Konica-Minolta was dropped and the FD purchased a copier to save money over the long term. On the weekend of February 7-9 several members of the FD participated in a rope rescue technician course. Our FD was joined by members of the Holderness FD and Sargent Hamilton of the Ashland PD. The PD is working with the FD in cross training exercises in an effort to assist each other under certain circumstances.
- On March 5th the Town Administrator is attending the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) meeting in Bethlehem. Ashland along with the Towns of Alexandria, Plymouth, Bristol and Holderness are members of this North Country Committee.
- On March 18th the Town Administrator and the HR Officer will be participating in a Primex workshop for 'Succession Planning.'
- In closing I should like to state that the InfoBlast sent out last Friday from the Town office announcing the Open House dates for the public viewing of the proposed Ashland Town Library in no way confirms support of the warrant article by the Town, the Town office or the local government officials.

Respectfully submitted