

**Year 2007 Annual Report
Office of the Town Manager**

I respectfully submit to the citizens of Hull the Year 2007 Annual Report of the Town Manager's Office. The year proved to be a challenging year. Every action has had input from a variety of individuals who share a common goal; to take those actions and make those decisions that are in the best interest of the community.

The members of the Board of Selectmen have provided support, guidance and knowledge that has made my job easier. Every Department Head and employee has contributed to our ability to meet our challenges.

As you review the Annual Reports from your Departments you will see that service requests have increased steadily and consistently over the last several years. As an organization we have been able to meet the increased demand by working more effectively. However, all of our Department's are at their operational limits given the resources that are available. They have been resourceful over the last several years but cannot continue to operate at the current level of services without additional resources.

The Town's financial health, like many other cities and towns in Massachusetts is in dire condition. There are a variety of pressures on the Town budget that exceed our annual revenue growth. In July a Fiscal Policy Group was established consisting of representatives of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Advisory Board Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager. The task of the group was to assess the fiscal outlook for the Town and to produce a five-year projection of our situation. This was accomplished and provided a view to the future. It was clear that FY09 was going to be difficult year but that significant fiscal stress would be encountered in FY10 and beyond, primarily associated with the Jacobs School debt payments, insurance costs and anemic State Aid. It was determined that the best strategy would be to make necessary budgetary adjustments in FY09.

As we look forward we need to engage in a vigorous public discussion regarding the level and type of services that will be provided in FY10 given our fiscal situation. I would like to thank all Town Employees and in particular, Nancy Allen, Janet Bennett and Terry Finneran in the Town Manager's/Board of Selectmen Office for their tireless assistance throughout the year. I thank you for the opportunity to serve the residents of Hull.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Lemnios

Town Manager