

2013 Annual Report

Office of the Town Manager

I respectfully submit to the citizens of Hull the Year 2013 Annual Report of the Town Manager's Office. 2013 was a busy year. We continue to operate in a dynamic environment. Over the last several years we have adjusted a variety of our operational units to perform with fewer resources. There is no doubt that our employees could leverage additional resources into great results. However we recognize the new reality of a leaner period and it is being met with pragmatism and with a positive spirit on the part of our employees. The Town is still confronted with significant capital project needs and the ability to finance those needs will have to be addressed over the course of the next several years.

The challenges of leading Hull could not be met without the guidance of the Board of Selectmen and the cooperative effort of many citizen volunteers, employees and residents. Hull is a unique place with great beauty and a future that is in part defined by its past but in no way constrained by the past. Redevelopment of the front beach portion of the community was a significant topic throughout the year. Outreach to the property owners in this section of town included many public meetings, planning with Mass Development to coordinate with the DCR and business interests to begin in earnest the rebirth of this section of Town.

In January, the presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2014 Budget was made to the Board of Selectmen. The budget presentation kicked off the first stage of the Annual Town Meeting process that culminates in May each year.

The winter was brutal with near-record snow fall and regular lashings of our coastline. The Town's dune system held but damage to the east facing coastline was readily observable. Our costs to address the severity of the storms and clean-up placed an unusually high burden on our Public Works Department.

In late February, during a stormy period, a catastrophic event occurred at the Town's wastewater treatment plant. One of the major pumps at the facility failed. The basement levels of the plant filled with effluent. The mechanical and electrical systems at the plant all failed. Town Staff, including Fire Chief Hollingshead, Public Works Director Stigliani, Facility Manager Dow, Sewer Commissioners Struzziery, Babcock and Mattila, Retired Sewer Facility Manager Petrilak, Town Accountant Bohinc, Town Counsel Lampke, Emergency Management staff Sullivan, Lichtenberger and Berardinelli, United Water Staff, MEMA officials and many others led an effort to stabilize the situation. The mid-term recovery plan is still being worked on and will exceed \$4.5 million dollars. The Town is pursuing an insurance claim to cover costs. In the interim high sewer bills will be needed to pay costs associated with this event.

In March and April were also consumed with budget meetings and Town Meeting preparation. Staff met frequently with Advisory Board to review Town Meeting articles and to discuss the implications of various financial and non-financial articles. As always there are a variety of financial and non-financial articles for Town Meeting to consider. The work of the Advisory Board involves many meetings and analysis of Articles. The Town is fortunate to have a group of citizens that vigilantly analyze issues on behalf of Town Meeting and to provide guidance on those issues.

In May, Town Meeting approved the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. The FY14 Budget key elements included the following:

Town of Hull
Fiscal Year 2014 Projected Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue Summary	FY13	FY 14	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	24,543,403	25,274,087	730,684	2.98%
Projected Net State Aid	5,861,590	5,861,590	0	0.00%
Total Local Receipts	4,157,289	4,753,315	596,026	14.34%
Total Enterprise Fund Revenue	3,021,541	3,215,927	194,386	6.43%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	37,583,823	39,104,919	1,521,096	4.05%
Expenditure Summary	FY13	FY14	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total Services Costs	33,324,972	34,351,682	1,026,710	3.08%
Enterprise Fund Expenditures	3,021,541	3,215,927	194,386	6.43%
Other Total:	345,000	555,000	210,000	60.87%
Intergovernmental Total	892,310	982,310	90,000	10.09%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	37,583,823	39,104,919	1,521,096	4.05%
NET EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	0	(0)	(0)	

In June, the Veteran's Monument held a dedication ceremony for those who served in the Vietnam War. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen John Reilly Jr., presided over the event and was the guiding figure in the effort to add the plaques to the monument. The July 4th holiday has become a series of smaller events around town. Families and neighborhoods gather on the beaches to celebrate the birth of our nation. Our Public Safety departments once again struck the right tone with all involved to insure a safe and enjoyable celebration.

As always summer in Hull is magical, thousands visit to enjoy the quintessential New England summer experience. The Town welcomes all who come and our staff is quite busy making sure that the beaches are clean, the waterways are well patrolled and safe and that the all our recreational sites are ready for play. All of our employees and summer labor force did a great job in our busiest time of year. The Town is fortunate to have many dedicated and hard working public servants.

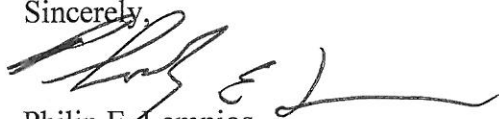
As fall approached the Surfside Roadway Project began. This Project will lead to new streetscape between Water Street and Anastos Corner. The project includes a new roadway, sidewalks, lighting and a bike lane. The efforts of Planning and Community Development Director Fultz have been pivotal with this project. When finished, this project will provide a critical link between the HRA property and the front beach business district.

The Town's FY15 budget and planning process began to take shape with a presentation to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board in early November. Town Accountant Bohinc was helpful in preparing the FY15 budget scenario. Town Accountant Bohinc accepted another position in December with the Town of Marshfield. Ms. Bohinc was a superlative Town Accountant and excellent employee. I, as well as many other will miss her and wish her the best in her new position.

In December, the Selectmen established a staff committee to draft a zoning by-law to permit short-term rentals (29 days or less). The need for such a committee arose out of the Zoning Board cases in the summer that upheld the Building Inspector's decision that short-term rentals were not permitted in single family residential districts. The Committee comprised of the Town Counsel, Building Inspector, Assistant Building Inspector, Director of the Board of Health, Planning and Community Development Director, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health and the Town Manager began meeting to present the Selectmen with a draft by-law in January

In closing, I would like to thank all Town Employees and in particular, Nancy Allen, Janet Bennett and Terry Finneran in the Board of Selectmen/ Town Manager's Office for their tireless assistance throughout the year. It is an honor to serve the residents of Hull. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Philip E. Lemnios', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip E. Lemnios
Town Manager