

## **Report of the Department of Public Works**

The Department of Public Works respectfully submits its report for the year 2015.

### **Engineering Division**

The Engineering Division had a busy and productive year in 2015 again with a staff of one. The duties were widespread. Lot grading plans were reviewed and approved in conjunction with construction projects, as well as the required inspections during construction and through occupancy were performed. The department provided abutters lists for various board hearings and meetings. Field inspections were conducted on an on-going basis for any subdivisions that were on-going at various stages. Public Works projects that were worked on were varied and included assisting contractors on drainage, water, and roadway improvements. Street line surveys were performed for trees, and utility poles.

Substantial time was spent with Engineers, Surveyors, Real Estate Brokers, Appraisers, Lawyers, and Contractors for plan, map, flood plain research, inspections of construction, and final completion of projects. Assistance is always given to consulting engineers that are working for the Town on a wide variety of projects. Assistance was given to the Town of Randolph Police Department on many cases with plan, map, and aerial photography copies as well as on-call expert witness representation.

The department provided all Town departments with map, plan, deed, street, and utility research and analysis, as well as the annual update of the Town Assessor's Maps and other town maps were performed as required.

### **Highway Division**

This division added two new full time employees and is now staffed with 13 full time employees. The duties of the Highway division include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, pothole repair, pavement maintenance, traffic signal and sign maintenance, lining and striping, grounds maintenance of Town buildings and park areas (not including school property), roadside cleaning, snow and ice operations, and the maintenance of all DPW equipment.

Work continued in conjunction with the development of the Pavement Management System. In 2014 we conducted another street by street road condition inspection. The last road inspection was done over 5 years ago and a new road survey was needed to update the road plan. The results of this inspection are being used to generate an updated complete roadway condition inventory for the entire Town. This inventory will then be used to prepare a road improvement capitol plan by which road improvements will be scheduled. Road improvements will be based on available Town funds and Chapter 90 State Aid funds. The updated pavement management plan will continue to serve as the tool for long range road improvement planning. All of our roadway improvement projects are coordinated with other utility improvements and upgrades.

The 2015 road construction season saw the following roadway improvement projects completed: Oak Street (from Webster Street to Devine Road), McAuliffe Road, Devine Road, Fitch Terrace (from Beverly Terrace to Stoughton Street) West Street (from North Main Street to Mazzeo Drive), Centre Street ( from South Street to Union Street), South Street ( from Centre Street to the town Line, and Old Street (from North Main Street to Canton Street). Projects that were slated for 2015 that were not done and will be the first streets worked on in 2016 are Vine Street and Fowler Street. Other streets to be done in 2016 will be determined using the road improvement capitol plan and also roadway inspections to determine any roadway deterioration following the winter season. Small paving repair projects were also completed along with a continuation of the crack sealing program. Crack sealing is an important process in maintaining roads so they do not deteriorate after other improvements have been completed on them. The DPW Supt. Will work closely with Town Manager David Murphy on the continuation of the roadway improvement program and constant search for any available state and federal grants to aid in funding these projects.

The winter season in 2015 produced record snowfall and cold temperatures. Winter did not really begin until late January 2015 but unprecedented snowfall and cold followed in the month of February. The DPW staff and equipment along with hired equipment worked nearly round the clock to battle to keep roads open for public safety vehicles and the motoring public along with sidewalks for foot traffic. An unfortunate byproduct of these long hours was unprecedented spending which was seen by all Mass cities and towns. Hopefully Mother Nature will look favorably upon us for the 2015-2016 winter season.

This division also worked closely with Town Manager David Murphy, Administrative Assistant Anne Barkhouse, and The Randolph Garden Club in all of the ongoing efforts to beautify the Town. The DPW looks forward to the continuation of this work in 2016. Many of the projects completed to date have gone a long way in improving the appearance of the Town and hopefully brightening the spirit of Randolph citizens.

Roadside littering and dumping continues to be a thorn in the side of this division and the Town as a whole. We ask all citizens and businesses to work with the Town to try to eliminate this problem and to help keep Randolph clean.

### **Sewer Division**

This division is staffed with 3 full time employees. The duties of this division include the daily maintenance of nearly 100 miles of sewer mains ranging in size from 6" - 36" and 9 sewer pumping stations.

Bids were opened for the Vine Street sewer pump station improvements and I/I removal project. This station was originally built in the 1980's and is in need of an upgrade to its mechanical and pumping systems. This project will be bid over the winter months. Sewer pump stations work 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and are vital in moving sewage throughout our sanitary sewer system. The bid was awarded to the low bidder and work began early fall 2015 and will be completed in the spring of 2015. It is vital to continue to remove inflow and infiltration from

entering our sewer system and increasing the flow that is metered by the MWRA. These meter readings are used to develop our annual sewer assessment which is now more than \$6,000,000 per year.

Removal of grease and disposable cleaning products from the sewer system continues to be a daily struggle for this division. All residents are urged to dispose of grease and cleaning products properly and not in the sewer system. The buildup of grease in sewer lines will eventually clog the line to the point where the lines will no longer flow and a backup will occur. When a backup occurs many times a sewer manhole will overflow in the street or in most cases the backup will find its way into a home or a business. Either way a costly cleanup ensues along with potential health and environmental risks.

### **Water Division**

This division is staffed with 5 full time employees. The duties of this division include the daily maintenance of nearly 100 miles of water mains ranging in size from 2" to 24", 1100 fire hydrants, and over 9000 services and meters.

In 2015 specifications were completed and sealed bids were opened for the continuation of the water mains improvement program in town. All water main improvements are done to improve water quality along with providing increased flows and pressure for fire protection. There still remains approximately 45,000 feet of 6" water mains that need cleaning and lining. The remaining work has been broken up into 3 projects of approximately 15,000 feet. Funding for the first of the three projects was voted by the Town Council and work began in early summer on this work. Streets scheduled to be done in this first project are, Tileston Road, Garren Terrace, Beverly Terrace, Shirley Terrace, Willard Terrace, Centre Street extension, Wyman Road, Lancaster Road, East Druid Hill Ave, Desmond Road, Thayer Circle, Bartlett Road, Clark Street, Harris Street, and Essiembre Road . Funding will be requested in the 2017 and 2018 budgets to fund the final two phases of the project.

The concept of a regional water treatment plant continued to progress slowly in 2015. The Towns of Braintree, Holbrook and Randolph are working to complete the design, gain financing, and construct this new treatment plant. The regional plant is the most economically feasible way to replace the aging water treatment plants in both Randolph/Holbrook, and Braintree, and all three towns voted to adopt the regional plant as opposed to tie-in with the MWRA water system.

The project for the installation of new water meters town wide was ongoing and neared completion in the summer of 2015. This project began late spring in 2014. These new meters are outfitted with digital radio reading equipment that will allow the DPW to read meters more efficiently and allow the change from semi-annual billing to quarterly billing. Quarterly billing will provide users with a more manageable bill and also provide for earlier detection if a property has an internal water leak which in turn creates higher water consumption and a more costly utility bill. Migration from semi-annual billing to quarterly billing occurred in 2015. Any residence or business that did not respond to requests to have their water meter changed out is urged to contact the DPW office to schedule this work.

The DPW remains committed to providing the highest level of service attainable with the dollars and manpower available to maintain our most valuable infrastructure for the people of Randolph.

By the time this annual report is published I will no longer be the DPW Supt. as I am retiring in early 2016 after 41 years of service to the Town of Randolph with the last 22 years serving as the DPW Supt. I cannot begin to list all of the Town departments, Boards, and Committees that I have had the privilege of working with and would like to say "thank you". **This thank you especially goes out to all of the outstanding DPW employees that I worked with and who supported me during my career. Without you I could not have done it!** I have made many long lasting friendships as a result of my job and look forward to continuing them as I move into the next phase of my life. I want to thank the citizens of Randolph for allowing me to serve them for the past 41 years.

Respectfully submitted:

David A. Zecchini  
DPW Supt. Retired