

2011 Public Works Annual Report

The first project completed this year by the public works department was the Lempster Mountain Rd. overlay. After requesting bids for overlaying one mile of the road, United Construction from Newport, NH was awarded the project. We used State Block Grant funds which are generated from the NH gas tax. The project cost was approximately \$55,000.00. We would like to complete the second mile to the Lempster Town line next year.

The public works department was approached by a group of enthusiastic gardeners in the Spring to see if we would be able to help construct a small garden plot behind the Town Hall. With donated time and materials, volunteers and some Town equipment, the community garden became a reality. There were 12 families involved in the garden in 2010.

The Town retired the 1972 Military Five ton plow truck this year. We found a 1994 Ford four wheel drive dump truck through the federal surplus program. The public works department purchased the truck for \$7,000.00 dollars from the Highway Equipment Capitol Reserve Fund. The retired military truck was scrapped and the Town received \$3,000.00 dollars at the scrap yard. The net cost of the new truck was approximately \$4,000.00 dollars. We painted the truck cab and chassis and mounted the new sander and plow controls with highway personnel saving significant money.

The Freezeland Pond Culvert project was completed this year. After the wetlands permit was approved by the Department of Environmental Services the concrete box culvert was ordered and delivered to the jobsite. This project was a challenge because of above normal rainfall that had fallen during the month of October. Utilizing a one day road closure, we removed the existing metal culvert and installed the box culvert and new head walls. The new culvert has greater capacity and will be in service significantly longer than the steel culvert that preceded it.

Hurricane Irene raced up the eastern seaboard in Late August and caused significant damage to Much of the East Coast. Washington's road infrastructure was impacted from the eight inches of rain that fell during the storm. Total damages as a result of flooded roads and bridges exceeded \$140,000.00 dollars. With the help of all Town departments Washington responded and was prepared. Two emergency department head meetings were held with the Selectmen to determine the level of staffing that would be needed should the Hurricane give Washington a direct hit. Resource lists were reviewed, shelters prepared, generators were fueled and started, and all response equipment was checked. The Washington Emergency Management Team did an outstanding job responding to the disaster. Emergency communications were never compromised and all departments worked well together until power and road access was restored to all residents in Town.

The Mill street crossing washed out and exposed the metal culvert. After the water receded, we inspected the culvert for damage and realized that it had failed as a result of the storm. Simply back filling the culvert was no longer possible and other options were investigated. With the help of FEMA and Hansen Bridge in New London, NH , the Selectmen held a public informational meeting at the Town hall to discuss the options for repair or replacement. It was decided that a culvert replacement would likely not be permitted by the State Department of Environmental Services. The discussion turned to installing a new bridge and spanning the brook. Permits were applied for and a new bridge structure was ordered. Spanning the brook with a new bridge offers several advantages. The new bridge will allow for the 100 yr flood design and will meet or exceed the ASHTO bridge load rating design criteria. All eligible bridge and road repairs will be reimbursed 75% by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The remaining 25% will be the responsibility of the Town.

As a result of the hurricane, the \$80,000.00 dollar bridge capitol reserve fund was used to reconstruct the Mill Street Bridge. The engineering for the Dole Rd. bridge construction scheduled for this year will be delayed until funding in 2012 is approved.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the, residents, town departments, and employees for their continued support of the Public Works Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward G. Thayer
Public Works Director