

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As directed by the Selectboard the town office worked on the following projects during 2017:

**Fire Department Study:** Building on documentation work done last year the Fire Department Study group has moved forward with plans to combine both independent fire departments into a single municipal department. An enabling vote is scheduled for the 2018 town meeting with the transformation to a single municipal fire department to be complete for 2019.

**Highway Department Study:** The study was completed this year giving the Selectboard a much clearer idea as to what the Plainfield Highway Department of the future might look like. This information will be critical as the design for a new public works facility begins to take shape in the coming years.

**Plainfield Cemetery Expansion:** The existing northern most access ramp was modified this year to improve sight lines for cars pulling out onto Route 12A. This improvement should making entering and exiting the lower part of the cemetery with a motor vehicle safer while plans continue for the eventual expansion of the cemetery into land set aside for this purpose many years ago.

**Solar:** A lot of effort and time was spent this year working on how the town will handle the permitting and assessing of large solar arrays going forward. The Ready for 100 Initiative, if approved at town meeting, will promote renewable energy making it more likely that more solar will be coming to town. An increase in the tax exemption for renewable energy systems from \$50,000 to \$300,000 is planned for the 2018 town meeting.

**Police Cruisers:** Working with the Selectboard and Finance Committee the town moved to a three cars every four year rotation. Rather than staggering the cars over their useful life the Police Chief recommended replacing all three every four years. The Finance Committee agreed with the logic and the existing financing package was restructured to accommodate this plan.

**Camp Road and Houser Lane Bridges:** Working with our highway team a lot of time and effort was put into developing a plan to replace both the Camp Road and Houser Lane bridges planned for 2018. Design, permitting and abutment repairs were completed in 2017 for Camp Road. An unanticipated windfall from the State of New Hampshire (SB 38) of funds earmarked specifically for infrastructure has allowed us to include the Houser Lane bridge into the 2018 plan. Hansen Bridge of New London NH has been contracted to replace both structures with wooden laminated bridges. The goal is to have the work completed by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

*Stephen Halleran, Town Administrator*