

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Memorandum

To: Sharon Ahern, Chief of Staff

From: Peter A. Chiaradio, Superintendent of Public Works

Date: October 12, 2010

Subject: DPW 2010/2011 Annual Report

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of the Town's Buildings and Grounds, the Town's Beach Facilities, and daily operation of the Highway, Recreation Maintenance and Solid Waste Divisions. Additionally, DPW has taken over the responsibility for maintenance of over 90 acres of school grounds as part of the consolidation program between the town and school.

The unprecedented flooding in the spring of 2010 presented many new challenges for the Public Works Department. Highway and Transfer Station personnel worked around the clock, including Easter Sunday, to secure flooded areas and operate two remote Transfer Station locations. Public works staff worked closely with FEMA representatives to obtain reimbursement for repairs to damaged roads, bridges and drains.

The Public Works Department is currently planning construction of a new Salt Shed, which is due to be completed by the end of 2010. Maintenance projects were completed at the Town Hall in late 2009 to refurbish and paint the exterior doors and windows, restore the second floor stairwell and hallway, and repoint the exterior granite steps.

Highway Department personnel are responsible for all snow removal and deicing of roads owned by the Town. During the winter of 2009/2010, over 600 of Westerly's roads were treated with more than 2,100 tons of sand and 835 tons of salt. Two street sweepers were in service during the spring and summer for road cleanup as well as one Vac-All for clearing storm drains. DPW cleaned over 800 catch basins during the past year. The Highway Department also addresses street signs, line striping, drainage repair and maintenance, brush cutting, guardrail replacement, pothole repairs and sidewalk replacement. Over \$230,000 was spent on road paving in conjunction with the Town's Overlay Program.

Highway personnel were also involved in setting up for special events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Relay for Life, Summer Pops, Bark in the Park, River Glow, Columbus Day Parade, Veteran's Day Parade, Santa's Arrival, Holiday Stroll and Luminaria, First Night and Polling Places for elections.

The Recreation Maintenance crew is responsible for the upkeep of the Town's six (6) baseball fields, three (3) playgrounds, the Soccer Complex, Rotary Park and all school grounds. They also maintain the lawns at the Police Station, the new DPW Facility, Westerly Senior Center, Train Station, Downtown Islands and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's boat ramp.

The Transfer Station crew had another busy year with ongoing improvements to the grounds and operation. Two new commodities have been added, the recycling of other plastics and fluorescent light bulb recycling. Work has been completed on a new brush drop off area with a concrete pad, block wall and surrounding asphalt. Landscaping has also been completed as part of our finished plan. 34,000 square feet of area has been paved including the main road inside the Transfer Station and other areas that were covered with gravel. A new 60' x 11' truck weighing scale was installed to replace the 22-year-old scale that had exceeded its life expectancy. The Transfer Station has maintained an A+ rating on our DEM Field Inspection Reports.

During the past year the Transfer Station processed the following quantities of solid waste: 35,200,000 pounds of trash, 4,070,000 pounds of brush and leaves, 2,812,000 pounds of recyclables, 3,254,000 pounds of paper, 7,588,000 pounds of demolition material, 976,000 pounds of E-Waste, 4,700 gallons of waste oil and 550 gallons of oil filters. Hazardous Waste Day, which was held in May 2010, was a huge success. Over 800 people disposed of 67,000 pounds of hazardous waste at no charge. This represented a savings of \$30,400 to the residents.

As in the past, Public Works Personnel will strive to provide the highest level of service to the residents of Westerly.