

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN 2008**

2008 has passed and seems to have been a very long year. In January we were faced with our first challenge due to the unfortunate resignation of Town Director Carolyn Emerson after fifteen years of dedicated service to the Town. After some shifting and hiring the Selectmen's Office ended up with three employees, Selectmen's Assistant Dawn Chabot, Selectmen's Secretary Andria Hansen (formerly a member of the Building Dept.), and part-time Finance Director Beth St. Pierre. Sharon Carrier is our new part-time employee in the Land Use Office. All of the employees are doing a great job.

In March, Selectman Brennan resigned due to a residency change and the Board appointed Carleton Robie as his replacement. Carleton is a native of Candia and immediately proved to be an asset by first working with volunteer David Murray to finish the long overdue Pond Park Gazebo. Selectman Robie then worked hard in completing the Federal requirements of the Pond Project which resulted in the \$36,425.00 reimbursement.

Due to the economy and a bottom dollar budget — this year was trying. The Town Hall was hit with unexpected sewer and electrical problems. In addition to that, the town experienced floods, ice storms and record-breaking snowfalls resulting in an over-expenditure of \$124,255 from the Highway Department bottom line budget. Plus the economic situation brought many people in town reaching out for direct assistance. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen expenses the Board had to make an emergency over-expenditure request to the Department of Revenue (DRA). We were informed by DRA representatives that 27 other communities across the state filed emergency request as well. Hopefully this year our budget will be enough to cover all of our expenses that seem to rise each month.

The police and fire departments have been busier this year. Bad economy seems to drive up crime for all towns.

We did some repairs to the town office building but there is still work to be done. Thanks to the newly established Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund the Board was able to start some of the repairs.

There are a few new businesses in town and the new court house seems to be busy. We are still working on getting a supermarket in town, but the economy has slowed that process considerably.

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all the other departments, committees, and volunteers who help keep the town moving forward throughout the year. We would like to wish everyone a better year in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Kelley, Chairman