

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**MASON SEEKS ROAD AGENT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Mason, NH, July 28, 2014. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Mason are seeking candidates for two open positions in town, Road Agent, and Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen. Please send your resume to Board of Selectmen, 16 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048.

Road Agent Fred Greenwood resigned unexpectedly effective May 10, 2014, by letter dated May 1, 2014. Until a full time or interim road agent is appointed by the Selectmen, senior highway department employee Roy Lundstedt is ably managing day to day operations, and selectman Bernie O'Grady is acting as liaison between the highway department and the Board of Selectmen. The Board is grateful to Mr. Greenwood for his years of service to the town, and to Mr. Lundstedt for his willingness to fill in until a full time road agent is hired.

Long time Administrative Assistant Barbara Milkovits retired on Thursday, July 25, 2014. Mrs. Milkovits announced her intention to retire by letter dated May 1, 2014, with retirement effective November 1, 2014. Mrs. Milkovits had been the assistant to the selectmen for 24 years. The Board of Selectmen and Mrs. Milkovits, through their respective attorneys, reached an agreement under which Mrs. Milkovits was permitted to retire early and was given three months of salary as a severance package, along with her regular retirement benefits.

While Mrs. Milkovits was on leave from the end of October 2013 to mid-April 2014, due to a motor vehicle accident, the Board of Selectmen assessed the work flow in the Selectmen's office and determined that changes were warranted. Many of the financial and bookkeeping tasks formerly performed by the Administrative Assistant are now contracted to Accukeep, Inc. The Administrative Assistant, when the position is filled, will be responsible for monthly reconciliations, Department of Revenue Administration filings, assessment records, timber tax processing, accepting land use applications, human resources, and for answering the phone and responding to walk-in inquiries. Until the position is filled the selectmen and/or temporary employees will perform the work of the Administrative Assistant.

The Board of Selectmen views the departure of the Road Agent and Administrative Assistant as challenges, but also as an opportunity to make both departments more professional, efficient, and cost effective. In the past year, the Board has had to deal with a considerable amount of sniping, backstabbing, and uncooperativeness in the highway department and between administrative employees and the Town Clerk's office. Critical information was not reaching the selectmen in a timely manner, and there was unwillingness to accept the restructuring of the administrative department. Despite these frictions, the Board of Selectmen has not fired, demoted, disciplined or reduced the pay of any town employees. The Road Agent, Administrative Assistant and one other administrative employee left on their own accord.

State and Federal privacy laws severely restrict the release of personnel information by municipal employers, and the Town of Mason respects the privacy of its employees. Therefore the Board cannot discuss the reasons for and terms of separation from employment specific to an individual employee, beyond those presented here.

The Board of Selectmen take seriously their charge to "manage the prudential affairs of the town." Despite the disruptions and distractions of recent months, the Selectmen have remained focused on the cost-effective management of all town departments. The Board certainly hopes that the Town does not lose any more key personnel in the near future, but views this period of change as an opportunity to hire the right people with the right attitude to keep Mason moving forward, for the benefit of our taxpayers and citizens.

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