



Selectboard Chair Greg Sheehan and Jennifer Wolowicz
The Personnel Officer acts as the professional advisor to
the Personnel Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Wolowicz
Personnel Officer/Chief Procurement Officer

Information Technology (IT) Department

The Information Technology department continues to fulfill its crucial role of supporting the Town's current information technology and planning ahead to meet its future technology needs. As noted in last year's report, in FY 2008, the Selectboard formed a Technology Committee to review and assess present technology and advise the Selectboard on the design and purchase of new technology. The committee was broken down into subcommittees in the areas of Customer Service, Infrastructure and Security, MUNIS, GIS, Staff Training, Interdepartmental Communications, and Website Development. The twelve-member committee met twice and, among other things, researched the cost and benefits of various options for providing internet connectivity in the years ahead. Some of the options discussed include a fiber optic network to be provided by SHELD, a VPN network, and retaining the current internet access provided by Comcast. Obtaining wireless internet access for Town Hall was identified as a high priority.

The town's website (www.southhadley.org) continues to serve as a resource to residents and a clearing house for information on local news and events. On March 19, 2009, Common Cause of Massachusetts recognized South Hadley's commitment to providing access via the internet by awarding the town an e-Government award. To qualify, a town or city must post their governing body's agenda and minutes, budget information, general by-laws, and town meeting warrants and results. South Hadley was one of 119 municipalities throughout the Commonwealth to meet these criteria. As this Town Report went to press,

Town Meeting members had voted to create a Town Meeting Electronic Communication Advisory Committee to make recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of electronic communications to Town Meeting members. The IT Department looks forward to working with this group to implement their recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Evans
Information Technology Director

Intervenor Status Committee

The Intervenor Status Committee (ISC) was formed by the Board of Selectmen in 1995 to advise the Town on the relicensing of the hydroelectric facilities at the Holyoke Dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license to the Holyoke Water Power Company (HWP) for the Project in August 1999. Subsequent to issuance of the license, the dam and the license were transferred in 2001 from HWP to Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E). As a result of the efforts by the ISC and other Town officials, the license included certain conditions binding on the license holder which affect the Town regarding Channel Marking, the Texon Building redevelopment, creation of a riverfront park, Cove Island, and erosion control.

Development of the Comprehensive Recreation & Land Management Plan (CRLMP) in consultation with numerous parties including the Town of South Hadley was a key condition imposed on the license holder by FERC. Intended to address the dam's impacts on the impoundment area, this plan interconnects many of the other conditions and issues involved with relicensing of the Holyoke Dam.

The past year saw the ISC continue efforts toward implementation of the license, CRLMP, and related project plans. ISC members work towards facilitating cooperation among the participating agencies to expedite projects. In this vein, the ISC functions more in the capacity as a mechanism for coordinating the various departments and agencies of the Town that have jurisdiction over specific aspects of the licensee's activities.

During the fourteenth year of its functioning, the ISC concentrated on efforts to work with Holyoke Gas & Electric to implement projects required by the CRLMP and the license. Three principal aspects of the CRLMP and license conditions occupied the ISC this year: monitoring efforts by a Holyoke developer to redevelop the Texon building and property, development of a system of parks stretching from the Gatehouse above the dam to the 116 Bridge, and management of the impoundment area in the vicinity of the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Resource Conservation Area.