



# Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 44

2017

### President's Message



Welcome to spring!

Although the weather has been challenging, as most winters are, better weather is to come. We are all busy with pothole repair, and soon roadwork will begin and crews will be geared up for the many road projects in their community.

There are many MHA events scheduled this year, with our Annual Meeting being held on May 4 at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton MA. Speaking about Storm Water Phase 2 permits at this meeting will be Newton Tedder, United States EPA; Fred Civian, Mass DEP; and Martin Suuberg, Commissioner Mass DEP. Tim Chorey, DFG Division of Ecological Restoration. There will also be an update from Victoria Sclafani, Legislative Analyst, Massachusetts Municipal Association.

I want to remind everyone of the inherent dangers of our work, remember all those who have been tragically injured and killed, and specifically remember Warren Cowles who passed away from an accident while plowing the streets of Longmeadow. The DPW family should be commended for the show of support at Mr. Cowles service. It will always be remembered by his family.

On a happier note, many vendors have already registered to join us at the New England Public Works

*continued on page 2*

### SHNS: Road Fix Bill Still in Committee as Spring Dawns

by Michael P. Norton

On Tuesday, March 21, municipal officials called on lawmakers to raise to \$300 million Governor Charlie Baker's proposed \$200 million outlay for local road and bridge repairs, citing a \$639 million estimate of the cost of bringing 30,000 road miles into a state of good repair, based on a 2014 survey of municipal road repair needs.

The 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts received a \$300 million allocation in 2015 and the Massachusetts Municipal Association encouraged lawmakers to return annual funding for the Chapter 90 program to that level and get behind a multi-year authorization to foster improved local project planning.

On the first full day of spring, municipal officials indicated that they hoped the local road funding bill would be approved within ten days.

"In order to avoid frustrating and costly delays in the start of the 2017 spring construction season, we respectfully request that the Committee act on this bill as soon as possible," MMA Executive Director and CEO Geoff Beckwith wrote in testimony at the time. "It is important for the Legislature to enact a new Chapter 90 authorization before April 1. An on-time authorization is essential, because when cities and towns are forced to bid, award and start work on projects in a significantly shortened construction season, bid responses tend to be the most expensive, making repair work much more costly for local taxpayers."

At a House Bonding Committee hearing, Rep. Kevin Kuros of Uxbridge asked state highway administrator Thomas Tinlin if there was talk within Baker's team about boosting the annual allocation to \$300 million, since the costs of asphalt, labor and other items are always rising.

Testifying with Registrar of Motor Vehicles Erin Deveney, state Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin said \$1 billion over five years for the local road repair program known as Chapter 90 is not "chump

change" and noted that some municipalities don't spend down their allotted sum each year.

When asked about the unspent balances, Tinlin told the News Service that unspent funds under the program since 2000 totaled \$350 million to \$380 million. In some cases, he said, municipalities stockpiled funds and then spent them on more expensive projects that could not be completed in one year.

Committee chair Rep. Antonio Cabral asked Tinlin "what has changed" in the administration since Baker supported a \$300 million allocation in 2015.

*continued on page 2*

### Annual Meeting to be Held on May 4

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Highway Association will be held on Thursday, May 4 at the Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Armsby Road in Sutton. The featured speaker will be MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg who will speak on Storm Phase 2 Primary for MA. Speakers will include Newton Tedder from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Fred Civian from MassDEP who will discuss New Storm Phase 2 permits; Victoria Sclafani, Legislative Analyst from Massachusetts Municipal Association who will provide a Legislative Update; and Tim Chorey, DFG Division of Ecological Restoration, who will present Culverts – Stream Restoration.

The new officers of the association will be announced and the annual awards and scholarships will be presented at this meeting. The official notice, registration form and ballot have been mailed.

To get to the Pleasant Valley Country Club, take the Mass Pike to Exit 10A and then 146S.

## President's Message, cont'd.

Expo on Sept 20 and 21 in Boxborough. We are proud to say that this expo has been highly successful and is the largest expo in New England. We will be offering free educational seminars and equipment demonstrations once again.

In addition, 2018 is a milestone for the organization. The Massachusetts Highway Association is approaching its 125th anniversary and we are very excited to announce that we will be presenting an anniversary Gala on June 2, 2018 in Boston. Please mark your calendar for a fabulous night of celebration.

I would like to finish by thanking the Massachusetts Municipal Association for their continued work on MHA's behalf. I look forward to seeing you all at our different events.

*Regards,*

Chris Cronin, President

## Baystate Roads Announces Public Works Academy

*By Brenda Codella, Program Coordinator,  
UMass Transportation Center*

Baystate Roads has announced a new Public Works Academy, which will provide the basic fundamental technical skills and knowledge for individuals who are new, or have been working up to three years in the public works profession. Each candidate will be required to attend one class each week for six weeks.

Courses being offered in the Public Works Academy include: Basics of a Good Road, Flagger Certification/First Aid, Snow & Ice Operations, Work Zone Safety, OSHA 10 and Trenching & Excavation. The Spring Public Works Academy filled up quickly; however, additional sessions will be offered in fall, 2017.

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## SHNS: Road Fix Bill Still in Committee, cont'd.

Tinlin said that in the past, the annual allocation was \$150 million and again referenced the fact that funds granted under the program are not always "spent down." A new program aimed at helping cities and towns rebuild small bridges has also augmented the Chapter 90 program, he said.

While Tinlin faced questions about a \$300 million allocation, several committee members did not indicate they plan to pursue that goal. One committee member, Rep. Mike Connolly of Cambridge, said he supported more funding for transportation and looked forward to consideration of a proposed constitutional amendment adding a surtax on incomes above \$1 million and dedicating nearly \$2 billion to education and transportation spending.

The Governor filed his \$200 million Chapter 90 bill (H 73) on February 16th. The Transportation Committee recommended a redraft (H 2783) on March 13 that included Baker's request for \$70 million in additional borrowing to complete the Registry of Motor Vehicles' core information technology system replacement, known as the ATLAS system.

State transportation officials had until April 1st to issue a notice to cities and towns advising them on how much Chapter 90 funding they can expect to receive. The Massachusetts House unanimously approved a \$200 million Chapter 90 bond bill (H 2783). The Senate version of the bill was expected to go through the Senate for approval in early April before being signed by Governor Baker.

## 2017 New England Public Works Expo

**T**he 38th Annual New England Public Works Expo, sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association will be held on September 20 and 21 at the Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn Boxborough) in Boxborough.

The planning and vendor sign up is in full swing. Over 150 vendors are expected to showcase their equipment, products and services. Attendees can enjoy complimentary admission, BBQ and door prizes each day. There will also be educational seminars and antique equipment displays.

Check us out on-line at [nepublicworksexpo.org](http://nepublicworksexpo.org).

## Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

*By Chris Bouchard, Co-chairman*

The Massachusetts Highway Association is preparing for another great event this year which is tentatively scheduled for July 19. We are planning to hold two events again this year, the single axle truck and wheel loader.

The MHA Board of Directors is continuing its support of this training event and hopes to continue to send teams to the national finals in Colorado to represent Massachusetts.

This training would not be possible without the help and support of the cities, towns, Baystate Roads Program and vendors that participate in the event and help with judging and running the event.

## **DEL Pneumatic Controls Valves for Municipal Snowplow Vehicles.**



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# Gov. Baker Files Bill to Obtain Authority Over Water Quality Program

Reprinted from the April 2017 issue of *The Beacon*, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association

by Victoria Sclafani

Gov. Charlie Baker announced on March 8 that his administration has filed legislation that would begin the process for the state to obtain authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration to administer the federal water quality program.



The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program includes permits, compliance, inspection and enforcement activities for facilities, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants, that discharge effluent into surface waters, as well as stormwater managed by more than 260 cities and towns.

Massachusetts is among only four states that do not currently administer the program at the state level.

“Massachusetts has a proud history of working to protect and improve water quality, and this legislation will provide greater certainty for the Commonwealth once federal authority for this program is placed into the hands of our state experts,” said Gov. Baker. “By joining 46 other states with the federal delegation, the Commonwealth will be able to implement a strong, science-based program focused on protecting our natural resources. With its comprehensive knowledge of the

Commonwealth’s water bodies and communities; [the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection] is uniquely suited to write permits that will protect our state’s waters.”

The legislation would make 16 technical changes to state law in order to be consistent with the federal Clean Water Act. In addition, the legislation would explicitly authorize the MassDEP to apply to the EPA for delegated authority.

The MMA has supported the Baker administration in its efforts to pursue delegated authority over the NPDES program, citing the strong relationship between the DEP and cities and towns, and how delegation could provide flexibility for cities and towns and more opportunities for integrated water management.

State Auditor Suzanne Bump released a statement calling the governor’s proposal “the right decision for municipalities because it will help create a more holistic water regulatory system, providing a simpler process for permitting projects.” The auditor also suggested that the Legislature consider other funding mechanisms for the program in addition to annual appropriations.

The auditor’s Division of Local Mandates released a report earlier this year recommending that the Legislature pass a bill to allow MassDEP to move forward in its efforts to pursue delegated authority.

The municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) permit, issued by the EPA last year, falls under the NPDES program. The MassDEP co-issued the new five-year MS4 permit with the EPA, but does not have delegated authority. If Massachusetts becomes a delegated state, the DEP would administer future MS4 permits.

The governor’s budget proposes \$1.4 million to begin the process of having the MassDEP assume delegated authority from the EPA to oversee the NPDES program. The \$1.4 million would fund 12 DEP staff positions to begin the transition to becoming the lead agency. The MassDEP estimates that administration of the program will cost \$4.7 million annually.

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## ■ Barnstable — Neil Andres

- Barnstable County will hold its annual New Seabury Golf Tournament on June 5, 2017.

## ■ Berkshire — Chris Bouchard

The Highway Association has a great season of workshops and meetings planned:

- On April 27, the First Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club, in Lanesborough. Kathy Stevens, MA DOT District 1 State Aid Eng., will give a presentation on the Chapter 90 program.
- On June 16, the 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough.
- On June 22, the Second Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough.
- On August 24, the Third Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Italian American Club in Pittsfield.
- On September 15, the 33rd Annual Equipment Show and Picnic will be held in Hinsdale at the Hinsdale Fire Assn. pavilion.
- On October 26, the 38th Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Scholarship Awards will be held at the Italian American Club in Pittsfield.

## ■ Essex — Lisa DeMeo

New Essex County Highway Association (ECHA) officers are Mike Hale, DPW Director in Gloucester, President; Aaron Ciluffo, of Danvers, First Vice President; and Lisa DeMeo, of Lowell, Second Vice President.

Andover is looking at, and working with, MassDOT regarding winter chemical use and hopes to have data to share prior to the winter of 2018–2019.

ECHA Trade Show was held on April 4 at DiBurro's in Haverhill, with approximately 15 teams participating in the Driver Skills Training competition.

ECHA Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 1. The location is being finalized.

## ■ Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex — Joseph Flanagan

NBM has several exciting and informative seminars planned. The Spring Technical Session was held at Cotali Mar Restaurant in New Bedford on April 12th. Topics included:

- MS4 permitting
- Resiliency steps to Flood Proofing
- Innovative Training with Bay State Roads
- Composite Paving Solutions
- Fleet Bids

On May 3, NBM will sponsor its annual equipment show at the Wellesley DPW. Technical Education Products of Hampden, MA will have their equipment simulator on site for viewing and they have been generous enough to help host an equipment operator competition with the simulator. The winner will receive a prize

for their efforts. Sign up and show your skills against the best operators in Public Works. We are also open to see if anyone would like to perform a demonstration of new equipment/techniques during the show. Please email Marc Valenti or Kevin Johnson with your ideas at [mvalenti@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:mvalenti@lexingtonma.gov) and [kjohnson@brooklinema.gov](mailto:kjohnson@brooklinema.gov). Without your continued participation, we would not be able to make it a successful and enjoyable event.

The annual scholarship golf tournament will be held on July 12 at the Brookmeadow Golf Club in Canton. During the past year, NBM provided eight student scholarships, and have donated over \$200K towards education since this scholarship started.

The NBM 2016 Vendor of the year is CN Wood and our 2016 member of the year is Mike Valenti of Pembroke.

Visit the NBM website at [nbmhighway.com](http://nbmhighway.com). and add it to your favorites for future educational and training events.

## ■ Plymouth — John Haines

Plymouth County Highway Association distributed more than \$14,000 this quarter to nine scholarship recipients at the monthly business meeting. Our regular monthly meeting schedule will continue throughout Plymouth County on the third Thursday of every month, through June.

Work continued through the winter on the \$7 million Route 14 TIP project, which includes full depth excavation, curbing and sidewalks.

Pembroke is 70% complete with a 3.35 megawatt solar project. This project will generate revenue and power cost savings for the town of approximately \$10 million through the next 20 years.

## ■ Tri-County — David Desrosiers

On March 23, Tri-County Highway Superintendents Association held its well-attended winter meeting at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton, with Scott Penniman speaking about slurry sanders and liquid deicing systems. Several new members received votes of approval and were accepted into the organization. Thanks to Joe Pipczynski for his efforts to canvas the area and encourage new DPW directors and Highway Superintendents to join the organization.

As you have read in this issue of the newsletter, the Town of Longmeadow lost a longtime DPW/Highway employee in a recent accident. Our deepest condolences go out to the family and fellow employees of Warren Cowles. Warren was killed in a train accident while plowing for the Town of Longmeadow on March 14, 2017.

It was sad but quite amazing to see the number of DPW employees from all over the Northeast who came out on March 24th to participate in the funeral and procession. I'm sure it will help the family deal with their tragic loss. It was an impressive show of solidarity and support. Special thanks to all the organizations, Tri-County highway superintendents, Berkshire County Highway Superintendents, Mass Highway Association and American Public Works Association and all others who helped muster such a large tribute to our colleague.

## ■ Worcester – Scott Crisafulli

The next Business Meeting will be held on April 18 at Cyprian Keys in Boylston.

# At Hearings, MMA Calls for Chapter 90 Increase

Reprinted from the April 2017 issue of *The Beacon*, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

by Victoria Sclafani

At legislative committee hearings last month, the MMA testified in support of a funding increase for the Chapter 90 local road program to \$300 million per year in a multi-year bill.

Gov. Charlie Baker filed a transportation bond bill in February that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 program. The bill would make a technical change to remove a requirement that an appropriation be made by the local legislative body in order to use Chapter 90 funds. The bill also has \$70 million for upgrades to the Registry of Motor Vehicles information technology system.

At a March 6 public hearing before the Joint Committee on Transportation, MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith spoke about the importance of Chapter 90 to cities and towns. He said the MMA's 2014 Chapter 90 survey found that cities and towns need \$639 million annually to keep 30,000 miles of local roads in a state of good repair, the industry standard.

Also testifying as a part of the MMA panel were Marlborough Mayor Arthur Vigeant, Mount Washington Selectman Jim Lovejoy, and Franklin Public Works Director Robert "Brutus" Cantoreggi.

## Chapter 90 Working Group

by Chris Bouchard, group member

MassDOT is working with the Governor's first executive order creating the Community Compact Cabinet, in order to elevate the Administration's partnerships with cities and towns in all communities of the Commonwealth. This is one of the ways the Administration has launched transportation partnerships with cities and towns.

As part of this ongoing partnership, Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin has invited a member from each of the MassDOT Districts to participate in a working group to get municipal feedback on how to improve the Chapter 90 program and make it more user-friendly. Some examples of what the group is working on include expanded equipment and material purchases, efficiencies in the contracting and

The panel discussed the importance of a multi-year bill, which would allow communities to plan ahead and use funds more efficiently, and the need for quick action so that cities and towns receive funds by April 1 each year and avoid construction cost increases caused by delays.

The MMA also presented its case at a hearing before the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets on March 21.

Through the Chapter 90 program, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation reimburses cities and towns for costs incurred for eligible transportation projects. Chapter 90 funding is distributed to cities and towns through a formula that takes into account population, road miles and employment.

MassDOT is in the process of updating its five-year capital investment plan, and the MMA submitted comments in March asking for an increase in Chapter 90 to \$300 million annually. The administration funded Chapter 90 at \$200 million per year in MassDOT's five-year Capital Investment Plan for 2017-2022.

As *The Beacon* went to press, legislators were advancing a smaller, one-year \$200 million Chapter 90 bill, citing concerns this year about bonding capacity and state revenues.



project development processes, payments, asset management and possible electronic submission of forms.

Hopefully, by the release of the new 10-year contract, some of the changes this group is working on will also be released. One of things we were not tasked with is changes to the formula or funding amounts to the cities and towns.

*(Editors' note: As we go to press, the House has passed the \$200 million Chapter 90 bill and the Senate was expected to take up the bill on April 5. The Senate is considering passing a two-year bill with a \$200 million allocation each year. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a bill will have been finalized, passed and signed by the Governor.)*

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# MassDOT Seeks Comments on Capital Investment Plan

Reprinted from the March 2017 issue of *The Beacon*, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association

by Victoria Sclafani

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is beginning the process of updating its five-year Capital Investment Plan.

The CIP that was approved last year will receive updates for fiscal 2018 through 2021 and will have programming added for fiscal 2022.

The five-year CIP determines how MassDOT and the MBTA prioritize transportation investments in the Commonwealth. The CIP focuses on three priorities: reliability, modernization and expansion.

MassDOT sought comments from stakeholders through March 17. The department will then release draft revisions to the CIP and hold public meetings in May.

Improvements to the CIP process include alignment with the annual development of the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The CIP approved last year funds the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program at \$200 million per year. The MMA submitted comments on the plan calling for an increase to \$300 million annually. The MMA argued that the higher funding level would begin to enable cities and towns to maintain roads in a state of good repair and would save money on reconstruction over time. The MMA also reiterated the importance of a multi-year bond bill, which would allow communities to plan ahead and use resources more effectively.

The CIP includes \$50 million over five years for the municipal small bridge program and \$50 million for the complete streets program.

Comments on the Capital Investment Plan may be submitted online at: [www.massdot.state.ma.us/InformationCenter/CapitalInvestmentPlan.aspx](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/InformationCenter/CapitalInvestmentPlan.aspx) or by email to [masscip@state.ma.us](mailto:masscip@state.ma.us).



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## Vermont Equipment Show & Field Day



The Vermont Municipal Highway Association will sponsor the 35th Annual Equipment Show & Field Day on Wednesday, May 10 at the Barre Municipal Civic Center, Barre, VT. Admission to the event is free. Tickets for lunch are \$15 and must be reserved in advance before April 28 by emailing [Debbie Armstrong at debbie@agcvt.org](mailto:Debbie.Armstrong@agcvt.org).



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## Annual Charity Golf Outing

The Annual Massachusetts Highway Association Charity Golf Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, at Brookmeadow Golf Club in Canton.

### • • • NEWSLETTER UPDATE • • •

This spring 2017 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, and is also on the MHA website at [masshwy.org](http://masshwy.org). If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the Newsletter electronically, please contact editor Bill Elovirta, at [bille@msn.com](mailto:bille@msn.com) and give him your email address. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or directly to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in the fall.

## Retirements, New Appointments, Promotions and Awards

**Tim Olson** is the new DPW Director in Hamilton. He was previously the Assistant DPW Director in Rockport.

**Carlos Jaquez, PE** is the new DPW Director in Lawrence. He was most recently at MassDOT Dist. 4 and was with the Town of Tewksbury prior to that.

**Eric Larsen**, Deputy Director for Provincetown DPW, has moved to the private sector.

**Roger Parson**, Barnstable Town Engineer is retiring.

**Sean VanDeusen**, former Lenox Public Works Supervisor has succeeded Joe Sokul who has retired as Superintendent of Public Works in the Town of Great Barrington.

**Bill Gop** has replaced Sean VanDeusen in the Town of Lenox.

**Joe Frost** has replaced Robert Dextraze as Tree Warden in the Town of Cummington.

**Gary Mitchell** has replaced Brendon Dekoschak as Highway Superintendent in the Town of Hawley.

**Peter Lefebvre** retired on April 7 from the Town of Cheshire. Pete started in October 1979 and has been superintendent since 1987. He hopes he has plowed his last blizzard and will not miss getting up to check to see if it is snowing. He is proud of always keeping the fleet up and running. After taking some trips he will probably work part time for a local tractor dealer.

North Andover DPW Director **Bruce Thibodeau** of Marblehead has retired after nine years. He is highly regarded by neighboring communities as a Director who helped build strong working relationships. He is the immediate past President of Essex County Highway Association.

**Jim Stanford** is the new DPW Director in North Andover. Jim has worked in Bedford, NH and Concord, MA. He lives in Salem, NH.

**Andrew Lafferty** is the new DPW Director in North Reading. Andrew most recently was the director in Lynnfield.

**John Tomasz** is the new DPW Director in Lynnfield. He had been at the DPW in Salem, MA.

**David Knowlton** has the new title of DPW Director/City Engineer in Salem. With the departure of John Tomasz to Lynnfield, Salem re-organized and combined the DPW and Engineering functions under David. David is a past president of MHA.

**Don Levesque** is retiring as the Town of Salisbury's DPW Director, a position he held for 22 years. Don is known as "the chief cook and bottle washer" due to his handling of anything that came his way.

**Don Nason** has retired from the WCHA Board of Directors. We wish him luck at his new position with the Sudbury DPW.

**Tim Killheart**, from Hubbardston has accepted a new position with the Sudbury DPW.

**Richard Nota** has retired as the DPW Director from Harvard.

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# Longmeadow DPW Mourns One of its Own

by Bill Elovirta, Newsletter Editor

On Tuesday, March 14, during Winter Storm Stella, fueled with blizzard conditions, a Longmeadow DPW employee was killed when an Amtrak plow train collided with his truck while he was plowing a road crossing.

Longmeadow Town Manager, Stephen Crane, said that 59-year-old Warren Cowles of Longmeadow was driving a town plow truck around 4 p.m. when an Amtrak train hit the truck as it was crossing the tracks at Tina Lane, also known as Birnie Road. Crane noted that Cowles died instantly after the collision. Amtrak spokesperson Mike Tolbert said that the train was a plow train that was working to clear snow from the tracks.

Crane added that Cowles, who was known as “Cowlesie” by those in the department, was a working foreman for the DPW and had worked for the town for 29 years. “Cowlesie’s ‘get it done’ attitude was infectious. His positive attitude and work ethic brought out the best in everyone he worked with. We will miss him every day,” said Longmeadow DPW Director Mario Mazza in a statement.

While Crane said that the initial indication is that this was a “tragic accident,” the incident remains under investigation by Longmeadow Police, Mass. State Police, and Amtrak Police. Retired Longmeadow DPW Director, Mike Wrabel, said, “Cowlesie was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

On Friday, March 24, over 400 DPW trucks and employees attended the funeral of Warren Cowles. A two-mile procession of trucks under state police escort left the Big “E” grounds in West Springfield and proceeded via the Mass Pike to St. Mary’s Cemetery in Westfield where DPW employees in their yellow safety jackets lined the main road into the cemetery.

In a Springfield “Republican” article by Greg Saulmon, Cindy J. Cowles, one of Warren Cowles’ seven brothers and sisters said, “We would like to thank all the DPW workers from Massachusetts and across the Northeast who took the time to provide an honor guard, which was well deserved for Warren. This act deeply touched our family.” She explained that in the days after her brother was killed in the collision, his co-workers asked for her permission to send a contingent of trucks for the funeral procession. They also sought her blessing to wear their department shirts to the wake and funeral services. She agreed — as long as the shirts were new and clean. “They’re like my brother’s second family,” she said of his colleagues. “He was with them all the time.”



**Warren Cowles**, Longmeadow DPW (see separate article)

.....  
**Jason J. Sanderson**, 28, of Carver passed away accidentally on November 19, 2016. He had worked as a mechanic for the Middleboro Water Department for the last 13 years. He had been working on a side job using a cut-off saw when it kicked back, cutting him.

.....  
**Norman L. Diegoli**, 91, of Middleboro passed away on November 27, 2016. He was a retired engineer with the Massachusetts Highway Department. For the last 36 years, he had worked doing highway maintenance for Bartlett Company.

.....  
**David McAdams**, of Newton DPW died on March 28, 2017 while working.



Photo by Chris Bouchard