

Standish – Long time Town Manager Gordon Billington has announced his retirement, finishing his career after 16 years of service to the Town of Standish.

Mr. Billington will stay on as Town Manager until his replacement is selected.

The Council will start the process of hiring a new Town Manager immediately. In early discussions it was decided that the Council will look to hire a consulting firm to assist in a national search for a new Town Manager. The process is expected to last 3 to 4 months meaning that the Council is looking to have a new Town Manager in September of this year.

On his time as Town Manager, Mr. Billington states *“Working for the Town of Standish has been an experience I will cherish forever. This has been a capstone to my career from the gracious Councilors to the supportive staff and residents. It’s been great being a part of your family”*.



Although saddened, the current Town Council understood his desire to retire and wish him all the best.

*“It was very hard for me to sit down with Mr. Billington and have to accept his resignation. I have nothing but respect and admiration for him. He truly loves this Town and has made it a better place to live and I am honored to have been able to work with him during his tenure here”* said Council Chair Steven Nesbitt.

Councilor Greg Sirpis adds *“Mr. Billington has been an asset to the people of Standish for a very long time. He has been a driving force in positioning Standish into a viable economic community, a wonderful and affordable place to live and raise a family. Through his leadership...Standish is what it is today, he leaves very big shoes to fill and we wish him the very best”*.

Sixteen years is a long time to serve as a Town Manager and in that time Mr. Billington earned the trust and respect from everyone on the Town staff.

*“Gordy has been supportive of the parks and recreation department’s projects and activities. He has offered guidance whenever I needed it and I’ve appreciated his willingness to allow our department to try new things”* states Recreation Department Director Jen DeRice.

Chief Caron adds *“Gordy has been one of the most compassionate and trusting bosses that I have ever worked for ... I continue to learn from him on a daily basis, whether it’s the way he talks or the manner in which he interacts with people, I’m always gaining something from him. I’d like to thank him for all he has done not just for the town but for me as an individual”*.

During his tenure, Standish has seen considerable growth under his leadership.

*“Gordy's progressive thinking, whether it be working on ordinances or improvements to the Town's infrastructure, kept the Town moving in a very positive direction. His progressive leadership also led the Town through some tough economic times. It truly has been great to work for someone with the leadership skills that Gordy possesses”* said Public Works Director Roger Mosley.

Mr. Billington is a lifelong resident of Standish having graduated from Standish High School with the class of 1958. Subsequently he attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado graduating as a Second Lieutenant in the US Air Force in 1962. He served in the US Air Force until 1991, rising to the rank of Colonel. While in the Air Force he flew jet fighters and was stationed at multiple locations worldwide where he had the privilege of commanding jet fighter organizations. Upon his Air Force retirement in 1991 he relocated back to Standish where he earned his Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from the Muskie Institute in 1995. Following an internship in Governor King's office he joined the Maine Department of Labor as the Director of Operations. During this period, he also became a Standish Town Councilor serving as Chair in 1999.

On February 1, 2001, he was appointed as interim Manager for the Town of Standish becoming the full time Manager in May of that year. Some of the key improvements that the Town has experienced under his tenure are: Opening a new combined Municipal and Public Safety building which later was expanded to include a community meeting room, modernizing the public works facility, becoming a GrowSmart Maine Model Town for its adoption of form based code ordinances for the Standish Corner Village, reconstruction of Boundary road and other thoroughfares throughout the town, realignment of Oak Hill road/Route 25 intersection with a new access road and sidewalks, construction of a new boat launch facility on Sebago Lake along with a new playground and skateboard park at Johnson Field in the Sebago Lake Village, sidewalks and playground in Steep Falls Village, and opening a new public beach and ice fishing access facility for Standish residents on Sebago Lake.

Mr. Billington has been married to his wife Carol for 43 years. Carol has been a longtime volunteer for the Town serving on its Planning Board since 1994. She chaired the Town's Comprehensive Plan of 2006. They will be retiring together to a new home they are building on family land on Snow Pond in Sidney Maine. They are planning a future of leisure, golf and travelling

For more information, contact Standish Town Hall at (207) 642-3461



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