TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Justin Sultzbach, Town Manager

DATE: July 25th, 2022

RE: Opioid Settlement Funds

Board Members,

Payments for the National Opioid Settlement have been settled and are being dispersed as of the start of this fiscal year. $210,257,785 will be dispersed throughout communities in Massachusetts over the next 17 years. Of that figure, Winchendon will be receiving $384,923. These amounts are estimates as provided by the attached “Estimated Maximum Municipal Abatement Payments to Participating Subdivisions, By Year” document provided by the Attorney General’s Office.

Also attached in your packet you will find a document highlighting the recommended “Municipal Use of Abatement Funds”. This list from the Commonwealth identifies strategies for the use of this funding. In the words of this document, “Municipalities are encouraged to pool abatement funds to increase their impact”. With this in mind, I have been working closely with Representative Zlotnik’s Office to identify regionalized opportunities that will help stretch the impact of Winchendon’s dollar further.

With this in mind, included in your packet you will find a rough draft of an initiative being spearheaded by the City of Gardner to apply funding towards GAAMHA, a regional substance use disorder service provider that services Northern Worcester Country. While we are not required to participate in this agreement, it would be an appropriate use of the funds. A decision does not need to be made immediately, but I did want to make the board aware of allowable uses for the funding and to at minimum start a conversation about their use.