



## **Report of the Town Manager**

**May 8, 2017**

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### **1. Financial Updates-**

- a. The Commonwealth has come to an agreement with Verizon New England on their property valuation throughout the state for years 2010-2022. The settlement is based on a no interest refund on 7% of the Verizon claims pending. I do not have a cost for Winchendon currently. However when the Town was first notified of a pending settlement, sufficient funds were available to refund Verizon. I am confident the available funding remains sufficient.
- b. Through April 30<sup>th</sup> the Tax Collector has collected \$267,190.98 on tax titled property.

### **2. Personnel Updates-**

- a. There are no personnel updates this week.

### **3. Project Updates-**

- a. Public Works began flushing hydrants during the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>. Flushing started at the water plant in Ashburnham and last count 117 of the 336 hydrants have been flushed. Public Works has found five hydrants that need total replacement and three that can be repaired. The Fire Department has been notified of the locations.
- b. I have spoken to a representative from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council regarding available grant funding for the street light upgrade project that will be considered at Town Meeting. I have waited until now because a community needs to own their street lights before being eligible for grant funds. At MAPC's request I completed a short application reserving the grant funds for the upgrade project. I will check back with MAPC if the warrant article is approved.
- c. The contractor awarded the bid for repairs to the High Street Bridge has ordered the necessary materials. Work is anticipated to begin in late May or early June. The bridge will be reopened by Labor Day.

### **4. Miscellaneous Updates –**

- a. Tracy Murphy exchanged e-mails with the owner of the plaza where IGA was once located. The plaza owner indicated that "IGA space has been listed with an experienced broker with several leads for small to medium sized

regional supermarket companies. The right operator will see there is a viable business at this site. I have had inquiries from new operators but I feel a company with experience and financial wherewithal would be a better fit even if it takes longer to find the right tenant.”

- b. Attached to this report is my written response to Mr. Alfred Holmes. Mr. Holmes attended the April 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and expresses his displeasure about the assistance the Police Department provided him over the past several years.

As you will see from my letter I believe the Police Department has done everything that they can to investigate alleged trespassing the theft on the Lincoln Avenue Extension property. The Police Department remains severely hindered in their investigations with the buildings on the property not being secured. There are several areas that allow access to each building. I provided Mr. Holmes a copy of the letter in person on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and have not heard from his since then.

- c. Public Works will be ordering 440 kitchen compost buckets and new signs for the Transfer Station with grant funds awarded last year for the Transfer Station. When residents purchase a new Transfer Station sticker in June they will be given a compost bucket.
- d. Work on Rte. 140 is starting on May 15<sup>th</sup> with micro milling. The town will have two 10 wheeler trucks in line to take the millings that will be used by the town in other road projects. The state is also replacing two catch basins that need to be rebuilt. This project should take about two weeks.
- e. The Harris Road Bridge is moving along on schedule. The beams are in and the forms to pour the concrete are all most done.
- f. All the Lake Monomonac dam boards are in and the lake is now full
- g. Hot top is being laid by the Highway Department on some of the roads in the worst condition. The asphalt plants opened last week so DPW plans to patch every day possible
- h. Street sweeping has been ongoing now for about 4 weeks. Generally street sweeping takes about 10 weeks.
- i. The dump truck that rolled over this past winter is now back in service.
- j. The water tanks rehabilitation should be starting soon. Repairs require the temperature to stay above 50 degrees to do the resealing process
- k. Street scan has finished their work on the road conditions and should have a report this week. Once the results are known DPW can develop a paving bid.
- l. The waste treatment plant had major damage done to it from a power surge on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been working very hard to correct these issue with the insurance company and electrical vender. The insurance company will be covering the cost of the damage less the deductible.
- m. The Royalston Road bridge is going out to bid in August
- n. The section of Rte. 12 from Mill Street to the NH line is also going to bid in August
- o. The Parks Department has been working hard to clean the cemeteries and parks from the winter storms and burials.

- p. The Transfer Station will be open until 7:00 pm on Thursday nights beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.