

Report of the Town Manager

January 12, 2015

1. Personnel Updates-

- a. Health Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC)-** I have a meeting called for the IAC this Thursday afternoon to roll out the proposals received for premium based health insurance conversion.

Action Requested: None.

2. Financial Updates-

- a. The Deficit Legislation-** At your last meeting I reported that the deficit legislation was still in the House for vote. It passed the House as a result of the Herculean efforts of Representative Zlotnik and our now Senator Anne Gobi. The bill landed on the Governor's desk and was executed at 6:45pm on his last day in the building. It is now enacted and is law. We are working with the DOR to access the borrowing provided under the bill to offset the deficit in our school and town budgets.

NOTE: I will likely be seeking a vote of the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to the town meeting authorization to borrow that was provided for in the deficit legislation now that it has passed. I have been in regular contact with the staff at the DOR all toward the end of getting this vote and the resulting borrowing underway.

Action Requested: After additional discussions with the DOR on Monday I will know more at the meeting.

- b. The FY16 Budget Memo-** All departments budgets are due on January 22, 2015 by the close of business. I have met with members of the Finance Committee in an effort to improve upon our budget processes. Those cooperative efforts are productive and ongoing.

Action Requested: None.

3. Project Updates-

- a. Phase 5 North Central Pathway-** Phase 5 of the Bike path project bids was awarded and the work on the project will begin in the spring.

Action Requested: None.

- b. Proposed Business-** While we recognize that nothing is real until it is real-
- i. ONGOING-Salvadore Auto group's proposed Jeep dealership project at the intersection of Rt. 140 and Rt. 12 is scheduled to be before the Planning Board next week. It will be an exceptional gateway business and create new tax base and jobs for the town.
 - ii. ONGOING-we have been working with a business, which wishes to remain confidential for now, in an effort at landing them here in town as they seek to

expand from another location within the region. They are currently functioning in a 10,000sf space and are looking for a minimum of 30,000sf. Their projection is 20 jobs.

- iii. NEW-We entertained another prospective business last week. This group is pursuing the adaptive reuse of a currently vacant building in town for their operations. Their initial job creation estimate is 50 new jobs created here in Winchendon.

Action Requested: None.

- c. **Police Station Filed Sub-Bids-** The holidays pushed everyone's schedule back a week so the anticipated meeting for project specification review is next week.

Action Requested: None.

4. Miscellaneous Updates-

- a. **None.**

5. Tickler File-

- a. **Yard Sale Bylaw-** You have copies of several versions of yard sale bylaws for your review and consideration for a proposed bylaw for the annual town meeting.

- b. **Multifamily Residential Unit Inspections-** I have been working with Counsel to have a draft bylaw available for your consideration for the annual town meeting. This bylaw will seek to place a local penalty on the books for multi-family residential property owners who fail to have their properties inspected.