



Report of the Town Manager

November 21, 2016

1. Financial Updates-

- a. Collections on water and sewer bills are going very well. The outstanding water for the 1st quarterly bill as of November 15th was \$34,677.38. There are 130 bills outstanding with 49 of those in a payment plans. In comparison to last year's billing, currently there are 448 bills outstanding with a total due of \$232,101.28. These bills will be lien to the real estate tax bills that will be due February 1st.

I have instructed Public Works to postpone the water shutoffs until Monday, November 28th rather than starting on Tuesday, November 15th. Shutoffs can only occur on Monday-Wednesday each week because the Town is required to be open the day after shutoffs occur to allow a customer to pay. Since the Town Office is closed on Friday water shutoffs are not allowed on Thursday. This allows customers two additional weeks to pay and water won't be shut off during Thanksgiving week.

- b. All of the paperwork has been submitted to the State to set the tax rate. I expect the rate to be \$17.97.

2. Personnel Updates-

- a. There were no personnel changes this week.

3. Project Updates-

- a. The architect and project manager for the library accessibility project were notified of the funding approval. They are finalizing documents with the contractors.
- b. Earlier this fall the bid results for the Town Hall furnace provided a low bid of \$188,000. The Robinson Broadhurst grant for the project was \$108,000 so the bid was rejected. I have had continued conversations with the energy consultant that was used for the energy audit. The consultant has recommended a gas fired furnace at a cost of \$95,765 plus an additional \$9,700 to remove the existing asbestos and furnace. The analysis provided shows a small savings using gas at its current price versus the current oil prices.

The new furnace would be installed next to the existing furnace so the building would be without heat for only a day or two. The contractor is checking on the furnace availability with the expectation the work would begin shortly. The reason for the interest in moving this project quickly is the existing furnace needs \$1,500-\$2,500 worth of work. After the work the furnace remains in poor condition.

- c. The Town's Green Community application was filed with the Commonwealth on Thursday.

4. Miscellaneous Updates -

- a. The annual Lake Monomonac drawdown is complete.
- b. The Town Offices will be closed Wednesday thru Friday next week for Thanksgiving.

