



Report of the Town Manager

November 23, 2020

1. Financial Updates-

- The State Senate and House have provided their Cherry Sheet estimates for FY21. All estimated revenues and charges are nearly identical to the figures used to balance the FY21 town budget.
- An auction was held on Friday, November 13th for a tax titled property located at 21 Hale Street. The house was sold to the highest bidder for \$42,000. Property taxes owed on the property was just over \$11,000.
- The Tax Collector will be placing liens delinquent water and sewer bills with the February 1st real estate bills. Last year the water and sewer liens totaled \$48,719.91. This year the liens are currently at \$96,291.22. The increase is due to the inability to shut accounts off due to the current pandemic.

2. Personnel Updates-

- I held interviews with the Director of Public Works candidates on November 17th. A Conditional Offer of Employment has been made to a candidate. If the candidate agrees to the terms of the conditional offer, their name will be made public. .

3. Project Updates-

- The Army of Engineers has approved Winchendon's application to replace the corrugated metal pipe on Robbins Road with a bridge. The majority of this project was funded through a \$500,000 small bridge grant from the Commonwealth.
- The Town has signed a contract with McCarthy Engineering to perform the layout work for Mellen Road. I just spoke to McCarty Engineering and they've received the signed proposal. Their timeline is as follows:
 - The surveyors will be on site beginning the first full week in December. They expect that work to take 1 ½ to 2 weeks. They expect to submit a draft layout to the town by Christmas. allowing the necessary information to be available for the Board to sponsor a warrant article requesting Mellen Road be accepted as a town road in May.

4. Miscellaneous Updates –

- A walkthrough of the 4 Summer Street property was held on Wednesday, November 18th. One interested developer walked the property with their development team. Responses to the RFP are due by December 3rd.
- I have been notified that many people walking the bike path have not been wearing masks. Signs were placed at the every entrance to the bike path during the week of November 16th. If bike path users continue to ignore the Governors order to wear a protective mask, the bike path may be temporarily closed until the number of positive COVID cases drop.