



Report of the Town Manager

June 1, 2020

1. Financial Updates-

- a. Treasurer Donna Spellman was notified by the Town's health insurance provider, MIIA, that they are providing a premium holiday to all of their members. Members will be charged 50% of the normal monthly health insurance premium. In addition, the July monthly premium will be reduced by 60%. This announcement by MIIA will save the Town a total of \$65,000. The MIIA Health Trust Board of Directors voted to release \$25 million of its reserves to provide this premium relief.

2. Personnel Updates-

- a. There are no personnel updates this week.

3. Project Updates-

- a. No project updates this week.

4. Miscellaneous Updates –

- a. I spoke to the representative from the EPA about the anticipated start date for the Lincoln Ave. Extension remediation project. I was told the EPA Regional Administrator anticipates authorizing the start of work during the week of June 1st. Work is expected to begin shortly after that.
- b. Tracy Murphy and her staff have found a new CDBG opportunity for small businesses and public social services. This grant opportunity can award grants up to \$400,000 per community. The Dept. of Housing and Community Development is administering this grant and has recommended communities apply as a region rather than individual communities. Winchendon has teamed with Athol, Phillipston and Templeton for grant submission. The due date for grant submission is June 5th with awards being made in July. Below is an outline of the grant perimeters.

Eligible Programs include – Microenterprise Assistance & Public Social Services.

Microenterprise

Microenterprise is defined as a business with 5 employees or less, one of which is the owner. The owner (S) must income qualify at <80% LMI. Income and number of employees to be calculated at the time of application not pre-COVID, opening up to more. Each business is eligible for up to \$10,000 in assistance. Planning and Development have proactively reached out to numerous businesses and determined that there is a need. We (CDBG Consultant, Athol & Winchendon) reached out to New Vue Communities to administer the business assistance program. Info on them can be found at: <https://newvuecommunities.org/>

Public Social Services

This portion of the grant focuses on supplementing the programs offered by the CAC, most specifically food insecurity and homelessness. We are currently gathering data and performing an analysis on how best to accomplish this.