



## **Report of the Town Manager**

**June 28, 2021**

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

- a. We are reaching the end of Fiscal Year 21. All departments have been closely monitoring their remaining balances.
- b. Preliminary tax bills are set to be mailed out for July, due in August.
- c. I met with our health insurance provider to hold a preliminary discussion on rates. These are contractually set to be reviewed in 2022.

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

- a. We are hiring for a part time position at the Council on Aging. This is 18 hours a week, Monday through Friday, and would predominantly work to help lift and deliver meals to our senior population.

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

- a. The Winchendon Community Park Committee is set to go before the Conservation Commission at their upcoming July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. I have been working closely with the committee to help navigate our permitting processes.
- b. I sat down with the architect for the Beals Library project. We are in the early stages of establishing a timeline for this initiative.
- c. We are working with our Planning and Economic Development team to secure \$160K in CDBG funds that would allow us to move forward with the water line replacement "Ad Alternate" for the Railroad St road reconstruction project.
- d. We have established weekly meetings with the Bull Spit team to ensure the project at 4 Summer stays on track. Early pricing for the remediation of hazardous materials came back high. We requested a more in depth test of the roofing materials and are happy to report testing showed a significant decrease in asbestos containing materials. We are waiting to see what reduction in remediation cost will come of that result.
- e. DPW, Planners, and the Town Managers office met with engineers to discuss a redesign of Blair Square. This unfunded future improvement will encourage commercial growth along Front Street and increase walkability for pedestrians. A preliminary estimate shows this crucial project coming in at \$2.25 Million.
- f. CARES funding permits for minor building modifications and ventilation improvements as an allowable expense. We have added standalone AC units to the Auditorium in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This will allow us to use the Auditorium year round be addressing temperature issues and a lack of fresh airflow. The alternative of utilizing the 19' by 19' Robinson Broadhurst room did not allow for appropriate social distancing for larger groups.

- f. The WRA met last Monday to discuss a number of topics, among them the possibility of a Cannabis Grow Facility on one of their properties. I will be working with the prospective future owners to develop an HCA and will keep the Board up to date on any developments.
- g. I met with the Toy Town Community Partnership last week to discuss the “Big Toy Initiative” downtown. This project would incorporate large scale toy themed public art installations throughout our town center. I would expect to see these begin to roll out following the Central St reconstructing in Spring 22.

**4. Miscellaneous Updates –**

- a. Senator Gobi and Representative Zlotnik were both in town at different points last week. I invited them up to walk downtown and fill them in on some of our projects. We discussed the Whitney Pond Dam, the Winchendon Community Park, Bull Spit Brewing, and the urgent need for funding for the Blair Square redevelopment project – among other initiatives.