



Report of the Town Manager

March 14th, 2022

1. Financial Updates-

- a. We are in the process of finalizing the FY23 budget and are on target for a final budget presentation for Monday, March 28th, 2022.
- b. Excise tax bills recently went out in the mail. They can be paid through the Treasurer's office, while abatements would need to be submitted through the Assessor's Office.
- c. Negotiations continue with our unions, with the expectation that they will be finalized prior to the final budget presentation. The budget is currently carrying all expected financial changes that are reflective of these collective bargaining agreements.
- d. We will be joined from a representative from Comcast for a preliminary pass at contract negotiations. They will be also joining the Communication Committee at their next meeting to finalize any changes. Special thank you to this committee for all of their work and input on this agreement.

2. Personnel Updates-

- a. Interviews were held for the DPW Executive Assistant role, and an offer has been made to a finalist.
- b. The Police Department is in the process of finalizing a new candidate for one of our Animal Control Office roles.

3. Project Updates-

- a. The brewery at 4 Summer Drive is set to go through the permitting process in April. This will involve the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board.
- b. An RFP for Designer Services for the Old Murdock is set to be released this week.
- c. Preliminary work on Central Street is slated to begin as early as this week, weather permitting. These improvements will be in full swing once the nice weather approaches.
- d. Members of my office, the DPW, and Planning & Development met with members of Mass DOT last week to discuss the proposed improvements in Blair Square. It is our goal to secure funding for this much needed improvement in the next 2-3 years.
- e. The lunchroom renovation at Town Hall is underway and should be complete in April. Thank you for the DPW for all of their assistance in this process, and for the patience of our staff as we move things around to accommodate the work.

4. Miscellaneous Updates-

- a. The Community Preservation Exploratory Committee held their first meeting on March 7th. The Committee is planning to meet on the first Monday of every month through November, with the intention to bring a proposal forward for the fall Special Town

Meeting. If passed, the decision would move on to a ballot vote as part of the November elections.

- b. We are in the process of negotiating the terms for the proposed marijuana cultivation facility at 2 Juniper Street. A final draft of the document will be brought before the Board of Selectmen prior to signing.