



## MEMORANDUM

---

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, April 17, 2020

**DATE:** April 17, 2020

---

### **Water Break Shawsheen River**

A significant water break was discovered in the conservation area behind the Shawsheen Technical High School. This was a difficult area to gain access, The Parks and Trees Department prepared a path into the break conservation area under the guidance of the Conservation Director. The Water Department and Albanese Bros. worked to fix the break on April 11<sup>th</sup>. No interruption of service or water quality occurred. I thank all of the DPW for their efforts and dedication during these difficult times.

### **Power Outage /Parks and Trees**

This department was very busy during the wind storm last week. They removed more than 40 downed trees and set up a brush drop off center at the Billerica DPW. Billerica had over 1,500 power outages – the most in Middlesex County. All power has been restored.

### **Aggregate Energy Update –**

The Town recently signed a new contract with NextEra. This contract will run for 36 months and be at a cost of \$.09154. Our current rate is \$.10631 until January 2021. Colonial Power group advised that the market was extremely favorable at this time. The Town has also heard from many residents that they appreciate the stability of the longer contracts. Colonial believes this will be a competitive contract not only for the short term but the full length.

### **LED Street Light Update –**

The Town of Billerica receives weekly reports on Tuesday regarding the LED lights. The report as of April 15<sup>th</sup> was that 576 of the 2,610 lights (22%) have been installed. During the first three weeks the Town has had no issues with installation besides some rewiring. Rewiring is expected throughout the project, but does slow down installation.

### **Pinehurst Fire Station**

A meeting with the OPM, the design team and Town was held on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Town is pursuing the electrical feed to the temporary facility on two tracks. The Town continues to pursue the temporary license for NGrid to get access to this site. Alternatively, we are also pursuing a temporary connection from the old Ditson School.

### **FinCom / Town Meeting**

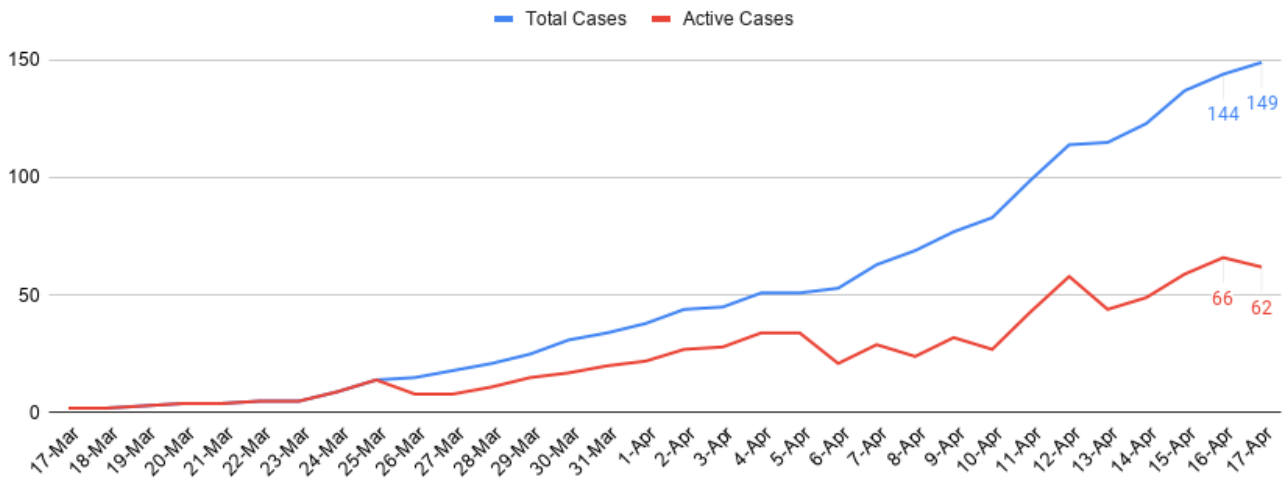
The Finance Committee completed the last meeting reviewing the Town Budget on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The only budget left to act on is the School budget. The Committee is expected to act on that in May. The

Committee is now ready to begin reviewing the warrant which will be presented to the BOS on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Coronavirus Update

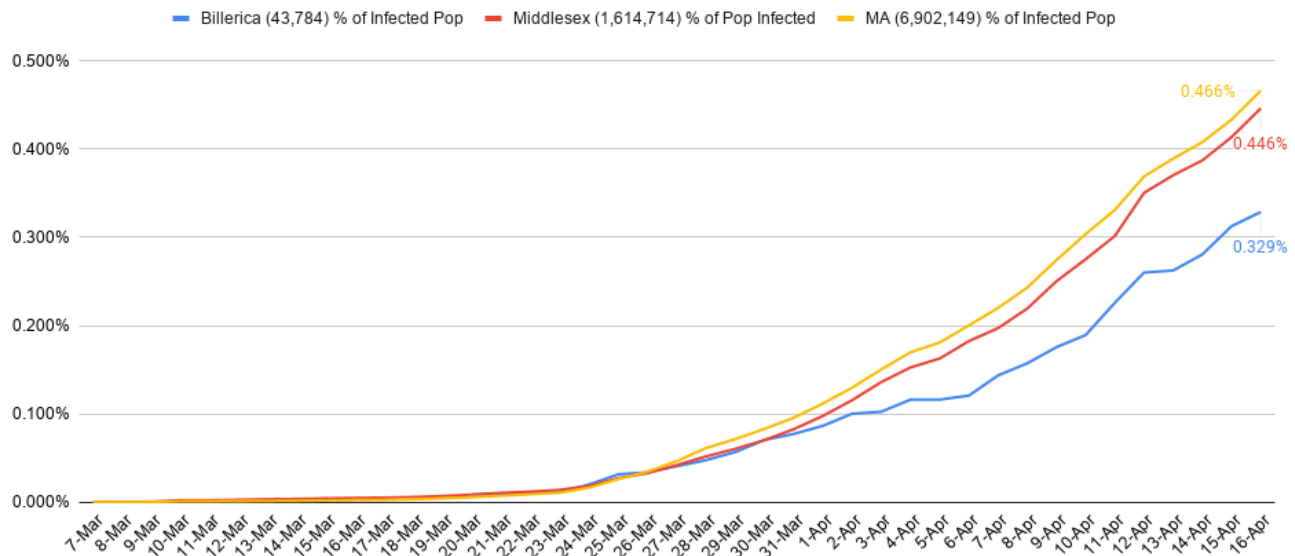
The Town Continues to monitor the current situation with COVID 19. Adjustments are made on a daily basis to protect the public and maintain, to the extent possible, Town Services and normalcy. As of today there were 5 new cases for a total in Billerica of 149 cases. There are presently 62 active cases with 9 cases being cleared.

Active and Total Cases in Billerica



Percentage of The Population - Positive Billerica Cases Compared to State and County

Governor Baker Projects Between 2.5% - .7% of the State Population will be Infected



### PHR Project

The Town, Left Field, Perkins and Will and Warner Larson met virtually on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. This meeting was with the architect for the design of the snack shack, rest rooms and meeting room. The comments will be taken back to the drawing board by the design team and come back with some design options.

## **Food Pantry**

There will be another drive thru distribution from the Billerica Community Food Pantry on Monday April 27th from 2 until 5pm at 70 Concord Rd. Anyone who wants to pick up food that day must RSVP by Monday the 20th. To RSVP, go to the website: [billericacommunitypantry.com](http://billericacommunitypantry.com) If you cannot go online you can call 978 663-8433. You will get a call back only if you have never attended this pantry.

## **High School Building Committee Meeting**

This meeting was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Two big changes were approved. The first was the external cladding was approved for the back of the bleaches for an amount of \$291,698. Two outbuildings were also approved, one for athletic equipment and one for maintenance for a total cost of \$270,777 and \$302,675 respectively.

## **Press Release about Billerica Firm**

### **Billerica Firm Aiding Nursing Homes with Crisis Management**

With public health officials "intensely focused" on the spread of COVID-19 among residents of long-term care facilities, the state has contracted a Billerica firm to provide crisis management help and to help establish dedicated COVID-19 units in existing nursing homes. The contract with [KCP Advisory](#) could cost the state up to \$300,000, a spokeswoman for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services said Wednesday after Gov. Charlie Baker announced at a press briefing that the state had hired "a firm that specializes in nursing home crisis management" without naming the company. "They'll be available to provide facilities with on-site operational support to assist with staffing vendors, implementing infection control measures and other key elements of appropriate operation and design during this time," the governor said. "The firm will also support efforts to stand up dedicated COVID-19 wings or units in existing nursing facilities." Long-term care facilities like nursing homes and assisted living centers have emerged as an important front in the battle against the virus, which can be lethal to the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions. There are 383 nursing homes, 255 assisted living residences and 93 rest homes in Massachusetts, the governor said. Approximately 38,000 people live in nursing homes, 16,500 in assisted living facilities and 3,000 residents in rest homes. As of Wednesday, 222 long-term care facilities had reported at least one case of COVID-19, 4,163 residents or staff members had tested positive and 530 COVID-19 deaths had been reported at long-term care facilities. After being petitioned last year by Attorney General Maura Healey's Health Care Division, a Superior Court judge appointed KCP Advisory to serve as receiver over the operator of five nursing homes in southeastern Massachusetts that were closed by state regulators for endangering residents. - Colin A. Young/SHNS