



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, November 30, 2018

DATE: December 17, 2018

Police Contracts – NEPBA A and B

Both the Patrolmen's and the Superior Officer's Union have settled with the Town. Both MOAs still need to be approved by the union body. The terms of both contracts were 2%-2%-2% for FY2017, FY2018 and FY2019.

Tax and Water Billing Schedule

The Town has received many calls over the past 48 hours in regards to the water bills. Many of the disputes revolve around water usage.

The Town posted on social media information making users aware that watering a lawn uses a large amount of water. A 1/4 of an acre lot will use about 5,000 gallons of water per watering day (an inch of water). This is a cost of around \$18 every time you water your lawn. This read happened during the summer months where people frequently used their irrigation systems. Watering 3 times a week during the billing period would result in consumption of +30,000 cubic feet.

Also this billing cycle did include 180 bills that did not register the irrigation meter read. If your bill has zeros all the way across for the second meter it is likely your bill has this error. Revised bills are being printed and sent out over the next couple of days.

The Town will also be making sure that residents can view their second meter on the eyeonwater app. This functionality will be available shortly.

Town Aggregate Energy Rate

The Town has recently renegotiated the aggregate energy program with NextEra! The Town was able to secure a rate of .106 over the course of the next 24 months. In comparison National Grid has a rate of .137 until April 30th.

If residents are currently on our aggregate program they will be switched over on Jan 1st. If they would like to sign up they can call (855) 639-8096. If residents have previously opted out they will not be asked to enroll again and they will not be automatically enrolled!

The public notice can be viewed in the following link.

<http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/7844/Billerica---Public-Notice-119>

New Recreation Website

This week you will see a big change when visiting the Recreation Department online. They have been hard at work revamping their website and giving the department a more modern and user-friendly online home. In addition to a new website, the department will also be rolling out a completely new registration software! This new software will be far more intuitive and provide participants a better experience. A formal announcement is expected to be made in the coming days on the Recreation Department's Facebook page with further details and instructions

Community Funds Application

The Town is pursuing a grant application to pay for Artscape Banners and Holiday Banners for next year. The amount needed for these programs is approximately \$10,000. There are 37 light poles that need banners.

Contribution Park

This office spoke with Mass Highway District Four about the Town turning this park into a memorial park for those that lost their lives due to opioid addiction. They sent an application to the Town. This item should be placed on an upcoming agenda to discuss the details of this proposal.