



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Jeanne Legallo, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, March 27, 2017

DATE: March 24, 2017

Billerica Memorial High School Building Committee

The Ground Breaking Ceremony is on Monday at 3:00PM at the High School Site. It will be attended by Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Executive Director Jack McCarthy and Director of Operations Matt Donovan all of the MSBA. Representative Lombardo, Chairman DesLaurier, Chairman Estratiou and Chairman Keven Heffernan will be part of the speaking Program. The project is moving along on time and on budget. Three major contracts have been implemented; Steel, Concrete and Glulams and Shawmut Design Company has opened their construction "trailer" which was actually fitted out in a portion of the old High School. Site work is moving along in spite of recent weather impediments. Two construction meetings have already been held. The Town is expecting to go out long-term to borrow for the project before May to avoid projected rate increases. It is expected that the Town will borrow \$90million and borrow the remaining balance within the following two years. The projected impact and debt stabilization requirements are similar to those presented to the public during the debt exclusion debate.

Peggy Hannon-Rizza Park

This office has executed a contract, with the project Manager, Weston and Sampson, this week. A revised borrowing article was added to the preliminary warrant to address the requests of the Executive Office of Energy. The original article was Article 24 in the Fall 2014 Town Meeting.

Yankee Doodle Bike Path

There are several developments in the Bike Path Project. The route of the bike path will be modified based on some concerns brought forward by the Mass DOT. Specifically, the steep slopes on Richardson Street were eliminated by rerouting the bike path off the Railroad Right of Way adjacent to the Cabot Property and redirecting the path through the "Town owned" Cabot Property. This will add significant scenic value to the project as well as using the Cabot property for its intended purpose – passive recreation. This modified path will be presented to the Yankee Doodle Bike Path (YBP) Committee next Wednesday.

Additionally, designers for the Bike Path and the high school are collaborating to develop a route through the new high school property so that a conceptual plan can be approved by the YBP Committee, the School Department and the BMHS Building Committee.

Infrastructure Project Updates

I have attached a memo from Kelley Conway that gives an update on all of the infrastructure projects throughout Town. Please see the attached memorandum for further details.

Budget Meetings

FinCom Sub Committees have reviewed and approved all Shared budgets, DPW budgets, COA, Library, Recreation, Both Enterprise Budgets, the Fire Department, All Town Clerk Budgets, the Assessors and the Accountants Budget. It should be noted that there are minor adjustments to the Debt Service Budget and the Shawsheen Assessment has been adjusted.

Water Billing

This office with the approval of the BOS will put forward a warrant article at Spring Town meeting which will address many of the billing inequities and billing transparency issues that have been raised over the years. Specifically, this article will fund the replacement of the residential meters with the same radio frequency technology that town Meeting approved for the commercial meters two years ago. The Town has replaced all of the commercial meters with this new technology. It allows for all meters to be read on the same day with the push of a button. It also allows the consumer to go and analyze their consumption patterns. This would allow consumers to look for leaks and use patterns in their own homes. The DPW will do a demonstration of this technology at the March 27th meeting.

Gas Station Air Pumps

An audit was conducted of all stations and there are still a high number of violators. This office will send out a letter on Monday to these offenders warning them of the eminent possibility of revocation of their fuel storage licenses for non-compliance. The BOS will be copied.

Town Auction

Several properties are auctioned off on Friday, March 24, 2017. It will take several weeks to ensure that these transactions are final. The preliminary projected sale total is \$975,000.

Aggregate Energy

This office completed the DOER Consultation on March 22nd. The next step is to file a petition with the DPU by Mid-April. A public Hearing will be scheduled for June. The hearing is followed by a period of discovery which includes follow-up questions on the Aggregation Plan. The bidding process is projected for September followed contract execution process from September through October. The Power Flow is projected for November-