



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, June 5, 2017

DATE: June 2, 2017

Cabot Land

This office met with the Economic Development Team to talk about the Cabot Property status. The Community Development Director has been working with the BETA Group on three conceptual proposals for this property. This work was funded through a \$15,000 Planning Assistance Towards Housing (PATH) Grant. The three concepts include a housing only plan, a housing and recreation and a recreation only plan. A public meeting is being set up to allow neighbors and other community members to provide feedback on the different proposals.

Technology Park Meeting

The Town of Billerica is hosting a strategy session to assess workforce, transportation and amenity needs for Technology Park. The intent is to obtain feedback and ideas from the tenant of the park. It is being held on June 6th at the Middlesex Community College Meeting House on Concord Road at 8:30AM. Middlesex 3 and Middlesex Community College will be partnering with the Town on this meeting. Middlesex 3 will be focusing on transportation needs and Middlesex Community College will focus on workforce training issues.

Fiscal Efficiency – MIIA Credits

The Town received participation credits from MIIA that will be applied to the Property and Casualty Insurance in the amount of \$91,440.00. These credits are received for the Town's participation in training and safety programs approved and recommended by MIIA.

Fiscal Efficiency – \$40,000 IT Grant

Due to the work of Lt Greg Katz we were notified by the Massachusetts Office for Administration and Finance that we received a \$40,000 grant award through the community compact cabinet IT grant program. The Town of Billerica was the first Police Department in the state to pilot the Automated Motor Vehicle Citation system. The very first e-citation's for Mass were issued here in Billerica as a result the Police Department has been working closely with the Executive Office of Public Safety in pilot testing the new Crash reporting system as well as E-Citation program.

This grant award will allow the Town to integrate the data from these systems with its' Police Records Management System. This integration will benefit the department by making the Crash, Citation and court complaint process a seamless operation, saving countless hours of data entry for Police Officer's on the street so they can spend more time policing the community rather than staring into a laptop. The Town and its' residents will benefit by having better data for community planning and quicker and more accurate access to records.

Vining School Future

This office is meeting with key members of the Vining Reuse Committee June 8th at 6:00 O'Clock to discuss the future reuse of the building.

Contract 34A and B

After three years of completion only 365 of 563 homes are connected to sewer. This is a percentage of 64.8% which by all measures is a failing grade. This is a serious issue in that the Town is investing 100s of millions of dollars to install sewer and it is not generating revenue to justify the expense. Those that do connect are paying a higher share of the burden in rates and real estate taxes due to those that do not connect. Continuing on this level of investment cannot be justified unless the Town has the ability require homeowners to connect. In the Fall Town Meeting of 2015 Article 36 was presented to address this issue. It failed:

ARTICLE 36 - GENERAL BY-LAW AMENDMENT ON SEWER CONNECTIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws, Article VIII, Public Utilities, Section 2, Sewers, by inserting the following new subsection:

2.1(A) Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 2.1 herein shall be subject to an annual fine of \$200, with each year or portion thereof during which a violation persists constituting a separate offense.

This By-Law may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Subsection 21D the Town's By-Laws. The Director of the Department of Public Works or designee shall be the enforcing authority of this By-Law.

Submitted by the Town Manager; authorized by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends approval.

Rules Committee recommends approval.

Article 36 Explanation: Article VIII of the By-Law requires homeowners to connect to sewer within one year from the sewer becoming available to them. The By-Law falls short on stating the remedy for failing to connect. This article shall address this issue.

It would be unwise to continue on the aggressive schedule we are on without addressing this issue. This office and the DPW Director will work on an alternative to present to Town Meeting in the fall.

Yankee Doodle Bike Path

There have been several meetings with the project teams for both the bike path and the high school. It appears that VHB would like to change the location of the bike path through the high school to the southern border along the project from River Street to Boston Road. Much of the site work has already been put in motion and would be difficult to change at this point. The designers from both teams are looking at this in greater detail to explore all options. Ultimately any change would have to be approved by the Building Committee and the School Committee.