



MEMORANDUM

TO: Select Board

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Clancy Main, Assistant Town Manager
Robert Maynard, Director of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, September 12, 2022

DATE: September 9, 2022

PHR Complex

PHR complex is coming together. The sod has been installed for both softball fields. The irrigation system is up and running – it is connected to the municipal water supply, however the project is installing two wells for irrigation of this field complex without taxing the Town supply. Over the next few weeks, the turf will be installed as well as the bleachers around the field. The storage containers for supplies have been installed and will soon be painted to better shield them. The exercise equipment has been delivered and installation should begin soon. The foundation for the Bubba Shack has been poured and the rebar installed, CDI will be running utility lines next.

Howe School

The Howe school is at the finish line! The interior of the building is nearing completion; the floors have been installed, ceiling tiles have gone up, and the doors are finally hung. The majority of the work now is finish work like baseboards, plate covers, and touch ups. There is some delay for certain items due to the current market circumstances and the nature of everything being back ordered. The glass railing has been delayed so BC construction has created a temporary railing until the new one is delivered. These delays will have no impact on BATV's ability to move in this month. All critical path materials are onsite therefore the completion date of September 30th appears to be solid.

Masonic Hall

The town is working with PRA, the architects for the project, and the Food Pantry to finalize the design plans and ensure that all necessary elements are included. The food pantry would like to see walk in refrigeration capabilities; the Town is working with the Community Food Pantry to accommodate these requests, but it is adding significant cost to design and construction. It is anticipated that the construction costs will be requested in the Spring for work on the first floor. The cost for this work is projected to be between \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

Playgrounds

The Facilities and parks department worked tirelessly these last couple weeks to update our playgrounds across Town to prepare for the start of school. They've laid all new woods chips at the Kids Konnection by O'Connor Hardware, a playground used heavily by the whole community.

They took some extra wood chips from Kids Konnection and brought them down to the Old Ditson playground as well as at the Kennedy School. They also added a ramp at the Kennedy School playground to improve access for the Town's handicapped community.

National Grid – Fleet Advisory Service Program

In an effort to make Billerica more sustainable the Town started working with National Grid to review our fleet of vehicles and recommend what can be electric. These services are available at no cost to the town. The Town has five departments with vehicles, we're in the process of gathering the data (mileage, year, make, fuel type, etc.) to turn over to National Grid. Once they receive our data, they'll be able to review our fleet and make recommendations.

Public Safety Communications Update Meeting

The Town met with All-Comm Technologies, INC. to go over their proposal for the new radio system for the Police, Fire, and DPW. The Town appropriated a Budget of 1.7 million to cover this cost, the proposal came back at roughly 1.85 million. It was of utmost importance to the Town that we get everything for the Police, Fire, and DPW while staying on budget. After sharpening their pencils All-Comm came back under budget and included everything the Town wants. Now our public safety officials can communicate with DPW over downed trees, road closures, or snow and ice emergencies.

Yankee Doodle Weekend

The Town is preparing for its annual Yankee Doodle Weekend Celebration. This year Yankee Doodle will be on Saturday September 17th. The parade route will start at the Billerica Mall advancing down Boston Road to the Marshall Middle School. There will be vendors and food trucks at the High School for everyone's enjoyment. The firework show will be at 8PM.

Boston Road Paving – Pinehurst

The Town met with Mass DOT to go over the planned scope of work on Boston Road in Pinehurst. Mass Dot is looking to update Boston Road from the Town line with Burlington to the Shawsheen River. They're planning to improve traffic flow, while bringing in wider sidewalks and bike lanes. The Town is working with Mass DOT to ensure sidewalks are included in this project and not left out. This project should be starting within two to three months.

Griggs Farm Meeting

The Town sat down with Billy Griggs and his attorney, Jim Dangora Senior, to go over the current tax situation. Mr. Griggs is unable to pay the taxes owed. The Town recommended different remedies for Mr. Griggs. This included a five or ten year payment plan. He indicated that he could not sustain either payment plan. Atty. Dangora and Mr. Griggs decided that they would rather look for an infusion of cash and get back in touch with the Town. It should be noted that the an infusion of cash to address the immediate tax liability does not address the root of the issue which is the current sustainability of the farm itself.

Mattresses

MassDEP is adding mattresses and box springs to the waste ban list effective November 1, 2022. This means that mattresses and box springs will need to be recycled instead of being disposed of. The Town has already set its waste management budget and has not budgeted for this additional cost. Consequently, a fee will most likely be implemented.