



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, January 23, 2023
Agenda Item

DATE: January 18, 2023

Budget Meetings

Over the last two weeks this office has sat down with the remaining departments to go over their projected FY24 budgets. The Town has maintained increases of 2% or under, except for Public Works, this is primarily driven by the Waste Management Contract increase. The Town is still working through the budget process and the contract negotiation process with multiple unions. A summary budget will be presented to the Board during the first meeting in February and meetings will be set up with each individual member before the final budget is presented at the last meeting in February.

Iron Horse Park

The EPA will be undergoing the five-year-review process for Iron Horse in 2023. The five-year-review process is when the EPA ensures the remedial action performed at the site is continuing to protect human health and the environment. It is important the EPA continues to check on this site to ensure the remedy is working properly and Billerica continues to be protected. A draft of the press release is attached below. Please reach out with any questions

Pollard Field

The contractor has been on site this week to excavate the foundation locations for the Musco Light poles and set them in place. During this construction the field and playground are closed.

Stormwater Bylaw

This office, Engineering, and the DPW have been reviewing the Stormwater Bylaw. Currently Stormwater is being handled by the Board of Health, that has brought with it some challenges. In an effort to improve efficiency and better serve the residents of Billerica, the Town is proposing to move Stormwater management to the Department of Public Works. This will happen through a bylaw change that will be presented to Spring Town Meeting. Prior to that, the working draft of the bylaw will be reviewed by the BOH and presented to the Select Board.

Flags

It was brought to the attention of the Donnie Jarvis, the Veterans Service officer, that the American Flags hanging in the Talbot Oval and Town Center were damaged. After reviewing them for himself Donnie ordered the new flags and made sure to order flags weatherized for the elements.

Community Funds

The application deadline for the Community Funds Grant has been extended to Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 at 4:00 PM. The Community Funds Grant are awarded to worthwhile community projects which enhances the quality of life in the Town. The grant applications will only be accepted from non-profit entities or groups serving the Town of Billerica. The application and criteria can be found on the Town's website:

<https://www.town.billerica.ma.us/361/Community-Funds>

Billerica DPW

On Wednesday, January 11 this office sat down with abutters to the new DPW property. The residents who live on River Street Extension all attended. They mentioned some concerns about access points, noise concerns, and road safety. The Town was pleased to have heard from these residents and will be working with Weston and Sampson, the architects to adjust the design to address these concerns. On Wednesday, February 8th the Town will be hosting a Public Information session for all residents to attend, this will be publicized on social media and a code red over the coming weeks.

Zoning Audit

On January 30th at 7:00PM in 210 and on Zoom the Planning Board and Zoning By-Law Review Committee will be holding a listening session for the Zoning Audit. This audit is intended to make recodification recommendations and find inconsistencies throughout the zoning. This was a Fiscal Year 2021 goal of the Board of Selectmen.

Cabot Meeting

My office, Paul Watson the Town Accountant, and Elaine Russo the Town Treasurer sat down with Conor Powers from MIIA to go over any renewal issues. Conor explained to the group that our rate would be increasing for the next fiscal year by about 10%. He also told the group that by July 1, 2024, the Town would need to have security software on every desktop computer. The type of software MIIA wants is much more profound than what we currently have, it would require each user to authenticate before logging on to their desktop. My office will work with Chris Bartlett, the IT director, to ensure the proper security software is installed before the deadline.

Parkway Avenue

My office sat down with Kevin Fusco from Habitat for Humanity to review the Parkway Avenue site. My office answered his questions pertaining to wetlands and utility hook ups. Habitat is confident the site will support a multi-family structure. As the board knows Habitat has done great work in Town already, like the homes on Alpine Street, and we look forward to working with them and bringing another affordable unit to the Towns inventory.

Recreation & COA Feasibility Study

This office, Left Field, and Vice Chair Mike Riley interviewed three architects to perform the feasibility study for the Recreation Department and Council on Aging. The group ultimately chose Abacus Architects. They have previous experience in similar master planning studies, intergenerational centers, senior housing, council on aging centers, and recreational facilities. They placed a large emphasis on community support and outreach during the process. The Town will be having a kickoff meeting with the architect this week.

BMHS Receives Another Award

The Boston Society of Architects awarded the BMHS and Perkins and Will an award for Design Excellence. This is one of many awards the project has received.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2023

EPA to Review Cleanups at Six Massachusetts Superfund Sites this Year

Contact Information: Dave Deegan, (617) 918-1017, deegan.dave@epa.gov

BOSTON (Jan. 13, 2023) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct comprehensive reviews of completed cleanup work at six National Priority List (NPL) Superfund sites in Massachusetts this year.

The sites will undergo a legally required Five-Year Review to ensure that previous remediation efforts at the sites continue to protect public health and the environment. “Throughout the process of designing and constructing a cleanup at a hazardous waste site, EPA’s primary goal is to make sure the remedy will be protective of public health and the environment, especially for communities that have been overburdened by pollution,” **said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash.** “It is important for EPA to regularly check on these sites to ensure the remedy is working properly and Massachusetts communities continue to be protected.”

The Superfund Sites where EPA will conduct Five-Year Reviews in 2023 are listed below with web links that provide detailed information on site status as well as past assessment and cleanup activity. Once the Five-Year Review is complete, its findings will be posted to the website in a final report.

Five-Year Reviews of Superfund sites in Massachusetts to be completed in 2023:

[Iron Horse Park](#), Billerica

[Plymouth Harbor CEC](#), Plymouth

[Re-Solve, Inc.](#), Dartmouth

[Shpack Landfill](#), Norton/Attleboro

[Sullivan’s Ledge](#), New Bedford

Federal Facility

[Otis Air National Guard Base/Camp Edwards](#), Falmouth, Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee

More information:

The Superfund program, a federal program established by Congress in 1980, investigates and cleans up the most complex, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites in the country and EPA endeavors to facilitate activities to return them to productive use. In total, there are 123 Superfund sites across New England.

[Superfund and other cleanup sites in New England](#)
[EPA’s Superfund program](#)

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