



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, June 3, 2019

**DATE:** May 31, 2019

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### **Comcast Ascertainment Hearing**

The Cable Contract Ascertainment hearing was held in the Conway Room on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM. It was an extraordinarily well-attended "standing room only" public hearing. A wide range of residents, community leaders, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, parents, students, principals, teachers, persons with disabilities and many others including myself gave extensive and mostly passionate testimony about the importance of local PEG Access facilities to Billerica. They provided substantial evidence about the dramatic growth in local PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) Access studio and field operations, PEG Access programming and training, and the concomitant Town need for increased Comcast support for these operations to meet the Town's growing PEG Access capital and operating needs. There was also strong testimony about the Town's interest in relocating the studio from 430 Boston Road to the nearby 390 Boston Road Howe School where the Access Provider could host and operate additional community programs and which would require capital support from Comcast, as further detailed below. Similarly, there was strong testimony and substantial evidence underscoring the importance of Institutional Network needs of the Town; and cable-related operating, equipment and facility needs. 50+ letters of support were also attached to the RFP document and given to Comcast.

### **Chapter 90 Pavement Program**

At the last meeting, there was a request to update the BOS on additional monies the Town is spending beyond Chapter 90. As stated in the last meeting the Town will spend approximately \$1.2 million in Chapter 90 funds on roadwork and \$500,000 of local money appropriated at Town Meeting. \$800,000 million in roads will be paved as part of Sewer Contract 36. This will bring the Town total to \$2.6 Million for the year spent on roadwork.

### **Return on Investment (Water Meters)**

At the last meeting the question was asked what was the ROI for installation of the water meters. Several factors make that difficult to determine at this time. First the rates change annually; second consumption also has decreased significantly this year based on rainfall. We will need several years of data to make a more accurate estimate as to the ROI.

## **Neighborhood Meetings**

Neighborhood meetings are scheduled for June, the dates are listed below. Press releases have been sent to the Billerica Minuteman and the Lowell Sun. It has been posted on social media, flyers have been given to the Library and COA. The details have also been given to BATV to run on their community bulletin.

Monday – June 10, 2019 – Town Hall Auditorium at 7:00pm

Tuesday – June 11, 2019 – Dutile Elementary at 7:00pm

Wednesday – June 12, 2019 – COA at 12:00pm-1:00pm

Wednesday – June 12, 2019 – Hajjar Elementary – 7:00pm

Thursday - June 13, 2019 – Ditson Elementary – 7:00pm

Neighborhood Meetings have changed slightly in the past few years. They now include a short talk about Town projects from the Town Manager. Instead of the usual Q&A the Department Heads are seated at tables around the exterior of the room. Residents have the chance to have a casual conversation with town employees or dig down on an issue they are having. Most residents have seemed to prefer this set up.

## **Community Outreach Meetings**

The Town of Billerica will be holding a community outreach meeting for the three applicants for a marijuana establishment in Town. These will be held on June 5th from 6-9PM to hear from each establishment. Questions can be sent to [cmain@town.billerica.ma.us](mailto:cmain@town.billerica.ma.us) if you can't residents cannot make it. It will also be televised live on BATV. To find out more about each applicant and their proposals you can look on our website on the front page.

## **Recreation Department Summer Kick Off**

The Recreation Department will be holding their first annual Summer Kick Off Event this year. The event will take place Saturday, June 29th from 12-4 at the VVP. The event will have free attractions such as bounce houses, obstacle courses, giant slides, games, crafts, and much more! Food Trucks and Ice Cream trucks will also be on hand if anybody is hungry.

## **Waste Management**

Recently the Town of Billerica has seen an uptick in interest in recycling. Over the winter the Town put together a PSA and magnets with recycling information on them were sent out to residents. The Town has a few interesting opportunities coming up with Waste Management. The Town is looking into to establishing a bag program through a grant. We will initiate a public contest for the logo to boost public interest.

This office set up a tour for any resident who was interested in seeing the Waste Management facility. Currently we have five openings for the tour on Tuesday. If any residents are interested please have them email Clancy at [cmain@town.billerica.ma.us](mailto:cmain@town.billerica.ma.us)

## **Recycling Audit**

The Town received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to fund a robust education campaign, help us inspect what's in the recycling carts and to communicate that information to residents. We will be performing curbside inspections of residential recycling carts beginning June 10th. Contaminated carts will receive a warning and specific feedback on what issue was found. A tag indicating the issue found will be left on the cart handle. Once the issue has been corrected, the cart will be collected the following week.

The Town of Billerica's recycling contains 28.4% contamination. Contractually, the Town is required to have a contamination rate of 5% or less. There is a heightened emphasis on compliance due to the global recycling market's downturn. Consequently, the Town of Billerica is embarking on a focused initiative to educate our residents on better recycling habits and lower our contamination rate.

**Town Manager's Evaluation**

I will be working on my self-evaluation as dictated in the BOS policies, Section 13. I will send it to the Chair electronically before the meeting. The Chair then distributes this to the full Board and requests your evaluations within 14 days.