



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, June 25, 2018

DATE: June 22, 2018

Town Hall Renovations

The first floor of Town Hall has undergone a major transformation over the past two weeks. An epoxy flake floor has been installed. This process occurred over two weekends. Transition strips are being installed between the floor and the office doorways. The painting of the walls and doors has been completed. The lighting is 90% finished. Certain areas that had sprinklers and alarm systems will be outfitted with smaller lights. The Town is in the process of determining a fixture for the front hallway. In the back hallways carpet tiles will be installed upon receipt of the materials. The Town is also planning to hang historical pictures, and electronic kiosk / bulletin boards throughout the first floor. Bob Sallese, the building maintenance craftsmen, managed the process and has done an excellent job. It is being funded through Capital Budget. The budget is approximately \$65,000.

The Building Commissioner is soliciting bids for the work on the ground floor community development reorganization. Work on the ground floor is expected to commence in August. The second phase of this project will be doing the second floor hallway.

Roofs

All roof work is going along well. Town Hall the membrane roof has been installed as well as the flashings and trim. The Police and Fire Station have had their membrane roof installed but still awaiting completion of the metal edge trim. This will be done around mid-July.

The Howe School air and vapor barrier has been installed and the roof is weather tight. The work area comprises 3,000 square feet. Approximately 25% of the slate was salvaged for the new roof. The rest were cracked or broken and have been discarded. Roofing will begin and is anticipated to be done by end of the June. However, the new slate has not been delivered yet for both roofs.

Library roof is expected to be done by mid-July as is the Recreation Building roof. The Library slate will be completely replaced. The old slate contained asbestos and could not be reused.

Clear Motion TIF Approved By State

This past Wednesday, June 20th, the Commonwealth's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) approved 15 projects for participation in the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP). One of those projects approved was the TIF for ClearMotion; a project that passed at Town Meeting by a vote of 167-3. As the Selectmen are aware, the company has outgrown its current

headquarters in Woburn. As a result of the TIF and their interest in Billerica's mixed use development on the Turnpike, they plan to relocate to Billerica with their current 195 employees, create 105 new jobs, and make an investment of \$9.4 million. This is the type of company we want to attract to the community.

Housing Choice Community

Billerica was named a Housing Choice Community. The Town has adopted best practices and zoning that supports sustainable housing and protects the environment. This designation allows the Town to take advantage of new financial resources, including exclusive access to new Housing Choice Capital Grants, and preferential treatment for many state grant and capital funding programs, including MassWorks, Complete Streets, MassDOT capital projects, and PARC and LAND grants. Billerica was one of 67 communities including Towns like Beverly, Canton, and Tyngsboro.

Neighborhood Meeting Update

The Neighborhood Meetings were well attended this year. Attendance was up over last year's meetings. With the exception of the Dutile School attendance was approximately 30 residents per meeting. Dutile continues to draw less residents – approximately 10 residents. The residents continued to enjoy the new format that allowed them to have one on one communication with Department Heads. Many residents sent in questions beforehand and the Town was able to have answers for them at the meetings. Department heads are currently in the process over the next few weeks of following up with anybody who had outstanding issues. As always if you were unable to attend you can reach out to my office for any questions. We would appreciate any feedback on the format or recommended improvement.

Some issues that were raised were the Coparts trucking Company. These concerns were and continue to be assessed by the Police department. The old Ditson and its future use continue to be a concern. Blight in Pinehurst was also a concern. Chief Rosa has a list of traffic concerns that we will be addressing. Overall, there are far less complaints than there were in the past and the demeanor of the meetings is much more congenial.

Professional Recognition

Wastewater Treatment Plant Fire

The Fire Department and the Wastewater Department have done an outstanding job over the past few weeks. Last Tuesday a fire broke out at the treatment facility at Letchworth Avenue. The fire was extinguished in about an hour. This was an unusual fire due to the building and where the equipment is placed in the building. If the Fire Department was to flood the facility it would have damaged a large amount of important equipment. The wastewater treatment facility also was able to work around the damage and no interruption of services took place. I want to recognize these two departments for their outstanding work two weeks ago.

Summer Reading Kickoff

Every year the Library holds a summer reading kickoff for people of all ages. This year the Library will be focusing on Mexico. On June 19th they had their "Taco Tuesday" kickoff party. It was estimated almost 1,000 people attended and 128 teens, 325 adults, and 347 children signed up for reading programs. The kickoff included tacos, face painting, raffles, and music from the Toe-Jam Band. This was an incredible turnout for this event. The Library did an unbelievable job with this event, and I felt that recognizing Jan and her staff in front of the Board was warranted.

Additionally, the Library will be holding an event to learn the history of Chocolate, "Chocolate and Mayans & Aztecs" on July 10th at 7:00pm.