



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, November 20, 2017

DATE: November 17, 2017

Net Metering Credits Progress Report

The first quarter of FY 2018 usage is down from the first quarter of FY2017 at 2,457,426 k Whr versus 2,893,820 k Whrs in Q1 FY2017. The net metering credits resulted \$90,924 in cost reduction benefits which has lowered the Town's average electricity cost by 3.7 cts / k Whr from 13.8 cts / k Whr through the first quarter of 2018.

MassWorks Project:

Boston Road was paved on November 14th and 15th. There is still some drive way paving on both sides of Boston Road that is taking place today. Striping is scheduled to take place over the next couple of days – the pavement needs to set for a few days. All of the sprinkler systems are completed as well as backflow boxes. Dagle Electric still needs to complete some electrical work and the NGrid connections. This is expected to happen in the next two weeks. Most of the other underground utility work is complete. Once this work is done the poles can be removed. The town will be pushing for their removal in as soon as possible – January is the desired time period.

Free Air Update - Article XVII of the General By-Laws

Notice of hearing letters were sent to two stations, Pace Energy at 192 Boston Road and Fill N Chill at 653 Boston Road. The hearings are scheduled for December 4th. The notices were posted in the Lowell Sun.

Syncarpha Solar Site

The new owner of the Pond Street Solar site has agreed to remove the boulders from the site and plant screening trees next spring. The removal of boulders is taking place this month.

Vining Reuse Committee

On November 7, 2017, the Vining Re-Use Advisory Committee to the Billerica School Committee met and voted a formal recommendation to the Billerica School Committee. The motion read as follows:

“Move to recommend to the School Committee that the Vining School be turned over to the Board of Selectmen in Fall 2019, that the School Committee request to the Board of Selectmen that the Vining School site should remain with control of the Town of Billerica for municipal purposes, and that the Board of Selectmen establish a Vining Re-Use Committee that includes resident members from the Vining Re-Use Advisory Committee to the School Committee.”

This motion was approved unanimously by the Vining Re-Use Advisory Committee on November 7, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed. the School Committee adopted this recommendation at the School Committee meeting on November 13, 2017.

Youth Organization Presidents Meeting

The Town/School Grounds Plan was presented to the Youth Organizations on November 9th. The reception was positive from all groups. It was attended by Rocco Magliozzi of Billerica Pop Warner, Rick Derosa of Billerica Youth Soccer, Brian Roberts from Billerica Little League, David Grubb, Ron Diorio of Billerica Girls Softball among others. Several recreation members attended as well.

Fire Department Assessment

Matrix has conducted and completed the department survey. Currently there are 38 responses with the following breakdown by station:

Administration	6	Station 3	3
Station 1	9	Station 4	10
Station 2	2	Station 5	8

The overall response is low and we may extend the time for the survey.

Fire Chiefs Assessment Center

There are 12 candidates for Fire Chief – 6 internal and 6 external. The assessment center will be conducted by MMA Consulting Group, Inc. It will be held November 28th at Town Hall in accordance with all Civil Service requirements as specified by Massachusetts HRD. There will be panel of assessors that typically include Town Managers, Fire and Police Chiefs.

Massport Letter

Selectmen Rosa brought a constituent complaint forward concerning new plane flight patterns due to runway work at Hansco,. The Massport number was not working today. I will try again next week to follow-up on this complaint.

Auto Insurance on School and Town Vehicles

Selectmen Simolaris has requested how many vehicles are insured for the Town and the school. This report will be updated with this information on Monday.

Green Energy Grant

This office met with Neal Duffy from DOER to discuss the prospect of becoming a Green Community. It entails meeting 5 criteria of which two are the most significant. One is to have a community plan to save 20% off of energy consumption in five years and two is to adopt a stretch energy building code. I am recommending that the BOS have Neal Duffy come to the December 4th meeting to make a presentation about this program. It would provide an initial grant of \$223,000 and eligibility for annual grants after that up to \$250,000.