

## Town Administrator Report, March 27, 2023

- USDA.
  - Had pre-construction meeting for pump station was Wednesday, March 22 with DPC, Riccardi, USDA, Scott Potter, Marty Gryzowka and myself. Ground breaking was to commence in September 2023. DPC requested Riccardi do boring testing soon to understand what type of rock/ledge they are looking at. Riccardi stated that he can get the machinery to the location and perform the testing in May. There was discussion over lead time for generator. Its ship date is approximately April 2024. They are looking into options such as rental as the completion needs to be by June 2024. The building will arrive pre-fabricated and we will have renderings of the exterior from the vendor soon. They understand it should have the look of a “sugar shack”. There was discussion over the legal budget and that it is running high. I stated that was due to the location change and all of the contention when the location was to be across from the common and that I do not anticipate any more issues going forward.
  - Equipment for project 2 (Wheelwright Plant) is out to bid and will just stay out until notice to proceed from USDA has occurred.
  - RCAP is working on rates. We have a date of April 3<sup>rd</sup> for a meeting with Laurie Stevens. She is putting together a PowerPoint presentation.
  - I am still researching RFP’s for oversight.

### *New:*

- I attended a meeting with Gov. Healy and Lt. Gov Kim Driscoll on Friday, March 10. There were approximately 30 of us in attendance. The Governor’s Office announced the creation of Director of Rural Affairs. The intent is to serve as an advocate for rural communities. This is the first time that a staff is dedicated to rural policy. We do not know yet who it is or where there office will be.
- Town Hall boiler update: All of the walls had to come down in the BOS/Conservation office. The entire wood floor needed to come up in the play group room. There is a small amount of mold in the Treasurer/Collector office. The subfloor needed to come up. We are not working in ideal conditions but we are making the best of it. It’s been a long 6 months. The restoration company has measured for all new materials for floors, walls and ceilings. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately the Green Community grants now cap at \$200K. The boiler will be approximately \$!mil. I am looking at other grants and funding sources. I’ve reached out to Bec and to RJ McDonald for repairs in the meantime so it doesn’t happen again.
- I was informed the CDBG that Ware was the lead community on was rejected for not being in on time. They are working with DHCD to try and rectify. We were informed Friday of last week DHCD is considering Summit Rd considering that portion of the application was submitted on time.
- Tuesday, March 7 we had Guardian Energy come in to assess the Municipal Office Building, Fire Station and Highway. Through the Green Community grant we are applying for, Town Hall will get all new doors, Fire Station will get new overhead doors and installation, as will Highway garage
- We met with National Grid on Thursday, March 23 as our meeting from the previous week needed to be rescheduled as we had a state of emergency storm they had to tend to. We discussed streetlight options for significant savings. Once we have al of the information and options, we will bring to you
- Town election is April 10. There are 3 contested races: Board of Selectmen; Board of Health and School Committee

***Ongoing:***

- MIIA, the Town insurance agency, will be coming out in the next couple of weeks to inspect buildings worth over \$500K. I am hoping Marty and Scott can accompany them.
- Vacant town owned parcels; White Building; Paige Building; Ruggles Hill School. What shall we do? I recently insured them, as there has been none on the properties. RFP? Auction? We are having a Capital Planning meeting Monday, March 27 at 3 to begin discussion
- We were awarded a .gov domain. Insurance is requiring us to be more secure. All phones are supposed to have two step authenticators. This will also mean our website and emails will change. This was approved by the federal government on Tuesday, February 21. The current and future emails and website will bridge until fully integrated. I will have more information on this soon.
- Council on Aging are holding office hours once again! 12:30PM at Quabbin Estates and Municipal Building (Town Hall) at 10:00AM. Please come down and check out all of the services they have. Snacks served! Eileen and Brenda will be at each location on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at each place unless otherwise necessary.
- DLS submitted Financial Policy manual. I will be forwarding as soon as I can go through so I may answer any questions you may have.
- Accountant; Shared services.
- Water Commission: We have received the water meters to upgrade technology and researching surrounding towns for rates, as well as exploring regulations and procedures. Most meters have been installed. We will hopefully be reading meters electronically at the next reading.
- Website is live as of February 27. Julie Murkette is working out some tweaks with Civic Plus
- I have begun attending coffee hour at the Hardwick/Barre Senior Center the first Wednesday of the month. Please come join me for a conversation or if you have any questions or concerns.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. My email along with work and cell numbers are on the website, and my door is always open.