

Town Administrator Report, May 22, 2023

- **USDA.**

- Equipment for project 2 (Wheelwright Plant) is out to bid and will be due to the Selectmen's Office on Wednesday, May 24
- Notice to proceed was issued by the Agency on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. We will be advertising WWTP soon.
- Debt repayment is still being discussed.
- Oversight RFP's have been sent to the Board for their perusal.

New:

- Hardwick Board of Health voted to rejoin the Leicester Coalition. This is great news as the Board of Selectmen were very pleased to enter into an agreement in July of 2021 with Leicester Regional Coalition for Health and the Hardwick Board of Health to have their staff expertise for six years at no charge to Hardwick.
- We are almost ready to submit for the One Stop grant for the Master Plan. If we give a 10% match, that gives bonus points. It is not necessary but will be an advantage. Our share would be approximately \$13K
- Also through One Stop, we are applying for the Summit Rd project that was not submitted in time for a CDBG through Ware. The total for that project is approximately \$550K
- The Open Space and Recreation Plan committee is still working diligently to update the Open Space recreation Plan. It is daunting work and we as staff have a lot of responsibility.
- Our EV charger at Town Hall is broken and needs replacement. I received a quote for \$10K, only to discover the second charger on Lower Rd doesn't work either. I am working with Green Communities to see if we can get another grant to replace.
- Resident and Planning Board member Bill Cole has been instrumental in changing up some investments for some Library trust funds. We will be looking to him for guidance with municipal funds in the near future to assist in revenue from interest rates.
- I am attending the Spring MMMA conference June 1-June 2. These are very important sessions and include a legislative session, where I will be voicing the top concerns for our community, including but not limited to: rural/regional school funding, ch 90 funding, state owned land values and creating municipal building authority to assist with rural communities and aging infrastructure, to name a few.

Ongoing:

- Town Hall boiler update. The restoration company is currently installing floors. We are now waiting for the second order of flooring. The finance committee has several knowledgeable HVAC experts and am waiting for some recommendations for a permanent solution.
- Construction has begun again with Ludlow Construction and MassDOT on Main Street in Gilbertville. Expect delays.
- The 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/or Brenda will be at each location on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at each place unless otherwise necessary.
- DLS submitted a 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 need to schedule training with Ti Sales and East National Water.
- I attend 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.