

Town Administrator Report, May 8, 2023

- **USDA.**
 - Equipment for project 2 (Wheelwright Plant) is out to bid and will just stay out until notice to proceed from USDA has occurred, which we hope to be this week.
 - The Sewer Commissioners/Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2023 to discuss rates and Betterments. Rates were approved for FY2024 as a uniform unit rate with addition of the bedroom unit rates to be incorporated into the sewer regulations when they are rewritten. Another public meeting has been set for
 - Betterments and betterment structure was discussed. I am apprehensive of them since no town or city in the commonwealth has the procedure written in a manner that is consistent over time. We are in discussions with USDA to support a concise and simple process for repayment of the loan portion of the project.
 - Oversight RFP's have been sent to the Board for their perusal.

New:

- The Hardwick/New Braintree held their first chicken bbq for the seniors. It was very successful with almost 150 people in attendance. Many volunteers made this possible. We'd like to thank the police and all involved for a great event! We certainly hope they'll continue the tradition!
- Street sweeping is complete and the roads should be ready for summer travel
- Finance Committee should have their recommendations to the Board today
- The new entry doors have been completed at the elementary school. Payment will be sent to the vendor this week.
- We met with the Board of Health last week regarding reinstating the Leicester Health coalition. The new members along with existing are in favor of seeing the agreement reinstated.

Ongoing:

- Our EV charger at Town Hall is broken and needs replacement. I am waiting to hear back with a quote
- Town Hall boiler update. The restoration company has measured all new materials for floors, walls and ceilings.
- Construction has begun again with Ludlow Construction and MassDOT on Main Street in Gilbertville. Expect delays.
- 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 had a Capital Planning meeting Monday, March 27 at 3PM begin discussion. It was basically introductions, and we should have another meeting 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/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 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 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.