**Town Manager Update**

*July 12, 2012*

As a reminder, between this meeting and our past meeting, there was a Special Town Meeting in which various capital and other items were funded, including a major borrowing for renovation of the Town Hall which will include asbestos abatement requiring the temporary re-location of second-floor offices. I will work closely with the Building Superintendent to ensure that the project runs smoothly.

Just after lunch on July 1, staff gave a surprise retirement party for Judy Wagner, presenting her with a card, a cake, and a fine bouquet.

We got a very nice thank-you note from Kathy Burke regarding her certificate. She wrote: “To the Select Board: Thank you so much for the very special certificate. It was my honor to serve on the Housing Authority. Elderly people have always been my favorites—and now I am one!!” The note goes on and I urge you to read it in the Select Board room.

There had been some concern over a proposal from Berkshire Money Management to offer outdoor concerts this summer, as their current use is already subject to a special permit, without the added entertainment function. However, they have decided to withdraw their proposal, at least for this year.

Coincident with retirements and resignations, last Tuesday we welcomed Alyssa Maschino as my new assistant. Alyssa has jumped in with both feet forward and is doing a great job. I’m also pleased to say this is Grant McGregor’s first day on the job as our new Town Planner, and that he was successfully brought on board and is settling in in the Town Planner’s office. I have given him a long list of projects and grants to become familiar with and hope he can take on that work soon so I can focus as much as possible on the Town Hall renovation, including the temporary relocation. Of course, we’ve just hired a new Highway Superintendent as well, so it’s been a very busy three weeks for me, with all the interview preparation, interviewing, and related work.

Regarding the proposed solar project on the Walker property, an internal group met and came to a consensus on what the Town needs in order to approve the project. Town Counsel, specifically Rick Holland, is now communicating those requirements with Emma Azadan of Citizens’ Energy Corporation, who is representing the landowner.

In other solar news, we got the $2,500 check from Nexamp they were supposed to have sent several months ago at the signing of the PILOT agreement. They expect to start generating energy soon and we all hope the state approves the new tranche of renewable energy credits.

The Cherry Sheets from the legislative Conference Committee are out and are unchanged from Senate version, with $1,674,102 in receipts and $51,446 in charges, for a net receipt of $1,622,656.