**Town Manager Update**

*September 27, 2021*

We had a successful bidding process for the personnel classification and pay study and awarded the contract to Municipal Resources, Inc., for $14,900, with the possibility of paying more for additional job descriptions. Since our grant was for $25,000, we have the ability to expand the study as needed. We are currently working on position questionnaires in preparation for job description reviews.

We received two bids for the Walker Brook preliminary engineering study funded at 75% by the Federal Emergency Management Administration and 25% by Town Meeting. A well-known firm, GZA GeoEngineering, Inc., won the bid, with a technical proposal scored as a tie with Tighe and Bond and a price proposal of $123,276, well below the limit of $200,000.

River Run Apartments is finally accepting their responsibility to maintain River Street, and the Town of Dalton is no longer going to be granting any exception to them for plowing, fixing potholes, etc. Since the Town needs to treat all residents along private roads equally, and River Street Extension is not at this time a public way (nor has it been in the past), I sent a letter to residents of that street noting that the Town will also no longer be granting an exception in the maintenance of River Street Extension, and said that they could petition the Town to accept River Street Extension as a public way, along with noting it would be a Town Meeting decision and that the Town Clerk had more information.

Update on Town Hall renovation. I am in negotiations for temporary office space for second-floor staff, to start November 1 and expect to sign an agreement within a couple of weeks.

Staff are beginning to request FY 2023 budget items, including some structural changes. I’ll look at everyone’s suggestions carefully and will work on anything particularly important with Departments, the Select Board, and the Finance Committee well before any decisions have to be made.

I’ll be working with the BRPC on economic resilience planning, a topic I’m familiar with through previous regional work in my last position. This will only be a few meetings per year but should get me in touch with a variety of professional in the area.

I understand from Habitat for Humanity that their plan is to close on 16 Gulf Road on September 30.

I’m pleased to say I have met the new Dalton Fire Chief, Jim Peltier, currently of Marlboro. He’s looking forward to working out here and is searching for housing in the area for himself and his family.