**TM Update**

*February 14, 2022*

The Town Clerk received a petition, and confirmed the signatures, from Carrie Geibel “to fully accept River Street Extension as a public way, with road maintenance including snow removal, sanding, and grading to be performed by the Town of Dalton.”

Chief Strout and I have submitted a Community Compact regionalization grant proposal in cooperation with the Town of Hinsdale for a consultant to produce a study on the possibility of Dalton forming the center of a regional police force. I understand their chief is due to retire and they use mostly part-time reserve officers, which could become problematic for them as the Police Reform Act is implemented.

In response to a question at a previous meeting, I can report that the 10% administrative fee charged for police details goes into the general fund and is not available for payments to the Police Department.

I worked with Chief Strout to finalize a promissory note by which officers we put through the Police Academy agree to stay in Dalton or pay back some or all of the costs of putting them through. If they stay five years, the Town pays all of their costs; if not, they pay back a percentage based on how long they stayed.

I have received a very reasonable offer for leasing two rooms in the CRA building next door, for our third-floor staff, and intend to move forward with that procurement. This will complete our staff office needs during the period we must vacate the second and third floors of Town Hall.

The Town has an obligation to provide a lower-cost health-care plan. The Town Treasurer has worked with our insurance agent, MIIA, to offer a lower-cost plan to employees who don’t anticipate needing health care in Boston or on the Cape. By narrowing the network, the plan becomes less expensive. We’ll be offering this plan during the next open enrollment period.

The Town Planner submitted an Expression of Interest for a Municipal Vulnerability Program grant for assisting in creating a different drainage system for the Orchard Street/Pease Avenue area. The culvert is prone to backing up and we can relieve it of a good deal of its water load by re-routing the drainage from the field above to the road, which we also want to re-pave.