**Town Manager Update**

*February 28, 2022*

As you know, Town Hall was opened Monday, February 21, with the 7-day Covid numbers coming in under 25. The health Agent and I agreed that with case number falling quickly, we could use the 7-day number instead of the 14-day number, as had been the case during the earlier closing, with Board of Health guidance. The seven-day number from Feb. 15th to the 21st was just 8, through the 14-day count was 32, showing that cases in Town were declining quickly.

On Friday, February 18, Governor Baker announced a $2.4 billion supplemental spending bill for fiscal year 2022 that includes funding for critical municipal programs, featuring $100 million for a supplemental Chapter 90 distribution to cities and towns for local roads and bridges, $100 million to help municipalities repair roads from winter damage, and $150 million in supplemental grants for climate change initiatives including the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program.

The Request for Proposals for Assessing Services was scheduled to be published in the Goods and Services Bulletin today, with a deadline of March 17. I also sent the RFP to three firms that provide such services. For your information, I was able to promulgate an RFP because you designated me Chief Procurement Officer, a requirement for sending out RFPs (as opposed to the simpler Invitations for Bids). I can also report that I successfully completed the re-designation process for being a Massachusetts Certified Public Procurement Official, or MCPPO, and I strongly encourage the Board to require that training for anyone it designates as Chief Procurement Officer.

I have also put out a request for quotes for a surveyor to delineate the boundaries of the portion of the Bardin parcel we can lease as farmland. Then we can proceed with an RFP.

I am currently negotiating a lease for two rooms suitable for three office spaces with the landlord of the Kittredge House, which the CRA also leases.

The Massachusetts Film Office maintains records of possible film locations Residents may submit photos of interior or exterior locations at mafilm.org. The Town may do so as well, and I would welcome suggestions for inclusion.

I’m reviewing our Cyber Liability application with Renatus Solutions, working toward a March 25th deadline I believe we’ll easily meet.

We are planning to start moving offices to the former bank the second week of March, and have added some additional work on asbestos-containing plaster in the offices of the third floor, where we’ve found asbestos-containing plaster on the inner office walls and ceilings, which is cracking.