**Town Manager Update**

*March 28, 2022*

Most of my work over the past week has been settling various items included on the Town Meeting warrant, as covered earlier in this meeting.

Chief Strout, Chair Diver, and I attended a grant awarding ceremony for Regionalization and Efficiency grants last Thursday in Buckland, better known as the other side of Shelburne Falls. We were accompanied by the Hinsdale Chief of Police and their Town Administrator. We applied at the request of Hinsdale, who expects to lose their chief soon to retirement, and does not expect to be able to fully fund an adequate force after the Police Reform Act. The challenge will be getting a good consultant to plan the details of such a transition, as well as hold sufficient community meetings for residents of both towns to be satisfied with the plan.

I have filed an additional form which could garner some more money from the multi-state opioid settlement. You may recall that the funds could be used to support the Chief’s DARE program in the schools.

I have been working with my assistant to set up a network of social service providers so that some of the more difficult public health issues in town may be managed with appropriate professional advice and action. These include cases of hoarding, sub-standard housing, sometimes spilling over into environmental issues, etc.

We had two responses to the Request for Proposals for Assessing Services, with a three-year contract offered; the apparent winner was Patriot Properties due to their scope being a better fit for the Town’s needs.