**Town Manager Update**

*September 12, 2022*

I have completed the preparations for leasing two Kittredge House rooms for Town Hall renovation and as of today, signed the lease, so we will be moving four offices into the two rooms.

The Invitation for Bids for the tower fire truck, due August 25th, yielded one bid, for $119,500, and I have given the information to the Water and Fire District to complete the purchasing; we will provide the funds and they will copy us on all the paperwork for our records.

The Town of Sandisfield has withdrawn from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, run by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. This may mean rates for the remaining towns will go up, especially for FY 2024.

Recapping earlier appointments, we are in the midst of another spate of hiring. For Recording Secretary, a part-time position, we had 3 applicants, with one person withdrawing due to another job offer. 2 were interviewed, and we have offered Jennifer Richard the job. Jennifer is also the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board for Savoy. For Assistant Accountant, a part-time position, we had 9 applicants and interviewed 4, settling on Christine Bialobok for an offer. For Assistant Town Clerk, a full-time position, we had 27 applicants, with a number believing it was simply a clerical position; 3 withdrew their application after their interview was scheduled, leaving four to be interviewed.

I’m pleased to announce that both the ADU by-law and the Conservation Commission wetlands by-law were approved by the Attorney General’s office. The ADU by-law takes effect as of the date of Town Meeting; the wetlands by-law as of the approval of the Attorney General.

Based on the Town Meeting vote, I have advertised for bids for the asbestos abatement and re-installing the ceiling. The due date is October 6. Also based on the Town Meeting vote, I have engaged an appraiser for the Bardin property and sent Fuss and O’Neill a Letter of Award for Division Road engineering.

I have begun to prepare two Fiber Ring Invitations for Bids—first, for construction, and second, to hook it up. I will note that even though both companies who assisted in putting together the scopes of work are on the state contract, the state contract still requires soliciting quotes from at least two companies for each scope of work. In earlier times, simply having been approved for a state contract was sufficient for procurement, as the state had done the bidding, but more contracts are now requiring an additional solicitation of some number of quotes.

You may know that the Town has had a couple of funding items moved up a notch at the state level. Two items made it into the General Government Bond Bill, though we must understand that the bond has to be issued in order for the Town to receive these funds. This depends on the state’s Executive Office of Administration and Finance, which will consider the overall level of state debt before issuing such a bond (which totals $3.1 billion). The items are $250,000 for improvements to the transfer station and $500,000 for renovations and improvements to the highway garage. In addition the CRA could receive $250,000 as well.