**Town Manager Update**

*October 11, 2022*

The main news is that we have received and accepted bids for the Town Hall renovations. The winning asbestos abatement bid was from Abide, Inc., of East Longmeadow, for $243,580. The winning alterations bid (which is restoring the ceiling while adding some sheet rock to provide durable air sealing) was from Cape Cod Builders, Inc., for $263,000, plus $29,000 for the two alternates we gave—sheet rock to provide a solid air seal and sheet rocking the two third-floor offices in need of that. That’s $292,000 for alterations, which includes the sub-bids of Collins Electrical of Chicopee for $65,500 and Rocky’s Acoustics Co., also of Chicopee, for $36,190. I’ll note that Cape Cod Builders got rave reviews from Lenox for their work on the Town Hall restoration there. That makes the total for the construction work $535,580. The original estimate of the prep work, including moving, etc., was $150,000, for a total estimate of $685,580, though there will be some additional expenses, including bank rent, as the initial bank lease is up in January. This means that although the bids came in within budget, we have virtually no contingency funds, so we hope the work proceeds smoothly. The Building and Grounds Superintendent and I will of course keep you updated closely as we proceed.

I’ve been working with the Finance Committee on the motions and explanations for the upcoming special Town Meeting and preparing some longer-range planning items including a policy for free cash and some longer-term staffing issues.

I have learned that an estimated construction cost for an additional sewer line on Dalton Division Road is $369,000. Added to that would be the cost of engineering; at 10%, that would be $37,000, or a total of $406,000. For fourteen connections, that would make the cost of each connection about $29,000.

Today was Town Planner Grant McGregor’s last day. He did an enormous amount of very good work for the Town and we wish him well in his future endeavors. Alyssa and I have taken over his e-mail and duties until we hire another Town Planner. We have posted ads and are continuing to get the word out.

Other than that, I’ve been managing the regular work of the office and keeping all the balls rolling that have been set in motion, but I have no particular milestones to report.