**Town Manager Update**

*October 24, 2022*

The most developed project is Town Hall Renovation. I’m in the midst of getting the contracts signed for the Town Hall work. The part where it gets put back together is almost done, with Cape Cod Builders; I’m waiting to hear back from the asbestos removing firm, Abide, Inc. The bids came in right at the top end of our authorized borrowing; if we need to meet any contingencies, I plan to ask the Select Board for ARPA funds to fill the gap.

The Preliminary Engineering study for Walker Brook is just wrapping up—we have a summary of the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, a key aspect of the study. The next steps are the preliminary and Final design memos. With the final design memo, we can go out to bid for the final engineering and grant development (the funding for which will be contingent on getting the grant).

The Police Regionalization project is still alive, as Hinsdale officials are trying to move the project for their coming Town Meeting. They’re setting up community zoom meetings to try to help their residents to understand the problem, which is admittedly difficult, and to take advantage of Dalton’s offer to help them out, though it would cost them on the order of $150,000. The final report has been posted to our website, though the consultants will continue to work with Hinsdale as they reach out to various groups of residents.

I also just got the bid back for the Fiber Ring to connect all Town computers. It came in higher than expected. I have negotiated it down to just $4,000 over the grant, and with your vote tonight will move that forward. Stringing the fiber should be done by the end of June, with the connections made in July.

The newest project is the sewer repair. I am working with Bud on the best way to procure the engineering for that work. Because the U.S. Treasury now allows towns to use the procurement laws of their own state, we could use the existing engineering firm to do the final design and take care of the bidding.

In other news, I have been working with the Health Agent on finalizing an eviction due to unsafe living conditions. An agreement was signed with a number of provisions, including for the owner not to live there, but to have access only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. After an inspection by the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector, we are now seeking an order to board up the house, as it has been declared unsafe.

I arranged for our IT consultant to give a cybersecurity update at the most recent department head meeting, which was informative and helped staff understand the range of challenges and degree of awareness necessary to meet them.

We have gotten a new proposal from Citizens’ Energy Corp. for the Warren property, in which they are proposing to pay all back taxes and fees due. I am working with Town Counsel on how to develop such an agreement so everyone can move forward.