**Town Manager Update**

*March 27, 2023*

Due to the planned State and Federal end to the pandemic state of emergency on May 11, I’m going to propose on an upcoming agenda that the Select Board end the Town state of emergency as of the same date.

I and others interviewed two candidates for the position of Town Planner on Wednesday. Based on those interviews, we decided to offer the position to Janko Tomasic, and I’m very pleased to say that he has accepted. We plan for him to start in early July, as he would not have been able to start till the end of May and had pre-existing plans for two weeks in late June.

As per the e-mail in your packet, we will soon be asked to consider another three-year contract with Colonial Power. I am in touch with the other towns in the aggregation, and we will be meeting tomorrow to look at expected prices, and on April 11 to renew the contract. I will bring what is termed the “indicative pricing,” or expected pricing, to the Board on Monday, April 10, and, assuming the Board wants to continue with the aggregation plan, will ask for the authority to accept the actual offer the following day.

I attended the Massachusetts Municipal Associations’ legislative breakfast on Friday, in Adams, where MMA staff updated those present on the state budget and proposed state legislation. Staff from Sen. Mark’s and Rep. Barrett’s office were there, and attendees were able to articulate the needs of the region well for all to hear.

I attended the Fuss and O’Neill 25% design meeting with MassDOT last Tuesday regarding Division Road. There were about a dozen MassDOT staff members on the call, and aside from a few minor tweaks, everything went well.

We received only one bid for street sweeping, which was quite high, so the DPW Superintendent and I decided to reject the bid, re-do the scope of work , and put out a new request for quotes.

As you heard earlier, the Town’s FY22 bill from Pittsfield for FY22 sewer came in, and was $19,522 over budget. Staff has requested an article on the Town Meeting warrant to fund this from the Sewer Stabilization Fund.