**Town Manager Update**

*May 8, 2023*

I have sent what I hope is a final Invitation for Bids for the Bardin property to Town Counsel for review.

At Pat and Mitch’s request, I am developing an Invitation for Bids for re-wiring Town Hall for internet use. One item to be addressed is that phones had to be connected through people’s computers; this project would include installing jacks so phones could plug directly into the network, which should increase reliability.

Hinsdale has had technical problems with their pumping station, which has led to a lack of data coming to us for billing them. I’m in touch with their Town Administrator, who is pushing their vendor to find out when the necessary parts are due to come in.

We’ll be getting some information on potential brownfields eligible for redevelopment assistance from a project taken on by University of Connecticut students. It will be polished by their professor and available within the next month.

The Warren Farms Solar project has passed the final stage of permitting, with the Conservation Commission requiring site visits during construction to confirm proper handling of potential erosion.

At the request of Chief Strout, and based on the vote the Board took April 10, I wrote a letter of support for the Community Policing grant for a School Resource Officer for three years.

I have learned that our Town-Planner-to-be, Janko Tomasic, has acquired housing in the area, and very much look forward to his start date of July 10. I intend to bring a formal appointment forward June 12, when he will be here to meet you.

The Dalton Division Road sewer engineering project is moving forward smoothly, as Tighe and Bond move forward with permitting; the latest submission was to MassWildlife, as two manholes lie within “mapped priority habitat.”

With the help of Jenn Richards, one of our Recording Secretaries doing administrative work, I was able to submit the annual ARPA reporting document by the deadline of April 30.

MassDEP is requiring substantial work to be done at the old Town landfill; two monitoring wells have become unusable and need to be repaired. I have requested reserve funds for that and the work should be done by the end of the month, or at least the end of the fiscal year.

We have two applicants for the Buildings and Grounds Superintendent position; both seem good. As this will involve a full background check, due to unrestricted access to the Police Station, I hope to move quickly. I have invited the DPW Superintendent, Police Chief, and Senior Center Director to the interviews.

I am also working on a job description for the new Health Agent Assistant. I have a good template to work from via another town, so just need to tweak it for Dalton.

The DPW Superintendent and I met to discuss the upcoming One Stop application for Orchard Road. Feedback from the preliminary Expression of Interest indicated that they consider our proposal two projects rather than one; first, the drainage work and related paving, and second, any paving on the same street not directly associated with the drainage work. They further indicated that applying for both projects would put them in the position of competing against each other. We decided to propose the drainage and associated re-paving as the sole project and wait for next year to propose the reconstruction of the rest of the road. We could also mill and fill, though this make sense more for the less steep portion of the road.

Finally, I got a heads up from Pittsfield that their DPW is reviewing both the intermunicipal water agreement and the sewer agreement. Preliminary analysis shows that Pittsfield needs substantially more money for their system to be sustainable, and that sewer rates will be going up for next year for short-term costs, plus phasing in the actual costs of treating Dalton’s wastewater for several years after that.