**Town Manager Update**

*May 22, 2023*

The Bardin property Request for Proposals was posted Wednesday in the Central Register and on our web site (actually Tuesday evening), with a minimum bid price of $148,200, or $1,000 per acre. I have reached out to all those who let me know they might be interested in bidding on it. I have also sent a press release to the Eagle and iBerkshires to reach others in the area who might be interested. I look forward to this competitive process and hope it brings the highest possible price for the town.

I also published an Invitation for Bids for Town Hall data wiring, as I mentioned I was going to do at our last meeting. The expense will be covered by the borrowing article for Town Hall re-wiring. We expect the company doing the electrical work for the Town Hall renovation to submit a bid, and hope for several others.

We have started interviewing candidates for Buildings and Grounds Superintendent and will continue through at least tomorrow, as we have a number of qualified candidates. Just so you know, I am using interview questions based on other towns’ for similar positions as amended by other members of the interviewing group.

I spent a good deal of time over the past two weeks on Planning Board and ZBA business. I look forward greatly to getting the new Town Planner up to speed in July, as the logistics for hearings and meetings can be time-consuming. On a related note, we have switched from the CRA for both groups’ meetings to the Senior Center, as the CRA has a more firm closing time of 8 p.m. now, and both boards can exceed that on any given evening.

I have been meeting with the Health Agent regarding the new Housing Assistant position. We are developing a job description that reflects other towns’ similar positions, but is geared to part-time work.

As requested at the last meeting, the DPW Superintendent is asking our engineers to see what data they can pull out from the sewer inspections to help identify users who are directing their sump pump flow into the sewage system.

I have forwarded a proposed PILOT agreement to Citizens Energy, which is doing the solar array on the Warren property, and am waiting for an initial response. I’ll note that the special permit also requires that all back taxes and fees be paid prior to starting construction.

We have received two letters of complaint regarding the dust from the dirt on Johnson Road, exacerbated by reportedly increased traffic, and requesting that the road be paved. The DPW Superintendent and I are drafting replies.