**Town Manager Update**

*June 5, 2023*

Just for your information, I took the liberty of looking for statewide resources that might be able to assist in any way with Water and Fire District matters, and was surprised to find out that neither the Department of Fire Services nor any other State office has any resources for generally assisting such districts. In related news, the interim Chief, Mr. Cachat, was quoted last week in the media as saying the delivery of the Fire truck would be in about five weeks. As a reminder, the Select Board authorized $120,000 of ARPA money for the purchase; the sole bid came in at $119,500, which we accepted.

In procurement news, the Bardin property Invitation for Bids bid opening will be Tuesday, June 20 at 4 p.m. We have also issued an addendum notifying bidders of the state law requiring that buyers submit a farm business plan (we also supplied the state’s template), and we have clarified the due date as Tuesday, June 20, as June 19 is now a holiday. For the Town Hall Data Wiring project, there is so far at least one interested party. Bids are due Thursday, June 8. An Invitation for Bids for the electric vehicle charging stations at the CRA will be issued Wednesday, with a due date of Wednesday, June 28.

The DPW Superintendent is looking at the cost to pave Johnson Road, as various letters writers have suggested. In dry periods, there is quite a bit of dust. The DPW does lay down some calcium chloride, but that is opposed by those who walk their horses on the road.

The Cultural Council is asking residents to complete a Community Survey to help them set funding policies for the next few years. The survey is available on the Town web site in the news items, and there are paper surveys at the Town Hall, Senior Center, Library and CRA. The survey closes on June 30.

Sen Mark’s office plans to have monthly hours at the Dalton Senior Center office, though usually staffed by his Constituent Service Director, Casey Pease. Mr. Pease was here today; please see the Town website for reminders for future office hours.

We have had three interviews for Building and Grounds Superintendent and are having another one pending getting people’s schedules together. For your information, the current Building and Grounds Assistant has offered to work part-time to keep things going, though the current Superintendent is staying on part time to July 1. The interviewers have been the Police Chief, DPW Superintendent, and the COA Director. We offered the position to one candidate last week but he turned down the position, citing low pay. All applicants have come from the private sector; we would not be able to reflect those salaries without another wholesale change in salaries, as we have a number of staff who would make considerably more in the private sector. The position did receive the largest percentage increase of any after the personnel study, and I adjusted the grade further even after that. We may be able to tweak the position description more, but it has to be seen in the context of all positions.

John Barry, who is our contractor managing the Town Hall renovation, did a walk through this afternoon.  The gypsum wallboard ceilings are at least 90% completed and 50% taped. The only remaining spot where gypsum wallboard had to be installed was at the Police Department stairs; he expects they will be completed no later than Wednesday.  He checked the third floor and they have primed the two office space walls being renovated; a crack in one was in the process of being repaired. He was told the finish coat would be installed this afternoon and feathered out to get a smooth finish. After this work is done, we still have electrical to finish, acoustic tiles to install, and insulation to blow in, but this is the single largest part of the work, so it’s good to have made substantial progress.