**Town Manager Update**

*January 22, 2024*

The December state supplemental budget included $15 million for municipalities for damages or emergency response costs from extreme weather over the past year. The first round of $10 million is going to 37 communities, and Dalton is scheduled to receive $20,000.

We also received notice from the state that about $120,797 will be added to our Chapter 90 account from the “Fair Share” program created by the initiative to tax income over $1M at a higher rate and apply those taxes to education and transportation.

The textile recovery program at the Transfer Station has collected 13,945 pounds of textiles so far, generating $976.15 for the Town.

The quarterly report for our electricity aggregation program is in for the first quarter since Eversource dropped its very high prices (from 0.21991 to 0.14854, a drop of one-third). Our rate was still at 0.09603, and has just switched to 0.13849. Residential savings for the last quarter were a total of $169,888, for an average of 1,954 accounts over that time. With just a small difference for the next three months, savings will be less, but the Town plan is still less expensive.

We expect to get our state cybersecurity check report soon, and understand that it will have a variety of recommendations, both for software and for behavioral changes. Our consultant is making an inventory of all the current hardware and software in anticipation of a global move to Windows 11, which will help ensure all our systems are compatible.

As most people know, we had an extraordinary event in town recently, the wake and funeral of Air Force Staff Sergeant Jacob Galliher. I’d like to commend Chief Strout for her management of the event, which involved coordination with multiple entities at various levels of government.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has received several inquiries about the Bardin property, which is a good sign for the Town being able to pass on ownership soon. I understand MDAR has had one serious proposal to buy the land, which they are reviewing.

I’m pleased to report that the Pittsfield DPW fixed Gulf Road on Friday, December 13. So long as there is no flooding damage this winter, we should be able to open it in the spring.

Finally, I had mentioned some time ago that I would like to be excused from the April 8 Select Board meeting. We’ll be done with the budget and Town Meeting matters and some friends of mine and I have made plans to see the solar eclipse in Burlington, Vermont, which isn’t till about 2 in the afternoon. I should be able to be on Zoom if necessary.