**Town Manager Update**

*April 22, 2024*

Over the past couple of weeks I’ve spent a good deal of time preparing the materials for Town Meeting, including the Article and Tax Summary (in the financial report delivered with the Town Report) and the motions and explanations document. As you know we do not yet have costs for the appraisals for the easements for Housatonic Street and Orchard Road, but I expect to get those by May 1.

I’ve also been assisting in solving some staffing issues—we still need two equipment operators for the DPW, though we do have two applications recently in, and as you know we just hired an administrative assistant. You also know we just hired an Assistant Town Collector. In addition, I’ve been sorting out a proposed revision of a couple of Library positions, which seems to have worked out well and within the FY24 and FY25 budgets.

I reported earlier that our Emergency Management Director resigned to take on a full-time position. I hope to have an interim EMD for your ratification if necessary, and am also working to get a permanent EMD in place, with one good possibility.

There has been concern among the town managers of the region about regional vocational education transportation, and Greg Boino of the Central Berkshire Regional School District has been kind enough to volunteer his time and expertise to gather a group together to see whether the existing routes are efficiently laid out. One possibility is to have a single bid for vocational education transportation that would cover several towns, maximizing the efficiency of the system. We have had an initial meeting and plan to meet again once we have some more data on routes and ridership.

In procurement news, both the bid for the Garage Roof Improvements and for the Climate Action Plan are due this week.

The first e-mail newsletter is scheduled to be sent out this week, perhaps as early as tomorrow. The is first one will contain only very basic information, including a notification for the pre-Town Meeting and the annual Town Meeting. Anyone with an e-mail address can sign up through the website; it’s the first link next to the Town of Dalton logo at the top left.

We’ve set up a Town Meeting webpage on the Town website and have begun populating it with related material. I also plan to post the motions and explanations document and a stand-alone Article and Tax Summary as printed in the Financial Report that went out with the Town Report.