**Town Manger Update**

*June 10, 2024*

The Town has repaid the deposit of the original purchase and sale agreement for the Bardin property.

The Town’s new EQV, or total value of the taxable property in the Town, has been published: it has risen to $947,874,600 from $895,322,865, a substantial rise; the real estate tax rate should go down approximately proportionately, though this does not change the average tax bill going up about 4.6%, or $246.

We have received the formal appraisals of the Orchard Road property and the L.P. Adams property. Town Counsel is drawing up the paperwork to move those forward.

I have learned that we are losing not just one, but two assessors by the end of the fiscal year. I am working all the angles I know to get someone in place so we can set the tax rate in the fall.

In case you hear any rumors about bus stops in town, I can tell you that BRTA has recently gotten funding for a new service, commuter bus service to/from Pittsfield-Northampton that is progressing through the planning stages. In this plan, there are likely going to be stops in the area of the Main and Curtis Streets intersection, as the most likely main bus stop for Dalton.

I’m pleased to say that I’ve been working with Janko, Alyssa, and Dan Filiault, with Taylor Staubach in the loop, to finally send our ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to the DEP as the final requirement for our Open Space and Recreation Plan, otherwise approved several years ago. We are now fully approved and able to apply for the relevant grants.

I’ve completed the contracts for the Climate Action Plan and meetings are starting immediately.

I have gotten a proposed plan for a “National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor” (NIETC), one of several potential transmission line corridors across the country that need greater grid capacity and/or reliability. The local one would go along an existing transmission line from the Northfield Mountain hydropower facility in Erving/Northfield to the NY state border, through Dalton. There is a public comment period for potential impacts on “environmental, community, and other resources within the potential NIETCs” and the western Mass. Regional Planning Agencies are developing comments based on their own research and local input. I plan to be on a call Wednesday at 3 p.m. to learn more and provide any input I can. One concern is that the potential corridor is quite wide; designation as an NIETC appears to define the corridor as being 0.5 mile wide on either side of the transmission line (that is, a total 1-mile wide corridor) along the existing transmission line route.

I’ve been working on many other projects but no major milestones have been reached.