



Town of Wenham

Town Hall
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Selectmen / Town Administrator
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Selectmen
FROM: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator
RE: Town Administrator's Report
DATE: June 28, 2016

Green Communities Grant Award

Hamilton and Wenham jointly submitted a grant application this spring through the Green Communities program on behalf of the School District to replace the Building Energy Management System at the Middle/High School. Their existing system is inefficient and outdated, having been installed 20 years ago. This project is expected to yield significant energy use savings. I received notification today that we have been awarded this grant funding - \$500,000 in total, which represents the highest possible grant award. It is also important to note that no local match is required from the towns or the district as part of this grant program. Kudos to the School's Director of Maintenance and Facilities, Jason Waldron, and our Energy Manager, Vicky Masone, for developing such a competitive application!

Personnel

Margaret Hoffman's first day as Planning Coordinator will be Tuesday July 5. We have scheduled a meet-and-greet at Town Hall for members of the land use boards and any other residents who want to attend on Thursday July 7th from 5:30 to 6:30PM.

We have hired Sean McCarthy as our new DPW Driver/Operator. Sean has served as a Wenham call firefighter for many years and is excited to begin working full-time for the town.

We are still looking to fill a number of seasonal lifeguard positions at both Pleasant Pond and Patton Park. Please inquire with the Wenham Police Department or Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department if you are interested.

Compost Facility

The Town is allocated 52 cubic yards of free compost every year from Brick Ends as part of our recycling contract. This figure is based on our town-wide 1400 household headcount. Residents have historically had unlimited access to this free compost at the DPW yard. Unfortunately, for the first time this year, we have already depleted our entire inventory due

to higher than usual demand. Accordingly, for next year, we plan to institute a voucher system where every resident will be allowed up to two 5-gallon pails, 2 recycle bins, or 1 cubic yard of free compost. Pick up will be limited to Saturday mornings in May from 8am to 12pm. If residents want more than their allotted amount next year or need compost this year, they can contact Brick Ends directly who will deliver 3 yard minimums for a reasonable fee.

State Revenue Projections & FY17 Budget

The Baker administration released new FY17 tax revenue projections today that are \$650 million to \$950 million lower than originally forecast. A revenue loss of this magnitude will force deep cuts across all aspects of the budget. The three separate FY17 budgets set by the Governor, House and Senate were all based on the original, higher revenue projection, which means that all of the plans are significantly out of balance. The Legislature has passed a temporary 1-month budget to cover state obligations through the end of July and provide some breathing room for legislators while they dramatically scale back their FY2017 budget proposals. The hope is that these lower anticipated revenues do not result in substantive cuts in state aid (UGGA, Ch 70, etc) as any such decreases will have to be absorbed by the municipalities since we have already set our FY17 budgets based on at least maintaining our levels of state aid.

Legal Update Training Session

Lauren Goldberg, our lead attorney from Kopelman & Paige (town counsel), will be providing training to town employees and officials regarding updates on state ethics, open meeting law, and the public records law. We are planning on having two separate sessions, one in the afternoon from 2-4 for staff and another from 5-7 that same day for all elected and appointed officials. This training session will take place on either Tuesday July 26 or Tuesday August 2, depending on what date has the greatest availability.

Measure List Project

The Board of Assessors has hired Robert Brindle to provide measurement and data verification on improved parcels across town. He will begin this week and then plans to recommence his work in late July. For this phase, he will inspect a representative sampling of about 1/3 of the properties in town. Mr. Brindle will be personally visiting all involved residences as part of his inspection and assessment process.

Mandatory Water Ban

Due to low flows in the Ipswich River and to comply with MassDEP requirements, we continue to be in a mandatory water ban. All nonessential outdoor watering is prohibited except for hand watering between 5pm and 9am. This ban includes water from private wells and will likely continue until October 1.