



Town of Wenham

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Selectmen / Town Administrator
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator
RE: Town Administrator's Report
DATE: September 6, 2016

SeeClickFix

The Town is set to launch Wenham's version of SeeClickFix next Monday, September 12. This mobile application provides a new forum for residents to engage with the Town and will allow us to be more transparent in responding to local issues as they are reported. It will also create an internal work order and data collection system that will help streamline daily work flow and support better asset management. The start-up costs associated with going live have been covered by Community Compact grant funding and is consistent with our dual commitment as part of that program to implement best practices in capital planning and citizen engagement. More information about the SeeClickFix app will be posted on the homepage of the Town's website next Monday.

FY18 Budget Process

I will be meeting with Department Heads starting next week to review their preliminary submissions for the FY18 budget. As has been discussed, we anticipate the upcoming fiscal year to be particularly challenging. Independent of the costs associated with the continued school enrollment shift, we will also see significant increases in our trash and recycling collection/disposal line item as well as new mandates regarding federal stormwater regulations coming online next year – all of which will place substantial pressure on an operating budget that is already constrained.

Following up on our initial forecasting last month, we will be scheduling a joint presentation to the Selectmen and Finance Committee later this month based on more concrete Town expense and revenue numbers. Once we have a better handle on the extent of our financial limitations, we will then reach out to HWRSD and Hamilton leadership in early October to review our initial findings and discuss anticipated challenges and the potential for an override before they begin their own budget building processes.

Regional Water Grant Application

As you may recall, the Town was considering submitting an application for Sustainable Water Management Initiative grant funds last fall that was being spearheaded by the

Ipswich River Watershed Association. While we ultimately decided not to apply last year, that process has subsequently prompted an informative dialogue among the municipalities who are part of the Ipswich River basin about the similar regional issues related to the Water Management Act that we all face. We have had a number of productive meetings facilitated by the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Works Association, and now plan on submitting an application for this round of grant funding that will focus on potential regional solutions to address our collective resource constraints.

These efforts are the first time that all of the municipalities in the Ipswich River basin have taken a coordinated approach to these issues and this project would be an important step toward better understanding our current challenges and identifying some potential long-term solutions that don't just revolve around enhanced conservation practices. Along with our grant application, we have also scheduled a meeting with MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg next week to share our feedback about the ongoing limitations that these regulations place on the economic development potential of the communities within the basin.