

Town Administrator Report, January 22, 2024

USDA update. (Weekly photos and update uploaded to WPCF web page on website)

Project 1 (Hardwick Rd. Pumping System)

- Exterior building finishes provided to Town to approve
- DPC to provide color palette to Town
 - o See attached – 1 color chart for building color, 1 color chart for louvers/doors
 - o Mfg. needs to get building into production, 1-2 weeks would be ideal for response back but we can work with them if more time is needed.

Project 2A (Wheelwright)

- Held construction meeting on 1/11
- DPC continuing to work through incoming submittals
 - o DPC to forward Scott Plant Water submittal
 - o Proposed staging plan okay with Scott and DPC
- Waterline to mobilize in February

Project 2B (Gilbertville)

- DPC working on final bid documents
- Goal is to get plans/specs to USDA by end of week, ads submitted by 1/25, and bidding live on 1/31
 - o One-week delay is possible based on USDA's required review timeline

New:

- I attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual meeting over the weekend. It was very informative and several of our Rural concerns are proposed to be addressed The announcement can be seen here: [Governor Healey and LG Driscoll Announce Municipal Relief Package to Help Local Government Deliver Critical Services and Improve Operations | Mass.gov](#)

Some important provisions herein include a 3% raise in UGGA(Unrestricted General Government Aid) , fully fund the 4th year of the SOA (Student Opportunity Act)boosting Ch 70 with a 4% increase over last year, increase in Ch 90 along with recommending ways to reduce the burdens of smaller towns with limited staff and resources when applying for the vital transportation funds.

- I met with Superintendent Colleen Mucha and Business Manager Cheryl Duval, along with the TA's from all five towns on Thursday, January 18. We had asked to have meetings throughout the year to be transparent and cooperative to build budgets fairly and equitably. It was relayed to us that needs are going up and enrollment is down. The School Committee is meeting tonight 1/22 and more information should be forthcoming.

Ongoing:

- The Capital Planning Committee has been meeting monthly, and should have recommendations to you soon. We have many building deficiencies.
- The approved jobs for Highway have been posted. If you or anyone you know is looking, please go to the website
- We will have to deal with this heating system for this winter season
- We are waiting for FY23 audit and should have it by January 31. USDA is aware and is awaiting the report when it is submitted.
- The Council on Aging are holding office hours once again. 12:30PM at Quabbin Estates and Municipal Building (Town Hall) at 10:00AM. Please come down and check out all of the services they have. Snacks served! Eileen and/or Brenda will be at each location on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at each place unless otherwise necessary.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. My email along with work and cell numbers are on the website, and my door is always open.