

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., August 24, 2020

Early Voting for the Primaries – Town Clerk Carin Kale would like to remind residents that the State Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting for all three precincts will be at the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Center at 16 Union St. in Hamilton. The last day to register to vote was Saturday, Aug. 22. The deadline to request to vote by mail is Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. and the last day to submit a mail-in ballot for the Primary is Tuesday, September 1 at 8 p.m.

In-person Early Voting will be held at Town Hall on the following days and times this week prior to Primary Day:

Mon. Aug. 24 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 25 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 27 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 28 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Special Election Date – Town Clerk Carin Kale met last week with Town Hall Building Committee Chair Mike Twomey, Public Works Director Tim Olson and I to discuss potential dates to hold a Special Election for the debt-exclusion ballot question for the Town Hall project. Based on the Town Clerk's projections, we will be recommending to the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting, that the Special Election be scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020, which would put it just short of three weeks after the Special Town Meeting on November 14. The THBC will be working back from that day in their planning and is expected to be able to open bids for the project on either November 6 or November 12, so that STM can consider an actual bid price on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Town Finances – Finance Director Marisa Batista is working on state reporting with the goal of being finished by mid-September. Her department is currently a bit understaffed, as one employee is out with a medical issue and another employee has moved to the Treasurer's office. The annual audit of town financial records will also begin next week.

Capital Committee – The Capital Committee met virtually last Tuesday for the first time since before the pandemic. I've asked the CapCom to review its previous 5-year capital outlook, meet with department heads and adjust their recommendations for Special Town Meeting. I've asked them to complete their review and make recommendations to me by early October, so that we can amend the capital request and leave time for the Finance and Advisory Committee to review the request as well.

At this point, we do not anticipate that the request will be for all of the same projects that were postponed last Spring.

Senior Center – On Wednesday, September 2nd, at 10:00 AM, the Senior Center will be having its first live, socially distanced, gathering outdoors since the pandemic began. Council on Aging Director Mary Beth Lawton has engaged with one of our young, local musicians Ella Tran, who has been serenading people stuck in their homes during the pandemic. Ella contacted Mary

Beth and offered her services to the Council on Aging. Now that the outdoor patio has tents and chairs and tables, there is an opportunity to provide some of our seniors with a safe, socializing opportunity. The Council on Aging will be providing a boxed lunch for everyone who attends. Please call 978-468-5595 to make your reservation.

Recreation Programs – The Recreation Department will continue running special programming at Patton park up until the week before the beginning of school on September 16. So parents who are looking for a safe environment to help their children get outside and enjoy the weather should contact the Recreation Department.

Additionally, the fall program schedule will be available soon, so residents should be looking for that in the next week or two.

Patton Park bathrooms – Renovations of the Patton Park bathrooms are complete. The workers finished up last Friday.

Checkout the Facebook page of Jay Burnham – If you are on Facebook and friends with Jay Burnham, check out a recent post he had that shows a collage he recently completed of beautiful doors in Hamilton. It's a beautiful collage, a real work of art. Jay has been posting great pictures of various places and sights in Hamilton.