

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

- For those who don't know, Hamilton-Wenham Regional Library Director Jan Dempsey has announced her retirement. The Board of Library Trustees has reached out to Hamilton and asked us to provide some input on a member of the community who might represent us on the Screening Committee. Selectmen Chairman Shawn Farrell provided me with a number of possible candidates and I have shared those with the Trustees Chair, Julie Clay.
- The FY'20 Town Manager's Budget Proposal is presented to you here this evening. I want to take this opportunity to thank our CFO Marisa Batista and Assistant Accountant Dyan Katz for their invaluable help with putting this budget together and I also want to thank our department heads and the members of the Hamilton Finance and Advisory Committee for their input as well.
- Development has begun at the Canter Brook site. Demolition is scheduled to begin imminently and other site prep work has already started.
- I attended a meeting Tuesday morning in Manchester with other municipal officials from around region. The North Shore Coalition coordinated by MAPC includes Mayors and other town managers from across the North Shore and region. Tuesday's meeting was focused on regional transportation issues and the region's mayors and managers are considering a joint procurement for bike share for North Shore communities. I am likely to do a town email survey on whether or not folks in Hamilton would like to see us participate in that kind of service and have a conversation with the board about how best to be involved. The other part of that conversation was support for a regional Transportation Vision and Action items to advocate for better transportation alternatives for the North Shore. When the group agrees to the final vision, I will share that with the community through the town's website.
- The Hamilton Board of Health recently held a joint meeting with the Wenham Board of Health, where they discussed a number of issues around joint adoption of rules, and by-laws particularly in areas where the communities share jurisdiction, such as the schools and the library. One request from the Hamilton-Wenham RSD, to authorize school personnel to assess fines for violation of smoking and vaping by-laws is being considered. The Board of Health had broad authority to adopt rules, particularly around smoking (or vaping) in public places, so residents, including parents and students, should be aware of possible changes coming there.
- Update on Town Manager Goals:
 - Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – I interviewed two finalist candidates on Wed., Jan. 16 – last week. I believe both are very well qualified and would

serve the town well, though they have different strengths. I am in the process completing reference checks and hope to be able to offer the position to one of the two candidates later this week (week of 1/22), with the goal of having the new director on board and working prior to mid-February. Once hired, I will invite the Director to an upcoming Selectboard meeting to meet you and introduce the director to the community.

- Financial Policies and Stabilization Funds – Our proposed budget this evening includes recommendations for appropriations consistent with the town’s newly adopted financial and reserves policies. This can be discussed in greater detail with CFO Marisa Batista at Saturday’s joint meeting with the Finance and Advisor Committee, after you’ve had a chance to review the budget books.
- Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – The FY’20 budget projection for capital investment does include a cost associated with the paving and possible laying of water main along Chebacco Woods Road. This can be discussed in greater detail during Saturday’s joint meeting with the Finance Committee Public Works Director Tim Olson, and after you’ve had a chance to review the budget books.
- Town Hall Renovations –The architect LLB Associates, met last week and reviewed three very preliminary design proposals and they have been asked to develop a couple of additional proposals and analyze the expected costs of each against the town’s space needs. They are scheduled to meet again on January 30.
- Master Plan and Housing – The first of Two (2) public forums for the update to the Housing portion of the Town’s Master Plan will be held on Tuesday, February 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hamilton-Wenham Library.