

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Monday, May 6, 2019

- Town completed and submitted our application to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program last week. We now must wait to see if we are approved.
- Town Clerk Andrea Dello Russo tendered her resignation late last week. She has offered to work until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, to give the town time to plan for a transition. I met this morning with retired Town Clerk Wilma Mahoney, who is familiar with Hamilton, as she has helped us out when we have been without the clerk in the past. With Wilma and Andrea's help, we will be bringing some options forward to the Board of Selectmen at your next meeting, to plan for the Town Clerk's Office continued operation for the remainder of the year.
- I will be attending the Massachusetts Municipal Manager's Association Spring Conference at the end of the month. It is a two-day conference on the Cape, so I will not be in the office on either Thursday, May 30 or Friday, May 31.
- Got some questions from a resident last week who was looking for some information about some past issues and others that have been developing. So we will try to answer some of those questions this week here, as others in the community may have the same questions:
 - **Has the landfill been fully closed?**
The landfill has been fully closed and we will be continuing to do groundwater monitoring going forward.
 - **Did pool income meet its projections made prior to its opening?**
Not really sure what the pool revenue projections were when it first opened, but from the information I have received from Finance Director Marisa Batista, in both FY'17 and FY'18 the pool revenues exceeded expenses, helped in part by a charge back to the summer recreation program. The Summer Recreation program uses the pool and has seen increased registrations since the pool was added to the program. In the current year (FY'19), as of right now the budget for the pool is running behind expense, but May and June are typically the two months when the pool takes in the most of its revenue and the Finance Director and Parks Director are both anticipating the pool will meet its projected revenue total for the year, leaving it in the black again. A copy of the spreadsheet will be posted with this report on the town website.
 - **Who is the new librarian?**
Kim Butler has been hired as the new Library Director; she began just a week or so ago. I have not yet met her, but I know that Peter Lombardi, the now former Town Administrator in Wenham had met her and was impressed. I look forward to meeting her soon.

- **Who is the new School Superintendent?**
The School Committee is going to be choosing an Interim Superintendent shortly. The Interim Superintendent will serve for the next school year, while they undertake a larger and longer search process for the permanent replacement to Mike Harvey. Mike, I understand is going to be around until the end of the school year.
- **What's the latest in getting another town to use the ECO? Wenham?**
Wenham has, for the time being, decided to stay in the Regional Emergency Communication Center, largely because the state has opted not to raise the charge to its existing members for the service. If that changes in the future, Wenham will re-examine its options. Another complicating piece of this is that Danvers is trying to attract other towns to join its ECO, which is larger and has capacity to add communities without additional staff. As it currently stands we have not been able to find any additional municipalities to join our ECO.

➤ **Update on Town Manager Goals:**

- Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – Kaleigh Pare and I had a successful meeting with the Paton Ridge neighbors last week to discuss the plans to generate revenue at the Homestead over the next year and the neighbors were largely supportive of the ideas we had and even had additional suggestions. We also met last week with a catering company that is willing to work with us to help cross-market the stable for events going forward. This was a principal part of our business plan and one we feel more encouraged by, given the feedback we had from the caterer. There will be more to come on this topic soon.
- Financial Policies and Stabilization Funds – No update at this time.
- Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – The town has signed a contract with Woodard and Curran to design, permit the Chebacco Road paving project. The next step will be to plan a public meeting with residents of the road to discuss the project and what it entails.
- Town Hall Renovations – I will be meeting briefly with Town Hall department managers on Thursday morning and then the architects will be meeting separately with each department to discuss space needs for day to day operations and how we can move the future of town hall work to a paperless environment. Limiting the size of a renovation (or potential addition) will be greatly impacted by our needs for storage space within the building and/or within the various offices. There will be information more to come on this as well.