

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., November 9, 2020

Tragedy - The Town of Hamilton suffered two tragic losses in a 24-hour span last week, with the sudden, untimely deaths of a Hamilton Police Officer on Monday, November 2 and a Hamilton Call Firefighter on Tuesday, November 3. Town employees, friends and families of these two men are still grieving and will be for some time. I ask that we all do our best to support our Public Safety officers in the days ahead.

Veterans Day, November 11 – Just a reminder that Wednesday, November 11 is Veterans Day and Town offices will be closed for the day. Due to the on-going pandemic and Governor Baker's order with regard to large gatherings, social distancing and face masks, the American Legion Gardner Post in Hamilton will be conducting a brief ceremony to recognize our Veterans, at the Hamilton Cemetery flag pole at 11 a.m... However, the ceremony will be short with a Color Guard, short Veterans prayer and no speakers. If any members of the public do wish to attend they are asked to follow the Governor's orders with regard to wearing face coverings and remain a minimum of six-feet from any other attendees who they do not share a home with.

Hamilton Masks – The Town of Hamilton has ordered a number of cloth masks with the Town Seal on them, which will be made available to anyone attending Special Town Meeting who wants one. Once we have made it through Town Meeting, we will look to find a way to distribute remaining masks to folks who need them on a first come, first served basis.



Special Town Meeting reminder – Special Town Meeting will take place this Saturday, November 14, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High school football field, under a tent. The tent will be set up in a similar manner as it was for the June 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. All public health precautions are being taken and Town Meeting attendees are required to wear a mask, unless they have a medical reason for not being able to. There is an overflow tent that will be set up for non-mask wearing attendees.

The main issues at this year's Special Town Meeting include the 2020 Capital program, requests to support a renovation and reservation of the Historic Hamilton Town Hall, which if successful will also have to be approved through a Special Election ballot question on Thursday, December 4, 2020 to allow for the borrowing and of a debt-exclusion approval.

Town Hall Constructions bids – The Town Hall Building Committee received construction bids last week and the bids were better than expected. The Town Hall Building Committee meets tomorrow to review and discuss the general bids and ensure the low bidder is properly certified. Due to the favorable construction bids, we anticipate that the request for funding at Special Town Meeting and on the debt exclusion ballot question will be lower than had been projected.

Town Meeting voting devices – The town has acquired remote, electronic voting devices to assist with the town meeting vote and to help Town Meeting move more quickly. The devices have been purchased from a company called Meridia and representatives of Meridia will be on hand during the STM on Saturday to run the system and show voters how to use the devices



First FlashVote survey a success – The Town of Hamilton finally took advantage of our new FlashVote survey tool last week and we got a good response from registered community members about how they get information about town projects, news and events and how they would like to get information going forward.

The Town Manager's office will be reviewing the information over the next couple of days and will share the results with the Board of Selectmen and town at large, after Special Town Meeting this weekend.

We look forward to using the information from the surveys to help improve the way we communicate with our residents going forward.