



**Shaun A. Suhoski**, *Town Manager*  
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### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen  
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager  
RE: Town Manager Update  
DT: October 6, 2015

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Dear Board: Please see the following:

**MART Bus and Van Service**: As the Board is aware, MART's funding for Athol and Orange "door-to-door" van service was cut by roughly \$400,000 this current fiscal year. MART has drafted a "fixed route" bus service scenario that was the subject of a public hearing at the Senior Center last week.

Representatives from MART will brief the Board and community on the proposed routes and/or any changes that may have resulted from the public hearing.

Also, I learned late this afternoon that Sen. Anne Gobi has filed an amendment request to the Senate's version of the supplemental budget requesting \$370,000 for MART funding.

**Route 2A and Daniel Shay's Highway Intersection**: I have received a response to my September 10 letter to MassDOT requesting they review the washboard conditions at the above intersection. The state plans to initiate short-term repairs while also seeking additional funding for a more comprehensive look at the safety and condition of this intersection.

**Municipal Aggregation Project**: In your packets is a correspondence received from Hampshire Council of Governments advising that the agency is withdrawing from becoming an "aggregation agency." Instead, they recommend the Town contact Colonial Power Group in hopes of providing buying power to the residential and business community in the Town. This has no bearing on the Town's municipal energy contracts.

The Town electricity supply contract with Suez Energy is in place and now being reflected on various accounts. As well, the Town's solar field generated a gross energy value of over \$83,000 in favor of the Town. Because the Town is obligated to purchase all of the power generated at the rates in the net metering contract (currently 10.25 cents kWh) there will be an approximate \$33,000 cost to the Town. The period of August through September 21 was very sunny, so, the NET value of the project is just over \$50,000 for this billing cycle. It will be much less in the winter, but, increase again in the spring and summer.

**Miscellaneous Items**: Other items include:

- Met with EOHED Secretary Jay Ash at request of state Rep. Susannah Whipps Lee.
- Participated in ARRSB budget subcommittee meeting along with Finance and Warrant Advisory Cmte.