



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: May 19, 2015

Dear Board,

Please see the following update:

Town Hall and Senior Center Building Repairs: The re-pointing and painting project for the Senior Center building has been completed and the work looks great. Thanks to Cathy Savoy and Bob Muzzy for bird-dogging this project. Here are before and after photos:



Above: "before" photo. Right: "after" photo.

Meanwhile, the work at Town Hall continues unabated. All loose stones and mortar have been removed from both the stairway and the cupola work areas. The contractor has also reconstructed roughly five courses of brick that was deteriorating and out-of-plane at the base of the cupola. Currently, the new framing around the base is underway (not visible from the street side) and the Architect has expressed the opinion that the contractor is performing well.

Well Vessel Repair: One of the South Athol wells has a fractured vessel which must be replaced. The leak was only discovered this week during removal of a failing pump. A similar repair was completed on well no. 1 last year at roughly \$140,000. Due to the need to have the well up and running, following discussion with Doug Walsh and Andy Tessier today, we are recommending that the water enterprise fund capital article be increased to \$175,000 for FY16 to facilitate this needed repair.

As funds are coming from the water reserve (currently \$329,000+) there will be no impact on rates. But, this unforeseen expense illustrates the importance of maintaining sufficient reserves for capital equipment.

MART and CTS Funding:

State Sen. Anne Gobi filed an amendment to ensure continued funding for the CTS bus services, namely, that *“not less than \$770,000 shall be provided to the Montachusett regional transit authority for a contract with Community Transit Services, Inc., or any successor agency engaged by the Montachusett regional transit authority, to provide the existing services and ensure those services shall not be reduced in fiscal year” [2016].*

This outside funding for CTS is vital to continue the service. And, further, with the Board’s approval I will work with MART, MassDOT and our legislative team to determine why this is not included in an annual budget rather than being a separate amendment.

I am requesting whether the Board would vote to send a letter to its state legislators and Governor Baker in support of this funding.

You may recall that the Board recently sent a correspondence to the state Secretary of Transportation, but, that was relative to Athol’s annual transit assessment being allocated towards MART rather than the FRTA.

Miscellaneous Items: Some other items include:

- Met with Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee to finalize budget and Town Meeting warrant article recommendations.
- Met with Doug Walsh, Andrea Buglione and engineer to discuss layout and infrastructure (culvert) concerns at Lord Pond Plaza.
- Attended retirement party for former Fire Chief Tom Lozier.
- Joined with several department heads for group meeting with MRPC Executive Director and staff to outline technical assistance available and ongoing programs.
- Met with Finance Team to review final proposed budget and to plan for next round of property disposition.
- Met with CDBG consultant to discuss status of Program Income, staffing and general review of upcoming community development initiatives and potential for grant funding.
- Met with Council on Aging and members of general public today to outline approach towards economic development generally, and, to discuss methods to make Lord Pond Plaza more viable for job creation, tax base and for aesthetics.
- Participated in Food-a-thon standout on Exchange Street.

W/E	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WEDS.	THURS.	FRI.	TOTAL
5/15/15	3.0		10.0	12.0	10.0	9.0		44.0