



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: November 20, 2018

Dear Board: Please see the following brief update for tonight's meeting.

MART Senior Bus Fares and Route Changes: The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority conducted a public hearing at the Senior Center on October 24, 2018, and took commentary and suggestions on the bus route changes required due to the end of state subsidy. The new route takes effect on Monday, December 3, 2018 and are viewable on MART's Web site at: www.mrta.us (copies in your packets).

Concurrently, and at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, the bus fares for senior citizens on the fixed route service will be reduced from \$1.50 each way to \$0.50 each way. Thanks to COA Director Cathy Savoy and Selectman Rebecca Bialecki for bringing this forward from the discussions with MART.

Special Legislation re: Pouring License Quota: State Rep. Susannah Whipps has filed the special legislation requested by the Board – pursuant to Town Meeting authorization – to increase the total number of all-alcohol pouring licenses from “14” to “20” total. The draft bill language includes some extraneous conditions and also does not reflect the Board's voted intent of a “maximum” of 20 licenses (it reads that you “may grant 6 additional licenses”).

Town Counsel has also reviewed. Before we finalize language with the House Counsel, I want to be sure that the Board's intent is merely to increase the total number of licenses available to a maximum of 20 and that they be treated as any other license under Section 12 of the statute.

Miscellaneous:

- Held Department Head and Finance Team meetings; preparing for FY20 budget season
 - Met with DPW management regarding safety initiatives and trainings
 - Attended quarterly meeting of Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts with focus sessions on capital planning and budgeting and on succession planning
 - Attended Downtown Vitality Committee meeting; contacted DPW and NGRID regarding street and pedestrian-level light concerns
 - Reviewed and revised contract with RealTerm energy regarding LED conversion project
 - Initiated process of site plan review for “Dollar Tree” 26,000 sf commercial building under MCOB zoning bylaw (eg. expedited permitting via Permit Authorizing Committee)
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