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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: November 7, 2017

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

Recreational Marijuana - Working Group to Explore Potential Local Regulation: Members of the planning, health, finance and Select boards has been requested to participate in a working group to review whether or not the Town should implement a local regulatory (and revenue) structure for potential marijuana dispensaries before the Cannabis Control Commission begins accepting license applications on April 1, 2018 (per MGL c. 94).

Tonight I am requesting whether the Board of Selectmen wishes to designate a member to participate in the working group. The goal is to make a determination and recommendation on local bylaws timely for inclusion on a special town meeting warrant in late January or early February 2018.

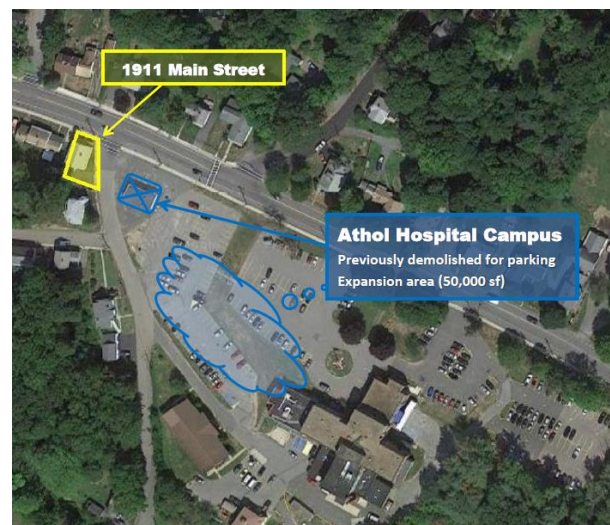
Separately, I will be developing a Town Meeting warrant article for the Board's consideration that would accept MGL c. 64N, Section 3 so that the Town can collect a two percent excise on gross sales of marijuana (distributed by the Commonwealth back to the Town on a quarterly basis similar to meals excise).

Note that the recreational marijuana laws are distinct and separate from medical use and cultivation which may be proposed at a local site.

Demolition Contract: Quotes were received on November 6 for demolition of the structure at 1911 Main Street. As previously announced, the Town has been awarded a grant for up to \$11,500 or 50 percent of the demolition costs from the Worcester Community Housing Resources, Inc., through funds from the Office of the Attorney General.

The low quote is from Royal Oak Builders of Athol in the amount of \$16,750 and the appropriate contract and insurance documents are in process.

Work must be complete by December 5 as the vacant land will be publicly auctioned on December 7.



Name of Company	Town	Base Bid
Royal Oak Builders	Athol	\$16,950
Bourgeois Wrecking and Excavation, Inc	Westminister	\$18,200
FA Moschetti & Sons, Inc	Templeton	\$22,750
Vinagro Corporation	Johnston, RI	\$42,300

Special Legislation re: Civil Service: in your packets is a copy of the certified vote of Town Meeting authorizing the Board of Selectmen to file with the state Legislature a petition for special legislation to remove part-time police officers from the civil service law. I am requesting direction from the Board on whether you wish me to pursue and file such request with the state legislators.

Going Once, Going Twice, Sold! Staff from the treasury, assessing, accounting, building, health and administrative offices have been working diligently to prepare for an auction of town-owned tax title properties before the end of the year. Therefore, on Thursday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. the gavel will fall on bids for the following properties which include both improved and vacant parcels:

- 1) Proctor Avenue: Assessor's Map 20, Parcel 44
- 2) 87 South Athol Road: Assessor's Map 29, Parcel 26
- 3) 688 Hapgood Street: Assessor's Map 32, Parcel 201
- 4) Petersham Road: Assessor's Map 45, Parcel 61
- 5) 763 Templeton Road: Assessor's Map 43, Parcel 22
- 6) Harvard Avenue: Assessor's Map 25, Parcel 29
- 7) 92 Hampstead Place: Assessor's Map 29, Parcel 141
- 8) 30 Winthrop Street: Assessor's Map 25, Parcel 79
- 9) 799 Chestnut Hill Avenue: Map 7, Parcel 3
- 10) 47 Sunrise Terrace: Assessor's Map 38, Parcel 5
- 11) 94 Froman Street: Assessor's Map 18, Parcel 18
- 12) 1768 Main Street: Assessor's Map 37, Parcel 80
- 13) 1911 Main Street: Map 36, Parcel 25
- 14) 154 Crescent Street: Assessor's Map 30, Parcel 206
- 15) 173 Intervale Avenue: Map 12, Parcel 136



Central Dispatch Update: Chief Duguay will present information at the meeting. Separately, the Executive Director of the State 911 Department and I spoke by phone late last week concerning the progress made. His staff was in Town on Monday to conduct a site visit as well. I will be issuing a letter indicating that the town has met the terms of our letter agreement with State 911 effective back to October 26, the date fire dispatch first went "live."

I also want to commend those members of the dispatch, police and fire departments that have participated in efforts to work through common radio language and policies and procedures to ensure success.

Assistant Treasurer: I am pleased to announce that – based upon the recommendation of the Treasurer / Collector – I have appointed Melanie Rajaniemi to the position of Assistant Town Treasurer. She had been working in a similar role on a temporary basis and is actively engaged in several projects with the Treasurer/Collector.

Miscellaneous:

- Conducted site visit to equestrian park and town-owned lands
- Reviewed Town's property and casualty insurance coverage with MIIA / Cabot Risk
- Met with finance team and housing task force
- Reviewed and discussed potential state program to subsidize renovations to vacant properties with staff and local lenders
- Met with DPW union leadership and Treasurer regarding housekeeping matters
- Reviewed and revised Pleasant Street School draft RFP with town planner
- Reviewed applicants for assistant board of health agent with BOH chair and agent
- Met with Town Hall union leadership regarding various matters
- Attended Injured On Duty (IOD) training workshop sponsored by Cabot Risk along with fire and police staff
- Participated in meeting regarding central dispatch operational matters