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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: March 6, 2018

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

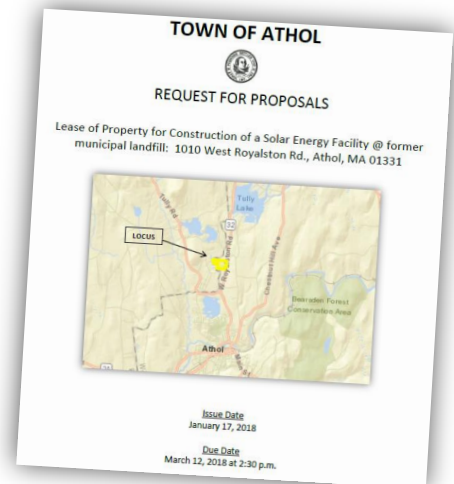
Special Town Meeting Follow-up: With the completion of the Special Town Meeting last night, my office will be leading or assisting the Board and other departments on the following items:

Pleasant St. School - the responses to the RFP for the former Pleasant Street School building and grounds is due on Monday, March 12. My office will assist the Director of Planning and Development and Board of Selectmen as needed. There was only one attendee at the mandatory site walk-through. Hopefully we will receive a favorable proposal.

Former Landfill – the responses to the RFP for potential solar field development at the former landfill are also due on Monday, March 12. I am working closely with the DPW Superintendent and Office Manager and can report that well over 20 interested parties have received the bid documents. We had a good turnout for the optional site visit and I feel cautiously optimistic that we may find an innovative proposal among responses.

Bates Power Reservoir Dam – the Town has been put on notice of the need to continue assessment and repairs for this Century old impoundment in Phillipston that is no longer required or envisioned to be part of the Town's water supply district. We will work with our counterparts in the town of Phillipston to divest of the property, or, to develop cost comparisons to remove the dam rather than maintain an obsolete and unnecessary structure.

Exchange Street Bridge and Capital Projects – the Board of Selectmen has previously voted to insert the required debt exclusion questions to the voters at the annual election. I will continue



to work with finance staff and our bond advisor to provide accurate information and to advance the projects if approved.

Athol High School Accelerated Repair Program – the Board of Selectmen has previously voted to insert the required debt exclusion questions to the voters at the annual election. The Athol-Royalston Regional School District is the bonding entity and manager of the project, but, Town staff will assist wherever needed to ensure the success of this necessary project if approved by the voters.

Elimination of Civil Service for Police Department – as Town Manager I do support Chief Kleber’s efforts to eliminate this redundant and obsolete bureaucracy. I will assist the Chief as needed in working through his proposed recruitment and promotional policies and eliciting the input and hopeful support of the union as well for the Annual Town Meeting.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments – the various Zoning Bylaw changes were handled through the Board of Community Development and Planning and coordinated through the Town Planner. At this point, the Town Clerk prepares all required information for submittal to the Attorney General.

In sum, the Special Town Meeting was very productive and advanced a number of projects.

North Quabbin Loan Fund Re-Launch: I recently met with the Town Planner, North Quabbin Community Coalition, Athol Credit Union staff and potential loan underwriting and servicing vendor regarding updated loan application, processing, underwriting and servicing. We are refining proposed loan fund policy changes that will be brought to the Board of Selectmen prior to the “re-launch” of this economic development tool.

Miscellaneous:

- The student design team from Boston-area graduate schools that is working with New Vue Communities has initiated research for feasibility and design potential for housing at the former Ellen Bigelow and Riverbend schools. They are holding a “focus group” meeting on Thursday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center should you wish to attend.
- Attended ribbon-cutting events for the 110 Grill and Wendy’s restaurants
- Met with SEIU to conduct the periodic review of position descriptions
- Held Finance Team meeting to discuss initial revenue projections; document to be refined and shared at next BOS meeting prior to the April 3 formal budget review meeting
- Held review meeting with the town’s outside auditor, Melanson & Heath, as part of annual single audit process
- Participated in statewide conference call regarding federal “Opportunity Zone” program