



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
Email: ssuhoski@townofathol.org

Heather J. Brissette, *Administrative Asst.*
Email: selectmen@townofathol.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: May 3, 2016

Dear Board: Please see the following updates for your meeting tonight.

Gulf Road Land Transfer to MassWildlife: In your packets are documents to facilitate the transfer of roughly 10.8 acres of land from the Town to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for the sum of \$11,880 (or, \$1,100/acre).

The property was authorized for conveyance by Article 26 of the June 8, 2015 Town Meeting. **Doug Walsh** worked closely with DF&W to complete this deal.

Bond Anticipation Note (Athol Community Elementary School): \$3,430,000: Eileen Bristol has provided the Board with the relevant bond paperwork to issue the final temporary loan to complete the construction of the new elementary school. The final advance required is \$3,430,000 to carry through construction and allowing for up to six months for DESE to audit the final construction and costs before issuing their final payment.

South Athol Road Demolition: Building Commissioner Brianna Skowrya has confirmed that the demolition of this structure is substantially complete with only some final foundation work scheduled for today and then site grading. The work was completed by Mallet Excavating, of Athol, for \$26,040. Next, Town Counsel will file a lien for the final cost of work against the property which appears to be headed towards a tax title status.

Chapter 90 Allocation Announced: The Town will receive \$500,195 in FY17 Chapter 90 funds for local road and bridge maintenance. Doug Walsh is developing the road program for the coming year which will be shared with the Board in the next few weeks.

Before finalizing a paving list, he is reviewing ongoing concerns regarding the Exchange Street bridge and the verbal indication by the state to complete the Morgan Ave. culverts as part of the South Athol Road Bridge Replacement Project scheduled in 2018 to 2019.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Toured early childhood education groups through Pleasant Street School.
- Met with BPCD chairman Dave Small and planning director Eric Smith regarding status of trails development.
- Completed reference checks and contract negotiations with incoming police chief Russell Kleber who begins work July 11.
- Attended budget review meeting with Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee.
- Attended regional dispatch project meeting in Gardner with Chief Duguay, Deputy Chief Parker and Lieutenant Heath. Next meeting to be held in Athol.
- Attended regional economic development council program at North Central Mass. Development Corp. in Fitchburg with Eric Smith. Jim Meehan and Heather Bialecki also in attendance from Athol. Met with Executive Director regarding small business financing options available through NCMDC.
- Met with MassEcon Executive Director Doug Kehlhem and owners of Union Twist Mill regarding Commonwealth's site selection process for new business and UTM's position on the "Ready 100" sites.
- Discussed progress of regional animal control program with Chief Anderson, Lt. Heath, Orange Chief Lundgren and Orange Town Administrator Diana Schindler. Discussed need for vehicle and to finish building.