



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: September 4, 2018

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

All-Alcoholic Beverages Pouring License Quota: Under MGL c. 138, sec. 17, Athol has a limit of 14 all-alcohol pouring licenses (Section 12 licenses) that it can issue with only three such licenses currently available. As the Board is aware, the Town desires additional restaurant, pub and lodging opportunities for both public convenience and economic development purposes, and a pouring license is typically a critical path item in these business plans.

With only three licenses available – and now with four parties having recently expressed interest in securing a pouring license there is potential that Athol will have no further capacity to offer liquor licenses for restaurants or lodging facilities.

Therefore, I am seeking the Board's policy direction on whether the Town should seek to either "opt out" of MGL c. 138, sec. 17 (would effectively remove any quota), or, develop a plan to seek special legislation to increase the current quota from 14 to a reasonable higher number (eg. 20 maximum). Either option will require authorization from Town Meeting and I would recommend seeking approval in October.

Fire Department Chief Search: I have taken under advisement the recommendation of the fire chief search committee relative to retaining an interim fire chief. Following a meeting with outgoing Chief Duguay and Deputy Chief Parker on Friday, August 31, the Deputy Chief has assumed day-to-day operational management of the fire department in accordance with his existing job description. He has also coordinated a supervisory framework of operations with the department captains and I am confident in the Department's ability to carry forth all field operations. I will revisit the committee's suggestion should it appear that the vacancy will exist for an extended period of time.

Miscellaneous:

- Retained architect Paul Lieneck of Haynes, Lieneck & Smith to review and coordinate needed cupola repairs with upcoming roof maintenance or replacement at Town Hall
- Participated on town of Templeton interview panel for municipal management fellow recruitment
- Attended annual senior picnic at Silver Lake Park
- Met with DPW Supt. and Asst. Supt. and LED streetlight project vendor procured through the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Mass. DOER grant