



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Jacquelyn M. Kelly
Town Manager

August 12, 2016

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jacquelyn M. Kelly,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager's Update*

- 1. Local and Primary Election Calendar** – Attached is an updated political calendar for the Primary and Local Election to be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016. Note that the Town Clerk's Office will be open until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2016 which is the last day for voter registration for the Special Town Election.

Information

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- 2. Chipping & Composting** – The Town will hold two more chipping and composting dates through the end of September - Saturday, August 20 and Saturday, September 17.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. Leaves and grass clippings may be brought to the former landfill site at 560 River Street. Brush should be brought to the Adams Road DPW Facility due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle quarantine area.

Composting and brush chipping will continue throughout the fall. Dates will be advertised on the Town's web site and electronic sign.

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- 3. Town Hall/ Starbard Parking Lot** -- The grinding and base coat paving of the Town Hall/Starbard Building, Library, and Recreation Department were completed on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The final paving and line painting will be completed in September. At the suggestion of Selectman Renzoni, we will include in our striping design a parking space designated for Wounded Warriors. The Town had planned for and succeeded in completing the work with a minimum of inconvenience to people who had business to conduct at these town facilities.

The last time the lot was paved (in our recollection) was probably in the early 1980's, when the Town acquired the Starbard Building and renovations were completed to both the

Starbard Building and Town Hall. That was over thirty years ago and it was in need of repairs and repaving, especially the Library lot. Thanks are due to the contractor for doing a good job, the DPW staff who supervised and coordinated the work, and to those of us who work in the buildings every day.

The church owns portions of the parking lot and will be paying its share of the expense to the contractor.

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- 4. **DPW Projects** –In addition to the parking lot project, the DPW has several other public works projects underway or that will soon be starting. We have received approval from the DEP and other state agencies including MA DOT, to install/ replace water main on south Main Street, from about the railroad bridge near Adams Road, to the town line at Worcester. This is an extensive and much needed project that will span construction seasons. The contracts will be secured and work will begin later this fall.

The DPW is also planning to replace drainage on Wyoming Drive, another needed project. We are in the process of negotiating with abutters for drainage easements and once secured, that work will shortly.

The Water-Sewer Division will be doing an extensive re-haul of the Avery Heights Water Storage Tank. This will require taking the tank off-line; it will be stripped of old paint by sand-blasting, and then repainted both inside and outside. The antennas atop the tank will have to be removed and re-installed to accommodate the work and this has been a complicated issue to coordinate with several different lessees. As you may recall, this project was purposely delayed to take advantage of another qualifying project eligible for financing under the state revolving fund (SRF). This SRF program allowed us to borrow at no interest for SCADA and water system upgrades.

Our road grinding and resurfacing program continues. Princeton Street has been milled but there is more work to be done near the intersection of Elmwood Road and along Peter Carr Pond. This phase of the work is being coordinated with the City of Worcester as there are facilities located on Princeton Street but owned and operated by the City which will be affected. The final paving will take place after the drainage and other work are completed. Also in need of final paving are streets in the Lexington Drive and Canterbury Circle areas.

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- 5. **HMLD Monthly Report** – Attached is the monthly operations report for the month ending July 2016, prepared by Jim Robinson, General Manager.

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6. Municipal Modernization Bill – An Act to Modernize Municipal Finance and Government was signed into law by the Governor on August 9, 2016. This Act represents a sweeping bill that contains dozens of provisions to eliminate or streamline outdated and obsolete statutes and state requirements, provide some new local options, and generally help cities and towns operate more efficiently. The MMA worked closely with the Governor's office to develop the compendium of changes included in the Bill. A summary by section is included in your packet. Among other provisions, the 125-page, 253-section bill (H. 4565) would:

- Update procurement and construction laws by increasing dollar thresholds
- Offer a model law for other post-employment benefit (OPEB) trust funds
- Provide for easier use of revolving funds
- Allow the expenditure of insurance proceeds to replace damaged equipment without appropriation (below \$150,000)
- Allow communities to implement reduced speed limits in certain areas
- Make it easier to establish joint powers agreements
- Simplify many financial reporting requirements including going from 3-Year re-certification process to a 5-Year re-certification of town-wide valuations.

The Division of Local Services and other state agencies that administer the different provisions of the bill are expected to release guidance and further details. The MMA will be working with state leaders to provide a complete summary in the coming days.

The Municipal Modernization Bill was originally filed by Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito late last year. The MMA and local officials across the state showed strong support for the package, which, they said, would benefit nearly every aspect of local government.

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7. DLTA Funding Restored – At the last Meeting, the Selectmen agreed to send support letters to our legislators, urging the override of the Governor's veto of Direct Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funding for FY17. I am happy to report that, according to Otto Lies, Holden's representative to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) Executive Committee, the legislature voted to override the Governor's veto thus restoring DLTA funding in the FY 2017 budget. DLTA Funding has been quite important during the past years, and Holden and our region have benefitted considerably. CMRPC received \$244,859 this calendar year in DLTA funding.

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- 8. FY 2017 Cherry Sheet Estimates** – The estimated state ‘Cherry Sheet’ revenue and expenditure estimates have been issued by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. (see attached) The estimates are slightly higher than what we used in our FY 2017 Resource Profile. However, these are only estimates and can change over the year depending of the state’s economic situation.

Information [X]

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- 9. Level 2 Mandatory Water Ban** – Enclosed is an information sheet from the Office of John Woodsmall, DPW Director, outlining Level 2 Water Use Restrictions. These restrictions were addressed at the July Selectmen’s Meeting and went into effect a few days later when the City of Worcester declared a Level 2 drought declaration.

The extended weather outlook does not forecast appreciable rainfall over the next few months that would alleviate the drought and water use restrictions. Should the Worcester reservoirs fall to a level of 50%, the City could activate its agreement with the MA Water Resources Agency (MWRA) to turn on pumps that would tap into the Quabbin Reservoir Aqueduct. Water would be diverted from the aqueduct, into the Quinapoxet Reservoir, one of two city-owned surface storage facilities located in Holden that feed the Worcester public water supply system. Should this occur, the City would likely issue a Level 3 Drought Declaration with further mandatory water use restrictions. The major restriction under that scenario is a ban on all outdoor watering.

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- 8. Holden Days** -- Holden Days will be held by the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, August 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event sponsor is Fairway Mortgage. This is a community event that draws people from throughout the area and provides family friendly activities, entertainment, and refreshments. Chamber organizers work throughout the year to prepare for Holden Days. Holden Police, Fire, and other personnel work cooperatively with the Chamber to prepare the town center area for these activities and to participate in this worthy event. We will once again have a trolley, sponsored by Holden Community TV which will shuttle people from designated parking areas to the center of town. Traffic advisories will be in place that will alleviate through traffic on this section of Main Street.

Please be reminded that the Selectmen’s table will be in front of Miles Funeral Home, in the shade of the big oak tree (prime real estate). I expect that the 275th Committee will have a presence as well. Please coordinate the schedule for Selectmen presence at the table. This year, Holden Days will be bigger and better than ever.

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- 9. Constables** – In response to a question from the last meeting, the Town currently has three constables: Matthew Atanian, Daniel Gately, and Kimberly Lynch.

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10. Extra Police Patrols to Get Impaired Drivers Off Our Roads – According to Police Chief Dave Armstrong, the town has received a grant from the MA Highway Safety Division of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to increase impaired driving patrols in an effort to save lives. The additional enforcement is part of the state's participation in the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign which runs from August 12 through Labor Day. The effort includes the MA State Police and over 145 local police departments. In 2014, we lost 133 people in crashes involving a driver who was over the legal limit of intoxication.

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Should you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact my office.

Jacquelyn M. Kelly
Town Manager

Cc: Department Heads