



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Jacquelyn M. Kelly
Town Manager

September 16, 2016

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jacquelyn M. Kelly,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager's Update*

- 1. Public Safety Day** – Public Safety Day will be held at the Public Safety Facility on Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend our annual open house. There will be displays of all our fire apparatus and equipment, a ‘smoke house’ that children of all ages can spray water at, gear demonstrations, and other informative displays and activities. The Police Department will also have equipment on display. We will also have the Patriots game on for the fans. See you all there!

Information

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- 2. DPW Facility Committee/ Reed-Rico Site Acquisition** – After much study and thoughtful consideration, the DPW Facility Committee has recommended that the Town acquire the property located at 18 Industrial Drive. The building, formerly known as Reed/ Rico, came under new ownership a few years ago, and upon the Committee’s recommendation, town staff has been in contact with representatives from Berkshire-Hathaway to develop an acquisition plan. We believe that we can achieve the acquisition under very favorable terms for the Town of Holden, and we thank the parent company for their cooperation and willingness to consider a municipal acquisition of the site. Those negotiations are ongoing at the present time.

The site consists of approximately 23 acres, with access to Industrial Drive. The existing building is approximately 120,000 ft² not including on-site storage buildings. There are small areas of hazardous materials subject to remediation. The owners have taken steps in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, to abate and remediate the sites. Those efforts are ongoing and the Committee has engaged a professional to assess those activities with respect to potential liability to the Town should we acquire the property. Planning for the future facility itself is still in the preliminary stages. However, it is envisioned that about half of the manufacturing portion of the existing structure and half of the office structure would be re-used for the new facility.

The property has been vacant for a number of years although the current owner continues to heat the building and maintain it to a minimum standard. The property has been on the real estate market and, as recently as last summer, has been under consideration for purchase by more than one private party. The Committee feels that there is value in acquiring the property pending negotiations of mutually agreeable terms with the owner and will be coming forward to the Board of Selectman at a future meeting to discuss this recommendation and the potential for a Special Town Meeting for voters this fall.

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- 3. DPW Report, Summer 2016** – Attached for your information is a report on DPW activities for the summer 2016 prepared by John Woodsmall, DPW Director.

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- 4. HMLD Monthly Report** – Enclosed is an HMLD monthly report for the period ending August 2016 prepared by Jim Robinson, HMLD General Manager.

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- 5. 2016 Pool Season** – The Recreation Department has closed another successful and safe summer season. Thanks and congratulations to Denise Morano, Recreation Director, and her staff for providing such well-run programs and a clean and user-friendly facility for all to enjoy. Her staff is top notch, highly trained and supervised, and they treat our pool patrons with much kindness and caring. With more than 47,095 visitors this summer, we have many satisfied customers.

Enclosed is a report showing general and specific data on pool attendance and program enrollment. Also, a shout-out goes to our swim team the Holden Harpoons. They are a great bunch of swimmers who do us proud.

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- 6. Daily Water Use Analysis** – Attached is the updated water consumption graph through 9/5/16. Also attached is a chart showing the actual average consumption data behind the graph.

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- 7. Drought Update** – The City of Worcester issued a Stage 3 Drought declaration on September 8th, imposing further water use restrictions including a ban on all outdoor watering throughout the City. On September 13th, the City turned on its pumps to draw water from the Quabbin Aqueduct, into their water supply system.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitoring Agency, the Town of Holden, and 52% of the state are in the 'Extreme Drought' area. Previously the Town was in a 'Severe Drought'.

The last time the City pumped from the Quabbin Aqueduct was in about 1999, in the latter years of another multi-year drought period.

Information [X]

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- 8. **Recycling Grant** – Enclose is a notice that the Town of Holden has been awarded a Recycling Dividends Program grant in the amount of \$6,050. This grant is available to communities on an annual basis. We can use the monies for a variety of purposes, including recycling bins and lids, and to offset our fees to the Wachusett Earthday Recycling Center.

Thanks go to Pam Harding, Director of Planning and Development, for procuring the grant and for her supervision of our very successful recycling (and solid waste) program.

Information [X]

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- 9. **Composting and Brush Chipping** – The DPW will be offering Saturday residential composting and brush chipping events through December as follows:

September 17	November 12
October 22	November 19
October 29	December 3
November 5	

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. Composting materials will be accepted at the former Landfill (River Street), and brush chipping will be done at the DPW Adams Road facility due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle quarantine area. More information including restrictions is available on the Town's Web site www.holdenma.gov.

Information [X]

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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