

**EMS WEEK this week.**

**Bid Openings Electricity, Paving, Line markings, Backhoe:**

**7:00PM Advisory Budget Committee.** At end of this are Board minutes of last discussion regarding ABC also containing their requests.

**Public Safety Garage:** I have asked Paul to get quotes on the cement foundation with Peter Cook doing the work for the Board to preserve that option as I do not believe the Board wishes to spend the money to have it constructed by an outside builder. ***Does the Board wish to accept or reject the two proposals from Groen Builders for building the Public Safety Garage?***

**Materials:** Middleton Building Supply omitted the siding, entry doors, garage doors and entrance knob. Brock's omitted only the garage doors. Adjusting for the entry door and knob, it would result in Brock's being the least expensive materials bid.

Planning Board had three comments: 1. Increase the roof pitch for aesthetics from 5-1 to 6-1, 2. Add electricity or at least windows for light, 3. Match architecture as close as reasonable to existing Public Safety Building.

Paul Sanders has concrete quotes which mean the projected cost is well within budget is Public Works does the digging and the school does the construction. ***Does the Board wish to proceed?***

**Personnel Plan:** I sent out a copy of the Personnel Plan. ***How does the Board wish to proceed?***

**We will need a nonpublic for reputation, land, legal and personnel.**

**Discussion on RFP Legal.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Memorial Day:** Legion Post 114 Commander is inviting a town representative to come to the Memorial Day ceremony to give the official greeting from the Town of Barrington. Casey O' Brien will represent the Board. Barrington American Legion Post 114 puts on the parade and ceremony on the traditional date, May 30th. That is a Tuesday this year. The parade departs the safety complex at 6 PM and arrives at the Pine Grove cemetery 20 minutes later. The ceremony will begin around 6:35 PM. Boy Scout Troop 358 of Barrington will have a food concession outside the Legion Home during and after the event.

**Bridges:** State has finally approved all three bridges for construction that we had submitted over the past several years, with Mallego jumping ahead of Green Hill in year of funding even though Green Hill is ahead as far as reaching the final stage of engineering while Mallego is at the beginning of the engineering. I recommend when we come to the warrant articles that the Town consider a non-lapsing warrant article for bridges using fund balance and anticipated state reimbursement so we could proceed with either as soon as possible..

**Revised Testing Parameters:** Because of concerns regarding a common plastic-related product found in many products from rugs to drinking bottles to nonstick cooking pans , there is a new testing requirement on all landfill monitoring wells. This is an outgrowth to concerns surrounding the Coakley Landfill, Pease, and the Litchfield/Merrimac plastics plant. Most people have traces of this product in their system and there is concern from people (but no scientific link) regarding cancer clusters. The Legislature has also directed DES to develop rules. It could become expensive for communities statewide if communities need to develop municipal water systems for impacted wells.

#### **Minutes from 4/22 BOS discussion in bold**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Advisory Budget Committee – The members of the ABC requested feedback from the Board regarding their proposed recommendations.

The members of the ABC recommend the following:

1. Regular reviews of actual and projected expenditures compared to the budget. We believe these reviews should be with the BOS and dedicated exclusively to the budgets with no other agenda items. The members of the ABC recommend these periodic meetings occur in April, September, and January. – **Selectman Knapp would like to see revenues on a quarterly basis. The decision to review will be the second meeting in August this year and December.**
2. For budget lines with year-to-year variability, use the last three years' average as the starting point for the upcoming budget (not the last year's budget number). The increase or decrease of the recommended budget and the default budget should be calculated against this base amount, in addition to the previous year's budget amount. – **Administrator Scruton noted that the default budget can't be calculated with three year averages as defined by the State law. He has put together a four year expenditure comparison. Steve Saunders does not want the budgets built with the prior years budgeted amounts.**
3. During budget presentations, invite the ABC to actively participate with the BOS to ask questions and comment on department head proposals. Once again, it is requested that these meetings have no other agenda items. It is also requested that all materials for discussion be disseminated to the BOS and the ABC one week prior to the meeting. – **Administrator Scruton presents written backup in budget booklets to the Board of Selectmen and the ABC in September. Peter Royce said that the ABC members feel that they are not invited to join the discussion when the department heads are presenting their budgets. They would like to participate and ask questions during that time. Noted that the ABC is invited to participate and actively encouraged to participate.**
4. Any revenues from specific departments should be itemized in all budget reports. Actual revenues to date and annual estimated revenues should be included in each line. – **Administrator Scruton will make available the revenue reports more often with more detail. There will be two reports one of expenditures and one of revenues with a breakdown of department revenues.**

5. Any unspent allocated funds and any surplus resulting from underestimated revenues should not exclusively go to warrant articles. We believe some of this unreserved fund balance should be allocated to reduce the tax rate. We recommend 50% to warrant articles and 50% to tax reduction. To facilitate this proposal, we recommend that discussion and prioritization of warrant articles occur earlier in the budget process. – **Administrator Scruton stated that would make the tax rate fluctuate too much. Any decisions would be made by the Board at the end of the year. Peter Royce stated it should be a year by year decision. He also felt that the Board needs to look at the warrant articles to see which are “needs” versus “wants”. The ABC wants some consideration of “buying down the tax rate”.**

6. The ABC has had occasions when we did not have a quorum and therefore could not vote. We have been asking for additional members for a couple of years, and we believe adding new members are imperative at this time. – **Ross Buchanan volunteered to be a member. He will fill out an application and supply a resume.**

**At the meeting last night it was asked how much acreage the town owns that is, in some way, conserved. Here’s the sum of those:**

SATWaSR	1512.6
Goodwill	156
Calef	300.7
Pardon Dexter Land	24.2
Town Forest	50.3
Locke Falls	6.6
Kids of the River	17.9
Wilhelm	7.2
Monfet	5
Cullen Woods	8.8
Chestnut Forest	63.84
Total	2153.14

**Here’s the total conservation land with ‘official’ public access:**

Boodey	150
Newhall	80
River's Edge	41
Turbocam	11
Village Place	29.9
Warren	244

SATWaSR	1512.6
Goodwill	156
Calef	300.7
Cullen Woods	8.8
Chestnut Forest	63.84
Stonehouse Pond	230
Stonehouse Pond2 (Parkhurst)	15
UNH Recreation Area	189.1
Rivers Edge Open Space	10
Pardon Dexter Land	24.2
Town Forest	50.3
Locke Falls	6.6
Kids of the River	17.9
Wilhelm	7.2
Monfet	5

total 3153.14

#### Doug Langdon's answer on savings:

I thought I'd touch base about your kWh contract. It expires on the various meter read dates of the Town's accounts in July. The good news is you have saved approximately \$15K since the contract started with Direct Energy:

The bad news is that rates for a new contract to start in July are in the mid- 8 cent/kWh range. Compared to the 6.83 cents you currently have, that an increase in the energy component of about 17%. The overall impact (energy plus utility charges for transmission and distribution) would be somewhat less...maybe 10%??

And some more good news: I suspect that Eversource's rate for July - December 2017 will be higher than the 3rd party rates. At this point it still makes sense to buy from a 3rd party rather than the utility.

	Period Contract kWh	Eversource rate	Eversource \$\$	Direct Energy rate	Direct Energy \$\$
Jan-16	121,905	\$0.0999	\$12,178	\$0.0683	\$8,326
Jul-16	135,421	\$0.1095	\$14,829	\$0.0683	\$9,249
Jan-17	138,004	\$0.1117	\$15,415	\$0.0683	\$9,426
Jul-17	14,841	\$0.1000	\$1,484	\$0.0683	\$1,014
Totals	410,171		\$43,906		\$28,015
Estimated Savings					\$15,891