



OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MAYNARD

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
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March 22, 2011

Maynard Recreation Commission
195 Main Street
Maynard, Massachusetts 01754

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to first like to thank all of you for your dedication to recreational programming in the Town of Maynard. You have done much with little in providing citizens, particularly youth, with valuable activities.

This morning I met with Geoff Beharrell, the chair of your committee, along with the Municipal Finance Director Juli Colpoys and Administrative Aide Rebecca Mosca. This meeting was scheduled to discuss some budget discrepancies. In these discussions it became clear that significant costs were incurred by the Recreation Department without the proper oversight and communication, I accept responsibility in regards to the lack of oversight. The overruns are presently in excess of \$20,000 and according to the chair are likely to increase as additional bills are submitted.

Some, but not all the errant costs are related to the challenges of a failing roof, failing heating system and efforts to maintain the integrity of the hardwood flooring. The Board of Selectmen and the Town Administration have done everything within their power to assist the Recreation Commission to provide programs and in particular keep Memorial Gym open for public use and will continue to do so. The first order of business was to keep the gymnasium open as long as possible and regretfully, it is no longer feasible to meet that mandate with the available revenues.

As Town Administrator I understand the need to make tough decisions, but I must attempt to always do so in the best interest of Maynard as a community and within the laws of the Commonwealth. It became clear in today's conversation that I must first make the tough decision to close Memorial Gym and secondly to work with staff to develop tighter controls to protect municipal budgetary assets. Beginning March 23rd the Memorial Gym will be closed and will likely remain so until we can clearly understand the costs related to its past and future operation. This is not an action anyone feels good about particularly in light of the Commission's hard work, yet it is a necessity.

We will send the Recreation Commission, a copy of those controls as soon as they are available and hope you understand these changes will only serve to strengthen our ability to deliver services. Please call me with any questions you may have in regard to this or other issues 978.897.1375. I thank you for your understanding of this difficult decision.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Administrator, Maynard

Cc. Board of Selectmen

Jero Nessen, ArtSpace