

November 4, 2010

Board of Selectmen  
195 Main Street  
Maynard, Massachusetts  
01754



Re; Town Administrator Report

Honorable Board of Selectmen,

Please accept this report as an abridged version of Town Hall activities for the past two weeks;

**Solar Array Study;** Malcolm Pirnie is presently moving from Phase #1 to Phase #2 for the Renewable Energy Technology Screening at the Maynard Landfill. The project does not show any value in regards to wind or methane recapturing. The initial review does show great promise in regards to solar Photo Voltaic as a method of production. In Phase #2 they will include assessment of interconnection needs, permitting, appropriate position on the site, incentives, financing options and other issues relative to the feasibility of implementation. This is a very exciting project which will give us a window into green energy possibilities.

A copy of the preliminary report is available in the Board of Selectmen for your review. Hope for sunny days!

**Regional Transit Acton MinuteVan Services;** I attended a regional meeting on expanding transit services in the area; it was held in Boxborough Town Hall and attended by representatives from Boxborough, Littleton, Acton, Concord, MRTA, WorkWithoutLimits, 495/Metrowest Partnership and MAPC.

The discussion centered on how we may create more mass transit opportunities for all the communities and is at preliminary stages. The Town of Acton spoke about their new dial-a-ride program which is hosted by the private contractor MinuteVan.

This initiative offers service to various commercial and population centers, including Maynard Center and Emerson Hospital to the West Acton Train Station. It has been created through a Mass.DOT and MAPC grant. I will be reaching out to the service provider to see if there is an effective and economical way for Maynard to increase the access to the service and perhaps provide other transportation needs.

One of the more exciting ideas we discussed which I think could be beneficial for Maynard is having the fixed route which now terminates at the new IBM Campus in Littleton and returns to Lowell (operated by the LRTA) to run along Route 111 to Route 27 and into Maynard.

Having fixed route transit return to town would provide a number of possibilities. I will continue to explore how we may link Hudson/Stow in another loop as part of the Metro/West transportation planning exercise; I hope to meet with Jessica Strunkin from the 495/MetroWest partnership in the next few weeks.

Wouldn't it be great if I could take the bus to work, even though I could walk? Long term this may provide some solutions to busing for high school and perhaps middle school age children.

### **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Labor Forum; I**

participated in the labor forum at the Boxborough Holiday Inn on October 29. It was attended by nearly seven hundred and was very informative providing some insight into the changing scene for municipalities in regards to labor rulings. The two landmark case discussed were the recent arbitration ruling for the Boston Housing Authority and "evergreen" clauses in union contracts. This important ruling for management stated that nothing can be placed in any union contract which may be seen as a permanent right for labor or management.

The other case which was cited as a huge management win was Jordan Lemieux (Fire Fighters Union) vs. the City of Holyoke. This was a ruling from Federal Superior Court, Judge Ponsor, stating empathically that fire fighters and other scheduled municipal employees may not be entitled to overtime after forty hours. A good example of why you stand up for what is right and do not "settle" for political reasons.

**MIAA Health Insurance rates;** I have received some very good news from MIAA in regards to Blue Cross/Blue Shield in respect to next year's premium increase. The majority of policies will see as little as 1% in increased rates with retiree rates being slightly higher. These figures are very preliminary and may be subject to change until we have official agreements ready for signing, but it is unlikely those changes will be substantial and I like the way this is trending.

### **The Army Corp of Engineer, Ben Smith Dam review and final**

**recommendations;** This report is available in hard copy in the Board of Selectmen Office. I greatly respect the work done by the Corp and appreciate that they feel the "...removal of the Ben Smith Dam would have the largest negative impact on the historic resources along the Assabet River".

I would suggest this resource should be explored for possible use as a supply of renewable energy in the future and given the uncertainty in actually

improving water quality with its removal, coupled with the adverse affects which may befall the ecosystem just above the Ben Smith, it is sensible to approach “removal” with skepticism and protest.

A copy of the report is in the Board of Selectmen’s Office for your review.

**Fall Town Meeting;** Congratulations! The Fall Meeting held on October 25, 2010 was well attended and well run; Moderator Coleman provided stern and sturdy direction. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in the preparation, the Fowler staff, Beck Mosca and to the Board of Selectmen for demonstrating resolve and supporting process changes which were implemented.

The street sweeper is in and two staff members have been trained so far, this investment is a morale booster and a piece of equipment which will provide great service to the community.

We have begun to plan for the Annual Town Meeting and will have a schedule for you review for the December 21st meeting.

**Budget/Finance;** Progress towards closing our financials is progressing and this will give us a strong underpinning to move forward on next year’s budget planning. The Budget Sub-committee met and was well attend with an emphasis on the capital planning progress. There was great dialogue and it seemed most parties were comfortable with where the town is at in the process. The next meeting will be held in January, with a date to be announced by the co-chairs Select Board members Bubier and Capello.

**Zero Old Mill Road;** I had the opportunity to tour the property with Board members Sally Bubier and Dawn Capello on November 12. It is an interesting property, one which in my opinion provides little development value from a revenue or practical perspective. It does however lend itself to in some sense to be added to the open space inventory.

I would encourage continued discussion in that regard.

Thank you and I encourage you to bring other issues of concern to my attention so we may discuss the more fully.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Maynard Town Administrator

