

April 15, 2011

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;

Regional Dispatch Update; L.R Kimball has started the first phase of this study. Each community's police and fire have been asked to fill out a survey, answering questions relative to their capacity, practices, level of training/certification and any perceived obstacles they would like to have reviewed.

I do not think that consolidating our dispatch now would in any way impact the study. That has been a question you have been considering . The decision to train all operators with emergency medical dispatch (EMD) is a growing necessity. This training will have related cost, but will be mandated in the future.

Civics at Maynard High School; On Monday and Tuesday I had the opportunity to be involved with Ms. Labelle's Civics Class meeting with half the freshman class on Monday and the other half on Tuesday. I learned more than I educated. I immediately recalled how difficult one's freshman year is and witnessed the ongoing process of "fitting in" even as the school year was sliding to a close. Clearly Ms. Labelle is the type of involved instructor who we need more of, it was readily apparent she worked hard to keep heads off desks, help students understand the need to be respectful and keep a semblance of order in a chaotic environment.

The context of the presentation was the differences between local, state and the national government. My message was the local is the most important and impactful on your everyday life, yet the least considered by most citizens ...that is of course until your street is not plowed or your house is on fire.

They were very excited when the conversation turned to the "needs" of Maynard. The number one need a grocery store, somewhat odd for teens to be concerned with that issue, but I figure it was probably a response to the years of hearing their parents or elders in their lives espouse that idea every time they travel to a neighboring town for

provisions. They also wanted the normal teen things, GameStop, a bowling alley, mini-golf and a mall. I was very impressed by the sophistication of some to recognize the business side of these ideas, talking about traffic, market, location and cost.

We also discussed the possibility of returning to Maynard, the numbers were low, but there were glimmers of hope. One young lady stated “this is good place to raise kids”, I was impressed with her candid and assertive response. Less the few spit balls and snoring I had to endure, Maynard has some really great kids soon to head out on to the open sea of life.

High School Construction Project; The building committee met recently, both I and the Board of Selectmen Chair were in attendance. There was a painstaking or should I say “pane- staking” discussion about which types of glass which will be used in the glass wall areas. Suffice to say the conversation was exhaustive in regards to cost, utilization, durability, appearance and a host of other issues.

The project is progressing and is moving through the pre qualification bid portion phase. The OPM Pat Saitta seems very confident construction and site preparation will be within the original schedule. Good news for a great project.

Waste Water Treatment Plant; On April 22, “Earth Day”, there will be an open house for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Governor’s Office, Representative Hogan’s, Senator Eldridge’s Offices have been notified of the event. It will begin at 10 AM with a tour, at 11 AM there will be short remarks. The public is welcomed to come and attend. Following the ceremonies there will be light refreshments, including the appropriate fare for those observing Good Friday.

Brown and Cauldwell is organizing this event and there never seems to be a perfect day, so I apologize for the intersecting of Good Friday, Earth Day and this event , but given schedules for plant permitting, training and other complications this is the date we were left. The event will be very light, respectful, but hopefully will draw some level of attention to this important investment.

Waltham Street Bridge Project; Superintendent Flood, Highway Supervisor Foster, Chief Kulik, Chief Corcoran and I met with Mass DOT on April 8th with Engineer George Bertie, the contractor MIG and representatives from other supporting agencies and companies.

Here are the highlights of that meeting;

- Only for short periods of time will there not be two-way traffic (a few hours on as few as two days while the temp bridge is installed).
- A separate temporary pedestrian bridge will be installed on the southerly side of the bridge from McDonald’s to Tedeschi’s.

- The MassDOT has been instructed to use “flagmen” on this project. There will be a Mass DOT resident engineer on site and will work with the town to use police details when necessary.
- There will be a field office maintained at 74 Main Street, second floor, for this project.
- There will be a project staging area at a property along Powdermill Road, suitable for storing and assembling component parts and equipment. There will be a smaller location with a “tools” trailer closer by. These locations have not been finalized as the contractor is negotiating with the parties. Until those negotiations are complete there will be no official announcement, all local and state regulations will be met when determining these property uses.
- Signs will be erected by MassDOT including large electronic message boards alerting drivers to detours and other issues regarding construction. Other orange standard signs will be placed by MassDOT based as their protocol and practice suggests.
- There will be two lanes of traffic during the entire bridge with a temporary bridge meeting the weight limits in place.
- Major work will be done at non-peak daytime hours (9 AM to 2:30PM)
- The DPW Superintendent has asked for a full set of plans and they will be available in his office as soon as they arrive.
- It has been determined that the most disruptive period will be in the first several weeks as the complicated mess of utilities gets addressed (it was stated the utility companies are difficult to deal with, I told them I feel their pain) and while drivers adjust their routes.

I encourage patience and encourage people to address their issues directly to the MassDOT office, as soon as phone is installed at 74 Main Street we will get that number for you to distribute. I strongly suggest we allow the state to take the lead and assist when it is appropriate to do so. This is their baby we have enough to do to raise our own.

They are aware of our police, fire and DPW capacity and needs, it has been made clear to them we are here to make this easy, not more complicated. No offense, but we want them to leave as quickly as possible and speak of nothing but of good food and good times in Maynard.

Council on Aging Project/Meeting; I attended the last meeting of the COA and there was some strong concern voiced that the seniors were once again being left in the dust. I reassured them there remained strong support for their efforts on the Board of

Selectmen and great appreciation given the COA's willingness to work cooperatively to explore other possibilities for the Maynard Community Life Center.

The council expressed a strong desire to have their members be a whole part of the committee selected by the BOS to explore the options for this project. Given the progress they have made in that regard I would encourage the BOS to meet their request, I believe a strong and vibrant committee can be crafted to make this multi-generational project work well.

Thank you for all your help and attention to the budget process, your experience and historical knowledge helped a great deal in a number of areas. I know it has not been a perfectly smooth process, but I am confident we can make improvements. I would also like to thank Peter Campbell, Becky Mosca, Juli Colpoys, Angie Marrama, Cheri Poirier, Denee Howard and Eric Kinsherf for their diligence. The guidance of the Budget Committee, particularly the Co-Chairs Selectmen Bubier and Capello was integral part of our process.

Submitted to the Board of Selectmen respectfully April 15, 2011,

Michael J. Sullivan

Maynard Town Administrator