

June 30, 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;

**Representative Hogan's Business and Technology Summit;** On June 28<sup>th</sup> I attend a morning summit at Intel (Hudson) in regards to how this region could benefit from deregulation, incentives and educational investments in an attempt to stay competitive in today's global market, notables such as Pat Larkin (John Adams Innovative Institute), Paul Matthews (495/Metrowest Collaborative), Joe Zukowski (Verizon) and State Representatives Levy, Conroy were in attendance. Of course the host our own Representative Hogan was at the helm.

Stakeholders from Intel of Hudson, Sea Change of Acton, Kaon Interactive of Maynard and others gave their impressions as to the complexities of competition and what is holding us back from being a region to be reckoned with when it comes to technology as we once were.

It was very interesting to hear the universal consensus for investing in education. There were also expressions to make incentives more impactful, by narrowing what incentives go to, more research and development enticement and less politically driven offerings like TIFs. Economically targeting industries were at the forefront of the conversation.

Many of the attendees were former DEC employees and remember the Digital world headquarters fondly. I told them each about the upcoming DEC Reunion and I will be forwarding them more

information as we get it from the DEC Reunion planning group. We need to develop a strategy to get them to come home, come home to Maynard and bring their companies with them.

Again, Thank you to Representative Kate Hogan it seems she is doing something new for Maynard every week, you are very lucky to have such a dedicated public servant working on your behalf.

**129 Parker Street/Anglo Irish Bank Foreclosure;** I have been discussing with representatives from Anglo Irish a strategy for settling their outstanding invoices in respect to property taxes and utilities. I hope to have the account current by the close of business July 15, 2011. I would offer, given the complexities and global bureaucracy of this situation that date cannot be guaranteed. There continues to be a great deal of interest in possible development related, but not necessarily sited at 129 Parker Street.

**Waltham Street Bridge Project;** There has been a request made to MassDOT by the contractor and the associated utilities to do some of the substantial utility work July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 PM until 6 AM. This overnight will require closing the road to vehicular traffic, if MassDOT approves of this there will be additional signage and the Police Department will work to give additional information to impacted residents and businesses. This adjustment of strategy will be a positive overall as it will allow an important part of the project to move more quickly and be better coordinated. I am sure there will be some temporary discomfort, but overall it will help the project get done and that should be the goal. As Tedeschi's is 24 hours we will encourage MIG and MassDOT to work with them to facilitate their needs as best we can, but please be reminded we do not have a great deal of control over this long term beneficial project.

**Fiscal Year 11 Closing;** Well it is closed, it was not always pretty and we continue to learn about what works and what needs to change. The bright spots are we have made great strides in tax title, collections, reconciliation process and understanding the new software. We have some webinars scheduled for staff in the next

few weeks which should increase our capacity for manipulating the platform.

**Fiscal Year 12 Opening;** You never look better than the first day in municipal financing and we do look good. We are continuing a very aggressive, but cooperative pursuit of outstanding taxes, we are cleaning up some old outstanding accounts and the FY 12 demands for taxes and utilities which are in the mail. We are working out some minor issues with Invoice Cloud on some accrued interest formulas and we had some heart attack moments with Mark Altman Associates our billing partners, but through a lot of hard work we are moving in a positive direction.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Finance Director Julie Coploys, Asst. Collector Denee Howard, Asst. Treasurer Cheri Poirier, Chief Assessor Angela Marrama, Utilities Accounts Manager Dorothy Portnoy, her colleague Barbara Johnston and everyone else who pitched in to make this work.

**Municipal Budget News;** We are aware that the Joint Committee has reported out some additional cuts to cities and towns of 7%. This is not good news from a commitment perspective. This would result in about \$71,000 less to our revenue, it should not been seen by Maynardians or to elected official as crippling blow to our fiscal structure given we have 30 plus million budget.

When constructing the revenue schedule for this fiscal year we took an extremely conservative approach to local revenues. In particular you may remember we had a back and forth about excise tax predicted receipts for FY 12 where we trimmed \$80,000 off from that revenue source as hedge against just this kind of event. We also were conservative in other local receipts and have done better than expected in collecting heretofore uncollectable accounts.

**Proposed Change of Hours;** If you allow me to move forward with the change of service hours for July 15 through the end of August I would like to do some creative promoting about the positive aspects of this change in regards to service to the public. I would like to have the citizens celebrate the fact they can come into their Town

Hall on Tuesday night up until 6 PM and get the services they need. I hope we all try and use this as opportunity to do a better job. This experiment will still need you allowance, but I feel there will be multiple benefits. There will be compelling reasons from a minority as to why we should not consider this, but I would appreciate your support and indulgence for this relatively short period.

I would like to leave you with just a sampling of issues which need to be dealt with in the upcoming year;

- a) Charter
- Revision
- b) Fire Chief
- Search
- c) By-Law
- Review
- d) Capital Bond
- e) Parking Deck
- f) MCC Future
- g) Sub-  
committees
- h) Special TM
- i) Winter Bylaws

I hope you all enjoy this Fourth of July weekend and I look forward to starting anew year on July 5th.

Respectfully yours,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator