



March 29, 2012

Board of Selectmen
195 Main Street
Maynard, Massachusetts 01754

Honorable Board of Selectmen;

Please accept this as an abridged accounting of activities related to my activities as Town Administrator;

MIAA BC/BS Health Insurance Rates FY13; As you are aware we have received confirmation of our FY 13 rate increase and I am excited as you are to hear it is the first time in decades we can say it is not an increase. This news will benefit both the taxpayers and employees who receive health insurance benefits through the municipality. Zero percent increase in concert with the retiree decrease we realized in January by changing to the MEDEX III plan is very pleasing.

This is a direct result of an improving experience of the Maynard employee/family pool. Claims were down and costs were moderated, we also have redoubled our efforts to make sure those who are not eligible are not receiving benefits. I hope it also indicates we are getting healthier. I hope to announce in the next few weeks new programs we will be announcing with BC/BS to promote healthy living.

OPEB Shortfall; In coordination with GASB 45 we had ordered an actuarial evaluation of post employment benefits. Due to a reporting error it was determined that our unfunded liability was undervalued by \$890,000. Luckily the shortfall is not required to be prefunded and will be adjusted into our accumulated reserve over the thirty year amortization of the fund. The impact will not be significant, less than \$50,000 in FY 14 I suspect.

Regional Transportation ...again; Thankfully it never stops coming when we discuss transportation. We recently received the CIC grant for regional transportation expansion (or to some degree creation) and have signed on the Acton's JARC/New Freedom Grant application from FTA. Most of the participating communities met recently with Eric Halvorsen from MAPC to discuss the areas of need and focus. We also had a few communities who are working on some other projects around smart transportation that I and others are keenly interested the use of technology to enhance customer communications.

These various initiatives will eventually coalesce into a regional plan to provide real mass transportation options for this area. A fixed route or on-demand transit service will positively impact the life of every citizen in the area. Businesses will have employees with better options, employees will have more employment options, students will be able to participate in more after school programs, seniors will have more affordable choices, it will take years, but it will be worth it. It is a travesty that pizza have more transportation options than people.

Kevin Sweet is a Fellow; On March 26th Kevin Sweet was recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Local Health Institute of Massachusetts in Boylston a ceremony attended by his family and Becky Mosca represented the Town and Board of Selectmen. Five other outstanding local health professionals were cited for their work by Commissioner Aurebach, none more impressive than Kevin! Congratulations Kevin!

Arts and the Community Grant, Mass Cultural Council; Carolyn Britt and I met recently with Jero Nessen (ArtSpace) and Bob Gottlieb (MBA) to get some ideas as to how we can use the creative economy to keep the momentum going in downtown.

Steve Wood; What can I say about the specialness of our Business Specialist Steve Wood. This week he successfully met with one of the key property owners in the central business district. Ms. Poulis's 4through 10 Nason Street properties have long been vacant. I am happy to report through Steve's diplomacy, I think you will soon see some real activity at that location. Thank you Steve, for all you efforts, Maynard owes you a debt of gratitude. I will pay you in cookies or antiques when the stores open.

Steve was also in attendance at the Wednesday evening meeting at Gallery 7 of the Maynard Business Alliance. The decision was made to hold the concert series in Memorial Park, they will be asking for the BOS blessing for their plan at your April 3 meeting

Thank you for your support of Town Hall as we strive to provide the best service possible!

Respectfully submitted;

Michal J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, Maynard