

December 13, 2012

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 in recent weeks;

Annual License Renewal Update: We have held the line with all outstanding remittance and have been quite successful in regards to collections. There are some businesses that I will be bringing to you for some discussion if they can no comply by when we next meet. Both are landlord situations and if I cannot resolve them by Tuesday evening's meeting I will present you with a strategy for each establishment. I will not be asking you for any leniency in relationship to any beer/wine or liquor licenses, as you have been quite clear and fair about that issue.

I would like to thank, Marie Morando, Becky Mosca, Kevin Sweet, the Maynard Fire Department, Rick Asmann, Stephanie Duggan and everyone else in Municipal Services for the outstanding cooperation during the inspection and renewal process.

Reo/Coolidge Bid Opening; this is truly a mixed message, we had great interest in our two park project, two of the submittals were within budget. It has become necessary due to issues beyond our direct control to hold off making a final award. Presently Blatman, Bobrowski and Mead is reviewing the documents to ensure that our next steps are legal and done so within 30 B and all other applicable MGL.

This unfortunate delay time may be recovered in respect to the timeline, if we can quickly move through this phase; we are doing everything possible to that effect. No part of this process interruption was due to any missteps or errors on behalf of BSC Group or town official/employees. Spring construction with an early summer completion is still our goal.

Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School; We have received a line item tentative budget for FY14 which will increase for the district, but will be slightly lower than last year for Maynard due to falling enrollment from the community. The MSBA approved construction project assessment for FY 14 will be \$1,696.50.

We also received from AVRVS our first official request for a town meeting warrant. They have voted to ask all the towns and Marlborough to approve their vote to set up a 40~13D Compensation Account to cover cost of compensated absences for terminated employees.

Regional Transportation; Last Friday afternoon I attended the regional meeting in Acton of the on-going study and the progress being made to create a transit system in the region which benefits everyone. It was interesting that Maynard was second only to the much larger Acton in trips "out" of the town.

Thirty-seven per cent of all trips in the region which originate in Maynard have a destination outside the municipal boundaries, far greater comparatively with other communities in the study. I could suggest there are many reasons for this interesting statistic, from essential services (grocery store, other retail) to medical services to just the size of the town which contribute to this outflow of people and commerce to the number of trips. This supports some of the findings by Judith Barrett (CTP Economic Impact Study) in regards to the flow of dollars out of Maynard. This obviously spills over into other on-going conversations which I will not expand in this report.

At this meeting we meet with the group who has been hired to market the new service once it is in place and there were a number of great ideas in an attempt reflect the needs of the region. The most difficult was to describe the region with a ubiquitous moniker. The challenge is we are in MetroWest, but regarded parochially as something else, some are drawn to Assabet Valley, but if the Assabet does not flow through or in some case not even near your community there is less relationship to that name. I suggested "Acronym Valley" kiddingly, but "Number 27" more seriously. I see the ability to build around that concept from a marketing perspective to be significant, but I have not been hired to create a market plan.

We are moving closer to establishing a TMA or Transportation Management Association, this public/private approach has been successful on the Cape and closer to home in Lexington. It encourages and sometimes requires that businesses participate financially in some way, many larger business actually like the idea and also having the towns participate in the cost of service. Although I am neither authorized nor convinced that Maynard should take on such a financial commitment as of this writing. I do think it is prudent or in our best interest to continue to not listen to the whole plan and benefits. Often great ideas which may have a significant offset advantage are sent asunder before the whole story is told or more important understood.

One can appreciate that the BOS has been hearing about this for some time and I appreciate your continued interest and allowing me to allocate important attention to this regional initiative. I can envision when this project comes to fruition (and I believe it will) it will be a critical to link downtown with other retail areas in the region and perhaps even future shopping in town, all leveraging the experience and the boosting the economy. There will be more to follow, I promise.

Assabet River Rail Trail; Recently I met with Nick Rubino from AECOM who has been contracted through a regional grant by MassDOT to create plans for and troubleshoot areas of concern along the Assabet River Rail Trail, for obvious reasons we concentrated on the challenges this bike/pedestrian path faces in Maynard.

The Town of Acton through their Planner Roland Bartl has been directing this endeavor and doing yeoman's works. He and Nick were under the impression that several easements had been secured throughout Maynard. It has since been determined that is not the case I have contact two of the four property owners involved and they are not aware of any easement agreements. I have started immediately to address this situation and will meet in Acton next week on this matter.

This project could be a wonderful asset for all that you are trying to do in Maynard and I will do what I can to keep it on track and not have us become the anchor on the project.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget; The FY 14 budget continues to evolve, I have attended the FinCom meetings as have several of you and I find the conversations to be helpful to me and hopeful to the members of the

Finance Committee. It has become very apparent that we can no longer ignore the need to allocate more resources to some of the department budgets without significantly impacting services.

As I look more closely at the long term planning it is clear that we need to increase investment in the community. The need to make large capital investments in new schools, police station, library, parks and other necessary has not been completely abated the need, we can no longer cover these needed investments with debt exclusion votes. As we have discussed this critical infrastructure investment need must come for with in revenues as we can no longer challenge the citizen's pocketbook, to do so there will be some hard choices.

Please note, I will be on vacation December 26, 27 and 28th and will not return to work until January 2nd around mid-day. I will be available by phone and will check my e-mail occasionally during that period. It is my most sincere wish that you all have wonderful holiday season and that the New Year brings great gifts to you all.

Thank you,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Administrator, Maynard