

Coordinator Report December 17, 2020

We have invited Highway Superintendent and Highway Commission to discuss (joint meeting posted) establishing the Town's point of contact for STRAP grant, Northfield is the lead town. They are ready to sign the contract with the state. We should review proposed budget and scope which are part of the competitive submission and designate our point of contact. My thinking is not to heavily involve Larry on the day to day so he can concentrate on other summer construction and get our money's worth out of our three-person crew, which includes him. I personally recommend cutting brush in the spring after leafing-out and painting lines in the beginning of the summer because after a winter they are mostly gone. If there is interest in brining on some capacity for our oversight, I will talk with Mr. Toth, a resident retired civil engineer. He has been doing our Green Com clerk of work at elementary schools. This small contract would be on our dime and is not a covered grant cost. We could meet it with Chapter 90 or from budget. Moving painting and brush cutting to the spring will present one-time budgetary pressures but should not negate better practices.

We should consider the discussion on the Antioch University MOU as a first reading. The topic includes summer curriculum training community of community volunteers, who would act as instructors; in-service training and student teacher arrangements, with everything highlighting "place based" and "nature based" curricula. I keep volunteering the \$1k we have in an intern line in the Selectboard budget for such a use, but we need to appropriate additional funding to this reopen the school project. I think we have done well with the \$8,000 appropriated already. It is expended.

We have invited the Forest Committee for discussion of cutting Tall trees on town lands. We can discuss a possible harvest at Allen Lot around the highway department which is under consideration; and discuss an intermediate cut on the Wendell Rd town forest. This would be the place to discuss the merits of a mitigation objective which is removing trees near utility infrastructure and public ways.

A Russian hack of SolarWinds software has been in the news compromising many government networks. We have in the past used their product but have replaced it with our own network monitoring designed for wireless monitoring. A security patch is blamed for opening a "back door". Since we quit paying them, they stopped delivering these, so we dodged this bullet.

When the District moved on and out of our building, they took the tractor, mower, and any snow removal equipment because we did not buy it. Following a consult with Building and Energy Committee the town purchased a 24" two-stage battery electric snow blower which was in service for the recent storm. I have repair scheduled for the refrigeration units at the school on Monday. Brian reports he has totally filled the units at the church and small working ones at the school. In general school kitchen appliances get light use contrasted with a restaurant use.

Rather than pay \$267 labor to replace two batteries, I did it myself at the school fire system monitoring. Following the several days in duration power outage in the village center which involved the WCS, its fire alarm system has been telling the alarm company monitoring that the fire tank water level in the 8' deep tank is at 30'. No one is standing in water. Chief informed us that the high-water monitoring was eliminated some time ago. Now it is back as a reporting circuit. The five-year recert of the sprinkler system has happened.

Amidst the tax rate setting process the DOR is questioning our “optimistic” transfer station budget revenue figures and may based on our consistent past performance tack on something to our tax rate to offset our expected next loss. We are seeing higher bag sales in the pandemic. The recent order of small bags was funded by a DEP recycling grant.

Fire Deputy Joe Paul is working on the station windows, lining up plumbing contractor and working with FCTS on electrical. We have something less than \$30k in available funds (EPZ) and I’ll work on getting an exact number which is only complicated because of ongoing work and expenditures.

Janice Kurkoski has been engaged on the school monitoring system installation with the vendor. We have Doug Waite, the heat ventilation contractor from the original design working with us. MIIA tells me once in place, the freeze protection embedded functionality will result in credits / savings on our casualty insurance. Meanwhile I got the WCS property insurance valuation to replacement value. Went from \$2M to \$4M which will cost us an additional \$5k annually. To underinsure is to co insure and be on the hook for a partial loss.

I mailed the most recent bill schedules last Thursday and we saw our first instance of USPS slowness. To guard against loss, we are going to scan the package going forward so it can be backed up, supplied “on time” and proved with the paper we send. The vendor payments will be delayed. When you hear that this warrant is available for your attention, please try to review and sign.