

Coordinator Report May 30, 2020

We welcome new hire Amanda Carey, Selectboard secretary. Nobody could possibly be more thrilled than our board clerk, Todd who has done a masterful job substituting in this role, a stretch by anybody's definition of board clerk. Amanda is a resident and I look forward to working with her.

The standing item, "Ethics Exemptions and Disclosures, if any" has returned. Omission was due to a few truncated meetings along the way and; my habit of deriving the next agenda from the former. At Todd's request ethics exemptions is back and stated more broadly.

By the time of the meeting I will have collected your signatures on the Warrant for town election for which you set the hours of, and the town bylaw sets the date. I will release for posting by the constable after your vote.

Longer term impacts of the pandemic / emergency include cuts expected to local aid to cities and towns. The state is projecting at least \$6 billion revenue shortfall which is expected to be offset by approximately \$2 billion of federal aid. That is the assessment right now and it could be worse. School districts are being advised to reduce spending. And told to view this as the new normal. Tuesday evening the Pioneer Budget Committee on which I serve recommended cuts of a quarter million dollars to the Pioneer budget so that we can reduce the assessments to the towns in FY21. The, Pioneer administration and the overseer realize the towns are going to get considerably less from the state in unrestricted local aid and thus hindered in our ability to balance our budgets. Moreover, while local aid is a smaller percentage of our education revenue, it's not going to grow, it's likely not to even hold the line.

Warwick is going to see less free cash than usual in the future. This year we are going to have less than 100,000. That is on FY19 which we are closing, but if our residents have trouble paying their taxes, we have to reserve against that outstanding unpaid tax obligation and it reduces available free cash. I am getting concerned about our residents' ability to pay their tax bills and pay them on time.

The sentiment at the PV Budget subcommittee meeting was expressed that they had hoped they would have heard about Warwick (c-word) by now so they could act on those savings, presumably pass them back to the towns too. Now the argument, or reasons to close Warwick isn't to repurpose the money from inefficient use here to the rest of the district, and in a more fair way allegedly. Now it is about reducing the burden to the town's in the future. I think there is hope. Our design meets that challenge at any scale. Our budget for elementary has been with DESE for a week now. The full SC has a special meeting on May 7 to vote these reductions.

Melanson CPA is my recommendation for town accountant. They are costly. I can't find another alternative. Accounting is going cost us in the vicinity of \$50k all in. Including license at bit more. This is the only viable option I find after six months. There is a reason DESE approved of Tanya staying on remotely. This vendor are pricing the same for adoption of the current year which we already are overspending and this pricing is because they anticipate a mid-year entry won't be saving a thing, and they will have to rework much.

They offer two options on next year. Using our current AP vendor who is \$190 / week or using them for data entry. Baystate's price included the software fee. That is an additional cost under MH.

Doc requested an item regarding fire chief. I don't know his timing but this meeting marks retirements from service by Jim from Selectboard. Doc can report and on this and on your instruction I can post a vacancy. I have not talked to Ron and am acting on a request by Doc to "Please put something on the agenda about this" (Fire Chief replacement)

As of 2 pm Thursday we have 100 of the 250 Mbps fiber connection working to WCS. John ran out of time to complete the provisioning. Probably need to address a port speed issue and then get on the roof to install the outdoor gear of which one item is in transit. Building and energy committee take note: We used an existing ethernet cable run from the utility closet to the gym and didn't have to disturb the air sealing; only exception for one small hole we will drill out the peak of the gym to outdoors. We pledge to air seal it.