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TOWN OF SUTTON OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: SELECT BOARD
FROM: JAMES SMITH
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE
DATE: 8/18/2020 CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 4

The following is an update of projects and activities for your information

- 1) Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)-we received communication from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources that Glenn King and Sharon Kent have submitted applications for an APR on land located at King farm. There are two applications. They are looking to permanently protect 204 acres from development. This is the first step in the process, presenting it at a public meeting. From here the applications will be evaluated and appraised in the fall and offers will be made to the applicant's over the winter. We will be notified if these offers are accepted and may be asked to financially participate as a co-holder of the restriction.
- 2) CARES Act funding-the town received \$842,000 in funding from the federal government. Anything that is not computer related requires that we apply first through FEMA to get 75% reimbursement and then the CARES Act for the remaining 25%. We have approved \$105,000 for 100 Chromebooks, laptops for School Department heads and town department heads as well as PPE and plexiglass enclosures. The School department is using \$60,000 in capital and the town is contributing \$150,000 for every teacher to have a laptop. We've also executed a purchase order for BVT for \$25,000 in laptops. This still leaves us with approximately \$560,000 remaining. We are looking to make a bulk purchase of Chromebooks for every student in the system.

- 3) State Aid -the State has agreed to level fund state aid for 2021. Ch 70 plus \$334,000 onetime funding for reopening schools. As you know we level funded state aid in our budget so we are in good shape for now. We are now looking to FY 22 to see if the State of Massachusetts is recovering from the slowdown and cautiously awaiting the late Fall discussions on State revenue predictions.
- 4) Fall Town Meeting-at our goals meeting on July 28 the Board made it clear that they did not want anything controversial at fall town meeting. This would obviously increase the attendance and the Board felt that the health and safety of our residents was our first priority. With that being said I have let all departments know that the only items on the warrant will be financial. We believe that we will only need one item on the fall town meeting warrant, and that is increase raise and appropriate for the additional new growth. We will use that new growth to reduce the free cash in the capital plan and replace that with new growth. As you are aware with the five-year forecast, the additional new growth helps offset a deficit until a later date.
- 5) State Grant for Municipal Small Bridge Program-we were informed that the town of Sutton received a \$100,000 grant for the small bridge on Manchaug road. This bridge is where the outfall from Stevens Pond Dam flows beneath eventually making it towards the Mumford River. We have put up Jersey barriers as a short-term solution so we appreciate the state's assistance. Thank you to Matt Stencel who applied for this program.
- 6) Early Voting-will be available on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 from 10 AM to 2 PM for the September primary. The state has also mandated that early voting be available from August 24 through August 28 for the pre-Covid hours which means essentially 8 AM to 4 PM. Laura will set up outside on the front stairs of town hall for this. Early voting for the general election will be available at some point in late October. This is a mandate by the State.
- 7) Waters Farm days-has been officially canceled for this year. The Waters Farm Board is committed to holding Waters Farm days in October 2021. We will see you next year.
- 8) Solar for Carport-we are working on an RFP for solar at the police station carport. The bids are due back to town hall on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

Reminders:

Transfer Station stickers-Donna Wood has been meeting the effort to sell transfer station stickers online. We have agreed to sell them through City Hall Systems our current online vendor. Anyone interested in the transfer station sticker would fill out the paperwork online and submit payment for \$50. In the office, Donna will fill out the registration information on the sticker and then mail the sticker to the applicant.