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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: 1/18/2022

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

- 1) Highway Communication System-\$210,000 was appropriated at May town meeting for a highway communication system. This week the system is up and running. We installed repeaters on cell towers located at Wilkinsonville water tower, Manchaug water tower, town farm road tower, and the new tower at the sewer department. Radios are installed in all highway vehicles, cemetery vehicles and sewer vehicles. According to the highway superintendent, radio communication is very clear. The system will allow us to cross communicate between highway and public safety.
- 2) Housing Choice Act compliance-on January 5 we received information from KP law for MBTA communities relative to specific sections of the Housing Choice Act. Sutton is considered an MBTA community because we directly abut several MBTA service communities. As an MBTA community we must enact as of right multifamily housing over minimum portion of Sutton. If we choose not to provide as of right multifamily housing in Sutton, we forgo any funds through the following state funding sources:
 - a. Housing choice grants
 - b. Local capital projects fund
 - c. Mass Works infrastructure grants
 - d. Possible PARC grants and Land and Water Conservation fund grant

- 3) Board of Health Fee schedule-the Board of Health recently updated their fee schedule. The last time they updated their fee schedule was in 2015. The Board looked at all the surrounding communities and adjusted their fees to be comparable.
- 4) Firefighter Safety Equipment grant-we were notified by the state that the Fire Department was awarded \$15,291 for the firefighter safety equipment grant. This grant will go towards several complete sets of turnout gear, boots, and in-suit communication systems.
- 5) FY 2023 budget and capital plan-the preliminary budget Presentation to the select board will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. We continue to meet with the school department regarding their high costs for out of district special education.