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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: 3/2/2021

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

- 1) Budget Update-as we mentioned in the preliminary budget Presentation there were a few unknowns. The largest unknown is healthcare and Fallon health has submitted a 19% increase over the current premium. We also received a bid from MIIA/Blue Cross which is for three years with approximately a 6% increase in year one. We are looking to do plan design changes essentially moving everyone that is eligible into a Health Savings Account. That change would significantly lower the premiums on both providers. Blackstone Valley vocational school came in with an increase of \$199,432 for seven additional students. Norfolk Agricultural school had two additional students apply at approximately \$24,000 each.
- 2) Order of Taking 7.5 Wildflower- Town Counsel has asked the sewer commissioners to execute the order of taking for 7.5 Wildflower Drive. The property was owned by Facilities Management Inc. Don Obuchowski is setting up a sewer commission meeting in the near future to have the commissioners take action.
- 3) Membrane Batch Reactor-a conference call is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2021 with Suez engineering, Roger Raymond, Don Obuchowski, Jen Hager and myself. The preliminary report looks positive but I'll have more to say on Tuesday night. We still have some funds remaining from the middle school high/school project and those funds could be used to recoat and clean the tank. I have put an additional \$30,000 in the capital plan to design a septic system at town hall.

- 4) Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee - the finance committee met on February 23 to discuss the budget, capital plan and future finance committee public hearings. We have tentatively established public hearing dates. They are Tuesday, March 30 at 6 PM, Tuesday, April 13 at 6 PM, Monday, April 26 at 6 PM, and Tuesday, April 27 at 6 PM. All meetings will be conducted via Zoom. I have attached a list of the public hearings to this update.
- 5) Fire Department grants-Fire Chief Matt Belsito was notified from the state that the town of Sutton was awarded \$4,692 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and \$2,480 for Senior SAFE grants.
- 6) Cybersecurity Awareness Grant program-the town of Sutton was awarded, for the second time, the cyber security awareness grant from the state of Massachusetts. Sutton Town Hall and the Sutton Public schools will participate. My hope is that town employees become more vigilant with our computer vulnerabilities and help protect the Town's computer network. Dan Durgin will take the lead for the town on this project.