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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: 4/4/2023

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

1. Budget Update-the FY24 preliminary budget is balanced. As I mentioned at the last meeting the placeholders we had in the budget are now known. Blackstone Valley Technology Vocational school was a \$-104,561 due to 12 fewer students attending this year. Healthcare came in at 6.4% versus the 8% placeholder. The School Department appropriation was originally \$1 million we have increased that to \$1,172,686. That number includes the Governor's appropriation of Chapter 70 of \$38,820 and an additional \$133,866 to fund the school Department's budget. In addition, we will have a separate article to fund \$700,000 out of free cash for special education article. To make this work we increased local receipts by a \$450,000. At this point we need to rely upon our state delegation to increase our state aid.
2. Electricity Aggregation bidding process-the town's electricity aggregator is recommending that we go out to bid for electricity supply with rates to go in effect after January 1, 2024. Currently natural gas prices, the main driver in electricity supply prices, is at a three-year low. National grid has already announced their spring and summer rates at 14.7 cents per kilowatt hour. This is down from their winter rates of 33 cents per kilowatt hour. We are looking at a three-year agreement that will lock in rates and provide predictable bills for ratepayers.

3. Animal Inspector-our animal inspector Michelle Lafleche recently retired from animal inspector duties. We are in search of an animal inspector. The position pays roughly \$5,000 a year and is responsible for doing the annual barn book and dog quarantines.
4. Elementary School and Early Learning Center parking lots-are going out to bid on March 29, 2023 and the bids are due back Thursday, April 27, 2023. This is for paving the two parking lots as well as some additional drainage work. This work will need to be done during the summer months to not inconvenience the teachers and parents that use these parking lots.

Finance Committee Public Hearings- are scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30 PM, Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 PM and Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 PM.

Town Hall septic system repair-went out to bid on March 15 with bids due back to the town on Thursday, April 13 at 11 AM. This project has a base bid of repairing the septic system and pumping up Uxbridge Road to 16 Uxbridge Road. Alternate number 1 is paving the fire station/library parking lot. Alternate number 2 is installing a grinder pump at Rufus Putnam Museum to connect the museum to the septic system.