



MEMORANDUM

TO: Select Board

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Clancy Main, Assistant Town Manager
Robert Maynard, Director of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, May 6, 2024

DATE: May 1, 2024

Police Contract - 5B

Superior Officers have settled their collective bargaining agreement for FY23-FY25. A \$150,000 funding request for the Collective Bargaining Agreement will be included in the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant for retroactive payments on the first two years of the agreement.

Billerica 3A – Gas Main Incident

At approximately 11:30am on Wednesday, April 24th a Tropeano operator damaged a 6" low pressure main at 347/358 Boston Road. Boston Road was closed to traffic from Good Street to Heritage Road, with a detour in place sending vehicles down to Pond Street and around. The Fire Department evacuated 15 residents from the surrounding homes out of precaution. At approximately 2:30pm the gas main was squeezed off at 347 Boston Road to isolate a portion of pipe for repair. At this time, residents were allowed to return to their homes. 347 and 358 Boston Road were the only two residences affected by the outage. The repair was complete by 8:30pm with gas restored to both homes. Boston Road was fully opened to bi-directional traffic at this time.

Yard Waste Collection

Began week of April 22nd and will run for 4 weeks, collection will be on your regular trash day.

Salem/Gray

On April 23, DPW met with the Police Department to discuss the implementation of the All-Way Stop at the intersection of Salem Rd and Gray St. We discussed the following items:

- The order for signs/materials has been placed and we expect it to come in within the next few weeks (earliest May 8).
- DPW has marked out locations for all the signs/markings in the field and the locations were reviewed and approved by the Traffic Engineer from BETA.
- Sign boards will be placed tomorrow May 2 and should stay in place for a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of implementation. Social Media posts will go out as well.
- Highway Department will install signs when delivered; any conflicting signs will be covered until implementation date.
- Targeting All-Way stop implementation on May 17 (weather permitting). Markings crew for the thermoplastic stop bars will be scheduled for this date. We will postpone the date if rain is expected or anything else comes up.

3A – Boston Road Pinehurst

Newport Construction Corp. has been awarded a MassDOT Contract to mill and pave Boston Road (Route 3A) from the south end of the bridge over the Shawsheen River in Billerica to Birch Crest Street in Burlington. The project also includes areas of sidewalk replacement, new curb ramps, and traffic signal upgrades.

Layout work has started in the Billerica section of the contract. Sidewalk, driveway, curb ramp excavation and installation will occur in the early stages of this project. Traffic signal upgrades will be completed later in 2024. The milling and paving portion of the project will occur in 2025.

Memorial Day

Due to the conditions of Boston road, the Town will be postponing the Memorial Day parade until the construction of Boston road is complete. This decision is made in the best interest of those who will be in the parade and those who will be watching the parade. With this said, we will still gather at the library on Memorial Day for a ceremony.

Every Memorial Day, our community comes together to respectfully decorate the graves of our local veterans with American flags. This meaningful tradition is a way for us all to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country. We are now recruiting volunteers to help with this solemn event over Memorial Day weekend. If you are available to donate your time, please fill out our volunteer sign-up form on the town's website - www.BillericaVeteransServices.com

The volunteer sign-up form asks for your contact information, availability, and any special skills or supplies you may be able to contribute. We greatly appreciate your willingness to participate in this patriotic activity.

Town Center – Funds Allocated by Congresswoman Trahan's Office

I spoke Maria Syrniotos and Jake Mastrandrea of the Congresswoman's Office. The money cannot be used for anything other than the Town Center without legislative action. Pushing this to the legislature would not likely yield positive results. You can spend it on anything related to the center. That could include sinking the utilities, adding sidewalks, paving the street. Just be mindful that the money is likely to be available by the end of the calendar year. The things I have mentioned don't require significant design or are already designed. Redoing any intersections will take significant design time and more than likely require more funding.

Sergeant Ian Taylor

It seems appropriate the Town should pay a death benefit to Ian Taylor's family. He will receive one from the State and the Federal Governments. I recommend that the Town move forward to pay his family a sum of \$300,000 which will be paid from Overlay Surplus Funds. His funeral costs will be paid for through the Finance Committee Reserve Fund. Of course, no amount of money can replace the sacrifice he has made but it seems appropriate that we do this. This can be done through article four of the upcoming Town Meeting. At the request of the Chief and a sentiment I wholeheartedly support, I have promoted him posthumously to the position of Sergeant.

Our Surrounding Communities have come to our aid

Since the beginning of this tragedy, many of our neighbors have provide mutual aid. They have manned our dispatch and patrolled our neighborhoods. We are forever grateful for their help in this difficult time. This office will draft a letter from the Board to the communities to express our heartfelt thanks for their assistance in this difficult time. The communities that have assisted use to date are the Towns of Tewksbury, Chelmsford, Burlington, Wilmington, Carlisle, Bedford, Belmont, Georgetown, Marblehead, Medway, Holbrook and the Cities of Lowell, Lawrence and Woburn.

Finance Committee Reserve

Paul Watson will be presenting the cost of the special election to the FinCom Reserve Committee.

The removal of the demolition debris from 21 Canterbury Rd will be paid out of this as well and the cost will ultimately be recovered through the lien. As mentioned previously, the funeral costs will also come from this request.