



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT MARCH 7, 2016

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following: (1) Council on Aging Board, (1) Trust Fund Commission, and (1) Conservation Commission. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

BUDGET

Review of the FY17 budget.

I met with Advisory Board on February 22nd. The town's budget reflects a less than 1% increase much of which is due to the reduction of debt service, fuel costs, and a tremendous group of department heads. The overall budget with the numbers from the school district is 2%. I have yet to receive the assessment request from Monty Tech. It was agreed that they didn't need any more meetings until next month when more information is available.

Capital Planning still needs to meet to finalize the FY17 Capital requests. I have reached out to the AWRSD for their Capital Plan so that it can be reviewed.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Library foam insulation project starting on Tuesday February 16, 2016 and was completed by the 22nd. Also, we are starting the lighting projects at the PSB, Town Hall, and Library. The remainder of the grant funds will be used for heating and lighting in the library as well as lighting in the Town Hall. The Committee is still reviewing alternative heat sources but because of the time of the next competitive grant cycle which is a year from now, there needs to be a solution for the aging boiler that is in service. It is planned that should we look to a heat pump or wood pellet the new boiler would be a backup system.

COREY HILL /WILLIAMS

Public safety officials have developed a plan to ease the traffic problems at Corey Hill and Williams Road. This was after the town rejected a \$1.2M State proposed plan that would have included takings on 10 separate parcels to install sidewalks and cost the town over \$100,000. The new plan will incorporate all of the safety features of the State plan and cost around \$60,000. I will propose an article at the next town meeting to appropriate the funding.

WATER & SEWER

Steve Nims and I will be meeting with the Winchendon's Town Manager Keith Hickey and his head of DPW. Discussion will cover the operation of the water treatment plant, Winchendon's water lines in Ashburnham and capital planning.

The Water & Sewer Commissioner's meeting for March was cancelled. When Leo Collette returns from Florida will discuss rates to cover needed projects.