**TA Update**

*September 4, 2018*

**Committees and Boards**

The Finance Committee is meeting with the Highway Supervisor and Ken Ouimette tomorrow night to review their recommendation on the special Town Meeting article on the Highway Garage. I hope they can see their way to revising their recommendation to be more favorable.

Town Counsel has come up with a short list of concerns about the marijuana by-law; the Planning Board will be considering them as part of their pre-Town Meeting review process.

**Departments**

The Finance team met last Monday to go over the schedule for setting the tax rate. Our intention is to have it set before the special Town Meeting September 24th. The Assessors are hoping to complete their review of valuations by Monday, Sep. 17, and will be working with the accountant to finish all the necessary work that week so that the tax rate can be set prior to the special Town Meeting. If that is not possible, we would have to amend our submission due to the special Town Meeting’s transfer of stabilization funds, but we are going to try very hard to avoid any delay in the tax bill mailing schedule.

As you know, the water tank at the school was very recently relined by Mass Tank Inspection in response to recommendations in the state DEP's 5-year inspection plan. Occupants of the building reported a chemical smell primarily in the hot water; it has also been reported that there is a chemical taste in the cold (drinking) water. Frontier staff are reviewing this with both Mass Tank Inspection (who did the re-lining work) and our water quality consultant and have been advised that there is not any immediate need for concern—the odors should dissipate as water is flushed through the system. Still, school has started, and they have labeled all the water outlets as not to be used for drinking or cooking until the water is tested again (during the consultant’s next visit in September). The water should be safe and usable for dishwashing and handwashing. The district has retained Headwaters Consulting, LLC to review this situation. I have pulled the invoice for Mass Tank Inspection until the issue is resolved. The school is supplying bottled water for drinking and cooking at least until we receive the results of the initial test (Wed. 9/5) and until the odor evident in the water dissipates.  Our consultant does not feel that it would be prudent to attempt to reline the tank a 2nd time this coming weekend as suggested by Mass Tank.

**Other**

The nearest MMA Legislative Breakfast will be in Sunderland, on October 26. If any of you on the Board have not gotten an invitation, please call or e-mail Alandra Champion at 617-426-7272, ext. 121, or achampion@mma.org.

The Festival of the Hills has received their certificate of insurance for the upcoming event, with the Town as an additional insured, so our accountant can sign it, and they can sign it as well.

I note that the FRCOG is going to have a workshop on succession planning, which seems to be geared to financial staff. Since Conway’s needs are broader, I’m working on a plan specific to Conway which I will bring to the Board after absorbing the FRCOG’s information.