**TA Update 01/06/2020**

**Committees**

As you know the Agricultural Commission has not chosen a chair. I am planning to send an e-mail to the currently appointed members noting that 1) the budget is due and that I’m proposing $1 to keep the account active; 2) the Select Board acted as the Agricultural Commission in the Burt complaint; 3) without a chair, they will be unable to conduct business; and 4) I can convene a meeting to organize the Commission if a majority of people reply that they’d like to keep going.

I have been working with Malcolm Corse to develop an invitation for bids for the Town Hall cupola based on the Town Meeting vote in December. It should be ready to be posted in a week or two.

**Departments**

I have been asked by the FROCG to share Conway’s experience with the Town Academy at a meeting on citizen engagement and education. I’ll be pleased to bring the idea and some observations to regional towns.

The MMA would like to have a legislative breakfast in Conway on March 6. We can easily fit 50 people (their required number) in the general purpose room and have it accessible. I believe the Town Nurse can hold the wellness clinic in the adjoining office, as she does not require much space for that; I have a message in to her but have not received an answer yet.

The Highway Superintendent asked me to look into some neighboring towns’ policies of fines for plowing snow into the roads, a problem which has gotten much worse. I hope to have something on your next agenda about that.

The Town’s Chapter 90 account will receive an extra $26,476 due to the passage of the supplemental budget filed by the Governor, a 10% increase.

I regret to say that I found out today that our application for a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability was not awarded at this time, though if funding becomes available (that is, if other towns are not able to use their awards), it could still be funded. I have a call scheduled for Wednesday with the office to see how the proposal might be improved.

There has been some e-mail talk among the towns aggregating their electricity supply with Colonial Power of writing the Secretary of Energy and Environment to see what the hold-up is with issuing the order allowing the aggregation to proceed, and copying our legislators. I’m not sure how much good that would do, but if the Board likes, I’d be happy to draft such a letter.

If anyone knows any economic development projects (unlikely for Conway) or potential brownfields assessment projects (public or private property), please let me know for submission to the FRCOG. Examples include old mill buildings, farm properties, and illegal dump sites; typically residential properties without a history of commercial or industrial use are *not* eligible.