

October 21st, 2024 Town Administrator Update:

I will be on vacation the week of October 28th

Boards & Committees

Assessors

The tax rate was approved by the state on Friday, October 11th. QDS has the information and the bills will be sent out tomorrow, roughly three weeks late.

Everyone now has the final signed contract with Regional Resource Group (RRG).

IT

I have sent out a spreadsheet with a list of questions concerning services provided to six MSP vendors. Once those are returned, our IT working group will review the information and decide if more is needed or if we can make a recommendation to the board.

I attended a tabletop exercise at the FRCOG last week. We had an introduction from State Police officer Brian Gavioli, who leads the Fusion Center, which is tasked with security including cybersecurity. We then had a tabletop exercise led by staff members from EOTSS, the state's cybersecurity office, which included scenarios for what to do given specific breaches or suspected breaches of our IT system. They actually provided attendees with the same deck of cards we used, so we can hold our own internal tabletop exercise.

Transfer Station

There was a mercury spill at the transfer station a couple of weeks ago. The proper procedures were followed, Jan Ameen was alerted, and she has already replaced the mercury spill kit.

Public Buildings

The final fully signed contract has been executed, Ron has dug the foundation and this week the foundation should be poured.

Grants

Because of technical issues around updating our banking information in the SAM.gov website, a registration which is required in order to apply for federal funds, I had to deactivate and then re-register Conway's entity. I'm still encountering problems but hope to finish re-registering this week.

I had a meeting with MEMA about updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan, which expires in March of 2025 and is required for applying for any federal hazard mitigation funding. The application for federal grant funds which allow a town to apply for funding to update our plan have been delayed, so I have been asking the FRCOG to give the town an estimate for updating our plan before it expires.

Miscellaneous

NEW INFORMATION!

“Under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), tax-exempt and governmental entities – such as cities and towns -- that do not owe Federal income taxes are, for the first time, able to receive a payment equal to the full value of tax credits for building qualifying clean energy projects or making qualifying investments.” I have made the sustainability committee aware of this, and they will be working on energy related projects in town, including at the grammar school.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/direct-pay-information?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#what-is-direct-pay?

Would the board like to consider requesting help from DLS for a financial management review? Conway has had two reports done, a [financial management review in 2012](#) as well as a [financial forecast in 2019](#).