

June 16th, 2025 Town Administrator Update

I will be out of the office Thursday, Juneteenth and Friday, June 20th.

I will be away all day at STAM's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 25th.

Departments

Highway: South Shirkshire was on Ron's schedule but not on my list of roads to be worked on this season; this information is now on the website. We will be posting for the final CDL position and reposting for the highway clerk this week. The N. Poland bridge work has begun and N. Poland road closed today. It is anticipated to reopen in late fall.

Informatin Technology: Sourcepass is working with me and Roy on getting all the information they need to make a smooth transition come July.

Transfer Station: The quotes are in for paving; the low bidder was Taylor Davis Landscape and Construction. I need to inform MassDEP at least one week before the work takes place with the projected schedule and Jan Ameen will be on hand to oversee the excavation. The gates are made and ready to be installed and it is on the crew's schedule to be completed this week.

Treasurer: Sean MacDonald's first day as Treasurer/Collector was today. In one of his first official acts he named Jan Warner as Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Lori's last day is Wednesday the 18th.

Grants updates

MVP 2.0 Conway has posted the RFP and so far we have 10 companies who have reached out for a copy. Last week we met with Colrain's town administrator, Emma Sass (MVP Rep), Caitlin Marquis (our Equity Planner through MVP), and Ashfield's town administrator. Conway & Ashfield are working together on MVP 2.0, as are Colrain & Charlemont, so we thought it would be good to discuss the differences between completing MVP as a two-town venture as opposed to a single town. Shannon Callaham, a grad student at Umass Amherst, is doing her dissertation on the MVP program and she came as well to give us the benefit of her research.

MVP FY26 – Awaiting award news hopefully this month. This is the grant application for the work on lowering the old dam.

EOTSS – Phishing training will begin next week.

MOD (Massachusetts Office on Disability) – I found the past files on design for the LULA lift, which had been done in 2019 (monies for this were approved at annual town meeting in 2019). This will help us be ahead of the curve for when we apply next year again for the lift – the last grant application for \$75,000 for the lift in 2019 was denied by the state. In order to be able to apply again for that lift, the town needs to update its ADA plan. I applied for the grant for an updated self-evaluation and transition plan from MOD last week. Our quote came from the Institute for Human Centered Design, who created the prior plan for Conway. Kathy Llamas is on the Conway ADA team with me.

MassWorks – We are awaiting contract now that we have apporoval for the second change in scope.

LifePath grants – I hope to have the adjusted driver application ready for town counsel review next week.

Miscellaneous

Committee work: MMA Energy & Environment committee met and discussed H4144 Energy Affordability as part of the legislative update.

Conway Electrical Aggregation: the towns in the aggregation voted to go with a new vendor, First Point, for a 34 month contract. Bob Armstrong signed off on Conway's voted plan, and the cost is projected to be cheaper than last contract.