

**Town Administrator Report**  
**May 18, 2015**

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1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Tully Construction is back on bridge construction job. Work continues on temporary erection platform in preparation for installing bridge abutments and to place the steel beams.
- Gerber Construction, contractor for west approach road with utilities construction, has begun the clearing necessary for the roadway right-of-way and the area needed for the sewer lift station to service the Tech Park.
- Sewer Lift Station bid has gone out to bid with a return date of June 11<sup>th</sup>. A complication has arisen that if Pomfret needs the lift station for their expected flows, the current design of the lift station will not accommodate these additional flows. A meeting will be held in the very near future to discuss this issue with Pomfret representatives, USDA officials and our Town.
- Water line installation is covered under BETA's Contract 2 through the WPCA's water line replacement project. After a careful review of all bids received, it was determined that they exceeded the financial resources currently available to fund the project as it was bid. BETA is preparing a new bid with a reduced scope and should go out this month. To accommodate the Tech Park project, there is a possibility that we can use the contractor on Contract #1 to bring the water line down to the Tech Park from the wastewater treatment plant. Activities are being coordinated with construction of Regional YMCA community center to insure that utilities are in place by the time required by the Y. The Y's need for water may be in advance of our ability to provide even a temporary fix to bring water to their site by the time they need it. They have been informed that they need water before we can provide either through a temporary or permanent fix, then they will be responsible to bring temporary water to the site for their needs.
- Working with Eversource Gas Division (Yankee Gas) on possible routes to bring natural gas to the Tech Park. Route has been agreed upon. There will be a project meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> to hopefully resolve any issues with proceeding with the gas line and for the Town to receive a contract for review.
- Permanent electricity has finally been brought to the site and the Y has a temporary hookup.

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1 work has begun on Thompson Avenue to installation of temporary water lines. Contract will primarily cover cleaning and cement lining of existing water mains in Groveland/Thompson Avenue/Bates Avenue area and Wilkinson/Bellevue/Prospect/Oak Streets area.
- Contract 2 bids were reviewed and it was determined that all bids exceeded the financial resources allocated to the project per the Town's appropriation. On the recommendation of our consultant, the Town rejected all the bids. We will advertise in the project in the near future with a reduced and more manageable project scope. Project is expected to begin early to late summer.

Contract 2 covers the bulk of the water line replacement/relining project totaling 40,000 linear feet. This amount will have to be reduced.

#### Sewer Lift Stations

- Bid has been awarded to Associated Construction in the amount of \$2.9 million for rehabilitation/reconstruction of town's ten sewer lift stations. They have begun work on the lift stations in a phased approach two to three lift stations at a time.

#### Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- Four companies submitted proposals to the Request for Qualifications. WPCA selected two design/build partner teams – Stantec/Waterline and Tighe & Bond/RH White to provide full proposals. Specifications of proposal are being reviewed by USDA as funding agency before submittal to design/build teams.

#### Putnam High School Project

- Work is progressing in accordance with construction schedule. Issues about timing of water line work in vicinity and tying into work on gas lines were put on hold since Eversource cannot make their line improvements until the 2016 construction season. Eversource has told Town that gas line installation will not happen until 2016 construction season and the contract being reviewed will require that time frame.

2. Collective Bargaining Process. In process of working out a time schedule to begin negotiations with United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU) representing town employees. Initial meeting now finally scheduled for May 22nd. Contract expires on June 30, 2015. Management team still meeting to plan strategy for upcoming negotiation sessions.
3. Solar Photovoltaic System on Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Still working with representatives of Solar City and we are providing them with certain information about our accounts and town financial information.
4. WPCA. WPCA received two proposals from Veolia and United Water in response to request have a public-private partnership for the operation, maintenance and management of the Town's water and sewer operations. Proposals are being reviewed by WPCA and staff and interviews were conducted with firms. We have been consulting with our Town Attorney, Labor Counsel and Bond Counsel to review the draft agreement that WPCA will use once a firm is selected. A meeting is scheduled to talk to union representatives to discuss the implications of a public-private operation, management and maintenance partnership on town employees.
5. Regional Community YMCA Advisory Board. Coordination of road/bridge and utility construction is becoming paramount as the Y has certain timeframes under their construction schedule that need to be tied in with Town's construction schedule for instance providing water to site and gas.

6. Sabin Street Recreation Project. Waiting to hear from Facilities Study Committee as to recommendation on the engineering proposals. They should have a recommendation for your next meeting.
7. Annual Town Budget Meeting. Will be in attendance.
8. Blight. Attended a joint meeting of health department, building official, town attorney and fire marshal to discuss how to proactively move forward on addressing blight issues in town.
9. Wellness. Working through our ECHIP consortium, our town/board of education committee wellness committee is working on a health and wellness plan for next year with a kick-off in September with the start of the school year. A topic for discussion was offering the opportunity for staff to complete health screening questionnaires along with providing ability to have biometric screening done for blood pressure readings etc. One of the best features of the wellness program is the annual flu clinic available for all staff and family members.