

**Town Administrator Report**  
**July 13, 2015**

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1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Progress continues on project. Steel beams have been installed crossing the river. Prep work has started in advance of pouring concrete for bridge deck.
- Gerber Construction, contractor for west approach road with utilities construction, has completed the installation of the sewer line absence the tie in to Wheelabrator's force main. Next phase of this project will be installation of water line along the access road. With gas contracts signed, Gerber is prepared to do the excavation work starting in August for the gas pipeline installation.
- Sewer Lift Station bid will be awarded soon to the apparent low bidder, Associated Contractors, contract signed and a notice to proceed issued. At a recent meeting, it was decided that Pomfret would pursue an option of bringing their sewer line all the way down the Airline Trail to tie directly into the Town's wastewater treatment plant. Pomfret has scheduled a town meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> to determine approving funding for project. They will not tie into proposed Tech Park lift station.
- Water line installation is covered under BETA's Contract 2 through the WPCA's water line replacement project. Contract 2 had to be rebid and those bids will be opened on July 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 if 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.
- Natural gas provision. Contracts signed and town has paid for project. Expected to be installed in mid to late August timeframe. One aspect of project, installing gas line across the bridge, will have to wait until Tully Construction can give the gas installation contractor unimpeded access to bridge.
- Permanent electricity has finally been brought to the site and the Y has a temporary hookup. Installation of electrical lines to provide a loop network across the bridge and tie into existing lines on Kennedy Drive are being designed.
- River Trail Extension. Engineering services contract has been signed with J&D Civil Engineers to extend River Trail down from Farmer's Market to existing one-lane bridge and tying into a trail system within park.
- Butler Construction is working on new access road off one-lane bridge, giving access to the wastewater treatment plant.

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1, Area 1(Thompson Ave., Dewey Street, Bates Avenue, Groveland Street, Overlook Street, and Whittemore Street) work is almost completed.

Houses will be disconnected from bypass line. Contract 1, Area 2 (Wilkinson, Bellevue, Prospect, Genevieve, Charles, Franklin, Oak and School) work has started with bypass lines being installed to houses in that area. Work on Area 2 will continue throughout August.

- Contract 2 bids will be opened July 15<sup>th</sup>. Project is expected to begin early to late summer. Contract 2 covers the bulk of the water line replacement/relining project totaling 33,000 linear feet.

#### 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. Work continues on the lift stations in a phased approach two to three lift stations at a time.

#### Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- USDA has submitted comments to the review of the specifications and bid documents for the project. WPCA selected two design/build partner teams – Stantec/Waterline and Tighe & Bond/RH White to provide full proposals. Need some concerns to be addressed by WPCA before design specifications are provided to the design/build project teams.

#### Putnam High School Project

- Work is progressing in accordance with construction schedule. Gas contracts signed.

2. Collective Bargaining Process. Initial contract proposals were exchanged at first meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A second meeting was held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Proceeding under existing contract. Town seeded employees' HSA accounts at 2014 contract limits: \$700 toward the employee only deductible and \$1,850 toward the two person/family deductible.
3. Solar Photovoltaic System on Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. We learned last week that our bid through Solar City was accepted under the LREC/ZREC program. Solar City has provided town with a draft contract for signature. This will be signed by July 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. WPCA. No change. 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 was held with union representatives to discuss the implications of a public-private operation, management and maintenance partnership on town employees. The union will need further time to study proposal and understand the ramifications on their covered 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. No change, coordination continues.

6. Sabin Street Recreation Project. Discussions with DEEP open space/recreation program staff continue. A letter has been drafted to DEEP Commissioner Klee and depending upon our discussions with DEEP staff, a decision will be made as to whether or not it is necessary to send the letter.
  
7. Finance Director. With our broad reach of advertising position, Town has received a significant number of resumes. Unfortunately, most of the applicants have no municipal accounting experience. Interviews have been conducted with a number of candidates. Search will continue until we are able to find a qualified candidate. In the meantime, Paula Lajeunesse continues to help out on a consulting basis.