

Town Administrator Report
October 19, 2015

1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- A coordination meeting with all contractors, utilities and engineering firms was held on 10/13 to resolve any outstanding issues between various contracts to insure that work progresses smoothly in anticipation of meeting Y's completion date of mid-February 2016.
- Bridge work has essentially caught up to original schedule of being completed by November 30th. Now that bridge is on original schedule the timing is good to allow the gas main installation on the bridge starting next week and completed within four weeks.
- Water main is installed. Water main has been pressure tested. To date, water, sewer and electrical conduits, including internet service lines, have been installed.
- Sewer lift station contract has been signed and notice to proceed issued. Pre-construction meeting was held on 9/16. According to contract, contractor has until March to construct lift station. Timing of and completion of construction is problematic if station is not completed by Y's opening. Discussing with engineering firms and contractors possible alternatives (temporary bypass) to allow Y to open.
- Water line installation from the sewer plant to the Tech Park is covered under BETA's Contract 2 through the WPCA's water line replacement project. Notice of Award has been issued to B&W Paving and Landscaping. Construction started October 13th and will be completed by end of November. Water line installation to Tech Park will be first priority of Contract 2 contractor. 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. Y has a mechanism to get water to their site on a temporary basis to cure their swimming pools as they are being installed.
- Gas Main – Pipe installation has begun week of October 5th. Pipe has been installed from Park Street, down Sunset and Kennedy and to the east side Tech Park bridge abutment. Installation of gas pipeline on bridge will begin this week. R.H. White has met with our site contractor, Gerber, to coordinate gas main installation in Tech Park Road.
- YMCA has a completion date of mid-February

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1 work is finishing up in Thompson Avenue/Bates Avenue/Groveland area and work is now progressing in the Wilkinson/Bellevue/Prospect/Oak Streets areas to install temporary water lines.
- Contract 2 bid has been awarded to B&W Paving and Landscaping for \$8,101,905. Contractor is mobilizing on October 5th. A public informational meeting was held on October 1st at the Elementary School cafeteria. As noted

above, first priority of project will be to extend new water line into Tech Park. The proposed Contract 2 project areas:

- Arch Street, Arthur Street, Brown Street, Canal Street, Centennial Street, Church Street (Pomfret to Woodstock), Eden Street, Edmond Street, Fenner Street, Florence Street, Frank Street, Furnace Street, George Street, Grove Street, Interval Street, Letters Street, May Street, Mechanics Street, Memorial Terrace, Milton Street, Olney Street, Pomfret Street, Sewer Plant Road, South Main Street, Tatem Street, Vandale Street, Vine Street, Walnut Street, Wood Avenue (Church to Marshall)

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. Contract has been signed, Notice to Proceed issued and work has started. Work is progressing with two to three lift stations at a time. No change.

Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- Requests for proposals with specifications have been sent to the two short-listed teams, Tighe&Bond/R.H. White and Waterline Industries/Stantec Consulting. RFPs have to be submitted by October 30, 2015. This project is proposed on a design-build basis.

Putnam High School Project

- Work is progressing in accordance with construction schedule. Contract for gas lines has been approved and gas will be installed in two phases for the 2015 (installed) and 2016 construction seasons.

2. Collective Bargaining Process. Agreement reached between the Town and UPSEU. Putting finishing touches on the new agreement with wage schedule and health insurance plans. Terms will be retroactive back to July 1, 2015.
3. WPCA. WPCA received two proposals from Veolia and United Water in response to request to have a public-private partnership for the operation, maintenance and management of the Town's water and sewer operations. WPCA selected United Water to proceed to negotiate with. One kick-off meeting has been held. A number of negotiation sessions have been held between the parties.
4. Conversion of Owen Tarr Park and Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue properties. Working with Public Facilities Study Committee to meet the requirements of the state to find a substitute property of equal or better value to replace the passive, open space land off Sabin Street. A proposed conversion of these lands would have to follow the procedures established by state statute and would require that replacement property of equivalent usefulness must be acquired as that being converted. Any proposal would still be subject to approval by the DEEP Commissioner. Based on town meeting approval of an appropriation for engineering and design work on the Sabin Street property, low bidder, Messier Associates, have begun work to determine the field needs on Sabin Street and construction of a bridge to site. A meeting was held with Peter Newth, Bob Messier and our town planner to review possible donation of land from the Newths to the town to propose the necessary substitute land to the state to replace the land taken out of open space dedication on Sabin

Street. Working a Request for Proposals to seek an architectural firm for design and engineering of Town Hall/Library complex.

5. Armory. A tentative agreement has been reached with NOW, Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, and the Town to develop the armory under a design/build/finance/operate and maintain agreement with NOW. A draft agreement has been finished and submitted to Town Attorney and other parties for review. Town officials have been consulted on our space needs for the building to include office and storage space for Recreation Department, office and storage space (voting machines) for the Registrars of Voters, and space for our Veterans' Liaison. Common space shared by the Town will include a multipurpose activity hall (gym), multipurpose room/classroom, and a kitchen. A generator will be installed so that building can be used as a shelter if needed. Term of agreement will be for 25 years. A tentative diagram is attached for your information.
6. Property Foreclosures. Town recently acquired through foreclosure sale proceedings 28 Woodstock Avenue. Eviction proceedings will be initiated against previous owners of this property. Checking with local realtors to provide proposals for marketing the property in order for town to recover taxes and WPCA fees owed on property.
7. 6-8 Prospect Street. Lien has been placed against property for town's cost in demolishing the structure.
8. Sidewalk Reconstruction. Sidewalk reconstruction project has begun with the following streets or portions of streets started and/or finished: Battey Street, Church Street, and Kennedy Drive.
9. High Speed Broadband Fiber Installation. Began discussion with Town's IT consultant on bringing high speed fiber installation to certain locations in town for economic development reasons, particularly to our Tech Park. Discussion will be framed as a town policy decision and not just for the sake of installing technology. Possible ways to manage installation could be as a public utility much like our water and sewer utilities. Some key questions to move this question forward are:
 - a. What's Putnam's policy?
 - b. Who are the champions to move this forward?
 - c. Who are community partners?
 - d. Who are the telecommunication carriers serving Putnam?
 - e. Identify key players and their roles?
10. Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) Statewide Exercise. This Wednesday, October 21st, the Town will be participating in the 2015 EPPI exercise. This year's exercise will focus on statewide response to a severe weather event and will include a school security component. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and staff will man the Emergency Operations Center at the Police Department. Ed Perron and I will be leading the Putnam exercise. Participation is important because will allow Putnam to receive Emergency Management Performance Grant credit for participation.

