

Town Administrator Report
October 3, 2016

1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Project complete.
- Broadband Connection – Various contractors have approached Town to extend broadband connection off the state network to the Tech Park. Will go out to bid/RFP on this service. Connection will be made through the state's fiber trunkline. Town committee, appointed by Selectmen at last meeting, will convene in two weeks. Bringing broadband just to the Tech Park will cost a little over \$90,000.
- Appraisals completed and a forester has been contracted to determine how to make lots shovel ready. Test pits have been dug and there is definitely marketable sand and gravel on the land (about 5 acres). J&D Engineers are working on a gravel removal plan and putting out a bid for gravel removal. In advance of sand and gravel removal, forester will work out a plan to clearcut and stump the land.
- Pomfret has finally signed Interlocal Agreement establishing Technology Park and will be invoiced for their share.

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1 work is complete.
- Contract 2: B&W Paving and Work is finishing up in Grove and Mechanics Street areas. Work will soon be finishing up on Milton and Vandale Streets area. Work will be starting up next in Walnut Street area. Work is about a month behind schedule. B&W has brought in more crews to get the schedule up to date. The remainder of proposed Contract 2 project areas:
 - 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, Interval Street, Letters Street, May Street, Memorial Terrace, Olney Street, Pomfret Street, Sewer Plant Road, Tatem Street, Vine Street, Wood Avenue (Church to Marshall)
- No change.

Sewer Lift Stations

- Project complete and paid for.

Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- At September 13th referendum, the question of adding an additional appropriation of almost \$3 million to the original \$2 million appropriation was approved. WPCA has selected the project team of Tighe&Bond/R.H. White Construction to proceed with project and are working on an agreement with team to proceed with project. Suez, the water and sewer operations management firm is working on a supplemental funding application to the USDA for a loan and grant to cover the additional appropriation. USDA

recently approved an additional \$1,101,000 loan for the project at a 2.25% interest rate. Usually USDA provides a 75% loan to 25% grant ratio. This additional appropriation will not warrant an increase in the water rates.

Water Meter Replacement Program

- Our contracted water and sewer operations company, Suez, on behalf of the Putnam WPCA, will be initiating water replacement program throughout their service area. Meters will be replaced over a phased period beginning in October and to be completed by June 2017. These are state-of-the-art meters will remotely transmit meter readings into a customer service database. The new meters will provide accurate and timely bills, along with the technology to detect leaks, reverse flows and measure how much water is being consumed at each meter.

Putnam High School Project

- Work is progressing in accordance with construction schedule. You recently were provided with the most current monthly project update.

2. Conversion of Owen Tarr Park and Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue properties. A new appraisal firm, Platt Associates, has been selected and they have begun work on the property appraisals of the town's existing parcels and potential parcels needed to substitute for Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue/Tarr Park. Messier Associates has completed work to determine the field needs on Sabin Street and construction of a bridge to site. Plans are available for review. Working with Committee to evaluate potential sites to provide the substitute land for passive and active recreation. Site evaluation is ongoing.
3. Armory. A proposal is being circulated to consider using the Armory for the following purposes: site of the Senior Center, offices for Recreation staff, offices for registrars of voters/polling station, and multi-use recreation facility. This proposal is being circulated because taking care of the senior center at the armory may be a more cost effective way of having the center developed as opposed to adding it to the proposed Town Hall/Library/Aspinock Offices complex. At the last meeting of the Facilities Study Committee, they approved seeking RFQs for architects to provide plans for renovating the Armory as a senior and recreation center and for certain municipal offices. RFQs are due on October 5th and Committee will review and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.
4. Sidewalk Reconstruction. To date, we have spent all of the \$750,000 previously appropriated from the Ash Landfill account. There may have to be further discussion about increasing this appropriation. In addition, the Town is working with NECCOG to discuss using various regional transportation funds for our sidewalks. Priorities to consider are using the funds for new projects --- extension of the sidewalks to Day Kimball and Walmart --- and/or repairing/replacing existing sidewalks.
5. High Speed Broadband Fiber Installation. **No change.** Firms' under state contract are investigating cost of bringing fiber to Tech Park from the backbone line. 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?

Working with CEN, the state's internet organization, to devise a plan to bring fiber connection to the Tech Park by tying into the state's fiber trunkline. CEN has provided a proposal. Committee will meet now that it has been appointed by Board of Selectmen to provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the broadband installation approach. Tech Park appropriation contemplated bringing fiber connection to the park.

6. Pomfret Sewer Line Connection. Putnam is reviewing a draft agreement with Pomfret allowing them to tie in to our system. Pomfret is looking to a possible spring 2017 construction start. Pomfret is looking to go out to bid possibly as early as next month. Agreement between WPCA and Pomfret is in hands of Town Attorney for review.
7. Solar Project on Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. A review is continuing of Town's possible options since SolarCity has significantly reduced the scope and savings of their original proposal. Town is discussing possibilities with other solar firms. Upon further investigation and consulting with Paul Michaud, it was recommended that we stay with SolarCity because any further delay would possibly make Putnam lose our place in line for receipt of the virtual net metering credits.
8. Innovation Places. Our region has submitted an application for the planning grant under this program. The vision behind the program is: "Think of an area you walk to, bike to or take a train to where your mind comes alive with possibilities; where you can run into brilliant people solving big problems and inventing new technology; where the sidewalks and cafes are full of conversation; where are events and music venues brim with people making new friends – a place full of ideas." The submitted application's title is: Northeast Connecticut Innovation Hub.
9. Mobilitie Siting of Micro-Cell Utility Pole Placement. Recently towns, including Putnam, received notice from a company, Mobilitie, to construct new 120 foot high pole-towers in the public rights of way. Mobilitie's Putnam proposal is to install a 120 foot tower on Mill Street, one block off Providence Street. They have reached out to the town to discuss their proposed siting application. Fred Wojick is the town contact. Working through CCM, a number of towns have expressed concern about these applications, including:
 - a. Do these applications need approval of the Siting Council?
 - b. Impact on local zoning ordinances?
 - c. Development of clear process that guarantees adequate municipal and public input before new towers are constructed.CCM is working with towns that are impacted and will develop a coordinated statewide municipal response. There is a PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Agency) Technical

Meeting on 9/28/16 to discuss the Mobilitie issue. Will follow up with CCM to learn results from the PURA Technical Meeting.