



July 2, 2019

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Edmund R. St. John, Town Administrator

RE: Town Administrator's Report

Streetlights

I met with a representative from National Grid to discuss the possibility of switching over to LED lights and having National Grid perform the work. Overall, we own approximately 380 streetlights, 370 or so of which could be converted to LED. We could see savings of somewhere between \$8,951 - \$10,152 per year, plus a one-time, unrestricted, incentive rebate of \$18,796 or \$20,332. While the savings might not be as much as they would be if we owned the lights, should National Grid change the lights, the Town would not be responsible for any maintenance costs associated with the lights. If we own the lights, we are responsible for the upkeep. National Grid provided their argument for "costs to consider" and other points.

In contrast, should we move forward with the program as we had originally planned, the Town would have to front the cost of approximately \$139,835. The Town would receive \$47,274 in terms of grants, leaving the final cost to the Town as approximately \$92,560. MAPC, who would provide the grant and leadership on this project, estimates that the Town could see \$17,508 in energy savings and \$21,169 in maintenance savings per year, totaling approximately \$38,677. It would take 2.4 years to pay back this amount invested. I am a little skeptical with regard to the maintenance savings, as we would need to spend money to maintain these lights. Due to National Grid requirements, the Town would need someone who is OSHA licensed to perform this work. Therefore, because of this and the additional strain it would place upon our Highway Department, we would likely need to contract with an outside vendor. Just for reference – the City of Pittsfield, who went through a similar program, contracted with a company out of Wakefield, Mass. to install their lights.

General Updates

I met with the Town Clerk regarding the certified budget. The final number is actually \$6,262,789. When I had last reported on it, my numbers did not include the increase in the Library position's salary. This represents an increase of approximately \$385 over the proposed budget.

The Town Hall received some repairs to fix leaking coming into the Board of Health's office.

The broken window in the old cafeteria was covered and we are working on getting a replacement.

The Town Clerk and I are working on ballot question language to send to Town Counsel regarding a request from Town Meeting to vote on changing the Memorial Day Parade route. This would be non-binding.

Upcoming

With the new fiscal year, a number of grants are opening up. I am spending a considerable amount of time focusing on these. Grants include money for infrastructure work and other programs that would benefit the Town.