

TEWKSBURY'S TOWN NEWS – APRIL 2006

TOWN MANAGER

Over the past few months, Town staff and I have been focused on planning and working on forthcoming activities. The most important aspect of this work has been preparing for the Town's FY07 budget. With initiative from the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, we focused on the pending FY07 budget deficit and with the use of \$1.5 million in one time revenue from NESWC, the Governor's proposed FY07 Local Aid allocation, and better than anticipated Health Insurance rates, I was able to present a balanced budget. In the coming months, there will be a lot of focus on adopting the FY07 budget and one of the biggest issues will be whether to use the one million dollars plus in State reimbursement for the Wynn School to add to the FY07 budget. While the use of these funds may be the most expedient means of addressing departments financial needs, the grave danger from the use of these funds will be that for FY08 the Town will have to find over \$2.5 million to replace these revenues and without a plan to replace these revenues, FY08 will be a fiscal disaster. The use of large one time revenues in FY06, - \$1.8 million – and in FY07, \$1.5 million, and reserving the Wynn School reimbursement, \$1.1 million for FY08 provides a bridge for the Town through a tough fiscal period, residents need to focus on the fact that the Town will have fiscal problems in the future unless there is a focus on two problems. First, residents must realize that the Town can not function solely on one time revenues. Over the past several years, revenues from New Growth have declined from \$1.3 million to less than \$600,000. Thus the loss of these revenues, \$700,000, is not available to fund Town and School Departments. Second, State Local Aid as a percentage of local education expenditures has declined from 32% to 26% which is a loss of \$2.2 million. Unless these trends are reversed, the only other options will be a focus on generating local revenues through new or increased local fees, a Proposition 2½ override or a reduction in Town and School services.

In terms of other activities, work is progressing on the Senior Center project thanks to mild weather conditions. Contracts have been awarded for a five million gallon water tank on Colonial Drive and Foster Road and work should start in the next several months. Thanks to mild winter conditions sewer contractors have been able to work on cross county sewer work and sewer pump stations. Due to a number of easement issues, Contracts 28 and 29 have seen bid dates slip by one to two months. Hopefully, these issues are nearing conclusion so bidding can be initiated in the next month. Additionally, staff is working on plans for paving which will start in May.

The Fire Department Long Range Planning committee selected an architect to study the Center Fire Station so a report will be done on the future of this facility by August.

The Police and Fire Department selected a new software vendor and will be focused on bringing this new system on line by July 1, 2006. This will provide greater use of the recent computers installed in the fire apparatus.

Additionally, Public Health Director Tom Carbone resigned in January and I have been focused on recruiting and selecting a new Public Health Director in cooperation with the Board of Health.

Finally, Selectman Gill and Coldwell and I have been participating with other members of the Long Range School Space Study on a Master Plan for the future of the Town's four elementary schools and high school. Over the next several years, this will become a significant issue for the Town to address as most of these facilities are 35-50 years old and are still using some of their original building systems, plus require upgrading of systems, such as windows and fire protection.

David G. Cressman
Town Manager

TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tewksbury Memorial High School Receives Important Information Regarding Accreditation

Tewksbury Memorial High School hosted a Team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in October 2005. The report from this visit was sent to the Principal of the Tewksbury Memorial High School in February 2006. A hard copy of the report can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Superintendent at 978-640-7800 or the Office of the High School Principal at 978-640-7825. A copy of this report is also available on the school department website www.mec.edu/tewksbury/.

TEWKSBURY'S TOWN NEWS – APRIL 2006

The Report included many important recommendations. We will adopt many of these recommendations. Some of these recommendations have already been incorporated as goals in the High School Improvement Plan. Addressing these recommendations will make us a better school.

The Report also included some commendations about the work we are doing on behalf of our students. I am pleased to share some of these comments,

- The school mission statement emphasizes academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, communication, and problem solving skills.
- The curriculum reflects a sequential and developmental approach to sound instruction and provides students with opportunities for authentic application of knowledge.
- Despite large classes, instructional practices personalize instruction, make connections across disciplines and involve students in higher order thinking skills.
- There is mutual care and respect between and among students and teachers and consequently, a positive learning environment is evident throughout the school.
- The school is safe and a respectful climate is evident.
- Recognition of student achievement is a hallmark of TMHS.
- The commitment of the faculty to academic excellence and student achievement in a personalized learning environment.
- TMHS's motto "Nothing less than Success" reflects the staff's dedication to offering varied activities and assessments.
- Effective communication is evident in the classroom. Students obtain information, solve multi-faceted problems, draw conclusions, and present ideas in a clear, articulate manner.
- Teachers at Tewksbury Memorial High School are knowledgeable in their content areas, well informed about current research on effective instructional practices and reflective about their own practices.

We look forward to sharing this report with interested members of the community. We will also inform the community of the final recommendation of NEASC concerning our accreditation once the NEASC Commission on Public Secondary Schools notifies us.

Christine L. McGrath, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Tewksbury Fire Department wishes to inform homeowners that as of March 31, 2006, carbon monoxide alarms will be required in all residences with potential sources of carbon monoxide. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) recently passed emergency regulations to implement the law known as "Nicole's Law".

The Department of Fire Services is distributing *A Consumer's Guide to Requirements for Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarms*. This guide and information about the regulations can be obtained from local fire departments and on the DFS website at (www.mass.gov/dfs).

The Tewksbury Firefighters, Local 1647 will be sponsoring a File of Life Program. This program will provide Tewksbury Residents who have significant medical history to compile this information on paper work that can be stored in a magnetized envelope that can be kept on a refrigerator and accessed in an emergency. Details will be provided at the fire stations or call 978 640 4410.

The Tewksbury Fire Department is sponsoring an "Adopt a Hydrant Program" under the direction of Public Education Officer Rick Hamm. This program will allow residents to purchase hydrant markers for hydrants in their neighborhoods. Information may be obtained at the Tewksbury Fire Department web site (www.Tewksbury.info, select town departments).

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY DAY

Saturday, May 20 (Rain Date Sunday, May 21)

Livingston Street Park

Hazard House

TEWKSBURY'S TOWN NEWS – APRIL 2006

Safe House
EMS Booth (file of life)
Jaws of Life (cut up car)
Child I.D.
Touch a Truck
Car Seats
Bike Helmets
Seat Belts
Safety Videos

Burning season began on January 15th and will continue until May 1st. Burning permits and burning information may be obtained at the central fire station. There is a \$10 fee for a burning permit.

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow pack recedes, before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April.

Safety Tips for Open Burning Season

The open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Burning, with a permit for the following materials is allowed:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

Burning of the following materials is prohibited statewide:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves and stumps, and tires.
- Construction material and debris.

How to Safely Ignite the Fire

- An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.
- Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high.
- Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.
- While the fire is burning, an adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.
- Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

With the most recent change in the weather pattern this first week of March, the Highway Division staff was reassigned from their normal winter activities of plowing snow and salting ice covered roads to that of street sweeping and the pickup of damaged and discarded berm. Along with the daily patrolling of streets in search of potholes to be repaired with temporary cold patch and the clearing of debris from drainage catch basins, it is expected that this brief hiatus of good weather will soon turn back to more seasonable, cold, and snowy conditions in the foreseeable future, as anticipation of mild spring days quickly approaches.

As winter fades slowly, the Forestry Division staff completes its annual Christmas Recycling program with a total of 193 trees and 78 wreaths recycled. With the arrival of improving weather, the staff will turn their

TEWKSBURY'S TOWN NEWS – APRIL 2006

full efforts to the removal of storm damaged and/or diseased trees along the town's roadways. A list of such trees has been compiled during the winter months to be addressed over the coming weeks. Also, the Forestry staff will be working in cooperation with National Grid's Hazard tree program throughout the months of April, May and June.

With spring arriving, the Tewksbury Water/Sewer Division will be quite busy once again with the ongoing town-wide sewer program. We will be marking all water mains for sewer design in Phase 10. Remarketing all water mains and some services for Phase 9 test borings and marking water mains and services in Phase 7 & 8 for actual construction of sewer lines. Some residents in Phases 7 & 8 will experience temporary loss of water in the construction phase at time. We also will be marking our usual daily dig safe requests. We will be working with and alongside town officials, engineers, and contractors in all aspects of the water/sewer distribution system. We also will be maintaining our 16 plus sewer stations, fire hydrants and the water and sewer distribution system.

The lack of any serious weather this winter has made for consistent good water quality in the Merrimack River. This translates into excellent and consistent finished water coming from the plant. Several improvement projects are planned for feeding powered activated carbon to 'sweeten up' the water even more to meet newer and more stringent regulations from the EPA. Work on the new water tank should start soon as the contractors are now mustering their workforce to begin this important project. Reports from the chemical consortium that bids our chemicals indicates that two new sources of fluoride have entered the marketplace. Hopefully this will be enough to eliminate any shortages this summer. Lack of snow this winter may impact the water levels on the river this year. Please conserve when possible, it will help our operation and also your wallet.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

For more detailed information on the following projects, check the Engineering Department web site; <http://www.tewksbury.info/dcd/engineering/index.html>

Traffic Management

Over this upcoming summer, there will be more detours and traffic management plans around Town. Contract 27 of the Sewer project will be installing mainline pipe in Kendall Road this summer. If all goes well with Contract 29, there may be some sewer installation on Rogers St. over the summer. And believe it or not, Shawsheen St. will be closed to through traffic for one more summer; this time for paving. There are other streets that will be closed for short periods for paving activities. Watch the web site and community television for updates on paving.

Sewer Project

Phase 7 (contract 22) Most streets have been turned over to the Town. There are three pump stations in this contract. When these are turned over to the Town, that will complete this contract and the last of the homeowners will be notified they can connect. Some of the streets have been paved; this will continue this year.

Phase 7 (contract 23) Work on the easements has continued over the winter months. Installation of main line and pump stations to continue in the spring.

Phase 7 (contract 24) All streets have been turned over to the Town. Some of the streets have been paved; this will continue this year.

Phase 7 (contract 25) Some streets have been turned over to the Town. Pump station work continues. Remainder of streets to be turned over when pump stations go on line. Paving will continue this year.

Phase 8 (Contract 26) Main line installation is moving along. Easement work is continuing. Some streets have been turned over to the Town.

Phase 8 (Contract 27) Pump station and easement work has been going on over the winter. They will be back out in the streets this spring. Be watching for traffic detours over the summer months.

Phase 8 (Contract 28) Design plans being finalized and will be going out to bid in April.

Phase 9 (contract 29) Design plans being finalized and will be going out to bid in April.

TEWKSBURY'S TOWN NEWS – APRIL 2006

Phase 9 (contract 30) Survey work has been completed. Design is underway.

Phase 10 (contract 31) Survey work has begun. Survey Mapping Consultants (SMC) is doing the work.

Main/Shawsheen

This MassHighway project extends from MacDonald's to the Miceli Bridge on Main St. and from the Oakdale Plaza entrance to just past the back of the cemetery on Shawsheen St. All questions on this project should be directed to the MassHighway District 4 office in Arlington (781)641-8300. Their contractor is A.R. Belli.

Water Tank

Contract 1 of this project involved installing a 16" water main in Colonial Dr. from Main St. to the tank site. This work has been completed. Contracts 2 and 3 will prepare the site and build the tank. Contract 3 is for the site work and we are working towards an April start date. Contract 2 is for the tank and is being managed by DPW.

East St. and Livingston St.

Funding of engineering and construction of traffic improvements at this intersection is included in the state's list of roadway improvements. VHB of Watertown has just been selected to do the design. Updates will be provided as work continues.