

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., Jan. 13, 2020

- The state awarded the town an additional \$24,226 in highway money at the end of December, due to a budget surplus.
- A reminder to Board and Committee members that it is time for annual certification under the state ethics training. You have until January 20, 2020, to take your on-line ethics course and deliver a copy of the certification to the Town Clerk.
- The Town Clerk would like to make residents aware of some important upcoming dates. Currently, the nominating period for town elective offices is open and the nominating period ends on **February 20, 2020**; once nomination papers have been submitted, candidates who change their minds would have until **March 9, 2020**, to withdraw from the ballot; the Town Clerk will order the town's election ballot after **March 9, 2020**.
- Also, from the Town Clerk, the **Presidential Primary** will be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**. **Early voting** in the Presidential Primary will be held in the Memorial Room at Town Hall during the daytime hours from **Monday, Feb. 24 through 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28**.
- Gordon Conwell Task Force work has continued, and there seems to be good progress toward partnership on a number of issues, including helping the town meet its affordable housing goals.
- About 300 residents were on hand on Friday evening, January 10, to attend the bon fire at Patton Park. The bon fire had originally been planned for Saturday, Jan. 4 but was postponed twice due to weather.
- Given the last minute changes, it was a good turnout, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks goes out to Selectwoman Kennedy and the committee for collecting donations to help support the 8th grade middle school trip to Washington D.C, and for helping to organize. Town staff, including the police, fire and DPW departments and Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager MichelleLee Carroll all pitched in to make sure the event went off without any problems.
- January 15, planned outage 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Lake Dr., Leigh Rd. and Idlewood Ave., this outage is to replace a feeder line and complete improvements.
- E-Waste disposal at DPW Yard this Saturday, January 18, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Checks only please, the yard does not accept cash.
- I will be meeting with the Wenham Town Administrator and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District this week to continue developing the FY 2021 budget, to understand the school department's needs and balance that with what the town's needs in a way that is responsible and sensitive to taxpayers.
- The annual renewal of the Inspectional Services IMA is up, and I will ask the Board of Selectmen to vote this evening to extend the contract to June 30, 2021, so that we can continue in the shared working arrangement for another year and plan for that in the budgeting process.
- Patton Homestead Director Kaleigh Pare has initiated a series of speaking events at the Homestead, which have drawn paid visitors. Last week, the series did very well raising \$1,400 for a presentation on the battle of the Bulge.