



Town of Sudbury
Town Manager Newsletter
March 2013

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings!

Isn't it great to have the days be longer, the temperature a little warmer? We certainly have been in a tough (and costly) pattern with these winter snow storms. **WELCOME TO SPRING!**

I'll start with some great news – the Town recently issued a refunding bond with a total interest cost of 1.3680%. This is an extraordinarily low interest for the Town's bonds and as it is a refinancing of a previously issued bond, it will save \$585,346 over the life of the 12 years of this bond. One major reason for such a competitive interest rate – Sudbury was once again assigned an AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor's. Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector Andrea Terkelsen has coordinated three other debt refundings in the past seven years, for a total of \$1.8 million in interest cost savings over the life of the bonds.

I want to highlight two major projects that will be presented to voters at the Annual Town Meeting beginning on May 6, 2013. The first will be a request for funding to construct a new police station on Hudson Road next to the Fire Headquarters building. While the Police Station on Route 20 looks OK from the exterior, there are myriad problems with the structure and after a number of studies, the Board of Selectmen has voted to ask Sudbury residents to support new construction of this key public safety facility. I urge residents to read the report of the *Police Station Blue Ribbon Committee*, <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/PSBRC/doc5562/PSBRCFinalReport.pdf> on the Town's web site. The Board of Selectmen created this committee to review all the previous studies and design decisions that had been made and they unanimously voted to recommend a new station on the Hudson Road site.

The other major project is reconstruction of the Town Centre intersection. This is another project with multiple issues to be addressed by a new design, including replacement of the failing traffic control lights, improved drainage for the surrounding area, and enhanced safety for both vehicles and pedestrians moving through this area. This link is to design and engineering information related to this project. <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/PCD/news4143/>

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on February 19, 2013 to review both these projects, and minutes of that meeting may also be helpful to residents. Please check the Board of Selectmen's website on March 28th to review these minutes.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many other efforts and projects going on among the Town departments.

Sincerely, *Maureen E. Valente, Town Manager*

From the Selectmen's office

The Selectmen have held two regular meetings since the last newsletter. On Tuesday, February 26, they conducted their annual meeting with the Town's audit firm, who presented the Board with the following points: the Town has done an excellent job building back up the reserves, which now total 6.6% of total General Fund expenditures, compared to last year's ratio of 4.8%, the Town's internal controls are very good, with two new comments to improve control efficiency – one to obtain reports on controls from the service organizations the Town works with (e.g. the billing company for ambulance billings) and the suggested the Town staff be sure to familiarize themselves with a new government accounting standards board statement. Finally, it was noted the Town successfully completed its first Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) in time for submission for a national award program.

Next they held their annual meeting with the three legislators who represent Sudbury in the General Court: Representative Tom Conroy, Senator Jamie Eldridge, and Senator Mike Barrett. The Board presented a letter urging the legislators to support a revision to the state's program which provides assistance to school building construction, focusing on increasing assistance to regional vocational high schools. Each legislator provided an overview of his areas of responsibilities and their commitment to local aid and increasing the amount of funds to be allocated to transportation and infrastructure in the future.

In other actions, the Board voted to continue offering the Opt-Out Incentive Program to Active Employees for Health Insurance. This program, which offers employees a payment if they obtain health insurance through a spouse instead of through the Town of Sudbury, has been very successful in reducing the cost of health insurance. Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau summarized the savings as over \$1 million over three years. The Board continued the site plan for the Town's proposed solar photovoltaic array on the closed landfill, signed a proclamation commemorating the two-year anniversary of the Sudbury Military Support Network, signed the 2013 Annual Town Election Warrant, and approved a Sunday Entertainment License for a restaurant which will be opening on 29 Hudson Road. Finally, the Board received the Town Manager's verbal report on a meeting with the Lincoln Town Administrator on how and why Lincoln conducts an annual "State of the Town" forum with their residents. Resident Bryan Semple joined in this meeting, and also added his comments to the Board. As a next step, the Board will be considering planning a similar type meeting for Sudbury residents next fall, after the Town Manager speaks with the chairman of the other Boards and Committees and department heads. The Board also accepted 43 articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

On March 12, the Board met with the Finance Committee to hear a report on their work in developing the FY14 budget. Finance Committee chair Jim Rao reported that, though final votes had not been taken, it was appearing that the FY14 budget would not require an override to meet the overall budget growth of 2.7% that had initially been developed by the FinCom last fall, although it appeared that L-S will need to use a large amount of their Excess & Deficiency fund (the equivalent of Free Cash for a regional school) to achieve their desired budget growth of more than 2.7%. The final L-S budget has not been voted by the Lincoln-Sudbury School committee as of the time this report is being written. In other actions, the Board approved the site plan for the Solar Sudbury One to be constructed on the closed landfill site, approved the collective bargaining agreement reached with the DPW laborer's union, continued and expanded the membership of the Fairbank Community Center Task Force, and approved various licenses and easements. They ended with a lengthy discussion regarding preparing for Town Meeting, including a decision to invite proponents of various articles to their next meetings.

Finance Department

The Accounting Department working in conjunction with Sudbury's Finance Director has recently launched the Town's new "Internal Controls Questionnaire" (ICQ). The ICQ is designed to identify and measure the internal controls within every department/area of government. The purpose of the questionnaire itself is twofold: to facilitate dialogue at all levels of the organization regarding important safeguards already in place and also to help us develop a baseline for a comprehensive Risk Management System (RMS) for the Town.

Submitted by: Andrea Terkelsen/Finance Director

Public Safety

Fire Department

The Sudbury Fire Department received a call for a house fire in the late afternoon Sunday, February 24, 2013. Firefighters arrived to find a fire in the wall that had quickly extended into the attic area. Due to the style of home's construction, fire crews had initial difficulty accessing the attic area but did bring the fire under control quickly.

The occupants of the home were not injured but there was a minor injury to one firefighter. There was sufficient damage to displace the residents from their home. The initial investigation found a problem with the connection between the wood stove flue pipe and the chimney. Mutual aid was called from surrounding towns to assist at the fire scene and provide coverage for the three Sudbury Fire stations.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Miles, Fire Chief

Planning and Community Development

In February, the Planning Board sent out a survey to over 200 businesses and commercial property owners to get feedback on what would entice expansion of local businesses and what limits their growth in Sudbury. This survey is part of the Planning Board's Route 20 zoning initiative, and planning for the sewer system. Results are coming in, and will be posted on the Planning Board web area once they have been tallied. The survey responses will be used to craft zoning language to complement the sewer project. The intent is to allow opportunities for growth in the sewer district area, while limiting overdevelopment. Much more information will be available from the Planning Board in the next 6 months.

The Planning Board is also continuing its review of the 26 unit proposed senior residential development proposed by the Green Company at 40 Tall Pine Drive. Public hearings continue on this application on March 27, 2013 at the Flynn Building.

A Scenic Road public hearing for the construction of a segment of walkway on Peakham Road will be held on March 27, 2013 as well. This application involves the removal of three trees within the Scenic Road public way.

On April 10, 2013, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the 6 zoning articles proposed for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. This hearing will be at Town Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. The full text of the articles can be found on the Town's website, and a brief description of each article is listed below:

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, Sections 5336(d) and 5435(c) – Senior Residential Community and Incentive Senior Development Bylaws: To allow an increase the number of allowable one-bedroom units in the Senior Residential Community and Incentive Senior Development Bylaws from 10% to 25%.

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, Section 6330 - Site Plan procedures: To change the voting percentage of Site Plan applications from unanimous to majority vote.

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, Section 6300, et. al – Replace Board of Selectmen Site Plan Authority with Planning Board: To change the permit granting authority from Board of Selectmen to the Planning Board.

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, Section 2326 - Accessory Structures: To slightly increase the size of sheds (from 12' to 16') that can be located within 5' of a side or rear yard in residential districts.

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, Section 4500 (Wastewater Facilities Bylaw) to delete this bylaw in its entirety

Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX, to add a new Section 8000 - Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

To temporarily prohibit this use in the Town of Sudbury until June 30, 2014, giving the Town time to study the as-of-yet published Department of Public Health regulations on these facilities and promulgate local regulations for permitting them in Sudbury.

Submitted by: Jody Kablack/Director Planning and Community Development

The Sudbury Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to thrive with a lot of participation in the Lifelong learning classes, arts programs, informational talks and fitness classes. Please see our monthly newsletter or call the Senior Center at (978) 443-3055 for more information about any of our programs.

Lifelong Learning

The “Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe” DVD series has been quite popular, with 55 people registered. Other popular classes include: Stephen Collins teaching about Shakespeare on Tuesday morning and Richard Travers sharing his love of Opera on Friday afternoons.

Teen Tech

Students from Lincoln-Sudbury High School visit the Senior Center two afternoons each month to assist seniors with their laptops, ipads, and social networking. Everyone has a great time!

Recreation

Join our Cribbage or Bridge groups on Tuesdays. Cribbage begins at 9:00 AM; Bridge at 12:30 PM. Movie and Pizza is offered on Thursday, March 21. This month’s feature is “Hope Springs” with Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones.

Arts Classes

Our Drawing Perspectives class just finished and a new class: Figure Drawing with Susan Funk will begin on March 6. Our ongoing Watercolors class continues with instructor Cynthia Durost. On Thursday mornings our Thursday Crafters meet to discuss, propose and work on craft projects.

Monthly Health Talks

Our new Monthly Health Talks continue with “Wise Up on Medications” on March 5. These talks are presented by our Sudbury Board of Health Nurse Phyllis Schilp. Phyllis, who is a Public Health Nurse from Parmenter Community Health, shared the latest information on Women and Hearth Health on Tuesday, February 12.

Soup’s On!

Our “Soup’s On” lunch and talk was very popular on March 7. Fifty people enjoyed hot soup and a talk called “Lose Your Clutter, Find Yourself” by Senior Move Manager, Laura Nordman of NextStage Associates, Inc.

Information and Referral

Anne Manning, our Information and Referral Specialist, continues to assist seniors and their family members with questions and concerns relating to home care, mental health, caregiving, housing and more.

Volunteers

Through our wonderful Volunteer Coordinator, we continue to help people with free Medical Equipment loans, sand bucket deliveries, friendly visitors, FISH medical transportation rides and more. Please call us if you would like to help or are in need of help, at (978) 443-3055.

Submitted by: Deb Galloway/Senior Center

Technology Department

The IT department has moved all of our Public Email Groups from our Exchange email server to Constant Contact. Over 3,500 email addresses of people who subscribed to our seven public email groups were moved. Constant Contact is one of the leading providers of email marketing services. Constant Contact greatly improves the process of subscribing and unsubscribing to our email groups and has eliminated our spam bounces from Internet Service Providers.

To make it convenient for you, we have created a  on the top right-hand corner of the Town's website. All you have to do is click the Subscribe Button, put in your email address and then check off the email groups you would like to receive email from. If you decide to unsubscribe, just click on the unsubscribe button at the bottom of the email you received. You will then be given the option of unsubscribing from one email group or all of them. There is also an Update Profile/Email Address link at the bottom of your email in which you can update your email address or change your group subscriptions without having to update this information for each group. Constant Contact provides the Town with great looking emails, ease of use for the staff and the public and allows us to manage our public emails more efficiently.

Submitted by: Mark Thompson, Technology Director

Town Clerk

Annual Town Election

To view the March 25, 2013 Election Specimen Ballot, click here: [Specimen Ballot Annual Town Election March 25, 2013](#)

Polls open on Election Day at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Friday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m. For absentee ballot information, click here: [Absentee Ballot Information](#)

Dog Licensing Deadline April 1, 2013

A \$25 late fee will be added to dog license applications received after April 2, 2013. The licensing fee is \$15 if the dog is neutered or spayed and \$20 for a dog that is not neutered/spayed. Licensing may be done in person at the Town Clerk's office, 322 Concord Road, or by mail. Evidence of up-to-date rabies vaccination is required to issue a license. Dog owners are encouraged to license their dogs early to avoid the late penalty fee of \$25 that will be required for each unlicensed dog, in addition to the regular licensing fee, beginning April 3, 2013.

The Town Clerk's office will be OPEN 'TIL 8:00PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 1 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 2 for dog licensing.

Voter Registration: Elections and Town Meeting

In order to vote in an upcoming election, qualified voters must register 20 days prior to the upcoming elections and Town Meeting. The Town Clerk's office will offer extended hours (9am-8pm) on the last days to register to vote in time for each election as well as Town Meeting. The office will be open till 8:00 p.m. to accommodate dog licensing on April 1 & 2, and residents are encouraged to take advantage of the extended hours for voter registration.

2013 SCHEDULED TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS:

Annual Town Election: Monday, March 25

Special State Primary Election: Tuesday, April 30 (Voter Registration Deadline: Tuesday, April 10)

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, May 6 (Voter Registration Deadline: Tuesday, April 16)

Special State Election: Tuesday, June 25 (Voter Registration Deadline: Wednesday, June 5)

Submitted by: Leila Frank for: Town Clerk