



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – March 12, 2007

Town staff and committees are constantly working to improve the quality of life in Sudbury. This email is designed to share information with Town staff and committee members about the many programs and efforts that are underway.

FY08 Budget Hearings Completed



The Finance Committee wrapped up their budget hearings and deliberations on the FY08 budget and voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a budget requiring a \$2.5 million operating override. The Selectmen agreed with the recommendation of the Finance Committee and voted to put forward an override ballot question for voters to consider at the Town election on March 26th. Thanks to Mark Thompson we have a new section of the website, called "Topics in the Spotlight" where we have posted several articles of information about the proposed FY08 budget. In particular, I urge you to review a very good analysis of the structural budget deficit Sudbury faces, prepared by the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee worked with the various cost centers to reduce the \$3.3 million gap between available revenue and submitted budgets down to the level sought in the override.

After completion of the deliberations and votes, Governor Patrick unveiled his state budget, and he has proposed an increase in state aid of nearly \$500,000 more for Sudbury/L-S than we had projected in our budget preparations. However, until the state legislature completes their deliberation and votes (probably not until May or June) it is difficult to know what the final state aid figure will be. **IF** the final state aid number for Sudbury is indeed higher than projected when all is said and done, **AND** the override is approved at the Town election **AND** Town Meeting votes the "override budget" in the warrant, the extra state aid would be used to reduce the amount of property taxes actually raised in FY08.

Why is this so confusing? We have an early Town Meeting and our budget has to be put together based on our best guesses *before* we have any real state aid numbers to work with. We have to be conservative in our best guesses, as in the past the legislative process has produced state aid numbers that rise and fall as the budget moves from the Governor's desk to the House of Representatives to the Senate and then to Conference Committees. We cannot afford to have a Town budget that is not balanced once Town Meeting adjourns or we have to call a special Town Meeting to re-balance the budget.

So stayed tuned! If we get more information we will try to put it on the Town's website as Town Meeting gets closer, and the Selectmen will continue to discuss this matter at their meetings. There is a budget forum at 7:30 pm on Monday March 19th at L-S, and it will be broadcast on cable TV.

Employee News

Since I have not issued a newsletter in some weeks, there is lots of news about our employees to report.

In the Police Department Erin Corey began duties as a patrol officer on January 19, following graduation from the Massachusetts Criminal Justice police training academy. And two recent police patrolmen appointees, Michael Curran and John Perodeau, began the 12 week police training academy supervised by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority on January 29. Ashley Savilonis joined the department January 9 as a part time clerk, working 17 hours per week.

In the Fire Department, Firefighter Peter Frost retired on March 1 following more than 35 years of service to the S.F.D. This is an amazing record of dedicated service. With Peter's departure, an era of Frost family presence on the Sudbury Fire Department comes to an end. Peter's father, Josiah (Joe), was a call firefighter from 1937-1940, then again from 1953-1957 when he became a permanent firefighter. Joe rose through the ranks to become Fire Chief in 1975 and served until 1983 when he retired. David Frost joined the fire department first as a call firefighter in 1963 and was appointed a permanent firefighter in 1968. David left the department for a while to pursue other ambitions, returning in 1972 and serving as a firefighter until his retirement in 2002. FF/EMT Daniel Wells is returning from a leave of absence and will fill the vacancy caused by this retirement. And we are happy to welcome back Firefighter/EMT John "Pat" Hanley. Pat is returning to duty from long-term sick leave.

In the Park, Recreation & Atkinson Pool Departments, Ryan Pratt became permanent Recreation Program Coordinator January 2 after a stint as Acting Program Coordinator, replacing Peter Coleman. Katie Dupont resigned February 3 as Aquatic Supervisor at Atkinson Pool to take a position closer to home; recruitment efforts are underway to fill that position.

Mary McCormack and I are thrilled to welcome Patty Golden to the Selectmen/Town Managers Office. Patty was hired to fill the Office Supervisor position vacated by Rosemary Harvell when she was appointed Town Clerk last fall. And we are pleased to (hopefully) finish getting back to full staffing in the Finance Department with the appointment of Lisa Schofield to the Treasurer-Collector's office. Lisa began January 29 as Accounting Clerk, replacing Jeanne Kriger, who was promoted to Accounting Assistant/Payroll, replacing Robin Porcella, who was promoted to Assistant Town Accountant when Barbara Chisholm was promoted to Town Accountant!

New Baby News!

Congratulations to two Sudbury employees who welcomed babies recently. Department Assistant Krista Butler in the Public Works Department is out on maternity leave following the February 18 birth of daughter Erin Elizabeth Butler. Police Officer Paul Johnston announced the birth of his baby daughter Amelia who was born December 21, 2006.

My thanks to all the staff and volunteers who work hard to make these things happen. You make Sudbury such a special place. Maureen Valente, Town Manager