



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager’s Report
DT: January 10, 2018

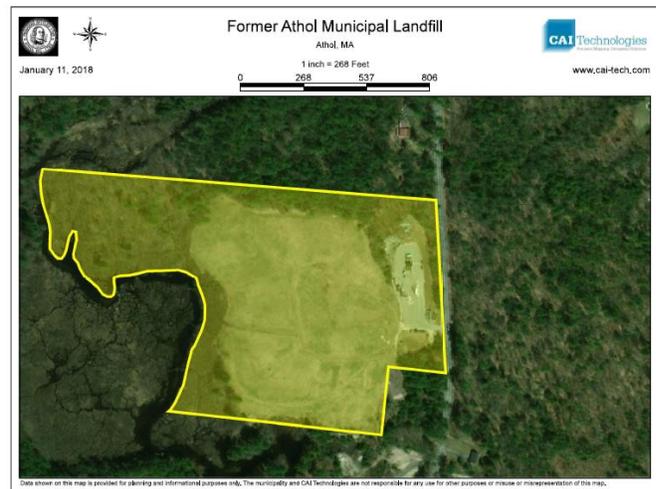
Dear Board: Please see the following update for tonight’s meeting.

FY18 Budget Process Underway: A copy of my budget message to department heads was previously emailed to the Board and a copy is included in your packets. Since the memo was issued on January 2, the Senate and House chairs of Ways & Means, and the Administration, reached a 3.5 percent revenue growth consensus for FY19. However, until the Governor’s budget is release in the coming weeks, the Town is maintaining a conservative posture with a suggested two percent limit on any increase in costs.

Department requests are due on January 18 and the all-boards meeting at Athol-Royalston Middle School is slated for January 24 where a preliminary high-level preview of the school system and general town budget status will be discussed.

Former Landfill / Solar RFP: Over the past two weeks I have completed a final draft RFP for potential lease of a portion of the former landfill and it is under final review by Town Counsel and the DPW Superintendent.

Subject to available capacity on NGRID transmission lines the site appears to have the potential to generate both general fund revenue (via PILOT agreement) and capital/debt service revenue (via lease) for the transfer station and general capital program.



The RFP has been assigned a January 24 publication date in the Central Register and proposals will also be due on March 12.

An article seeking authorization for the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease will be presented at the March 5 special town meeting.

Pleasant Street School RFP: Much of the work on the request for proposals for the Pleasant Street School was completed by Eric Smith, Town Planner, with input from the Pleasant Street School Reuse/Disposition Committee. I reviewed and made final edits to the RFP and arranged its publication in the Central Register effective on January 10. Proposals are due March 12.

An article seeking authority for the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the former school as surplus property will be presented at the March 5 special town meeting.

Town Hall Safety Improvements: You may have noticed a couple of modest but important improvements at Town Hall, namely, that railings for both the front exterior stairs and the curved bottom of our interior grand staircases have been extended.



Miscellaneous:

- Attended and participated in meetings of the Finance & Warrant Advisory Committee; MART Advisory Board; Department Heads; Finance Team; Housing Task Force; Recreational Marijuana Task Force; North Quabbin Loan Fund and others
- Attended grant re-opening of McDonald's Restaurant and the ribbon cutting for Hobby Lobby
- Wrote and submitted grant request to MassDevelopment for technical assistance to market potential hotel site on EDIC-owned parcel at Exit 18