

Town Manager's Report

Monday, June 24, 2013

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

FINANCE

Town of Concord \$1,800,000 One-year Note Issue Receives Low Bid of 0.2881%: Bids were accepted Wednesday, June 19 at 11 A.M. for a \$1,800,000 Bond Anticipation Note issuance of the Town of Concord dated June 27, 2013 to be payable June 16, 2014. This note will pay ongoing capital project costs approved by Town Meeting in 2012 and 2013, with permanent financing of the Note to occur next spring through a long-term bond issue.

4 bids were received from prospective underwriters. The lowest bid was **Jefferies LLC @ 0.2881%**

The net interest cost for this borrowing is \$5,028, payable at the maturity date. The borrowing is being made to finance costs of the following projects:

\$1,200,000	Article 28 of 2012	Light Plant transformer replacement and warehouse expansion (\$4.4 million total debt authorization);
\$ 100,000	Article 48 of 2013	Light Plant telecommunications service (\$1.0 million total debt authorization);
\$ 500,000	Article 55 of 2013	Town House exterior renovation (\$950,000 total debt authorization)

First Quarter FY14 Property Tax Bills to be Mailed: Quarterly property tax bills will be mailed later this week. Payment will be due on or before August 1. The quarterly bills due August 1 and November 1 are preliminary bills based upon one-fourth of the prior year's tax plus a 2.5% increase and a 0.5% allowance for the net increase in the FY14 budget due to voter approval of the High School construction financing.

The adopted budget for FY14, the year beginning July 1, 2013, includes funding for the initial impact of the Concord-Carlisle High School project financing. A \$32.5 million bond issue was sold on May 22 at a favorable 3.00% interest rate for a 25-year bond. This debt had been approved by both Concord and Carlisle at November 2011 Town Meetings and at a town-wide ballot in both towns.

Concord's share of the principal and interest cost for FY14 attributable to the financing of the High School project increases the Town budget by \$1,297,715, which is equal to a 1.8% increase in the property tax bill. However, other favorable budget factors have reduced this expected increase to about half of a percent for FY14.

FIRE

Station 1 Renovation: A “kick-off” meeting for the vehicle exhaust replacement is being held today with the plymovent vendor and all involved parties, to coordinate the project which will start shortly.

Unusual Emergency Responses: Sunday afternoon, CFD staff responded to an overturned canoe in the area of the Old North Bridge. Two adults were at the shoreline and uninjured. CFD recovered the canoe and assessed the occupants. No transport was required.

Other Items: CFD will be touring the Starmet facility at 2229 Main Street as they provide us with an update on the material removal process.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Employee Energy Conservation Campaign: Employees serving as departmental Energy Coaches have held their first meeting to begin planning a campaign to help all Concord employees take simple energy-saving steps in the workplace. The Energy Coaches plan to launch the campaign in the fall.

New Rate Stabilization Fund Surcharge: Concord Light customers will see an increase of about 2.5% (\$3 per month for the median residential customer) in their electric bills commencing July 1. The increase will be separately noted on electric bills as the Rate Stabilization Fund, and is needed to meet significantly higher wholesale capacity charges anticipated during the June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017 time frame.

Waiting until June 1, 2016 would have resulted in an increase in electric rates of about 10%. By starting the collection process now, the increases will be smaller and easier on customer budgets. A notice has been sent to the Concord Journal explaining the increase.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Sunday June 16, Officer Reinold responded to Nine Acre Corner for several reports of graffiti spray painted on the sides of buildings. Officer Reinold processed the scene and took photographs of the graffiti. In addition, video tape surveillance of the area was collected and reviewed. That video tape evidence led to the identification and prosecution of the subject involved. This same individual was also responsible for similar acts in the Town of Lincoln.

On Tuesday June 18, CPD officers responded to the area of 2100 Main Street for a motor vehicle crash. Officers located the vehicle involved, which had struck a guardrail and traveled down an embankment into the woods. They located the operator and determined that the crash was intentional. The officers also determined that the operator had been drinking and admitted that she should not be driving. The operator was transported to Emerson Hospital for evaluation. The operator was also charged with drunk driving, operating a motor vehicle to endanger and marked lanes violation. Officers submitted a request to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to have the operator's license reviewed for suitability.

On Friday June 21, Detective Camilleri responded to Concord Carlisle High School for a report of graffiti sprayed painted on the building. Detective Camilleri processed the scene, photographing the graffiti and other evidence. The case is currently open and under investigation.

Community Services: Officers are vigorously patrolling the area of White Pond now that the warm weather has arrived. Officers are enforcing parking restrictions along with other access issues that occur this time of year.

On Friday June 21, Lt. Roy Mulcahy and Sgt. Troiano took part in a table top exercise at Hanscom Air Force Base. The exercise simulated a disaster drill involving an airplane crash and assessed the response from surrounding public safety agencies.

Administrative Services: Officer Michael McGrath successfully completed the two week motorcycle officer training program conducted by the NEMLEC motorcycle officers in Lowell, Ma. Officer McGrath becomes the latest member of the Department to become certified to perform his patrol duties on one the Department's motorcycles.