Tuesday Talks

**Date:** Tuesday, November 7th, 2023

**Time:** ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­9:00 AM

*Attendees:*

* Ali Kennedy
* April Steward
* Nina Gardner
* Cheri Cox
* Rosemary Buckley
* Jack Valleli
* Pam Frechette
* Melanie Rich
* Erica Hout – unable to attend but sent info via email

*Department Topics:*

* Alison/Administrative Assistant to TA:
  + Revize website proposals – moving forward
  + VSO – Veteran Service Officer – Looking to get an Assistant to Vincent Perrone
  + ABCC/Common Vic Licenses
  + Annual Town Report
* April/Town Administrator:
  + - Door to Town Hall – sticks, make sure they are closed at the end of the night.
    - Health Care: Healthcare costs have increased. We had been trending upwards in rates since 2019 but there is a major jump this year.
      * Claims history is increasing.
      * Rates going into the next fiscal are jumping 10%-12% increase
      * Insurance Advisory Committee meeting in December. Spoke with our rep Tara and she will be presenting different options to them at that meeting.
      * Board of Selectmen asked April to vetting other companies. Needs to speak with board on the process because it takes longer. There is MA General Law that speaks to the process.
      * Animal Control Officer – Berlin, Boylston, West Boylston, Harvard and Lancaster. Meeting with them in a few weeks to see if we can regionalize.
* Cheri/Rosemary: Treasurer/Collector – Assistant Treasurer/Collector
  + Went through November due date
  + Keeping busy
  + Health Insurance for senior plans: renew in January, don’t renew in July.
  + Tax taking: only 2 parcels didn’t pay.
* Jack/Assessors:
  + Completed analysis of Vision database
    - Expecting a lot of abatement changes
    - Expecting some corrections to be made. Not as bad as last year.
  + Getting last excise tax out in the next few weeks
    - Anticipating the first bill mailing
  + Tax Rate has been classified
    - It has been a good year for growth
      * Excellent personal property growth
  + Predicting abatements will be less next year
  + Supplemental bills: fewer than last year, but more they can possible capture.
  + Boylston is in a transitional period.
* Nina: Filing office and closing out items
* Paul Dell’Aquila: Planning Board
  + Planning Board is getting pushed to December meeting
  + Zoning Board meeting coming up after Thanksgiving
  + Summer Star wants to renovate a house on Mile Hill Road – viewing
* Zoning Changes
  + Zoning changes will be coming up
* Shared Street Grant: Put in for a traffic signal at Sewall Street/140
* Melanie – BOH: nothing to report

Cameras:

* The cameras in the hallway are not working at the moment. They are not connected to the wifi. April needs to make a decision to call night owl and see what they can do, or scrap the whole system and get a new one. Unplugging system for now, until a decision is made.

Employee safety:

* Panic buttons: April and Bob have talked on and off about a panic button but it hasn’t been looked into. Extra money is needed – may need to put an article in at annual town meeting.
* Silent protocol: Printouts at the Fire Department on it.

Erica – Library:

* Creating a community resources page of links and info for our website, as well as physical info to have inside the library. Particularly after town hall hours, we get questions on everything from resident trash removal and internet services to voting and tax info. If there’s any additional information you’d like us to provide in the library, including copies of public forms, an info sheet for commonly asked questions, resources you’re commonly referring people to use, etc., please let me know.