

To our Washington neighbors:

September 2017

Thanks to all who turned out for the Special Town Meeting on July 31. Both articles for the purchase of new highway equipment (a one-ton plow truck and a utility vehicle) were unanimously approved.

- The issue of adding a cars-only interchange to the Mass Pike in Becket or Blandford has re-surfaced. The voters present at the STM were mostly favorable to the idea. There are no definite plans yet; we'll let you know of any further developments.

Thanks to Matt Thomas of Frost Road who has stepped forward to take over as our Maintenance Coordinator replacing Ed Bond. Another change: Melissa Martinetto resigned her position as Tax Collector. The Board appointed Assistant Gina Campbell to replace her.

Thanks to Chief Breen for getting the grants and for purchasing supplies for use in an emergency. These are kept in the trailer by the Town Hall to be deployed when needed.

Things are moving quickly now that we grant money to begin work on our fiber optic high speed internet system. In addition to our contract with Westfield Gas and Electric to begin design we now have a signed Memo of Understanding with WiredWest, the cooperative venture that we expect will manage the completed system.

If you are using a non-EPA certified wood stove (pre-1990 and including hydronic systems) for home heating you may qualify for \$300-\$5000 towards the purchase and installation of a new EPA certified gas or wood or pellet stove or hydronic heater. Call 1-800-548-8252 or visit www.LungNE.org/woodstove.

Road & Bridge:

- We have contracted with Foresight design a bridge or culvert to replace the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook. We expect to be able to get bids for construction next March and complete the bridge next summer.
- Work on Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks is scheduled to be completed no later than November 4. We'll keep you posted.
- The new culvert is in place on Frost Road but the road itself will be closed through the month until paving is complete. We are still pursuing grant opportunities for the dam.
- There are still some open items for DOT and the contractor to correct along Washington Mountain Road including a misaligned culvert that created a new beaver pond and a ¾ mile section that is subsiding and may need to be replaced.
- The Cross Place Road culvert project is complete.
- We have applied for a MassWorks grant of \$600,000 to fund the reconstruction of the paved portion of Lovers' Lane and replace all the culverts
- We are exploring two other grant opportunities from FEMA for the culvert on upper Frost Road.
- The **large culvert on Johnson Hill Road has been** replaced and paved over.

Please remember to join everyone for the Sons & Daughters Reunion at the Old Town Hall from 12-4 on Sunday September 10!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board