



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: October 3, 2014
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.

1. Veteran's Services – Next week we will be advertising for the Part time Veterans Services Officer to assist the District Director in Abington and Whitman. This is intended to be 16-19 hour per week position and the individual would ultimately need to obtain the same training as the Director. The closing date for applications for PT VSO will be October 30.
2. DPW Legislation – I have been informed by Rep. Diel's office that charter change legislation approved by town meeting should be acted upon in the House by or around the beginning of the calendar year.
3. Business/Commercial Goals – Last week I spent most of one morning at OCPC in Brockton meeting with the staff and mapping out the appropriate course of events to utilize their services as recommended in our Peer Consulting report. In addition to traffic and parking studies in the center areas they can facilitate a broader Economic Assessment that is conducted through Northeastern University. They will be seeking to get approval to conduct all of these projects under their district technical assistance grant program to avoid any additional cost to Abington. I will keep you updated.
4. Solar By-Law – Marshall Adams and I have spent time reviewing a model Solar By-Law. Getting a solar by-law in place this coming spring town meeting is also a goal of the Planning Board. While I am not sure exactly of the timing just yet it is likely that within the next couple of months you will see a draft for your review and referral to the Planning Board.
5. Road Safety Audit - We have schedule a Road Safety Audit of Chestnut and Hancock Street for October 15 at 10:00 a.m. with at the Police Station community room. The driving force from a scheduling standpoint was the availability of OCPC and Mass DOT representatives. I forwarded and email this past Tuesday to the Board members with the agenda and accompanying data. All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in the review and discussion.
6. Budget Process – The Financial team recently met with Finance Committee Chair Chad Lovett and determined a broad schedule for the FY 2016 Budget Process:
 - Departmental budget request forms distributed the beginning of October;
 - Budget requests due back to the Town Accountant by Oct. 31;

- Internal budget meetings with the financial staff will be conducted in November and concluded by Thanksgiving;
- A preliminary budget will be prepared and distributed by Dec. 15;
- A formal budget transmission will be provided to the Finance Committee on or by Jan. 15.

In addition is discussed that our goal would be to set up a joint meeting of the Board and Finance Committee on a Saturday in February to have as many departments (starting with the larger ones) as possible discuss their budget proposal with all parties in order to minimize the necessary night meetings and duplication of effort. Also, it is well understood that a budget that early may be lacking some key information pertaining to state aid that could be critical for final decision making.