

Updates from March 1, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Hello.

The Board of Selectmen met last evening and there are these updates to report.

Town Manager John Mangiaratti reported there is no update to Chief Burrows' January 13 statement on the December and January Zoom bombing incidents. This is because a juvenile is involved and therefore very little can and will be released.

During his COVID-19 response updates John Mangiaratti reported there are 22 residents currently in COVID isolation, down again from the January spike. Since March the total number of confirmed cases in Town is 769. John further reported that Acton and eight neighboring communities--Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Maynard, Sudbury, Wayland and Westford--are in the process of forming a regional collaboration of vaccine distribution sites that would have the capacity to vaccinate minimally 750 individuals per day, 5 days per week.

The Selectmen unanimously approved two long term bonding authorizations for previously approved projects. The Series A bond for \$13,695,000 is for municipal general purpose debt and includes the design and construction of the North Acton Fire Station (\$9.1M), land acquisitions at Piper Lane and Kelley's Corner (\$1.2M), fire apparatus (\$1.4M), sidewalk/street improvements (\$795K), Kelley's Corner design (\$220K), fire station facility improvements (\$385K) and traffic design (\$45K). The Series B bond for \$1,100,000 is for the purchase of 19-21 Maple Street and is a municipal private purpose debt. The interest rate on both bonds is very favorable to the Town--1.87% on the Series A bond and 2.31% on the Series B bond. The Series A bond, the substantial majority of which is attributable to the Proposition 2 1/2 excluded debt for the North Acton Fire Station, is expected to result in a lower than anticipated real estate tax increase on account of the new fire station.

John Mangiaratti presented the Town Manager's Recommended FY 2022 Municipal Budget. Proposed municipal spending of \$37,786,832 represents a 2.5% increase over FY 2021 (the current year). Investments in Community Priorities in FY 22 include Resources to Support Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Efforts, Kelley's Corner Infrastructure Project--Pedestrian Light Poles, Sustainability Initiatives to address Climate Emergency, Mental Health Resources for the Police Department, Acton Town Center Project, Advancing Design for the Public Works Facility, Street Tree Planting and Maintenance, Economic Development, River Street Dam and Historic Park, and Sidewalks and Traffic Calming. For the budget book, please go to: <https://www.actonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6857>.

The Board will meet next, virtually, on Monday, March 15 at 7PM.

Continue to stay safe and well.

Jon Benson