

# Town Manager's Report Monday, February 10, 2014

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

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

## **FINANCE**

**2014 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills Issued Today:** The Tax Collector is mailing more than fourteen thousand Motor Vehicle calendar year 2014 Excise Tax bills today, February 10. Payment is due by Wednesday, March 12.

Excise Tax bills are issued on a calendar year basis. All vehicles registered as of January 1, 2014 are subject to the tax. The data comes to the Town from the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) and the bill is issued to the address provided to the Registry by the vehicle owner. Owners who have moved within the past twelve months are urged to contact both the Registry and the local Board of Assessors. If you had a vehicle registered by last November 30 and do not receive your 2014 excise tax bill from Concord by February 28, please contact the Concord Board of Assessors at: [assessors@concordma.gov](mailto:assessors@concordma.gov) , by phone at 978-318-3070, drop in at the office at 24 Court Lane, or give your new address information to the Tax Collector at the Town House, first floor. While we can take a change of address in order to get your current bill to you, a permanent address change is only possible by contacting the Registry (online at [massrmv.com](http://massrmv.com)).

The bill for the full year is owed to the municipality where the vehicle was garaged on January 1, 2014. The motor vehicle excise tax is assessed at a rate of \$25.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value. The tax is based on the manufacturer's list price of the vehicle for the original (model) year as set by the RMV according to the N.A.D.A Blue Book. It is not based on the actual sales price or the current market value. This value for tax purposes is then factored based on the age of the vehicle, as follows:

Year prior to model year	50%
Model year	90%
Second year	60%
Third year	40%
Fourth year	25%
Fifth year and each year thereafter	10%

If a vehicle is taken off the road, it is still subject to tax UNLESS it is sold or traded. Vehicles registered to the owner for only a portion of the calendar year are eligible for a prorated

abatement based upon whole months, according to State law. Details regarding applying for an abatement are available on the Town website at:

[http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_Assessor/MVEABATE](http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Assessor/MVEABATE)

Owners who sell or trade their vehicle are reminded to obtain a signed Bill of Sale from the buyer AND to obtain a plate return receipt from the RMV unless plates are being transferred officially to another registered vehicle.

14,046 bills are being issued totaling \$2,066,480. This is an overall increase of 8.4% compared to last year, indicating an upturn in the registration of newer vehicles.

This first billing of the calendar year excise tax includes all vehicles that were registered through approximately December 1, 2013. Owners of vehicles first registered in December 2013 can expect to receive a partial bill for calendar year 2013 **AND** the full year 2014 bill within a few months. These are issued from the RMV as two separate bills, but each will clearly show the **calendar year** to which it applies. An owner who expects but does not receive a part-year 2013 or full year 2014 bill should contact the Assessor's office, 978-318-3070.

Owners who may be applying for abatement are reminded to pay the bill in full by its due date of March 12, 2014, after which date additional charges may apply. An abatement granted by the Assessors which results in a refund will be processed promptly by the Treasurer (978-318-3050). BUT State law does not permit late payment penalties to be waived by any abatement granted after the due.

If you receive a bill for which you did not own the vehicle as of January 1, 2014, or if the vehicle was not garaged in Concord as of January 1, 2014, please contact the Board of Assessors promptly.

**Town Manager's Proposed Budget for the Year Beginning July 1, 2014 is Available:**

The Town Manager's Proposed Budget for FY2015 has been transmitted to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The budget for the Town's operating departments is proposed at \$20,364,013, in conformance with the Budget Guidelines issued by the Finance Committee last November 30.

The Finance Committee's November 30, 2013 report may be viewed at:

[http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_BComm/FY15%20Budget%20Guideline.pdf](http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/FY15%20Budget%20Guideline.pdf)

The total General Fund Budget is \$89,662,745, a 4.0% increase over the current year.

The budget document is available for public review on the Town website (under "Important Documents"). Questions about the Town Manager's proposed budget may be addressed to [finance@concordma.gov](mailto:finance@concordma.gov).

## FIRE

**Station 1 Renovation:** The new Public safety building emergency generator has been delivered (see photo). Installation should be complete by the end of February.



**Unusual Emergency Responses:** Thursday morning CFD responded to a 3 vehicle MVA at the intersection of route 2 and route 126. On arrival we found a small box truck on fire (see photo), and two other autos involved in the MVA.



The fire was extinguished while other crews checked for injuries. One person was transported to Emerson Hospital for evaluation.

## PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

### Health Division

**Community Innovation Challenge Grant:** The Concord Health Division received notification that, with Bedford as the lead community, Concord and 30 other partner towns, will receive funding of \$111,000 under the State's Community Innovation Challenge Grant program. Grant funding will be used to create a Tick Borne Disease Surveillance Network. Grant funds will allow residents to submit ticks for testing at no cost to the University of Massachusetts - Laboratory of Medical Zoology, where the ticks will be tested to determine if the tick is carrying Lyme disease, Babesiosis and/or Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis. More information about the program and the protocol for submitting ticks for testing will be forthcoming; the program will begin in April or May and continue through fall 2014.

**Board of Health Tobacco Control:** The Board of Health is considering revisions to its current regulation *Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products*. These revisions are aimed at reducing youth access to tobacco and nicotine delivery products. The revisions will prohibit the sale of single cigars priced at less than \$3.00, and packaged cigars sold in packages of less than 5 cigars. It will also prohibit the sale of blunt wraps, hollow tubes made wholly or in part from tobacco that are designed to be filled by the consumer with loose tobacco or other fillers. The Board of Health is also considering prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in all buildings where smoking is prohibited under the State's Smoke-free Workplace law. At their February 6 meeting, the Board listened to a presentation from Tobacco 21, a group of local physicians who are advocating raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco and nicotine delivery products to age 21. The Board took the information presented under advisement and will consider it further at their March 18 meeting.

### Planning Division

**Historic Districts Commission:** At their Thursday meeting, the HDC reviewed three continued and one new application for new work within the Historic Districts. The Commission issued new Certificates of Appropriateness for the sign lighting at Bondir, 24 Walden Street; new exterior lighting at 51 Lang Street; the demolition of the existing garage and the construction of a new terrace and garage at 445 Lowell Road; and the installation of a new sign at 23 Walden Street. Members also discussed ideas for new temporary structures at McGrath Farm and a potential new lighting fixture at the Town House, and reviewed the Commission's current membership and open positions.

**Historic Signs in Concord Center:** The Town is very pleased to announce the completion of a recent project to research and restore its two surviving Tercentenary Signs. These signs have a unique origin and history, having been part of Concord Center's streetscape since 1930, when they were installed as part of a statewide program to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. After nearly 100 years exposed to the elements, both signs were faded and worn, making the text difficult to read even when walking by. Last year, the condition of these signs was noted by a local resident

who generously offered to fund their restoration. With the help of this donation and the assistance of Crosby Designs, the signs have been cleaned and repainted, restoring them to their original color schemes.