

Town Manager's Weekly Report

Monday, December 1, 2008

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

*Items with **italicized** headings relate to the Town Manager's goals for 2008-2009.*

- 1. Monument Square Traffic Pattern Change.** The Police Chief is recommending that the Town alter the flow of traffic in Monument Square such that the "flagpole circle" operates as a true Massachusetts traffic rotary. The revision would place the southbound approach of Lowell Road under YIELD control at its intersection with Main Street, creating a standard roundabout. Traffic entering the rotary would have to YIELD the right of way to vehicles already in the rotary. The goal is to improve safety, reduce confusion and conflicts, and relieve the excessive queuing that currently occurs during both peak commuter hours along the eastbound approach of Main Street. Based on the recommendation of public safety officials and an outside traffic consultant, the change will be implemented on a 60-day trial basis beginning on January 6, 2009. Messages boards and other advisories to motorists will be in place before the change is implemented. Public feedback on the change will be welcomed and the Police Chief will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on whether the change should be made permanent upon completion of the trial period.
- 2. MAGIC Legislative Breakfast.** The Minuteman Advisory Group on Inter-local Coordination (MAGIC), sub-regional of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, is hosting its annual Fall Legislative Breakfast on Monday, December 8 at the Old Town Hall, 16 South Road in Bedford. Six of the twelve MAGIC legislative seats are changing. Both new and veteran State Senators and Representatives will discuss: -How will the changing face of Washington affect state government and municipal financing? • What specifically will our legislators do to address economic challenges in our region? • What can MAGIC do for our legislators? • How can MAPC help advance the interests of member communities on Beacon Hill? This is a free event open to the public, but reservations are required. Continental Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. Discussion will be 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- 3. Police Grants.** *The Concord Police Department received notice of award for two grants this week. The Community Policing Grant Program awarded \$48,578 to Concord. The Department also received a Traffic Enforcement and Equipment Grant in the amount of \$11,400. The Department has consistently attempted to identify grant opportunities to fund on-going operations.*
- 4. Tax Rate Approved.** *The Massachusetts Dept of Revenue officially notified the Town today that the FY2009 tax rate approved by the Selectmen two weeks ago has been certified by the Bureau of Accounts. This will enable the 3rd quarter tax bills to be mailed out in a timely fashion and will place*

us once again on the customary quarterly tax billing schedule. Last year, the Department of Revenue took several months to approve the tax rate, thereby delaying the mailing of the 3rd quarter bills.

5. **Coordination Meeting.** *The Annual Coordination meeting among town boards and committees will be held this Saturday at the Town house. Various committees and citizen petitioners will make brief presentations concerning the warrant articles they would like to bring before the April 2009 Annual Town Meeting. The meeting will be taped and re-broadcast by CCTV. The public is invited to participate. Coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m..*
6. **Waste Water Task Force.** *The Waste Water Task Force will be meeting again on December 2 to discuss a draft wastewater report and to formulate a presentation for Saturday's coordination meeting. The Task Force is recommending that the Selectmen include an article on the 2009 Town Meeting warrant that would authorize further study of the issue.*
7. **Budgets.** *Meetings began last week between town department heads, the Town Manager and Finance staff to review departmental budget requests. The instructions were for departments to level-fund their operating budgets, exclusive of salary costs. This should enable Town departments to meet the Finance Committee's proposed guideline of a 2.5% increase, including health insurance and other employee costs.*