



TOWN OF IPSWICH
25 Green Street
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

Stephen Crane
Town Manager

p: (978) 356-6609
f: (978) 356-6616

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the Select Board
FROM: Stephen Crane, Town Manager
DATE: November 21, 2022
RE: Town Manager Report

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours for Town Hall

- Wednesday, November 23 – Town Hall Closes at 12:00 PM
- Thursday, November 24 – Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 25 – Town Hall Closed

Health Department

At the June 6, 2022 Board of Health meeting the Board authorized the establishment of a syringe services program. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health choose ONESTOP, a program of the North Shore Health Project, as the vendor. Through this program, residents can get free sterile needles and syringes, dispose of used needles and syringes free of cost, get overdose education and Narcan (naloxone) and connect to other services such as testing for hepatitis C, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. In August, ONESTOP's Mobile Van started coming to Ipswich weekly. Starting mid-November, the van will come every other week. As always, residents can call/text the confidential outreach phone number 987-515-0455 or the office number 978-865-3924 for home pick-ups and deliveries. Resident have really taken advantage of the free syringe disposal option.

Fire Department

Heating season is upon us: Check Smoke/Carbon Monoxide alarms – change batteries if necessary. Call the FD if assistance is required. There was a structural fire at 5 Cogswell Street (across from the town wharf). It started in the basement fire and the single occupant was able to escape after hearing the smoke alarms and was not injured. The Town received mutual aid from Topsfield and Rowley.

Water/Sewer

Drought – Severe drought continues. Limited rainfall has delayed reservoir recovery. Total reservoir storage is approximately 30% of usable capacity. Customer water use is near winter levels.

North Shore Water Resilience Task Force – Ipswich signed charter agreement in September, formal press release from task force is forthcoming.

Town Hill Tank – The tank is erected and winterized. The controls building, valve vault and piping components will be completed in the spring, with the tank going online by summer 2023. The existing tank will remain in service until that time and then be demolished.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Upgrade Project – This project replaces and upgrades various components of the aeration system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The aeration system is a critical component to the Town’s biological treatment process and includes equipment that is past its useful life. Failure of this system will result in incomplete treatment of wastewater and violations of federal discharge permit parameters. Following an Invitation for Bid earlier this fall, the project was awarded to Winston Builders Corp. for \$3.74M. Contracts have been signed and the project will kick-off next month. Funding was approved at the 2022 annual town meeting and by ballot vote.

Town Wharf Pump Station Relocation Project – The project will relocate the pump station out of the flood plane and away from climate hazards. An application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant that would fund 90% of the project cost will be submitted next month. A project funding request is expected at 2023 annual town meeting.

Police Department

The school crossing guard has notified the Department that she is resigning due to personal reasons. The position will be advertised for a new crossing-guard for the Winthrop School crossing. The post is staffed one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. If anyone is interested they should contact HR.

Town Wharf docks will be removed soon after Thanksgiving week, depending on the weather and DPW work crew availability. The operation will be coordinated by Asst. Harbormaster Bodwell and Lt. Hubbard.

Boards/Committee

I met briefly with the Climate and Resiliency Committee to introduce myself and attended the Public Safety Building Committee meeting. I also met with the Ipswich Human Rights Committee to discuss Town initiatives as well as my own views on diversity, equity, and inclusion.