



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
Mary Gallivan, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: February 6, 2023
RE: Town Manager Report

EBSCO Donation

Thanks to the generosity of EBSCO, the Town was able to repurpose surplus office equipment and stock no longer in use by the company. The items, many of them gently used, being repurposed for municipal use include standing desks, file cabinets, desk chairs, and printers. EBSCO recently re-organized how it provides workspace to its employees and replaced equipment that no longer fit in the new model. The Town was able to capitalize on their change and demonstrate, once again, the fiscally responsible practices that help keep costs low as well as re-use and recycle materials with a lot of life left in them.

Planning Director Search

An interview panel comprised of Town staff and other Planning Department stakeholders has reviewed the applications received and conducted first-round interviews. Second round interviews, which will include a planning exercise, are currently being scheduled. The goal is to announce the next Planning director in the next two weeks.

Climate Resiliency

Mary DeLai recently resigned as Climate Resiliency Manager. Before finishing her time in Ipswich, she will submit a recommendation for the preferred vendor for the municipal facility energy management project. Next steps include determining what, if any, Town departments will be able to continue this important, but resource intensive, effort.

Regional Animal Control

The Town is exploring the creation of an intermunicipal agreement between Ipswich, Rowley, Newbury, and Boxford to create a regional animal control program. Under the model currently being considered, Ipswich would be the host community and the other towns would pay an assessment for the services. This effort is being supported by the police chiefs in each community and is being guided by Ipswich's Animal Control Officer.

ReCreation and Culture

Save The Date: Ipswich Illumination 2023 will be held on October 6,7, and 8 with a rain dates of Oct 20, 21, and 22. The Department is also hosting free events in partnership with EBSCO, which is providing its hall for the programs. They are: February Film Festival at 6pm on Thursdays and Winter Wellness

Sampler at 6pm on Fridays. There will also be a screening of “A Reckoning in Boston” in honor of Black History Month at 7PM on Wednesday, February 15 at IHS.

Water Department

The Town’s application for the FY22 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding has been approved by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and forwarded to FEMA as part of the 2022 Massachusetts BRIC grant application. This funding will support the relocation of the wastewater pump station at the Town Wharf.

Additionally, the Town has been awarded a Gap III Grant for Municipal Drinking Water and/or Wastewater Facilities in the amount of \$191,512 through MassDEP’s Clean Energy Results Program (CERP) with the support of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The funds will support the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Upgrade Project that will replace and upgrade 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.

Boards, Committees and Commissions

Public Safety Building Committee, New England Biolabs, Rotary Club, Ipswich Aware, employee appreciation lunch, Hellenic Center, ICAM, Town Moderator, School Committee, Open Space Committee, Ipswich Youth Soccer, Regional ACO, MMA, Finance Committee.