

# Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg- June 15, 2021





## Contact Information

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## Announcement on Existing Vacancies:

The following is a list of current vacancies on the following committees:

- Architectural Preservation District Commission (2 vacancies-1 citizen at large and 1 representative from Historical Commission)
- Board of Assessors (2 vacancies-joint appointments between BOA and BOS until next ATE)
- Bylaw Review Committee (1 vacancy)
- Commissioner of Trust Funds (2 vacancies-joint appointment between CTF and BOS until next ATE)
- Economic Development Committee (1 person recommended by the Open Space Committee, 1 citizen at large, and 1 ex-officio member that is business owner)
- Senior Work Off Program Committee (1 vacancy)
- Zoning Board of Appeals ( 1 Associate vacancy)

Interested persons can find application forms on the Town Website and completed forms can be sent to the Select Board's Office.

## American Rescue Plan Act Funding:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that was signed in March of 2021 includes \$3.4 B in funding through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) for Massachusetts local governments. These funds are disbursed in two rounds, 50% became available as of June 1st and the remaining 50% becomes available not less than 12 months after the town receives the first disbursement. Requests for disbursement are done through a portal and the Finance Director submitted a request for the first 50% today. Based on the published allocation amounts, we should receive a disbursement of \$614,195. Eligible uses for these funds include public health spending. economic impacts of the public health emergency, lost public sector revenue, premium pay for essential workers and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Funds cannot be used to replenish a "rainy day" fund or other reserve fund or make a deposit to a pension fund.

I will be forming a group of relevant public officials to put together a plan for the use of these funds that will address any important infrastructure needs and would provide a meaningful impact to the community.

## Invitation for Bids:

We received filed sub-bids for the Roofing/Flashing work today for the Public Safety Carport project. The low bidder was Rockwell Roofing of Leominster for \$23,750. General bids are due Tuesday, June 22nd. Due to the recent inflation in the building industry, we expect the total cost for this project will exceed the capital article amount and therefore will need to be subsidized through the Facilities budget. Anticipating this as a need, we have earmarked funds for this purpose in the event the total cost exceeds the capital article amount of \$135,000.

## Flat Hill Culvert Update:

The engineer for the Flat Hill Road Culvert project provided an update to the DPW Director and I this past week. The engineered plans were submitted to MassDOT and are still under review. We submitted a Notice of Intent with Conservation in May and our engineer and the DPW Director met with Conservation on June 2nd. There were a few small issues with Conservation that were brought up that need to be further defined and resolved that the engineer will address before the next meeting with Conservation.

The engineer brought to our attention that the estimated construction costs for this project are now \$750,000. The DPW Director and I have asked for a breakdown of why the construction costs have escalated so substantially and are awaiting a response from the engineer. After speaking with the DPW Director, although it was our intent to move forward as quickly as possible with this project at the start of FY 2022, we are going to submit a Small Bridge Grant application in the hopes of receiving additional funding to supplement the FY22 capital article for this project. As we learn more information, I will keep the Board informed.

## Meetings, Events and Other Announcements:

- Lunenburg Farmers Market on the Ritter Lawn will be Sundays starting June 13th until October 10th 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. except on Sunday, July 4th.

- Summer Band Concerts will resume on Monday evenings at 7 p.m., July 12th until August 9th (with a rain date of an additional Monday on August 16th) and will outside the front entrance of the TCP Building.

