



Spencer Town News

Memorial Town Hall
Town of Spencer
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562



Spring 2016

www.spencerma.gov

Dates to Remember!

Real Estate Taxes Due
May 2, 2016

Car Seat Safety Check
May 7, 2016 - 9 AM to 1 PM
Spencer Police Department

Annual Town Meeting
May 5, 2016 - 7 PM
Memorial Town Hall

Annual Town Election
May 10, 2016
Memorial Town Hall
Polls open 7 AM to 8 PM

State Primary
September 8, 2016
Memorial Town Hall
Polls open 7 AM to 8 PM

Presidential Election
November 8, 2016
Memorial Town Hall
Polls open 7 AM to 8 PM

**Computer - TV
Small Electronics
Collection Day -Fee Applies**
May 21, 2016 - 9 AM to 1 PM
Oct. 15, 2016 - 9 AM to 1 PM
Spencer Highway Garage
7 Meadow Road



Town Hall Hours
Mon. - Wed. 7:30 - 4:30

For your convenience, there are
Payment Drop Boxes located at
the east side entrance and at the
lower level west side entrance.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Spencer Residents:

Happy spring! We've experienced a mild winter and are looking forward to spring-like weather and breathing in the fresh air while enjoying the great outdoors of Spencer and beyond.

After working with the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Town Staff, we are now in the final stages of preparing our Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant. As we work to rebuild service reductions that resulted from the Fiscal Year 2015 shortfall, we continue to be faced with financial challenges, particularly with revenue not keeping pace with our rising expenses and limited State Aid. Nevertheless we are committed to looking for creative ways to increase funding where possible and have established initiatives designed to account for the loss of State Aid and decline of Local Receipts. We established a Building and Property Reuse Advisory Committee that will develop recommendations for sale or reuse options of Town-owned buildings and property; we also established a Landfill Solar Development Advisory Committee to explore the development of a solar energy facility on the Town's capped landfill. In addition, we continue to pursue regionalization opportunities with neighboring towns with the goal of reducing expenses and providing efficient services.

Over the past several months, significant efforts have been made to address our declining roadway infrastructure. The latest Pavement Management (PM) database report (January, 2015) indicated Spencer's roadway network conditions were in a state of steep decline due to years of inadequate funding. In order to get this situation back under control the Board of Selectmen tasked the Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC) with revisiting the major backlog of road repairs to help determine both short and long term improvements. Multiple public hearings were held on a Roads Project to obtain public feedback and present detailed findings outlining the inadequate funding situation contributing to the deteriorating roadways. This led to a vote by the Board of Selectmen to place a Debt Exclusion Question for a \$19 million Comprehensive Roads Project at May 10th Annual Town Election. If passed, it will allow us to upgrade our roadway network and prevent further deterioration.

I encourage you to take a moment to visit our website at www.spencerma.gov for updates and information on the major undertakings and efforts taking place throughout the year as we continue to work to meet your needs.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your feedback and commitment to making your Town a great place to live.

Best Regards,

Adam D. Gaudette

Town Administrator

A BUSY ELECTION SEASON

There are three remaining elections in 2016. The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 10th from 7am to 8pm. Please make note of the change in the polling hours which in previous years began at noon. The State Primary will be on Thursday, September 8th from 7am to 8pm and the Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8th from 7am to 8pm.

At the May 10th Annual Town Election, Voters will elect three Selectman, a Town Moderator, one Assessor, two Spencer Representatives to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Committee, one Spencer Representative to the Southern Worcester Country Regional Vocational School District Committee (Bay Path), two Water Commissioners, one Park Commissioner, one Library Trustee, one Board of Health Member, one Housing Authority Member, one Sewer Commissioner, and three Constables.

All precincts vote at Town Hall. Precincts 1, 2 and 4 will vote in the Great Hall. Precinct 3 will vote in the McCourt Social Hall (lower level). If there is any confusion as to where you should vote, you may check with the Registrars in the rotunda for help when you enter Town Hall on Election Day.

Absentee ballots are available at least three to four weeks prior to an election. Those who are unable to vote on Election Day can vote by absentee ballot during regular office hours or by mail. You can request an absentee ballot up to noon on the Monday before the election. Contact the Town Clerk at 508-885-7500 x150 for more information.

There will be EARLY VOTING for the November 2016 Presidential Election. Details will be made available on the Town Website and other public venues once the regulations from the State are finalized.

SHARPS COLLECTION

The Board of Health approved the collection of "sharps", which are defined as discarded medical articles that can cause puncture or cuts. These items include but are not limited to all types of needles, syringes, lancets, and scalpel blades and are banned from being disposed of with household trash.

The Board of Health Office at the Town Hall and Transfer & Recycling Center (permit required) are the only permitted collection sites in Town. Regulations require all sharps be in properly labeled containers and placed in the recycling container by the resident (employees are not allowed to touch containers).

Contact the Board of Health Office at 508-885-7500 ext. 180 for additional information.

2016 DOG LICENSES DUE BY JUNE 30TH

NOTICE TO SEWER & SEPTIC SYSTEM USERS



Dog licenses for 2016 will be available at the Town Clerk's office beginning April 1st. Dog licensing performs an important public health measure as it provides proof of rabies vaccination, which will protect your pet should it be bitten by a rabid animal or another dog.

All previously registered dog owners are sent a bill from the Town Clerk's Office at the end of March. Licenses are issued in April, May and June of each year and must be obtained by June 30th. The fees are \$14.00 for male and female dogs and \$10.00 for spayed females or neutered males. Proof of rabies vaccination and spaying or neutering is required. A Kennel License is required for any household with more than three dogs. Dog owners aged 70 and over are exempt from the fee but must still license their dogs.

Licenses may be obtained in person, by mail, or online. To obtain by mail, send the required proofs, a check payable to the Town of Spencer in the correct amount and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Town Clerk, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. To obtain online, visit www.spencerma.gov and click on "Online Payments". Please note you must first have on file with the Town Clerk proof of your dog's current rabies vaccination.

If a dog is not licensed by June 30th, the owners will be charged a \$15.00 late charge. A continued failure to license a dog will result in additional fines and the filing of a criminal complaint.

Please help protect your dog, promote public health and safety, and prevent the issuance of late fees and fines by promptly licensing your pet.

Toilets & Septic systems are designed to dispose of human waste and toilet paper only. Almost any other type of material can restrict flow, clog pipes, damage equipment, and cause significant plumbing and septic problems, as well as cause environmental pollution.

Please help us keep the sewer system in proper working condition by keeping grease, food scraps, and cooking oils out of toilet and sink drains. Never EVER flush diapers, or wipes of any kind (even those marked flushable), paper towels, cotton balls, swabs, dental floss, cat litter, prescription medication, or band-aids.

With your cooperation, we can ensure our systems are operating in top condition. Thank you!

TOWN MEETING ARTICLES SUMMARY*

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, 7:00 P.M.

*AS OF PRINTING DEADLINE; THE FULL TEXT IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SPENCERMA.GOV

Article 1 would amend the FY 2016 budget using certified free cash in the amount of \$206,000.00.

Article 2 asks for an appropriation of \$1,000.00 for the Sick Leave Buy Back Fund from certified free cash.

Article 3 is the annual "housekeeping" item that consists mainly of establishing revolving funds for various departments, appropriates monies to be received from Chapter 90 State Aid to Highways Program, authorizes the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend various grant funds along with State and Federal grant-in-aid assistance, appropriates 100% of all fines, penalties and assessments collected under the provisions of MGL Ch 148A, and Ch 304 of the Acts of 2004, to the Building and Fire Code Enforcement Fines account and also allows for the setting aside of 50% of any monies received from the so-called "products," "conveyance," or "roll-back" tax under MGL Ch 61, 61A, and 61B, and 100% of all monies received from the state from the Forest Products Trust Fund to the Land Acquisition Stabilization Fund, gives the Treasurer/Collector authorization to borrow, and gives the Board of Selectmen authorization to negotiate contracts.

Article 4 sets the annual salaries for elected officials.

Article 5 sets the salaries for those employees who fall under the Personnel Bylaw with a 2.0% cost of living allowance.

Article 6 contains the various FY2017 appropriations for the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District.

Article 7 sets the FY2017 budgets for Bay Path Vocational High School education assessments and "buy in" debt assessments.

Article 8 asks for \$46,764.00 for Smith Vocational High School to cover tuition and transportation costs for an out-of-district educational program.

Article 9 asks for \$33,147.00 for Tantasqua Regional High School to cover tuition and transportation costs for an out-of-district educational program.

Article 10 asks for \$40,149.00 for Norfolk County Regional Agricultural High School to cover tuition and transportation costs for an out-of-district educational program.

Article 11 sets the FY2017 General Government Operating Budget.

Article 12 sets the FY2017 Operating Budget for the Water Dept.

Article 13 sets the FY2017 Operating Budget for the Sewer Dept.

Article 14 asks for an appropriation of \$101,587.00 for Water Dept. capital projects.

Article 15 asks for an appropriation of \$55,094.86 for Sewer Dept. capital projects.

Article 16 asks for an appropriation of \$88,000.00 for the Sewer Dept.'s portion of the Main Street TIP Project.

Article 17 asks for an appropriation of \$455,155.90 for various capital projects.

Article 18 asks for authorization for the Board of Selectmen to purchase, accept by gift or take by eminent domain portions of properties for the Main Street Reconstruction TIP project and to fund said takings with \$206,529.

Article 19 asks for authorization to borrow \$19,000,000.00 for a Comprehensive Roads Project as a debt exclusion.

Article 20 asks for authorization to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for a thirty year borrowing period for the Comprehensive Roads Project.

Article 21 asks for authorization to accept as a gift a parcel of land located at West Main St. Parcel 1-1, Map R29.

Article 22 asks the Town to vote to amend the General Bylaws Article 6 (Streets & Highways) Obstruction of streets & Sidewalks.

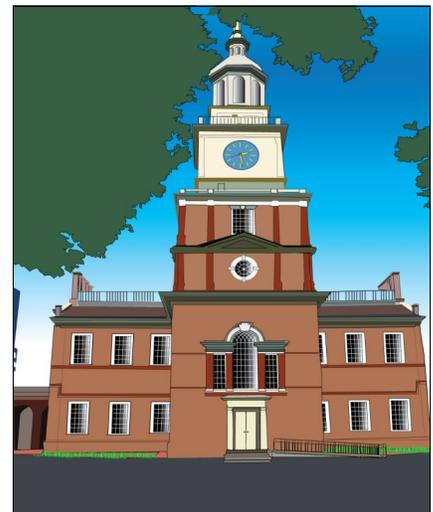
Articles 23 asks the Town to vote to amend the General Bylaws Article 14 (Stormwater Management).

Articles 24 asks the Town to Amend the Zoning Bylaw to include a new section 6.6 Fences and Hedges.

Article 25 asks the Town to amend the General Bylaws Article 6 (Streets & Highways) Driveway Cuts & Drainage.

Article 26 asks the Town to amend the Zoning Bylaws Section 6.2 (Driveways).

Article 27 asks the Town to Amend the Zoning Bylaws Section 4.3.20 (Tattoo Parlors).



Library Summer Programs

The Richard Sugden Library Summer Reading Programs for the summer of 2016 will include activities for all ages. This year we feature a fitness theme, with programs for children, teens, and adults. Programs include scavenger hunts, games, balloon sculpting, healthy cooking, and music programs including our popular Thursday Coffeehouses for adults. Online registration will be available in early June. Check our website at www.spencerpubliclibrary.org for details or call the library at 508-885-7513.



Spring-Summer 2016 News and Safety Tips from the Utilities & Facilities Office

Planned Utility and Road Work–2016 Spring/Summer/Fall Construction Projects

Mechanic Street: Final paving on Mechanic Street from Main Street to Chestnut Street will take place in the Spring-Summer 2016, which will complete that project. The Town will begin to look at alternatives to increase parking for that area.

Charlton Road Drainage Improvements: Pending easements and permitting we plan to replace an additional 6 cross culverts beneath Charlton Road (Route 31). We are working with the MassDOT to try to reconstruct the road as well.

Crack Sealing Roadway Maintenance: Greenville Street will be crack sealed in 2016.

Earley Street Water Main Replacement: In 2016 the Water Department will install new water mains on Earley Street.

Note: all gas utility work is done by National Grid and their subcontractors. Once gas is completed, we can begin our work. Watch our Website at www.spencerma.gov, or request to be added to our construction updates email list for project details. Please drive alert and safely around all road crews.

Comprehensive Roads Project

The Board of Selectmen held several public hearings over the past few months and presented detailed findings on the declining condition of our roadways due to inadequate funding. In order to get this situation back under control a substantial re-investment in Spencer's roadway infrastructure is necessary. A Debt Exclusion Question for a \$19 million Comprehensive Roads Project will be voted on at the May 10, 2016 Annual Town Election. If passed, it will allow us to upgrade our roadways and prevent further deterioration. For additional information on the this important Project, please visit www.spencerma.gov and look for the "Financial Management Planning Committee" page in the "Boards" drop down menu.

Ask the Wetland Soil Specialist

Thinking of starting a new spring project that involves clearing vegetation or disturbing soils? Not sure if you need any permits from the Town of Spencer? Wetland Soil Specialist Margaret Washburn is at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services to assist residents who may have questions regarding Conservation regulations or the Spencer Stormwater Bylaw. Ms. Washburn encourages any resident with a new project to meet with her prior to beginning the permit process. Answering questions and reviewing plans can save time and money. To make an appointment, please call 508-885-7500, Ext. 180.



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