

2017 Annual Report

Board of Selectmen

Office of the Town Manager

In January the Board of Selectmen adopted a Communication Plan for the Town. The key elements of the plan included increased usage of social media, better coordination of the various outlets utilized (web page, cable-tv, press, etc.) and more frequent and timely informational updates.

January also saw the beginning of a town-wide discussion related to the legalization of marijuana use in the Commonwealth. The Board of Selectmen held a meeting that was the first of several on the topic to educate the public and to provide forum for various constituents to share their perspectives. A state wide referendum was held in November that adopted for legalization of marijuana. The newly adopted law had several elements including the ability to open retail establishments. The ramifications of the new law and additional local legislative action will continue in 2018 before implementation of the retail portion of the state law is finalized in Hull.

In February the Board of Selectmen voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools Tyrell to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest Form for repairs to the Hull High School and Memorial Middle School. The two buildings require work associated with the exterior of the building and some HVAC rehabilitation.

Town Manager Lemnios submitted the FY18 Annual Budget to a joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and the Advisory Board. The annual budget projects the operational and financial plan for the community in the next Fiscal Year. The submission of the budget is the beginning of a process that culminates at Town Meeting. The Advisory Board reviews and analyzes the budget in order to make recommendations to Town Meeting.

In March the Board of Selectmen created an Economic Development Committee. The Committee includes representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, HRA, Chamber of Commerce and residents. The Committee will work on strategies to improve the economic climate in the community. The Committee's work will compliment two other grant funded efforts that the Board of Selectmen and Town Manger secured. The Pemberton Point Planning Grant will create a master plan for the Pemberton Point Area. Pemberton Point has multiple user groups that at times conflict with each other to diminish the quality of life for the residents in the area. The Board also received a grant to create a unified work plan for the Front Beach Business District. The Plan will coordinate the activities of the HRA, DCR and Town to create strategies for a more beneficial and coordinated redevelopment of the area. In 2017 the Board of Selectmen working with key state and local agencies continued to pursue an improved economic environment for the community. Planning efforts will continue into 2018.

In April, the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen received a grant to completely rebuild Atlantic Ave from Nantasket Ave to the Cohasset line. The project value is in excess of \$7 million dollars and construction will begin in 2021. The project includes a new roadway, accommodations for bicycles, improved pedestrian features and new sidewalks in the area.

In May the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager attended Town Meeting. Town Manager Lemnios presented the FY18 Budget which was adopted without any changes (see below).

Town of Hull					
Fiscal Year 2017 Projected Revenue and Expenditures					
	Revenue Summary	FY16	FY17	Dollar Change	Percent Change
7	Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	26,736,414	27,512,064	775,650	2.90%
11	Projected Net State Aid	6,161,301	6,347,487	186,186	3.02%
20	Total Local Receipts	5,196,773	5,624,716	427,943	8.23%
26	TOTAL RECEIPTS	38,094,488	39,484,267	1,389,779	3.65%
	Expenditure Summary	FY16	FY17	Dollar Change	Percent Change
31	Total Services Costs	36,326,845	37,359,458	1,032,613	2.84%
36	Other Total:	602,363	792,000	189,637	34.75%
41	Intergovernmental Total	1,165,280	1,332,809	167,529	14.38%
42	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	38,094,488	39,484,267	1,389,779	3.65%
	NET EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	0	(0)	(0)	

In May Selectmen Richardson and Sestito were re-elected without a challenge; a testimony to their tireless efforts and responsiveness to the residents of Hull.

In June Town Manger Lemnios reported that Fiscal Year 2017 (Year ending 6-30-17) was closed in good order, without any deficits. The Town's finances have stabilized over the past five years, however Town Manger Lemnios noted that consistent vigilance will be required over the next several fiscal years as revenue constraints will continue to conflict with increasing costs.

In July, the Board of Selectmen accompanied by many other Town officials and residents testified at a public hearing held by the MA Department of Public Utilities regarding a rate increase proposal by Aqaurion Water. The High School Auditorium was full and most spoke against the proposed increase, noting the frequency of service breaks, water quality and cost burden. The hearing was the first step in a lengthy public hearing that had not concluded by the close of 2017.

In August the Board of Selectmen received notice that Town's Flood insurance maps would be revised to more accurately reflect flood risks. The flood insurance map revision process began a year earlier as a joint project between the HRA and the Town. The revised maps will help a significant number of homeowners save on flood insurance premiums.

In September the Town Manager's Office began the process for renewing the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan identifies Town infrastructure and building that can be adversely impacted by storm damage and flooding. The Plan defines strategies to mitigate, to the extent

possible, damages associated with climate change. Hull has been at the forefront of this effort in Massachusetts for the past several years.

In October, the Board of Selectmen in partnership with the HRA held a public hearing to create a two-way roadway system on portions of Nantasket Ave in the HRA-Surfside area of Town. The re-calibrated roadway design will improve traffic flow, increase the economic viability of store fronts and create for a more vibrant business district. The planning for these changes will continue into 2018.

In November, the Board of Selectmen voted to establish a Solid Waste Task Force to examine options for residential curbside collection. The Task force will be meeting in 2018 and report to the Board of Selectmen.

In early December, Town Manager Lemnios presented a preview of the FY18 Budget for the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board. The budget preview is an annual presentation at the beginning of the budgetary process to present and affirm the revenue and expenditure assumptions that will be used to create the next fiscal year's budget. It an important step in the process as expectation levels for participants are communicated, which helps lead to a successful conclusion.

In closing, the Board and Town Manager thank all Town employees for their continued dedication and thoughtful service. In particular, both the Board of Selectmen and Town Manger Lemnios wish to recognize and thank James Lampke, Nancy Allen, Lori West and Kasey Lombardo in the Board of Selectmen/ Town Manager's Office for their tireless assistance throughout the year.

It is an honor to serve the residents of Hull.

Sincerely,

Kevin Richardson, Chair
On Behalf of the Board
Selectmen

Philip E. Lemnios
Town Manager

Christopher Mitchell, Vice Chair
Domenico Sestito, Clerk
John Reilly, Jr, Member
Jennifer Constable, Member