

July 21, 2009

My report to the Board of Selectmen

It's been a long time since I've done a formal report but with the 2009-2010 under way the vacation "challenge" is pretty well done for the Town employees that report to the First Selectman. Some employees carried over some time (to be used asap this year) and going forward everyone is aware that they can take vacation time as soon as the new fiscal year begins. This new way of spending vacation should avoid a "bunch of time" left at the end of the year and the need to budget for accumulated, unused vacation time.

Charter Revision is on to the next step which is advertising it in a newspaper with a general circulation in Town. If a small legal ad costs hundreds of dollars, I was quite concerned (to say the least) about the cost of 68 pages. The cost, from thousands of dollars to the price we settled on of \$959. through the Reminder Press and the bonus is it won't be in a microscopic font. It will be an insert in next week's Reminder. At our next meeting we will need to discuss and decide on the questions that will appear on the ballot. I'm giving you all copies of the Charter Revision Commission's recommended questions, please give them some thought and be ready to make a decision on the questions at our August 4 meeting.

The Police Department received a call yesterday from the U.S. COPS Grants office regarding compliance with the requirements of the "COPS" grant program. I don't have any more information at this point; will keep you informed if anything further happens.

New year stuff . . .

Park and Rec Grounds Maintenance, both equipment, etc and personnel, Keith Tetro, are officially getting paid under the Public Works budget. We are working on having Keith join the union the rest of the public works crew belongs to.

In working on this year's employee health insurance census, a couple of glitches needed to be cleaned up. The largest is that, although the Town received reimbursement, the Housing Authority was receiving health insurance through the Town. Our insurance carrier said our policy is only for Town employees; that allowing other agencies to fall under the Town's policy is a bad practice . . . where do you draw the line. Once we learned that, we informed the Housing Authority and provided them with some ways of finding insurance that works for their employees.

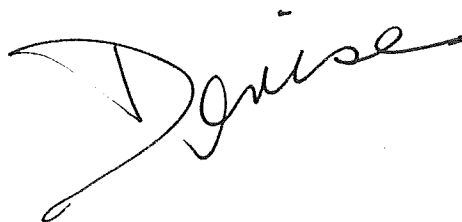
I met with the trash folks about our new contract this week. The contract is being reviewed by the Town Attorney. Our new containers have been ordered and we are working on the communications that need to go out to residents. We will be using fliers similar to those USA Hauling has used in other communities. The plan is to deliver the new recycling carts the week of September 7, the new trash carts the following week then both automated trash (every week) and recycling (every 2 weeks) pickups to start the week after that. We've also tentatively scheduled 2 heavy trash drop off dates, similar to what we did in April, looking at October 10 and April 17, 2010.

We've made an offer to our top candidate for the Tax Collector's position. She has verbally accepted and available to start July 27, I'm just waiting for a signed letter of acceptance before it is made official.

As you can see in the rear of this room, we have started cleaning out files to make room for files that need to be moved from the room next to Park and Rec and used by the Treasurer's office. We are also trying again to establish a secure "Town Files" room at the Annex. If you recall, last year, we had a room designated for that that ended up with water damage because a pipe burst. After that incident, the Building Committee, in consultation with Roger Baker, recommended that heating the old section of the Annex be discontinued. The heat was unregulated in the old section and pipes are so rusted that just touching them makes them leak/dissolve. This will save on fuel and, although it will be cold storage, we will be able to safely store files, etc without the danger of water damage. There is money in the Capital Improvement Reserves for shutting down the boiler, draining the pipes and adding heat to a few areas that need to be heated.

Finally, I wanted to recognize a group of wonderful gardeners that silently beautify the Town, the East Windsor Garden Club. What a wonderful, hardworking group of green thumbs. If you look right outside the front door, you will see their latest addition. At Town Hall, they are also the worker bees that plant and water the flowers in the planter under the flagpole. Thank you to all the members of the Garden Club for all they do silently to add color and cheer throughout Town.

Enjoy this summer weather. Take time to smell the flowers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the main body of text.