

To: Town Representatives and Town Meeting Members *ex officio*

From: Bob Nason, Town Administrator

Date: July 22, 2009

Re: August 6, 2009 **Special Town Meeting**

Please be advised that the members of the Select Board have scheduled a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Zukowski Auditorium at the Lee Middle and High School. Enclosed is the warrant which contains four articles. The warrant is also posted on the municipal website which is www.lee.ma.us.

As you may recall, at the June 19, 2009 Special Town Meeting Select Board Chairperson Patricia Carlino announced that this Special Town Meeting would be called once the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued its written commitment to provide \$936,000 of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment funding for alternative energy and energy efficiency measures at the drinking water treatment plant. Since you last met, DEP formally listed our project among its proposed Green Infrastructure Projects, and its final commitment is imminent.

By the August 6, 2009 Special Town Meeting we expect to have more information about how DEP plans to fund this project through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). At the present time we understand the DEP intends to issue a \$936,000 loan, and then forgive repayment of that loan, thereby converting the loan to a grant. While both design and construction costs are eligible expenses, we may have to borrow to pay for the design which must be completed before we receive the SRF "loan." By Town Meeting we expect to know if interim loan costs and "permanent loan" fees, if any, are also eligible expenses. It is our hope and expectation that all of the project costs will be covered by the \$936,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment funding.

The goal of this project is to remove the plant from the electrical grid through conservation measures and on-site alternative energy production, including the installation of variable speed drives, batching optimization, premium motor and lighting upgrades, hydroelectric, and an on-site photovoltaic system. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 (FY09) we spent \$35,652.87 on electricity to power the water treatment plant.

Article 2 addresses an appropriation that was inadvertently omitted from the May 14, 2009 (FY 2010) Annual Town Meeting, and Articles 3 and 4 address items that have arisen since the June 19th Special Town Meeting warrant was posted.

If you have any questions about the meeting or any Town business, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Copy and enclosure: Jeremia Pollard, Esq., Town Counsel
Finance Committee
Board of Public Works
Energy Efficiency Committee
Kathleen Borden, Town Accountant
Ronald Driscoll, Fire Chief
Susan Kelley, Town Treasurer
Christopher Pompei, P.E., Superintendent of Public Works