

TOWN OF KINGSTON

Memorandum

Office of the
Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen
FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Administrator
DATE : January 13, 2010
SUBJECT: Town Administrator’s Report for the BOS Meeting of January 19, 2010

FY07 State Earmark/Grant of \$200,000 for the Kingston Senior Center

I confirmed that the funds are still available and expect to receive paperwork from the State by January 15 to process the reimbursement invoice for funds expended.

New Bond Rating by Standard & Poor’s (S&P)

Good news - S&P rated the Town at AA-; two steps higher than the current Moody’s rating. S&P was impressed with the presentation on January 8 by Treasurer LaBrache, Town Planner Bott, Town Accountant Paquette, and me, and the Town’s financial management and budgetary practices. The following table shows the comparable investment grade ratings of the three major rating agencies; Kingston’s ratings are **highlighted**:

	Moody's	Standard & Poor's	Fitch
Best Quality	Aaa	AAA	AAA
High Quality	Aa1	AA+	AA+
	Aa2	AA	AA
	Aa3	AA-	AA-
Upper Medium Grade	A1	A+	A+
	A2	A	A
	A3	A-	A-
Medium Grade	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
	Baa2	BBB	BBB
	Baa3	BBB-	BBB-

Snow and Ice Deficit

Supt. Basler will present a request to deficit spend for Snow and Ice, and it will then be forwarded to the Finance Committee for joint action. As of January 13 the remaining balance is \$3,000. The deficit is expected to be approximately \$61,000 by next week pending materials ordered. MGL provides for the Town to incur a liability and make expenditures in excess of available appropriations - (MGL Chapter 44: Section 31D. Snow and ice removal; emergency expenditures; reporting requirements):

Any city or town may incur liability and make expenditures in any fiscal year in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal, provided that such expenditures are approved by the town manager and the finance or advisory committee in a town having a town manager, by the selectmen and the finance or advisory committee in any other town, by the city manager and the city council in a city having a city manager or by the mayor and city council in any other city; provided, however, that the appropriation for such purposes in said fiscal year equaled or exceeded the appropriation for said purposes in the prior fiscal year. Expenditures made under authority of this section shall be certified to the board of assessors and included in the next annual tax rate.

Every city or town shall annually, not later than September fifteenth, report to the division of local services of the department of revenue the total amounts appropriated and expended, including any funding or reimbursements received from the commonwealth, for snow and ice removal in the fiscal year ending on the preceding June thirtieth.

The FY09 appropriation was \$98,299. The fiscal year closed with expenditures at \$517,277, providing for a deficit of (\$173,978.56) after a supplemental appropriation of \$245,000 at the April 2009 Special Town Meeting. The remainder was applied to the tax rate to cure the deficit.

Miscellaneous:

- The GEC Wind Turbine Stakeholders follow-up meeting was held on January 7. Materials have been posted to the website (www.kingstonmass.org). The GEC voted to recommend that the turbine be located on top of the Town's landfill.
- On January 12, we had a meeting with the consultants for the Green Communities Grant Program. The consultants were funded by the Technical Assistance grant awarded to the Town in September. Compliance with the qualification criteria provides the Town eligibility in the state-wide grant pool of \$10,000,000. Qualification criteria includes:
 1. Adopt as-of-right siting, in designated locations, for Renewable Energy/Alternative Energy Generation (RE/AE), or RE/AE Research & Development, or RE/AE Manufacturing
 2. Adopt expedited (12 month) application/permitting process (for Item #1)
 3. Establish an energy use baseline inventory with a program to reduce baseline by 20% in 5 years
 4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles (with certain exemptions)
 5. Require all new residential construction > 3000 ft², and new commercial and industrial construction to minimize life-cycle energy cost ["stretch code"]
- We hosted the Area Regional Boards of Selectmen on January 14. The topic was solid waste and recycling.
- On January 20, I am meeting with SEMASS officials to discuss the proposed solid waste tonnage/ price per ton contract amendment/extension.
- A joint FinCom/BOS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21. It will provide an opportunity to review and establish budget and service priorities for FY11. Individual BOS members may email "priorities" directly to me, and I will compile for the meeting.
- MMA Conference is January 22&23. Chairman MacFarlane and Selectman Beaton are also attending.

Thank you.