

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 : February 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Report for the BOS Meeting of February 16, 2010

FY11 Budget/ATM Preparations: While the Governor's level funded State Aid projections are favorable to all towns, at the MMA Conference two weeks ago, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means urged Municipalities to forecast conservatively - as much as a 10% reduction in State Aid, including Chapter 70 (educational) Aid. Our projections remain at the reduced State Aid levels.

We also received preliminary quotes on Health insurance offerings which came in higher than the forecasted 10% increases. In FY10, our Joint Purchase Health Group/Trust subsidized 4% of the increases. We will be considering the same for FY11, but the surplus funds have diminished. Without a subsidy, premiums could increase 15-18% in FY11. Most members of the Group, including us forecasted a 10% increase, and we hope to get there. The premium payment contribution percentages in Kingston is 60% (employer); 40% (employee/elected officials/retirees). At our Steering Committee meeting this week, we noted that it is time to examine plan design and office co-pay (\$5) now to offset the FY12 rates. Such requires impact bargaining with Unions. The Steering Committee has Labor representatives from Fire, Police, and Teacher unions.

IAC: The Insurance Advisory Committee met to review quotes received on the Town's *voluntary* (employee pays 100%) benefit offerings, and recommended moving to a new benefit provider. The offerings are more comprehensive at the same or lower cost. Information will be distributed to all employees as the IAC expressed that some employees were not aware of the voluntary offerings (including dental), and the provider/advisor will hold open enrollments at targeted locations. Although employees will be encouraged to move to the new offerings, they may remain with the current providers.

Economic Target Area: Town Planner Bott and I met with Plympton officials and Buddy Rocha from the MA Office of Business Development regarding the ETA designation via Wareham (through Carver and Plympton if approved), in addition to or as an alternative to Plymouth. Mr. Rocha informed us that there are 40 ETA designations provided in the regulations with currently 2 available. Regional designations are allowed - there are two along 495. Mr. Rocha will contact the Old Colony Planning Council Executive Director. A designation for a Regional Planning

Agency will provide all of the Towns equal access to offer incentives and a unified front to business development for our area.

DOR Financial Management Review: The team (Scot Keefe and Joe Markarian) has been on-site for two consecutive Thursdays interviewing staff/officials and reviewing policies and procedures. They also met with the Town Government Study Committee meeting that same night.

Senior Center Building Committee: The Owners Project Manager, Architect, and I are putting the final touches on the contract bid documents. The Committee approved the bid scope. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for bid on or before March 1. The Committee recommended that a Clerk of the Works be hired to manage the on-site activities. We advertised a request for qualifications in the Patriot Ledger, MA Central Register, and on the Town's website. The Clerk will serve as a consultant – not a Town employee. Responses are due to our Office by 11:00am on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

Adam's Heritage Center Architectural Services: I have concluded negotiations with the Committee's recommended Architect (Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc.) and a contract will be executed in the next few days.

Annual Town Report: We are working to finalize the Report next week and printed the week of 3/1.

Miscellaneous:

- Town offices are closed on 2/15 for President's Day
- The next Affordable Housing joint meeting with the BOS and Planning Board is scheduled for Monday 3/22 at 7:00pm.
- FinCom FY11 Budget review meetings with Departments begin on Thursday 2/11.

*Thank you.*