

## **TA Report 1.23.11**

### **REMINDER: TOWN COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD AT THE SCHOOL DURING JANUARY**

**MASS MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE** was held in Boston Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Cokie Roberts spoke at the opening and during Women's luncheon. Her breadth of knowledge of the politics and the world was very much appreciated. Governor Patrick's optimism for the financial future was in contrast to the House Ways and Means Chair, Charlie Murphy who characterized this year's budget by saying he would stick a pencil in his eye and go and work on it some more. The Governor expressed interest in a local to state level development of regionalization saying the local communities are the only ones who know what configurations will actually work. He could draw lines on a map but the communities themselves must figure out what makes sense.

**CUSTODIAN** Sadly we are in search of new custodian again. The good news is Brent Allard's new job is going very well and they have expanded his hours. Brent thank you for all the hard work. The floors have been sparkling. You have been key in moving all the furniture for the work at town hall.

#### **JOB OPENING! HELP WANTED!**

So, if you are interested in a 6-10 hour a week position cleaning, scrubbing, shining town hall and the library, and have an interest and hands on approach in the maintenance of composting toilets please call me at 413-259-1214.

**TOWN HALL** On Saturday the olefin carpet was put down in the Assessor/Treasurer/Collector's office. The room is being ventilated with fans, open windows and heating. On Monday the wool carpet was installed in the Town Clerk's office. The pads under the carpet for both Assessor/Treasurer/Collector's office and the Town Clerk's office ARE made of natural fiber. Sheet rock is up in the hallway. It covers the acoustical tiles that allowed heat to pour through like a sieve. Heavy protective cardboard is done on the floor over our existing flooring. It feels warmer in here already.



Working hard in the Town Hall attic, carpenter Merrit Richmond, volunteers Dale Houle from the Building Committee and Craig Marden from the Energy Committee.

#### **FIRE STATION CLEAN UP**

We meet January 24, 2011 with the LUST recovery DEP officials from Boston and the

Springfield DEP contamination clean up folks who have helped us so much. Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik will be joining the Shutesbury Selectboard, Fire Chief and Town Administrator in a discussion about the repayment of the \$200,000 used this summer to remove 2000 tons of contaminated soil from beneath the fire station.

**FINANCES ARE IN THE AIR** The finance committee is working over the budget and department requests. Just as last year the finance committee requested departments prepare 2 budgets. The first a level funded budget and the second a minus 5% budget. We have been told that this coming year, FY12, will be the most difficult yet and are tightening our belts. But the first word from the Representative Steve Kulik was a little more optimistic. The goal of the Legislature is to level fund local aid. State revenues will have to increase from where they are now for this to be achievable.

On Friday and Saturday I will be at the MMA conference in Boston. The Governor will speak more about his budget. MMA, Mass Municipal Association, is a lobbying group made up of all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. At the conference there are workshops on economic trends, new legislation and new grant programs. For years the MMA has lobbied the state to restructure the state budget to relieve the constant pressure on local property tax to balance the books.

**NSLFC** has selected a fundraiser, Financial Development Agency (FDA), to help them with a feasibility study and fundraising campaign for the new library. FDA has extensive experience helping town's raise money to build libraries. The principal, Matt Blumenfeld, is local. The Friend's of the Library and the Library Trustees have each donated money in a cooperative effort to hire the giving expert to give the committee guidance on this major project.

**LFNAC** If you are around town Monday morning January 24, join us for a Shutesbury send off for those carrying the MBLC new Library grant packages to Boston. Anybody have a tuba?

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