

TA Report 12-18-09 (Please Note attachments are available at town hall or you can call or email me and I will mail you any attachment you would like)

SELECTMAN ERIC STOCKER I want to let folks in town know that our long time Finance Committee Chair and current Selectman, Eric Stocker, is recovering from a mild stroke that happened last weekend. We are all grateful that he is getting good care and his condition is improving. Overall, Eric's heart is in good condition, judging from the tests they have done. The more sleep and nourishment he gets the better he is doing. We all wish him the best as he works through his recovery. Please share your thoughts and concern with bright colored cards to Eric and BZ at: P.O. Box 84, Shutesbury, MA 01072.

Eric's trademark good humor and sound judgment are in tact. He submitted his resignation from the Selectboard today to focus his energy on recovery. Eric approached his position as a Selectman as he does everything, at 300 per cent. He has brought keen reasoning and problem solving to the Selectboard. The Selectboard members are attentive, hard working and concerned about all the issues before them. I know it will be hard for Eric to disengage. He has been a key figure in leading the community through the budgeting process amidst economic swings for the last 10 years. We will have to work extra hard without him. He is a pillar in the community and I wish him well.

FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK/ TUESDAY 12/22 at 7:00pm The Selectboard will decide whether to work with DEP in applying for LUST funds for the phase II/III clean up of the Shutesbury fire station. This opportunity resulted from DEP Springfield discussion with DEP Boston about ways to assist Shutesbury with the gasoline clean up. A newly discovered outbreak of gasoline into the neighboring wetland has made the issue more urgent. The town has taken the immediate response steps that DEP recommended and will be working on the Immediate Response Action.

What the Selectboard has to decide is whether to proceed independently with an environmental firm or under the guidance of DEP and the LUST fund program for the next phases. There is not a way to determine what the long term costs will be in advance. Under the DEP directed LUST program DEP will write the scope of services and take the lowest bidder. The work will be done and then the cost recovery will be determined. Cost recovery is subject to broad interpretation depending on individual situations. Cost recovery could mean an immediate lump sum repayment or repayment over time, or less than full repayment. And there is no way to know the details of terms before we move forward. We will have an opportunity to sit down with DEP Boston and go through all our questions at some point.

I contacted Stan Rosenberg's office. Mary Jane Bacon, the Senator's aid, researched the LUST program, their process and discussed it with Stan today. From their experience DEP is effective and efficient in the projects they are involved in. DEP is accountable for how the money is spent through a system of reports. Mary Jane Bacon found them knowledgeable about our situation.

The Selectboard will review information gathered at their Tuesday night meeting and make a decision on the best path to take. They are aware that the decision of how to handle this clean up will have lasting impact on the town and are working diligently to do what is best for the long run.

If you have anything to share on this subject, fire station cleanup/LUST funds, please contact me at town hall, the Selectmen, or join us at the meeting ON TUESDAY, 7:00PM.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 6:30pm. About 30 people attended the Special Town Meeting.

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum **\$80,000** from Free Cash to the Fire Station Gasoline Spill account for the Phase II and Phase III remediation of soil contamination, or take any other action relative thereto - **PASSED**

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Elementary School Resolution Re: Collaboration and Consolidation, or take any other action relative thereto. - **PASSED**

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to increase the budget salary compensation of town employees 1 ½% effective from July 1, 2009. - **PASSED**

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Seletboard to accept a deed in lieu of all outstanding real estate taxes for the following described parcel, book4020/ page 91: by accepting the Quitclaim Deed as a gift from Stanley Sablak to the Town of Shutesbury in lieu of all outstanding real estate taxes on the property. - **POSTPONED**

Note about Postponed: New information about the property has become known and the landowner and town will now have a chance to review it and decide if both parties want this to go forward

Becky Torres, Town Administrator, please call or email if you have questions.