



Peter B. Webster
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter B. Webster, Town Manager

DATE: April 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Information for the Selectmen

I have spent considerable time the past two weeks with the Listers, Assessor, and Attorney Merriman on the Bragg Hill suit. We had a full day mediation in Woodstock with Attorney Thomas Hayes, as you know, with two Selectboard members present for that session. This was followed by an executive session meeting to further discuss the settlement. We are also appealing, today, PV&R's latest CLA calculation, and our attorney and head Lister went to Montpelier to make our case. I will keep you apprised of any news on this front.

I have been interviewing three of the four companies that responded to our Communications RFP. Neil has done an outstanding job of coordinating these, along with Steve Leinoff, Doug Robinson and Andy Hodgdon. We currently have poor emergency communications coverage around our hilly Town, probably something on the order of less than 50% coverage, and the goal is to come as close to 100% coverage as possible and stay within a reasonable budget. We hope to have a recommendation for your May 12th meeting. Most, possibly all of the cost of the communications upgrades may come through Homeland Security grants.

The news from Montpelier concerning the Class 1 road situation is as follows: the Senate Transportation Committee could not be budged by our representatives, and are holding firm on their insistence the Town take over River Road as well as the other two segments. The alternative is that none of these roads become Town Class 1 roads. The bill is now in conference, you have all

been polled on this, and if push comes to shove we will proceed with all three sections becoming Town roads. I've invited Margaret Cheney to join us for an upcoming Selectboard meeting to give us her views and a wrap-up of the latest legislative session.

I am working with the commercial appraiser and representatives of the church on the parsonage appraisal. It will be at least a couple more weeks before we have the results of that appraisal.

Conflict of Interest Policy

You have in your packets a proposed policy that comes directly from the League. This is one of the recommendations from the audit, and I recommend its implementation.

Norwich Finances for Yankees

Steve Flanders of the Finance Committee has spent considerable time and effort to create a user-friendly explanation of financial issues here in Vermont, here in Norwich.

Policy on Town Email List

You have in your packets information on this continuing discussion.