

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

Date: December 31, 2020

RE: January 4th BOS Meeting Agenda Items

The following are comments in advance of Monday's meeting.

- *Item D.1-Social Services Commission/Senior and Individuals with Disabilities Tax Relief Program:* Social Services Chair Peg Koellmer informed me the Commission is willing to accept the Board of Selectmen's previous request that the Commission review the current program and make recommendations for possible changes.

As you recall, we set up a BOS subcommittee for the matter after the previous chair declined the Board of Selectmen's request. We will discuss whether to proceed with the Commission addressing the matter and thus terminate the BOS subcommittee. Peg Koellmer will be attending our meeting.

- *Item D-4-Excess Conveyance Tax Revenue:* As of today we have received approximately \$825,000 in conveyance tax revenue or \$375,000 more than the FY2021 total annual budget. Approximately \$82,000 of the excess is from the sale of the Avalon property. The balance of \$293,000 is primarily due to the increase in home sales. It is difficult to estimate the volume and value of home sales in the second half of FY2021, but in the second half of FY2020 and FY2019, the Town collected \$305,000 and \$220,000, respectively. As such, we can expect to receive additional conveyance revenue in the second half of FY2021.

Knowing we have this level of excess conveyance revenues, I recommend we consider investing up to an equivalent amount into deferred or required infrastructure projects, including projects at Schencks Island and Merwin Meadows and deferred building maintenance on Town Campus buildings.

- *Item D-5 Priorities-Second Half of FY2021:* The following are the top 5 priorities for FY2021, which will be discussed at the meeting.
 - Ongoing Maintenance of Critical Town Services
 - FY2022 Budget and 5-year Capital Spending/Investment and Bonding Plan
 - COVID-19, Including Vaccines and Anticipated Future Roll Back from Phase 2.1
 - Internet and Cell Service Improvement
 - Monitoring and Advocacy-2021 State Legislative Session, Including Anticipated Legislation Regarding Zoning, Regional Services and Expense and Revenue Shifting
- *Item D-7-Dissolve Schencks Island Merwin Meadows Study Committee, Miller Driscoll Building Committee, Real Estate Study Committee and Fire Station 2 Building Committee:* The work of these committees is complete, as such they should be officially dissolved.