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238 Danbury Road
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To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne A Vanderslice

Date: November 3, 2023

RE: Information in Advance of the November 6th BOS meeting

The following is information in advance of Monday's discussions.

- *Recommendation of a Vendor for the Pumper Engine Previously Approved for Bonding.* Chief Jim Blanchfield will present the recommended vendor and the process leading to the recommendation. The bid price, as in your packet, is \$924,551. The bonding approval was \$950,000.
- *Update on Banner Program Managed by WARF and Proposed Revisions to Agreement with WARF.* WARF President JR Sherman will provide an update on the Banner Program including a digital presentation of their new contribution to the Turf Fund. We will also continue discussion of the proposed revisions to the agreement to allow proceeds to be used for current playing field needs.
- *Possible three-year contract extension for Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield.* The Chief's contract ends in 2024. The Fire Commission has recommended a three-year extension.
- *Selectmen's Report-Increased Financial Assistance by Social Services and Increase in Participation at the Senior Center.*
 - Food Pantry Visits-3,511 in FY23 vs. 3,055 in FY22.
 - Energy Assistance-74 households in FY23 vs. 57 in FY22. FY24 participants have increased vs. FY23.

Sarah Heath reports this is likely a combination of increased need and their ongoing outreach to ensure all who need assistance are receiving all the assistance that is available. As previously shared, the COVID-required change to staff manning the food pantry resulted in more contacts and the expansion of assistance.

- Senior Center Visits-13,025 in FY23 vs. 6,331 in FY22.

This is likely a combination of 1-the great job Stephanie is doing in providing new and innovated programming. Hopefully you saw the FB photos of this week's newest-Tuesday's Monster Mash, 2-change to no fee, 3-aging population and 4-less concern with COVID.