



***Town Administrator***

7 MAIN STREET, Unit #3  
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01452  
(978) 928-1400 x 201 FAX (978) 928-3392

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Ryan M. McLane, Town Administrator

Date: March 15, 2019

Subject: Town Administrator's Report

The following is the Town Administrator's report for the period ending February 1, 2019.

1. **FY20 Budget Update** – The Finance Committee met this week about the budget and set their schedule as follows: April 4, April 16, April 22 (Public Budget Hearing) and April 25<sup>th</sup>. This compliments the Board of Selectmen's schedule and further information expected from the Quabbin Regional School District. The QRSD forwarded a budget (<http://www.qrsd.org/administration/budget/>) with an 8.83% assessment increase for Hubbardston (2.78% overall). This gives the town a \$191k deficit based on the numbers presented in [my budget](#).
2. **Chapter 90 Road Repair** – Attached is a certification letter from MassDOT indicating our road repair money for FY2020 will total \$355,135. This is a very slight decrease from last year; however, not out of line with expectations. There are legislative efforts aimed at increasing the state total from \$200m to \$300m which would apportion approximately \$70k in additional road monies to Hubbardston.
3. **Infrastructure update** – I will be attending the MPO meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> to advocate further for our Town Center project. While the STIP will not be finalized until later this spring, we are hopeful to see this generational project scheduled. Additionally, we received word from MassDOT that the failing culvert on Route 62 will receive federal funding next spring. This timeline has us hopeful that we will not need to fully close the bridge prior to its repair.

4. **Employee Review Process** – In the next two weeks I will be completing the annual employee review process. We established a precedent this year that triangulated employee reviews through a self-assessment, board/committee feedback and managerial comments. The staff considers this an important part of their push to self-develop and provide excellent services to town residents.
5. **Warrant Article Deadline** – To date we have received several non-standard warrant article requests. We continue to accept warrant articles from Boards, Committees and residents until April 1.
6. **Slade Building Information** – We continue to seek information about Willard Slade, the namesake of our town office building. Any leads on biographical information and/or pictures would be greatly appreciated. I have attached an article about the building's founding that we transmitted via social media.
7. **Employee Recognition** – This week I would like to recognize our DPW for their long hours this winter providing a high level of public safety. In particular, I would like to thank Travis Brown for his careful attention to the snow and ice budget. Although it was a seemingly mild winter, the town used hundreds of tons of salt and hundreds of man hours to fight slush, weekend storms and black ice. Thanks to several measures put in place, we are hopeful that this year will result in a negligible if any snow and ice spending deficit. This was a great job all around by our DPW.
8. **Upcoming Topics**
  - a. Town Meeting Warrant Draft Review
  - b. Public Budget Hearing
  - c. Community Benchmarking Discussion
  - d. Human Resource Policy Updates

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rm. McLane". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "J" at the end.

Ryan M. McLane  
Town Administrator



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO



February 28, 2019

Town of Hubbardston  
Town Administrator Ryan McLane  
7 Main St.  
Hubbardston, MA 01452

Dear Town Administrator Ryan McLane,

We are pleased to inform you that Chapter 90 local transportation aid funding for Fiscal year 2020 will total \$200 million statewide, pending final legislative approval.

This letter certifies that, pending final passage of the bond authorization, your community's Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal year 2020 is \$355,135. This apportionment will automatically be incorporated into your existing 10-year Chapter 90 contract, which will be available on the MassDOT website [www.massdot.state.ma.us/chapter90](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/chapter90).

The Chapter 90 program is an integral part of the maintaining and enhancing your community's infrastructure and is an essential component of our state-local partnership. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue the success of this program.

Thank you for all that you do to make the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor





Central Elm Tree

# Country Corner

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VOL. 1, NO. 10 10/15/73

RUTLAND MASS. — The Geographic Center Of Mass.

HUBBARDSTON - Hubbardston recently held an Open House at the new four room free standing building which is to be used for kindergarten.

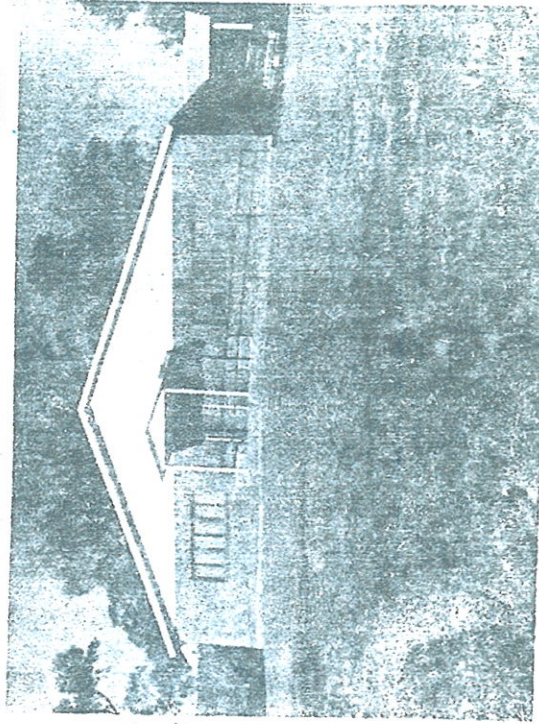
Paul Larson, chairman of the Hubbardston School Committee, said the building is leased from the Environmental Building Systems, Inc., Westfield, who erected the building. It will be leased for five years after which time it will become the property of the town.

He said they examined many possibilities including adding and portable classrooms until they saw a similar structure in Gardner. The total cost will be about \$153,000 over the five years. An addition would not be economical due to the age of the main building. The free standing building has the approval of the Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of Education.

It is allowable under the 5000 account for reimbursement of 50 percent.

The building was approved at a town meeting in April and took only three months to construct. The classrooms are 1200 square feet over the space required for kindergarten and the building could accommodate 90 students. There are presently 31 kindergarten students. One room with two sessions is scheduled this year. The kindergarten teacher is Mrs. Ruth Perry, Barre, with Mrs. Jini Rivers, Barre, as an aide. School Principal Ray Grandone said there are 262 students enrolled this year. Hubbardston has kindergarten thru sixth grade. Quabbin Regional High attend Quabbin Regional High in Barre. He said one room in the new building will be used for Art and tutoring.

The committeemen concluded that an addition or new building, which the state probably would have required, would have cost four times as much and have taken 2-3 years for a site and construction. They were all pleased with this solution, they said.



Free Standing School  
Opened In Hubbardston