

Board of Selectmen Update

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The Board of Selectmen are pleased to announce:

1. The Route 138 Intersection Improvement Project now ongoing on Rte 138, at the intersections with Washington and Randolph Streets is progressing well according to schedule. The project's construction crew will be placing down a base coat of roadway asphalt in the next few weeks and the project will continue through as the weather permits. The project is expected to be completed spring 2007. The Board of Selectmen received a 2.2 million dollar grant of funds for this project from the State. This project once completed, will improve both safety and efficiency, at these high traffic, high hazard intersections. The Town recognizes and appreciates the residents and businesses of the area for their patience and cooperation during this project.
2. The Downtown Underground Wiring Project is finally coming to completion. NSTAR and the Town have agreed that the completion of all of the electrical work for the project will occur no later than November 17, 2006. Our new historical streetlights are in place and many are now functional. Once NSTAR completes their electrical work and removes all wires from the poles, Verizon will then be responsible for the actual removal of the poles, which is expected to be completed this fall.
3. Board of Selectmen have completed and have made available to the public online at the Town of Canton homepage, a detailed written report regarding the town's financial condition. This report was made possible through the assistance of the Comprehensive Financial Condition Evaluation Committee. This group of elected and appointed officials representing a diverse group of Canton Town Officials was appointed by the BOS and began their work in the summer of 2006. The detailed report confirms the existence of a structural budget deficit. It too identifies a variety of possible solutions and approaches to addressing the deficits into the next few fiscal years. The Board of Selectmen wishes to extend its thanks and appreciation, to those committee members and the general public, who participated and contributed to this effort including attendance at five financial summit type meetings.
4. On November 14, 2006 the Board of Selectmen are scheduled, at their regular Tuesday night meeting, to finalize all aspects of the upcoming override ballot question. The form and content of any such question is strictly regulated by the State Department of Revenue. The public discussion will include the amount sought from the override and the form of question detailing the specific departments and service areas of the town, which the override will benefit if it is approved. The Special Election Ballot Override has been called for Tuesday, January 23, 2007. If approved at the special election, a subsequent appropriation of the funds will be required at the annual Town Meeting set for the last Monday in April, 2007. It is planned that any funds, which are made available from any override, would be appropriated annually and phased in over a three-year period.

5. The Board of Selectmen has conducted cable franchise negotiating sessions with Verizon to make way for a competitive cable television provider in town. The lone respondent to a Request for Proposals, issued by the Board of Selectmen, was Verizon. The RFP is available for public inspection. The process of negotiating a license is ongoing. It is expected by the end of 2006, the Board of Selectmen will hold a final public hearing, subject to contract negotiations with Verizon, to consider the award of a franchise to Verizon to provide video services in town.