

Town Manager's Report Monday, May 2, 2011

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

FIRE

Apparatus: With the Ladder 1 replacement overwhelmingly approved at Town Meeting, the Fire Chief expressed his sincere appreciation of the community's support of this worthy investment. Bids are due on May 10, with bid review and an award anticipated relatively soon thereafter.

LIBRARY

State Association Award: On April 27, Robin Demas was named the Massachusetts Library Association's 2011 Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year at the MLA Annual Conference. The Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year is awarded annually to an individual who exemplifies the following qualities: knows the value of paralibrarians in our libraries, works to increase visibility and opportunities for non-MLS staff, and demonstrates outstanding support for paralibrarians.



Fowler Grand Opening: The Fowler Branch Library's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony are scheduled for Saturday morning, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. **Ilse Plume** and **Steven Kellogg** will be featured authors/illustrators that day. All are welcome to attend.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Smart Grid Pilot Program: The Light Department has 81 residential and commercial customers who have volunteered to participate in the controlled central air conditioning and

swimming pool pump pilot program this summer. Concord Light is developing load management ideas using the Smart Grid infrastructure to reduce peak demand with minimal impact on residents, while reducing power and transmissions costs for the Town.

The Light Department will test several air conditioning control strategies including pre-cooling and cycling air conditioning on/off at different intervals during the hours when peak demand is anticipated. Swimming pool pumps will be shut off for a three-hour period during peak demand. The Concord Light will provide pilot participants with a new meter. Pilot participants with central air conditioning will also receive a new programmable thermostat. Concord Light will install a load switch for customers with swimming pool pumps.

The pilot begins around June 1 and runs through August 31. When participants are brought on line with the pilot depends on the completion of the Smart Grid infrastructure in their area of Town. The infrastructure is needed in order to communicate with the thermostats, meters, and load switches controlling the air conditioning or swimming pool pumps. When a Smart Grid construction phase is complete, Concord Light will schedule an appointment with each participant to install the new devices. The new meters in particular provide load information in greater detail than the current meter and can also measure a reduction in pilot participants' demand for electricity – the overall goal for this pilot.

Smart Grid Construction: Light Department crews have installed and turned up five of six Smart Grid Gateways (fiber terminal and EcoNet) in the Phase 1 deployment area. ECC/NextGen will complete the splicing for the sixth gateway this week.

This week, Intelagrid will be in Town to help deploy 19 additional ecoNets. They will also bring the necessary equipment in order to train Concord Light staff on how to provision customer meters, relays and thermostats in the EcoOne software system. All this will prepare the Light Department to start scheduling for load management customer conversions during the week of May 9.

Last week, ECC/NextGen placed 14,774 feet of aerial fiber cable and 5,961 feet of underground cable. The aerial work was in the Phase 4 construction area and the underground was in Phase 2 areas. Splicing and testing work of fiber strands was concentrated in Phase 2 and 3.

Solar Power Purchase Program Concord Light issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on April 28, inviting companies to submit their qualifications to provide services to our electricity customers who wish to participate in the Town's Solar Power Purchase Program, scheduled to launch in late summer. Vendors will install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the rooftops or grounds of interested residents and businesses, and will own and maintain the systems over the long term. The residents and businesses who host the systems will pay a small down payment on the PV system, and will purchase the electricity that it supplies to their home or business for an affordable rate that stays fixed over the long term. The program is designed for residents and businesses who wish to generate some of the electricity they use from a renewable source, but have been deterred from installing a solar PV system on their property due to the high upfront cost of purchasing a system outright. Vendors who wish to respond to the RFQ are encouraged to send a request for a copy to

jaceti@concordma.gov. Concord Light customers who wish to be notified when the program is launched may send a request to the same address.

2011 Undergrounding Project: The 2011 Underground Electrical Conversion Project is currently underway. This project includes converting the overhead electrical system to underground and installing an underground telecommunications system in the following areas: Belknap Street (from the railroad crossing to Elsinore Street), Brooks Street, Byron Street, Elsinore Street, Grant Street, Sudbury Road (from the railroad crossing to Southfield Road), and Whittemore Street. Last week, contracts were executed between the Town and Kobo Construction for the installation of conduit, conduit accessories and vaults. Kobo's work will start on Whittemore Street and then move to the other areas. The contractor's work on Whittemore is expected to take 2-3 weeks. Once the contractor completes the conduit installation under the roadway Light Plant crews will install conduit from the street to each home. Project updates can be found at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/ug%20conversion .

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday April 25, officers responded to Concord Convenience on Lowell Road for a past shoplifting. Upon further investigation, officers identified the subject responsible and arrested the party.

On Saturday April 30, officers responded to a motor vehicle crash at the intersection of Main St and Thoreau St. Upon concluding their investigation, officers determined that one of the operators involved was impaired and that subject was arrested for OUI (liquor). No one was hurt as a result of the crash.

Over the last two months Concord has experienced 4 house breaks during the day. Three of the breaks occurred on Fridays, and entry has been gained through different means, one of which was an open garage door. Items that have been taken were jewelry, televisions, and laptop computers. Officers are currently tracking down leads as other area departments have experienced similar thefts. Residents have been advised to keep their houses and vehicles locked, and to contact the Department if they see anything suspicious.

Community Services: Officers assisted with Town Meeting last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings reporting that, while there was a strong turnout, no parking issues or traffic related issues arose. Officers also assisted with the Earth Day Parade on Saturday. There were no major issues related to this event.