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September 2022

# Gov. signs infrastructure bond bill

### By Adrienne Núñez

While making four vetoes and offering five amendments, Gov. Charlie Baker On Aug. 10 signed a \$11.4 billion infrastructure bond bill known as MassTRAC, authorizing investments in the Commonwealth's roads, bridges, railways, transit agencies and environmental infrastructure.

"The funding authorized under MassTRAC allows the Commonwealth to take full advantage of the increased federal funding opportunities under the [federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law], including access to an additional \$1.8 billion in Federal Highway formula funds and the opportunity to compete for \$3.5 billion in discretionary federal grants," Baker wrote in his <u>signing</u> <u>statement</u>.

The governor approved all bond authorizations in the law. In addition to more than \$7.5 billion to support federal highway, state road and <u>BIL</u> projects, the law authorizes nearly \$1 billion for specific local transportation projects, \$85 million for non-federally funded roads, and \$55 million for municipal grants, including the <u>Municipal Pave-</u> <u>ment Program, Complete Streets</u>, and <u>Shared Streets and Spaces</u>. Additional authorizations will support rail, transit, aeronautics and other programs.

The law also provides \$400 million to address MBTA safety improvements, \$275 million toward an east-west passenger rail service, and \$215 million to support electric vehicle use and expand electric vehicle infrastructure.

The governor vetoed language in three sections that he said were "inconsistent" with Massachusetts Department of Transportation and MBTA operations and capital planning "or will not meet the intended objective."

The governor also vetoed four outside sections: two that proposed additional



The MassTRAC infrastructure bond law will inject \$11.4 billion of investments into the state's roads, bridges, railways, transit agencies and environmental infrastructure.

required reporting on construction projects from owner's representatives; a proposal requiring the MBTA to provide parking during construction projects; and a proposed car sharing surcharge exemption.

■ INFRASTRUCTURE continued on 14

## Inside

| Governor signs broad<br>cannabis legislation3        |
|--|
| Final zoning rules released<br>for MBTA communities5 |
| Economic development<br>bill remains in committee 6  |
| Governor signs climate<br>and clean energy bill      |
| Around the Commonwealth                              |
| People25   |
| Classifieds28  |
| Calendar 34  |

### Save the date for 2023 MMA Annual Meeting

### By John Ouellette

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 20 and 21, 2023.

The 44th annual event will be held at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston under the theme "Connect, Engage, Be Inspired."

The MMA is continuing to develop the program, and updates will be posted on <u>www.mma.org</u> during the month of September. Registration will open on Oct. 3.

The MMA Annual Meeting, the largest regular gathering of municipal officials in the state, is a forum for learning, networking, product and services information, and a celebration of the efforts and innovations in community governance. In addition to prominent



January 20 and 21, 2023 Boston

### 2022 MMA **Board of Directors**

The MMA Board of Directors holds regular meetings in Boston, followed by a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission with the administration. For information on the board's activities, call the office of MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith at 617-426-7272.

### **Executive Committee**

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# **Executive Director's Report**

## Formal legislative sessions end, but action continues

When the final gavels fell in the House and Senate chambers on the morning of Aug. 1, it marked the official transition from formal to informal sessions for the rest of the year. The two-year legislative session for 2021-2022 did not end. Rather it entered a new phase in which lawmakers conduct business without roll calls, with unanimous agreement required to advance any motion or

Informal sessions are common in all leg-

islative bodies, allowing routine business

to advance without demanding the atten-

dance of all members, so that lawmakers

can focus their time and attention on

key issues that will be debated, com-

promised, and reshaped as needed to

win approval from at least a majority.

between formal and informal sessions for

17 months, starting in the first January

Under the rules, the final five months are

"lame duck" sessions, in which departing

legislators who are no longer accountable

to the voters can pass laws, saving con-

troversial issues for the next set of law-

makers who will take office after voters

have their say in elections in September

spent exclusively in informal sessions.

This format was adopted to prevent

In Massachusetts, lawmakers toggle

all the way through the second July.

preparing, negotiating, and organizing

measure.



**By Geoffrey** Beckwith

Faced with a July 31 deadline, the pace of legislative activity reached a crescendo during the final days of formal sessions, and our representatives and senators enacted major legislation, capping off an extremely productive year and a half. The largest state budget in history was sent to the governor, with significant municipal and

education aid increases. Huge infrastructure bond bills were passed, including MassTRAC, an \$11.4 billion measure to invest in roads, bridges, transit and environmental capital needs, and a \$5.2 billion general government bond with funds for housing, water supplies, local projects, cultural facilities and state assets. A powerful climate bill was enacted, with policies, investments, and programs to make Massachusetts a leader in addressing global warming. New laws were written on mental health access, sports betting, cannabis, soldiers' home reforms, reproductive rights, gun licensure, extending the option of remote public meetings, and much more.

In the aftermath, there has been a lot of focus on the measures that did not make it across the formal-session finish line, primarily because it's human nature to look at the part of the glass that is onethird empty instead of the two-thirds that is filled with significant achievements

■ DIRECTOR'S REPORT continued on 24

# eBeacon

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**Communications &** 

Candace Pierce

Geoffrey Beckwith

Publisher

Design

**Membership** Director

.....

Manager of **Publications & Digital** Communications John Ouellette

Associate Editor

and November.

Jennifer Kavanaugh Digital Communications Full Circle Design

Specialist Meredith Gabrilska

**Massachusetts Municipal Association** Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108 617-426-7272 · www.mma.org Twitter and Facebook: @massmunicipal

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We encourage readers to send comments, story ideas, news items, and events notices to editor@mma.org.

# **Governor signs broad cannabis legislation**

### By Ali DiMatteo

Gov. Charlie Baker signed a comprehensive cannabis regulation law on Aug. 11 that is the most significant change to Massachusetts cannabis law since the legalization of adult-use marijuana in 2017.

The legislation (<u>Chapter 180 of the Acts of</u> 2022) comes after more than a month of negotiations between the House and Senate. The governor vetoed one section that was added by a House-Senate conference committee relative to studying medical marijuana in schools.

A number of the new law's provisions affect municipal host community agreements. Notably, the law eliminates the inclusion of community impact fees in host community agreements after the first eight years of a licensee's operation.

The law is also likely to retroactively subject existing host community agreements to scrutiny by the Cannabis Control Commission, a major concern for the MMA and local officials. This is due to the CCC's new authority for review and approval — not only at license application but also at each license renewal. Given that more than 1,000 host community agreements are currently in effect, the MMA and local officials argue that this language could result in significant and costly legal challenges.

Additionally, the CCC will now review, within 90 days, each new host community agreement, which the MMA argues will cause unnecessary delays and provide disincentives to bring the legal cannabis industry to many cities and towns in Massachusetts. The MMA has expressed strong concerns about these provisions in letters to the <u>House</u>, <u>Senate</u>, <u>conference</u> <u>committee</u>, and <u>Gov. Baker</u>.

The law calls for the CCC to promulgate regulations to establish minimum standards for host communities to promote and encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by people disproportionately harmed by the War on Drugs. To enter into an agreement with a marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center, municipalities must establish said procedures or policies. Cities and towns currently under agreement with marijuana establishments must establish such standards and policies or risk penalties totaling any received community impact fees from marijuana establishments.

The law includes several provisions that were strongly supported by the MMA, including the capitalization of a new Cannabis Equity Fund and other measures addressing the societal inequities worsened by the War on Drugs. Individuals with previous criminal records related to the possession or cultivation of amounts of marijuana that have since been decriminalized would be able to petition for their expungement under the law. The law codifies a new process for municipalities to allow on-site consumption of marijuana, which had previously been prohibited.

The law also mandates that 15% of the revenue collected by the Marijuana Regulation Fund be transferred to a Cannabis



A new law makes significant changes to cannabis regulation in Massachusetts.

Equity Trust Fund to encourage participation in the industry through grants and loans to entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and related enforcement.

The law provides an incentive for municipalities to host marijuana retailers that are social equity businesses, by distributing 1% of the total sales price received by such businesses back to cities and towns that host them. Each municipality that hosts at least one social equity retailer would qualify to receive this funding.

Gov. Baker vetoed a section of the bill that would have directed the CCC to study the possession and consumption of medical marijuana at schools by students with valid registration cards, stating that possession of marijuana on K-12 school grounds would be unlawful.

## Entire state now affected by worsening drought

With below-normal rainfall for the past seven months, minimal precipitation in July and August, and above-average temperatures, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Bethany Card announced on Aug. 24 that drought conditions have deteriorated across the state.

In a <u>Drought Status</u> update, Card declared that the Cape Cod Region is joining the Connecticut River Valley, Southeast, Northeast, and Central regions at Level 3: Critical Drought, just one step below Level 4: Emergency Drought. She said the Islands and Western regions are being elevated to Level 2: Significant Drought.



By late August, most of the state was experiencing critical drought conditions.

The declarations were the result of recommendations made by the state's Drought Management Task Force, which

states that the drought continues to impact the environment in many ways.

"The Commonwealth is experiencing extremely low streamflows in all regions, decreasing levels in reservoirs, dry streambeds, ponding, and diminished extent of streams in many watersheds leading to issues like lack of flow, increased turbidity, higher water temperature, and increase in growth of plants and algae in the water," the task force states. "Groundwater, which is a slow-reacting index, is decreasing in all regions."

The drought and high temperatures are increasing the risk of wildfires, and fire

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**DROUGHT** continued on 19

# Gov. Baker signs \$52.7B state budget for fiscal 2023

### By Jackie Lavender Bird

On July 28, Gov. Charlie Baker signed the \$52.7 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2023, which increases unrestricted local aid by 5.4% over fiscal 2022 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$495 million.

Overall, the budget, enacted by the Legislature on July 18, represents an increase of 9.3% over the fiscal 2022 budget. The governor vetoed just \$475,000 in gross spending and signed 153 of the budget bill's 194 outside sections.

The budget increases Unrestricted General Government Aid to \$1.23 billion and Chapter 70 aid to \$6 billion for fiscal 2023.

There's also a \$67 million increase for the Special Education Circuit Breaker account, an additional \$89.2 million for charter school mitigation payments, and an increase of \$10 million for Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes for state-owned land.

The budget forecasts a \$1.5 billion deposit in the state's Stabilization Fund, which would bring the total balance to \$8.4 billion, an all-time high.

The governor returned outside Section 134, which would give local retirement boards the option to increase cost-ofliving adjustments by up to 5% — above the standard cap of 3%. The governor's amended language addresses two concerns (shared by the MMA). The COLA decision would be made by a retirement board, but the cost would be borne by the participating municipalities and other entities, so the governor proposed language to ensure that municipalities are given appropriate authority to accept or reject the COLA decision. The governor's proposed language also would clarify that the potential 3% to 5% increase would apply only on the approved base, not the entire pension.

The governor also returned outside Section 174, which would direct the state comptroller to transfer \$20 million of the fiscal 2022 budget surplus to the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund. The governor's amendment would keep the \$20 million for the trust fund, and would add a \$10 million transfer to the Mass Life Sciences Investment Fund. The \$20 million for the Community Preservation Trust Fund would increase the state's match for CPA communities from an estimated 35% to 43% (about the same



Gov. Charlie Baker signs the fiscal 2023 budget at the State House on July 28. Looking on are Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito (left) and Administration and Finance Secretary Michael Heffernan. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/Governor's Press Office)

### as fiscal 2022).

The Division of Local Services has published local aid estimates for cities, towns and regional school districts based on the budget signed by the governor.

The state had been operating on a 30-day temporary budget since the fiscal year began on July 1.

### Chapter 70

On education aid, the budget commits to funding the Student Opportunity Act according to the originally intended schedule. In recognition of the challenges facing 135 "minimum aid" districts that would have received only a \$30 per student increase over the previous year, the budget doubles the minimum aid increase to \$60 per student.

### **Special Education Circuit Breaker**

The budget includes \$441 million for Special Education Circuit Breaker, which reimburses school districts for the high cost of educating students with disabilities.

The Student Opportunity Act expanded the circuit breaker by including out-of-district transportation, to be phased in over three years. The fiscal 2023 budget reflects years two and three of the schedule in the Student Opportunity Act, achieving full funding one year ahead of schedule.

### Charter School Mitigation Payments

The budget includes \$243 million for charter school mitigation payments, which funds the state's statutory obligation as outlined in the Student Opportunity Act, pushing the state to phase in the plan by fiscal 2023, a full year ahead of schedule.

### **School transportation**

The budget level-funds regional school transportation at \$82.1 million, representing a reimbursement rate of 85% of fiscal 2023 costs as estimated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The budget fully funds the McKinney-Vento account for transportation of homeless students at \$22.9 million, and level-funds out-of-district vocational transportation at \$250,000.

### PILOT

The budget increases Payments-in-Lieuof-Taxes for state-owned land by 29%, for a total of \$45 million. This account has been a key MMA priority for many years, as inadequate funding creates a significant hardship for smaller communities with large amounts of state-owned property. This year's increase is an important boost.

### **Rural School Aid**

The budget includes \$5.5 million for Rural School Aid to provide assistance to eligible towns and regional school districts. The grants will help schools facing the challenge of declining enrollment identify ways to form regional school districts or regionalize certain school services to create efficiencies.

# **DHCD releases final zoning rules for MBTA communities**

### By Ali DiMatteo

On Aug. 10, the Department of Housing and Community Development released its final <u>Multi-Family Zoning Requirements</u> for MBTA Communities.

A new Section 3A of the Zoning Act (M.G.L. Ch. 40A), enacted as part of the <u>2021 economic development law</u>, requires MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district of reasonable size near a transit station in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right — and meet other criteria set forth in the statute — or risk a loss of eligibility for funding from the state's MassWorks program, Housing Choice Initiative, or Local Capital Projects Fund.

The DHCD released draft compliance guidelines last Dec. 15 and conducted a public comment process through the end of March. In a <u>March 28 letter to DHCD</u> <u>Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox, the</u> MMA and the <u>Massachusetts Municipal</u> <u>Lawyers Association</u> expressed concerns about the draft rules, including that they exceeded the statutory authority conferred under Section 3A, that the compliance timeline was impractical, and that the rules lacked flexibility, particularly pertaining to affordability.

The DHCD's final guidelines incorporate changes that address some of the concerns highlighted by the MMA and numerous municipalities, including the following:

• **Revised community categories:** The final rules establish four MBTA community categories — rapid transit, commuter rail, adjacent and adjacent small town — and eliminate the "bus service" category.



- Adjustments for small/rural towns with no transit stations: The final guidelines eliminate a minimum land area requirement and reduce the multifamily unit capacity requirements for communities with populations of less than 7,000 or fewer than 500 residents per square mile.
- Flexibility for affordability **requirements:** The guidelines acknowledge existing inclusionary zoning requirements in municipalities, and will consider an affordability requirement to be consistent with "as of right" zoning as long as certain requirements are met. These include that the affordable units be listed on DHCD's Subsidized Housing Inventory, that the zoning requires not more than 10% of units in a project be affordable, and that the cap on income is not less than 80% of the area median income. The percentage of affordable units may be up to 20% if the requirement predates enactment of Section 3A and the community is able to demonstrate that its requirements will not make multifamily housing production infeasible, or if the zoning district receives DHCD review and approval as a smart growth district under Chapter 40R or under another DHCD zoning incentive program.
- **Changes to reasonable size criteria:** The guidelines establish "circuit breakers" so that multifamily unit capacity does not exceed 25% of a community's existing housing stock and multifamily land area does not exceed 1.5% of total developable land.
- Tailored district location requirements: The portion of a

### Managers get retirement plan advice

Mike Savage, a retirement plans specialist at MissionSquare (formerly ICMA-RC), offers financial tips for fiscal 2023 during a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting on July 21 at Cyprian Keyes Country Club in Boylston. Attendees also recognized retiring Brookline Town Administrator Melvin Kleckner. (<u>See related story, page 28</u>)



The final multifamily zoning rules for MBTA communities were released last month.

multifamily zoning district that must be located within a half mile of a transit station now varies, based on the amount of developable station area within each MBTA community. Communities with more developable station area land will be required to have more of their multifamily districts within a half mile of transit stations. A community with fewer than 100 developable acres within a half mile of the station will be free to choose any appropriate location.

• **Multifamily Unit Capacity Tool:** To help communities calculate multifamily unit capacity, the DHCD has built a compliance model workbook tool that will provide a GIS land map for each municipality and calculate a zoning district's multifamily unit capacity and gross density. The DHCD says the tool will be widely available for use in the fall.

The DHCD will recognize both "interim" and "district" compliance. An MBTA community meets interim compliance if it is taking active steps to enact a multifamily zoning district that complies with Section 3A. An MBTA community achieves district compliance when the DHCD determines that it has a multifamily zoning district that complies with Section 3A.

All 175 MBTA communities must achieve at least interim compliance — by submitting an action plan for full compliance by Jan. 31, 2023.

The DHCD <u>will be holding a webinar</u> <u>on Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.</u> to explain the final guidelines.

The MMA will continue to work with the DHCD to help communities comply with the new rules.

## Economic development bill remains in committee

### By Ali DiMatteo

During a frenzied finish of formal legislative sessions at the end of July, the House and Senate decided to hold a sweeping economic development bill for further review in a conference committee.

The decision was primarily due to a rarely triggered 36-year-old state law that could set aside nearly \$3 billion of the state's fiscal 2022 surplus for one-time tax relief. With days remaining in the session, lawmakers decided to wait and assess the full fiscal landscape.

The state law, Chapter 62F, limits tax revenue growth to the three-year average growth in state wages and salaries. If the cap is exceeded, the excess revenue must be provided as a proportional income tax credit to Massachusetts residents. The law was passed by voters in 1986, and tax revenues have exceeded the cap only once before, in 1987.

Record tax collections in fiscal 2022 are estimated to result in tax credits worth between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion. The state auditor will finalize the calculation later in September.

The development complicated discussions on an economic development bill because the roughly \$4 billion bottom



A roughly \$4 billion bill to bolster economic development in the state has been put on hold.

line of separate bills passed by the House and Senate would have used a blend of fiscal 2022 surplus revenues, bond authorizations, and a portion of the state's American Rescue Plan Act funds. The bills under discussion also included \$500 million in one-time tax rebates, and \$500 million in permanent tax cuts.

With no more formal legislative sessions scheduled until January, the conference committee is likely to wait until the fall to determine the financial impact of Chapter 62F.

It's possible that lawmakers could advance a pared-down economic development bill later this year, but doing so would require unanimous consent among legislators, since just one objection can stop legislation during informal sessions. This calls into question the size and timing of the legislation, if it moves forward at all.

The MMA has been advocating for much of the funding that House and Senate members had approved in their respective versions of the bill, including significant investments in MassWorks, environmental infrastructure, the Clean Water Trust, and affordable housing.

The conference committee could present a new version of the bill after adjusting for the Chapter 62F tax credits, but the final bill would look significantly different from earlier versions. For example, bond authorizations cannot be included because bonding bills require a roll call vote, which cannot occur in an informal session.

This also means there is roughly \$2.3 billion remaining in the state's ARPA funding for future allocation. <u>The MMA</u> had strongly urged the Legislature to allocate state ARPA funds in the economic <u>development legislation</u>, since federal ARPA rules require funds to be obligated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026. ●

## Governor signs climate and clean energy bill

### By Josie Ahlberg

Gov. Charlie Baker signed a offshore wind and climate bill on Aug. 11 that seeks to promote generation of clean power, upgrade the electric grid to accommodate an increase in clean energy, provide incentives for purchasing electric vehicles, and further pursue decarbonization.

The administration and legislators say the law will move Massachusetts toward achieving its 2030 and 2050 climate and energy targets.

### The Legislature passed its climate bill

on July 21, but the governor returned it with amendments on July 29, giving the House and Senate two days to respond to his proposals before the end of the legislative session. The Legislature passed an amended bill on July 31, and the governor had another 10 days to determine whether the Legislature had sufficiently addressed his concerns.

The final bill incorporates some, but not all, of the governor's proposed changes. It includes Baker's elimination of an offshore wind price cap, where the Legislature's preferred language would have only adjusted conditions to simplify and encourage bids when there are only one or two bids. But the final bill did not include Baker's request to use \$750 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding for clean energy projects, which legislators feared could make the bill's many provisions susceptible to line-item vetoes.

The law allows up to 10 communities to apply to participate in a demonstration program that prohibits or restricts fossil fuel use in new building construction or major renovation projects. The pilot program will allow the Department of Energy Resources to study the implementation of fossil fuel bans in participating



Under a new state law, up to 10 communities can participate in a pilot program to prohibit or restrict fossil fuel use in new building construction or major renovation projects.

municipalities and evaluate future best practices on decarbonization.

Baker had expressed concerns about the pilot program, saying it could adversely affect housing affordability and accessibility.

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# **Governor files \$840M supplemental budget**

### By Jackie Lavender Bird

Looking to close the books on fiscal 2022, Gov. Charlie Baker announced on Aug. 31 that he is filing a final supplemental budget bill that would allocate \$840 million of the state's considerable surplus.

The supplemental budget does not include, but accounts for, an additional \$2.94 billion that would go out in refunds to taxpayers under a 1986 law, Chapter 62F, which requires the state to return net state tax revenues when they exceed a certain cap. On Aug. 31, the Department of Revenue submitted the \$2.94 billion figure in its annual report to the state auditor for certification. By Sept. 20, the auditor must certify if the threshold under 62F has been met.

In early August, the Department of Revenue announced a preliminary fiscal 2022 surplus amount of \$1.9 billion, after accounting for 62F refunds, but the governor said that the figure has now grown to \$2.3 billion. Revenue in fiscal 2022 exceeded the previous year's collections by 20.5%.

The governor's supplemental budget proposal does not fully allocate the fiscal 2022 state surplus, leaving \$1.5 billion available, which, in combination with \$2.2 billion remaining in the state's American Rescue Plan Act Funds, could be used to support the tax relief measures and other critical investments in an <u>economic development bill pending</u> <u>in the Legislature</u>.

The governor's bill prioritizes investments in transportation, including \$200 million proposed to support the MBTA's work to comply with federal safety directives, and \$10 million to address staffing challenges at the agency.

The proposal also recommends \$37.3 million to support a number of school safety initiatives announced last week by the administration, including \$20 million for matching grants that will enable security and communications upgrades in K-12 schools and \$10 million for child care providers to support safety measures and emergency planning.

Other notable investments include:

- \$108 million for a reserve to support ongoing and future potential costs related to COVID-19, including for personal protective equipment, testing, treatment and vaccines
- \$50 million to support the construction, development and capacity of new provider-operated community housing options for individuals being discharged from skilled nursing facilities and psychiatric, chronic and rehabilitation hospitals
- \$39 million to modernize the Commonwealth's information technology infrastructure, improve

cybersecurity and resiliency efforts and optimize space efficiency across Executive department offices

- \$30 million to support the implementation of federal funding received through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in fiscal 2023, including for project design, permitting, real estate transactions and engineering
- \$20 million to address the needs of immigrants and refugees, including temporary housing costs
- \$20 million to establish regional low-threshold housing for homeless or housing unstable individuals with substance use disorder

Outside policy sections would make technical corrections for the implementation of various new statutes that became law earlier this month, including laws related to new offshore wind development tax credits and the 1% allocation of the retail sales price of marijuana based on social equity businesses.

State surplus revenues from fiscal 2022 have allowed for the deposit of \$2.3 billion into the state's stabilization account, bringing the balance to an alltime high of \$6.9 billion.

 Link to the governor's press release about the supplemental budget

## MMA provides update on significant legislation affecting municipalities

Given the significant activity on Beacon Hill in late July and early August, the <u>MMA hosted a webinar on Aug. 18</u> to provide an update to members on legislative matters that affect cities and towns.

Members of the MMA's Legislative Division covered key items that passed (or didn't), as well as what's on the horizon. They also answered questions from members.

Topics included the fiscal 2023 state budget, cannabis, an economic development bill and tax relief, public health standards, remote and hybrid public meetings, the MassTRAC infrastructure package, Chapter 90, climate and clean energy, a general government bond bill, election reforms, the Public Lands Preservation Act, the Winter Recovery Assistance Program, local-option costof-living adjustments, pensions and benefits, extended producer responsibility, and state American Rescue Plan Act funds and other federal resources.

Presenters also discussed the final guidance for new zoning rules for MBTA Communities, and what might be expected during the rest of this year.

• <u>View webinar</u> •



MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman discusses recent legislative developments during an Aug. 18 webinar for MMA members.

# Gov. sends public health bill back with amendment

### By Ali DiMatteo

Gov. Charlie Baker on Aug. 8 sent a public health reform bill back to the Legislature unsigned with an amendment.

The legislation (H. 5104), known as SA-PHE 2.0, aims to establish minimum standards for local public health departments, create a unified standard public health reporting and data collection system, and advance the capacity of state and local public health departments.

The governor's proposed amendment would allow municipalities to opt in to foundational standards to be developed by the Department of Public Health. By opting in, municipalities would be eligible to receive funding appropriated to the DPH for the implementation of the foundational standards for boards of public health, as determined by the remainder of the legislation.

In filing his amendment, Gov. Baker stated that he "strongly support[s] the aim of [the] bill," but "while the bill clearly contemplates the provision of state support for boards to implement these standards, such funding is not guaranteed. ... This aspect of the bill is likely to give rise to the sorts of budgeting and funding disputes that [state law] seeks to prevent by prohibiting unfunded local mandates." (The referenced law is <u>Chapter 29, Section</u> <u>27C</u>.)

Under the governor's amendment, access to additional state aid would be contingent on the municipality opting in *and* maintaining public health funding at the same level as the immediately preceding year.

Legislators must decide whether to accept the governor's amendment, reject it, or



return a bill back to him — either a new version or the <u>same one they enacted</u> <u>in late July</u>. Because formal legislative sessions ended on July 31, any action would require unanimous consent among legislators, since just one objection can stop legislation during informal sessions. The original bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously.

The legislation builds on initial recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health in 2019 and gained new urgency during the COVID pandemic. It calls on the DPH to provide funding to local boards of health to implement and comply with new state-set minimum operational and service standards, known as "foundational public health services." This funding may include competitive grants to improve delivery across three or more municipalities through shared services and annual non-competitive formula funding, as well as grants and technical assistance for municipalities that have limited operational capacity to meet local public health responsibilities as required by law or regulations.

The bill would charge the DPH with developing, by June 1, 2023, a state action plan for public health excellence to:

• Provide every resident of the Commonwealth with foundational public health services

- Assist local boards of health in adopting practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of foundational public health services
- Develop a set of standards for foundational public health services across the Commonwealth

### New select board members tackle municipal finance

Pam Dukeman, Westwood's assistant town administrator and finance director, leads newly elected select board members through a municipal finance and budgeting 101 session during the Massachusetts Select Board Association's July 23 training for recently elected members in Devens.



Gov. Charlie Baker sent a bill to reform the public health system back to the Legislature with an amendment.

- Promote and provide adequate resources for boards of health by:
  - supporting boards of health to meet the standards
  - increasing cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health programs to strengthen the service delivery capabilities
  - improving planning and system accountability of the municipal and regional public health systems, including statewide data collection and reporting
  - establishing workforce credentialing standards
  - expanding access to professional development, training and technical assistance for municipal and regional public health officials and staff

The bill passed by the Legislature would direct the DPH to file a report with the Legislature by June 1, 2023, providing an analysis of the needs, opportunities, challenges, timeline and cost analysis for the implementation of the new mandated standards.

The bill would allow the state's financial obligations to be subject to appropriation, while municipalities would be required to meet the responsibilities and standards of the legislation regardless of whether state funding is adequate. In a July 28 letter to a House-Senate conference committee, the MMA expressed support for the intent of the legislation, but strong opposition to this aspect of the bill.

In late 2021, the Legislature allocated \$200 million for local and regional boards of public health as part of its \$4 billion COVID recovery bill, which used part of the state's American Rescue Plan Act funding.

# \$32.8M in climate change funding awarded

On Aug. 30, the administration announced \$32.8 million in grants to cities and towns through the <u>Municipal Vulnerability</u> <u>Preparedness</u> program, which will help communities identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change.

The administration has now awarded \$100 million to 341 cities and towns through the MVP program, which was launched in 2017.

At an announcement event in Williamsburg, Gov. Baker said the program "has played a large role in helping cities and towns across the state fight climate change," adding that the latest round is "the single largest investment in the program."

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said, "It has been rewarding to see projects move through the phases from planning to design to construction and implementation over the last five years, and we are starting to see the tangible difference these projects are making in our communities as we prepare for a changing climate."

The MVP program provides funding and technical support, pairing local leadership and knowledge with resources from the state to address ongoing climate change impacts, such as inland flooding, increased storm events, sea level rise, drought and extreme temperatures.

Of the \$32.8 million announced on Aug. 30, \$32.6 million was awarded to 73 municipal projects in the sixth round of MVP Action Grant funding. In addition, \$157,700 was awarded to six towns to pursue a community-led planning process to identify vulnerabilities to climate change and priority actions. When complete, these municipalities will be eligible for the next round of implementation funding.

### <u>Click here to view the complete list of MVP</u> <u>grant recipients and projects</u>.

"Every year the real need for climate resilience funding becomes even more important for our municipal partners, who have remained steadfast in their commitment to the hard work of preparing their communities for climate change," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Beth Card. "It is extremely gratifying to see more dollars than ever before being put towards local projects, such as drought mitigation, stormwater and culvert upgrades, and land acquisitions, which will have numerous positive impacts on the state's residents for many years to come."

As the MVP program reaches its five-year anniversary, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is formulating a process, trainings and resources, called "MVP Planning 2.0," for updating MVP plans and the priority actions identified within them. The EEA says it is seeking to develop an updated process that is "inclusive, engaging, equitable, collaborative and actionable."

The update process will take into account newly available climate change tools and projections, the ongoing Massachusetts Climate Assessment, data from the first iteration of MVP planning grants, and feedback from MVP stakeholders. The revamped process and resources are expected to launch in the spring of 2023.

The MVP program also supports implementation of the 2018 <u>State Hazard</u>



Andover and Lawrence have received a \$271,705 Action Grant for nature-based flood resilience for the Shawsheen River. This year's grant project will build upon a prior resilience project by quantifying the flood mitigation benefits that could be gained from implementation of flood storage and/or restoration projects on several prioritized parcels.

### Mitigation and Climate Adaptation

Plan, which integrates hazard mitigation priorities with forward-looking climate change data and solutions. The Resilient MA Action Team recently launched the <u>Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool</u> to integrate best available statewide climate change projections to inform climate resilient planning and design of infrastructure, buildings and natural resource assets. The tool was used in the 2022 MVP Action Grant and Community One Stop for Growth application processes.

The Resilient MA Action Team and EEA are now developing a statewide analysis detailing how Massachusetts people, environments and infrastructure may be affected by climate change and related hazards through the end of the century. The assessment will inform the first five-year update to the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, which will be released in the fall of 2023.

## **Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is Oct. 6**

The Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit, designed to help municipal leaders, first responders, utility providers and IT personnel improve cybersecurity programs in their city or town, will be held on Oct. 6 as part of Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month.

The free, virtual event will feature cybersecurity experts from state and federal organizations and the private sector providing a better understanding of current cybersecurity issues and practical ideas for improving cybersecurity.

The summit will highlight the evolving fed-

eral policy and available security resources to support local initiatives, including the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act grant program. It will also feature keynotes from state and federal officials, and sessions to learn about the latest threats and modern security concepts, including "zero-trust architecture."

The event will also provide opportunities for collaboration and information about resources and programs to help municipalities enhance their cyber-culture, protect against cyberattacks, and improve their cybersecurity resiliency.



Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit 6 October 2022

Created by the <u>MassCyberCenter</u> at the Mass Tech Collaborative, the event will be held on EventMobi, a dynamic virtual event platform that will provide opportunities for attendees to engage directly with each other and network throughout the event.

For more information and to register, visit <u>www.MassCyberCenter.org</u>. ●

## **Public lands preservation bill remains in conference**

### By Josie Ahlberg

As the Legislature concluded its formal session for the year on July 31, legislation seeking to amend the longstanding process to preserve public lands during land transfers or land use changes remained in conference committee discussions.

Conference committee members indicated, however, that a final version of a public lands preservation bill could still be addressed during an informal session, although doing so would require unanimous consent among legislators.

Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution provides a clear process for protecting public lands and establishes a series of steps necessary to preserve open space in the case of land use change or disposal. Open space refers to conservation, forested, recreational, agricultural and undeveloped land, as well as green buffers along open areas and roadways. These lands are often home to important environmental features such as natural habitats and terrain, and can be vital resources for public recreation.

Under Article 97's "no net loss" policy, when a municipality or public entity



A public lands preservation bill remains in conference committee discussions.

makes a proposal to dispose of or use protected open space for a different purpose, it must mitigate the loss by providing comparable replacement land.

The two bills the conference committee is seeking to reconcile (<u>H. 851</u> and <u>S. 2831</u>) would codify the process articulated by Article 97, and, in addition, would require communities to complete a feasibility study regarding the purchase of replacement land and/or the payment of mitigation fees for lost land.

The MMA argues that such a study could be costly and add significant delays to the new public benefits achieved through a change of use. For many years, the MMA has opposed further codification and expansion of Article 97 as unwarranted and an unnecessary burden on municipalities who have dutifully followed the established process for decades.

The Senate version of the bill provides an important alternative for municipalities that struggle to find replacement land to satisfy existing requirements. This flexibility would allow the secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to waive or modify requirements when comparable land is not easily available to be used as replacement, presenting more options for municipalities to satisfy the intent of Article 97's "no net loss" policy.

Under the Senate bill, Energy and Environmental Affairs would have the ability to permit funding for the acquisition of replacement land at a later time. This language could help reduce the likelihood of delays and other unintended consequences from a more rigid, "onesize-fits-all" approach.

The MMA voiced its support for including these updated modifications in a <u>letter to the conference committee</u> on July 22.

## Gov. signs \$5.2B general government bond law, vetoes some sections

### By Dave Koffman

On Aug. 4, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a bond bill that will provide roughly \$5.2 billion in capital investments related to various general government infrastructure, including authorizations for state programs, services, agencies and institutions, many of which affect municipalities.

The governor signed the majority of the bill (<u>H. 5065</u>), but vetoed several sections, including a new technology grant program for municipalities to expand remote or hybrid access to public meetings, and a five-year moratorium on prison and jail construction, both of which had been included in the compromise bill passed unanimously by the Legislature on July 26.

With the end of formal legislative sessions on July 31, the vetoes cannot be overridden, as doing so would require "supermajority" votes in each chamber. Key municipal items in the law include:

- \$100 million for municipal grants to support a range of local infrastructure improvements and projects
- \$84 million to support state matching funds required to secure federal dollars for the <u>Massachusetts State Revolving</u> <u>Fund</u>, which helps cities and towns improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety, and to make a \$20 million dedicated investment in the Drinking Water Revolving Fund
- \$60 million for the <u>Housing</u> <u>Stabilization Fund</u>, which provides funding for municipalities, nonprofits, for-profit developers and local housing authorities in support of affordable rental housing production and rehabilitation
- \$50 million for the <u>Cultural</u> <u>Facilities Fund</u> to provide grants for planning, acquisition, rehabilitation



A general government bond law signed on Aug. 4 will provide \$5.2 billion for capital investments.

and construction of cultural facilities, administered through Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment

 \$25 million for <u>Housing Choice</u> grants to municipalities that receive a Housing Choice designation

# Shared Streets and Spaces awards \$16.4M in grants

### By Adrienne Núñez

On Aug. 2 in Plymouth, the Baker-Polito administration announced \$16.4 million in grants to 138 municipalities and seven regional transit authorities through the Shared Streets and Spaces program.

The largest award round since the program's launch in June 2020 will be used by recipients to implement projects that focus on improving safety for walking, biking, public transit, recreation, commerce and civic activities.

This round of funding prioritized projects that would improve safety by reducing vehicle speeds and projects that include the purchase of equipment necessary to improve and maintain transportation infrastructure for active use.

Shared Streets and Spaces, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, provides grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000 to municipalities and transit authorities to implement temporary or permanent changes to streets that help to ensure safety for all users. So far, the program has awarded more than \$50 million to facilitate 494 projects. Communities have used the funding to create new spaces for outdoor dining, create new walking paths, and improve connectivity within their communities, among other uses.

At the press event in Plymouth, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito reflected on the evolution and growth of Shared Streets and Spaces, saying it now "feels permanent to me ... and that is a good thing."

Polito credited municipal officials and business owners for their ideas to use outdoor spaces to encourage community engagement as communities focused on reopening following COVID-19 restrictions. She said many of these adaptations of outdoor spaces "have become a permanent feature for many communities."

Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler said Shared Streets and Spaces "allows each community ... to use their spaces their way."

"It's intended to really unleash the innovation and ideas of our communities, and intended to move quickly," he said.

Shared Streets and Spaces provides technical assistance and funding to support cities and towns to design and



In Plymouth on Aug. 2, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announces \$16.4 million for 184 awards to 138 municipalities and seven Regional Transit Authorities through the Shared Streets and Spaces Program. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/ Governor's Press Office)

implement changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health, safe mobility, and community growth and revitalization.

Of this year's awarded municipalities, 53% are designated Environmental Justice communities and 31% are first-time recipients of a Shared Streets and Spaces grant.

• <u>View the list of the awardees and</u> project summaries

## Mattress grants promote recycling ahead of November ban

### By Josie Ahlberg

On July 27, the Baker-Polito administration <u>announced the award of \$440,000</u> <u>in grants</u> through the <u>Sustainable</u> <u>Materials Recovery Program</u> to help 44 municipalities purchase mattress collection containers.

The containers, used to store discarded mattresses and box springs until a full container can be transported to a recycling facility, will help cities and towns comply with a ban on disposing of mattresses and box springs in landfills or combustion facilities, which takes effect on Nov. 1.

More than 75% of the components of most mattresses and box springs can be recycled, making them a target for <u>solid</u> <u>waste disposal bans</u>. Due to their size and bulk, mattresses and box springs are often costly to dispose of and take a lot of space in landfills.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is providing

a number of municipal grant opportunities to promote mattress recycling programs, including the <u>Recycling Dividends Program</u>. The funding opportunities are also intended to help municipalities reach objectives articulated in the <u>2030 Solid Waste Master Plan</u>.

The 44 cities and towns receiving grants for mattress collection containers (\$10,000 each) will still be responsible for financing accompanying recycling programs, something 126 municipalities have done to date through MassDEP grants and regional programs.

Bills to establish a free, statewide mattress recycling or stewardship program did not succeed during the recently concluded formal legislative sessions.

One potential avenue for financing statewide mattresses recycling is extended producer responsibility, which would require manufacturers, not municipalities, to pay for the recycling of discarded mattresses and box springs



In late July, the state announced grants to help 44 communities buy containers to store discarded mattresses as part of an effort to divert them from landfills and incinerators.

through a fee charged to consumers at the point of purchase. Connecticut and Rhode Island have EPR programs for mattresses and charge a fee of \$11.75 and \$16 per mattress, respectively. The programs have diverted more than 1.5 million units to recycling facilities rather than landfills or incineration. ●

## **EPA announces funding for water infrastructure loans**

Local governments can apply for loans to improve their water infrastructure through a new round of \$6.5 billion in funding recently announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Financing is available through the <u>Water</u> <u>Infrastructure Finance and Innovation</u> <u>Act program</u> and the <u>State Infrastructure</u> <u>Financing Authority WIFIA program</u>, with a focus on underserved and overburdened communities.

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the EPA's federal loan and guarantee program aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

"Water infrastructure provides the foundation for healthy and vibrant communities by delivering safe drinking water and returning our treated wastewater to the environment," said Radhika Fox, the EPA's assistant administrator for water, in a statement. "In too many communities, these essential pipes and pumps are decades old and need to be upgraded."

For this funding round, the EPA has identified four priorities for project financing:

- Increasing investment in economically stressed communities
- Making rapid progress on lead service line replacement
- Addressing PFAS and emerging



Federal financing can help local governments improve their water infrastructure.

### contaminants

• Supporting "one water" innovation and resilience

Prospective borrowers can begin submitting letters of interest to the EPA on Sept. 6. The EPA will continue accepting letters of interest until all of the available funds have been committed, though it recommends that letters of interest be sent early in the process.

Assistance can support a wide range of projects, including:

- Drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- Nonpoint source pollution management program
- Management, reduction, treatment or recapture of stormwater
- National estuary program projects

- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects
- Drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects

The EPA's focus on underserved communities for this program aligns with the goals of President Biden's <u>Justice40 initiative</u>, which aims to have federal agencies deliver at least 40% of benefits from certain investments, including water and wastewater infrastructure, to underserved communities.

To date, the program has closed nearly 90 loans and provided more than \$15 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects. The loans closed include <u>\$250 million to the Springfield Water and</u> <u>Sewer Commission</u> toward a \$550 million water and wastewater upgrade project.

Through its Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program, Springfield is increasing system reliability and ensuring safe drinking water by rehabilitating, replacing and upgrading the commission's drinking water and wastewater treatment processes. According to the EPA, the federal financing will accelerate Springfield's system updates by 15 years and will save the city an estimated \$60 million in the process.

Visit the EPA <u>website</u> for more information.

## Administration awards \$10.8M in Seaport Economic Council grants

On July 26 in Chatham, the Baker-Polito administration announced nearly \$10.8 million in <u>Seaport Economic Council</u> <u>grants</u> for 19 projects.

The grants will help coastal communities advance projects that benefit commercial maritime industries, improve resident and visitor access to waterfront assets, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and advance future dredging.

The grants were approved at a meeting of the Seaport Economic Council, chaired by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, at the Chatham Harbormaster Building. Polito said the council selected projects "that will deepen our maritime economy, promote economic development, and support resilient infrastructure in our coastal communities."

The Seaport Economic Council serves all 78 of the Commonwealth's coastal communities and awards grant funding to municipalities and other entities in support of projects that promote job creation and economic growth, transformative public-private partnerships, educational opportunities for young people, local economic development planning efforts, coastal infrastructure improvements, and

the planning and permitting of saltwater dredging.



Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito (center) announces seaport grants at the Chatham Harbormaster Building on July 26. Also pictured (3rd from left) is Chatham Town Manager Jill Goldsmith, whose town received \$1 million to address structural and public safety issues at the Municipal Fish Pier.

invested nearly \$77 million through 164 grants in 54 coastal communities since

With this latest round, the council has

**SEAPORT** continued on 18

## MMHR to hold Fall Conference on Sept. 14, 15 in Hull

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will host its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 14 and 15 in Hull.

The conference will open with a legislative update from MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman.



Melissa Murray

Rachel Glisper, principal of Crossroads DEIB, will lead an in-depth, two-part workshop on diversity, equity and inclusion. The interactive workshop will focus first on how participants can assess their communities' DEI needs, and then on supporting DEI professionals once they have been hired.

Treniece Lewis Harris, CEO and founder of CulturaPsy, will lead a session focused on pandemic impacts on mental health and well-being in the workplace, how municipal HR leaders can recognize when employees are struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues, and how to identify mental health resources and providers to support employee mental health and well-being.

The first day of the conference will conclude with a discussion about trends in collective bargaining led by Melissa Murray, a partner with Norris, Murray, and Peloquin, LLC.



Rachel Glisper

Treniece Lewis

Treniece Lewis Harris

Day two will kick

off with a training about Peace Officer Standards and Training. Pittsfield Police Chief and POST Commissioner Michael Wynn and POST Commission Executive Director Enrique Zuniga will share what municipal HR directors need to know about POST.

The final session will be focused on resilience for human resources professionals. Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training & Consulting, will lead an interactive session covering how municipal HR leaders can support themselves and protect their own mental health and well-being in the face of significant ongoing change and turmoil in the workplace.

Registration and networking will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 14. The program will start at 9:15 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Attendees are invited to join an outdoor

reception immediately following the first day of the conference for beverages, snacks and networking.

Optional sunrise yoga will take place on the Nantasket Beach Resort rooftop at 7 a.m. on Sept. 15. Breakfast and networking will begin at 7:45 a.m., and the program will start at 9 a.m. The conference will conclude at noon, with boxed lunches available to go.

The registration fee is \$185 for the full conference or \$110 for Wednesday only. Registration and a complete agenda are available at <u>mma.org</u>.

The conference will be held at the Nantasket Beach Resort at 45 Hull Shore Drive in Hull. The deadline to book hotel rooms in the MMHR room block has passed, but reservations may still be available outside of the block. To book a room, visit the <u>Nantasket Beach Resort</u> <u>website</u>.

The MMA currently requires attendees of in-person events to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at ijenkins@mma.org

## MSA to discuss highlights from the legislative session

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will host a free Zoom webinar on Sept. 9 to review pertinent developments in the recently concluded legislative session.

The MMA's legislative team will explain legislation that is of particular interest to select board members and discuss what is on the horizon. Topics will include elections, the open meeting law, cannabis, and the new climate and clean energy law.

Any recent updates from the Legislature will also be covered, and there will be opportunities for members to ask questions. The webinar will run from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. An email with the registration link has been sent to all select board members. Advance registration is required.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at ijenkins@mma.org

### MunEnergy webinar to cover energy costs, sustainability

The MunEnergy program will hold a free <u>webinar on Oct. 6</u> to provide timely information about energy costs and sustainability opportunities for cities and towns.

Local officials will have the opportunity to learn about issues affecting energy costs, including winter weather and the crisis in Ukraine. Participants also will hear about benefits of the MunEnergy program.

<u>Advance registration is necessary</u> to receive the link to attend.

For 24 years, the <u>MMA's MunEnergy</u> <u>program</u> has helped cities and towns manage energy costs through a program

designed specifically for public entities.

For more information about the MMA's MunEnergy program, visit the program's <u>webpage</u> or contact MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org.

### – Katie McCue

## MMHR seminar to discuss multi-generational workforce

At its annual Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 28, Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will discuss the implications of having five distinct generations in the current workforce, with the millennial generation expected to make up the majority of the workforce by 2025.

The seminar will open with a keynote presentation discussing the impacts of a five-generation workforce on the municipal workplace. The keynote speaker will be announced in the coming weeks.

There will also be a series of concurrent workshops covering topics like exiting civil service, "costing out" the contract, and building an inclusive hiring process.

MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman will give an update on legislative

## **Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31**

The MMA is now accepting entries for the Annual Town Report Contest.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be selected from each of three population categories: less than 5,000; 5,001-15,000; and 15,000-plus. Winners will be recognized and given a certificate during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January 2023.

Judging criteria include:

• Attractiveness of report cover and layout

developments, particularly in the areas of human resources and labor relations. Attorney Jaime

Kenny, a partner with Clifford & Kenny, will provide an update on major cases in the labor area.

Registration and a networking breakfast will begin at 8:15 a.m. The program will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.

The seminar will be held at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway in Devens. The registration fee is \$90 for members and \$110 for nonmembers. Registration and a complete agenda will be available at <u>mma.org</u> in early September.

The MMA currently requires attendees of in-person events to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at ijenkins@mma.org

• Material arrangement

- Presentation of statistics and data
- Summary of the year's achievements
- Evidence of local planning for the future
- Practical utility of report

Each entry will be reviewed by two judges, chosen based on their expertise in the field and their ability to remain impartial.

To enter electronically, please complete

the <u>form on the MMA website</u> with a link to, or a PDF of, the town report. Or, send **two** copies of your town's 2021 report to: Town Report Contest, Massachusetts Municipal Association, 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108.

Entries are due by Monday, Oct. 31.

For more information, contact Daniel Yi at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 121, or dyi@mma.org. ●

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Continued from page 1

The governor proposed amendments that would clarify the use of blue lights to include only MassDOT motor vehicles; streamline proposed reporting on MBTA safety and hiring; clarify MBTA train electrification technology; and expand a proposed Mobility Pricing Commission to include eight additional representatives from the automotive, trucking, engineering, construction, restaurant, hospitality, health, and retail industries.

Policy provisions included in the law reduce reporting requirements for mu-

nicipalities receiving less than \$25,000 in Transportation Enhancement Trust Fund disbursements, and define, classify and regulate electronic bikes (e-bikes) while preserving municipal authority over their use on local paths.

The MMA has supported MassTRAC since the governor filed the original bill on March 17. During the legislative process, the MMA testified in support at hearings held by the Joint Committee on Transportation, <u>Joint Committee</u> <u>on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets</u>, and the <u>conference com-</u> <u>mittee</u>, continually expressing support for the bill's intent — to ensure Massachusetts is well-positioned to leverage federal aid — while highlighting funding to maintain non-federally funded roads, investments in key municipal grant programs, and targeted investments in municipal projects.

The governor's amendments went to the Legislature for consideration. Legislators must decide whether to accept a governor's amendments, reject them, or return a bill back to him. Informal sessions require unanimous consent for legislation to be passed, however, which could affect if and when legislators consider the amendments. •



Jaime Kenny

# **Nominations sought for Select Board Association**

The <u>Massachusetts Select Board Association</u>, a member group of the MMA, is seeking members for its 2023 Board of Directors.

Any select board member in Massachusetts may complete the <u>online nomina-</u> <u>tion form</u> and submit his or her name for consideration. The form must be completed by Oct. 14.

Nominations are being sought for four officer positions: president, first vice president, second vice president and secretary. MSA officers serve a one-year term. The five district representatives are also up for election this year, for two-year terms.

With the exception of the secretary, MSA Board members also serve on the MMA Board of Directors.

MSA Board responsibilities include attendance at MSA and MMA Board meetings. The MSA Board meets four to six times a year, and the MMA Board meets on the second Tuesday of most months, typically in Boston from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The MSA Board meets immediately following the MMA Board, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Board responsibilities also include working with MMA staff to develop agendas and identify speakers for MSA events, and participation in virtual and in-person events throughout the year.

After interviewing all nominees, the MSA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the MSA's Annual Business Meeting, to be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 21, 2023, in Boston.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at ijenkins@mma.org

## **MMCA** seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking councillors for its Board of Directors.

Any councillor in Massachusetts may complete the <u>online nomination</u> <u>form</u> and submit his or her name for consideration. The form must be completed by Nov. 12.

Nominations are sought for three officer positions on the MMCA Board of Directors: president, first vice president and second vice president. Officers serve a one-year term. Nominations are also being sought for five district representative positions, serving a twoyear term.

Board member responsibilities include attendance at MMCA and MMA Board meetings. The MMA Board meets on the second Tuesday of most months, typically in Boston from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. MMCA Board responsibilities also include participation at in-person and virtual meetings for councillors.

After interviewing all nominees, the MMCA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the MMCA's Annual Business Meeting, to be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 21, 2023, in Boston.

In performing its responsibilities for identifying, recruiting and recommending candidates to the MMCA Board, the Nominating Committee is committed to including qualified candidates who reflect diverse backgrounds.

For more information about the MMCA, visit <u>www.mma.org/members/</u> <u>councillors</u>.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

## Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is now accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2023.

The awards recognize excellence in customer service, functionality, convenience and government transparency delivered by a municipal website.

To enter the contest, chief municipal officials may simply <u>fill out a short online</u> <u>nomination form</u>. The entry deadline is Monday, Oct. 31.

The awards recognize the best municipal websites in four population categories: under 5,000; 5,001-12,000; 12,001-25,000; and 25,000-plus. One winner is selected for each category.

Judges evaluate municipal websites based on the following criteria:



HELP CENTER .

Chatham took first place in last year's Annual Municipal Website Awards for towns with populations between 5,000 and 12,000.

- Current and timely information
- Intuitive navigation tools and organization of material

- Ease of access to resources for residents, such as the ability to apply for licenses and permits, pay bills, order documents, and make suggestions
- Use of social media and tools for online community engagement (including the use of an events calendar)
- Availability of public records
- Clear branding as the official municipal government site
- Robust search function
- Mobile-responsive design
- Details about municipal departments
- Visual appeal and overall experience

For more information, contact Daniel Yi at dyi@mma.org. ●

# Nominations sought for WEMO committee

<u>Women Elected Municipal Officials</u>, an association within the MMA's membership, is seeking members for its 2023 steering committee.

Any female mayor, select board member, or city or town councillor in Massachusetts may complete the <u>online nomi-</u> <u>nation form</u> and submit their name for consideration by Nov. 15.

The WEMO steering committee consists of one mayor, two select board members and two city or town councillors. The chair position rotates each year in the following order: select board member, mayor, city or town councillor.

Nominations are being sought for three officer positions: chair, first vice chair, and second vice chair. The 2023 chair must be a select board member. WEMO officers serve a one-year term.

Nominations are also being sought for two director positions, also for one-year terms.

WEMO steering committee responsibilities include attendance at WEMO committee meetings and planning content for WEMO virtual and in-person events, including the Annual WEMO Luncheon at the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. The WEMO committee meets virtually on a monthly basis.

After interviewing all nominees, the WEMO Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the WEMO Luncheon, to be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 20, 2023.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at ijenkins@mma.org

## MMA-Suffolk to offer three finance seminars in 2023

The MMA and Suffolk University will offer three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs in 2023.

The seminars will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with tentative start dates as follows:

- Winter 2023: Jan. 6
- Spring 2023: March 3
- Fall 2023: Oct. 20

The seminar is designed to provide an overview of municipal finance in Massachusetts, including the operational aspects of finance structure, systems and processes in cities and towns. Topics include budgeting, financial reporting, treasury functions, property assessment, and costing out contracts.

"We've seen great success with the program and are addressing a longstanding need," said John Petrin, a retired town manager and senior fellow and liaison for the MMA-Suffolk programs. "We're filling an important gap in preparing the next generation of municipal finance professionals."

"We've seen great success with the program and are addressing a longstanding need," said John Petrin, a retired town manager and senior fellow and liaison for the MMA-Suffolk programs. "We're filling an important gap in preparing the next generation of municipal finance professionals." The seminar is for municipal officials interested in furthering their careers in municipal finance or employees who are new to municipal finance. Applicants must be currently employed by a city or town, and must have the approval of their municipal manager, administrator or mayor to apply.

The application for the 2023 seminars is <u>available online</u> as a fillable PDF. Applicants can choose which seminar they would like to be considered for, and will be informed of their status at the end of the application period.

The application deadline for the winter session is Oct. 15.

For more information, visit <u>mma.org/suffolk</u> or contact Katie McCue at 617- 426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org.●

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Continued from page 1

speakers, workshops and the Trade Show, the two-day event features membership business meetings, receptions, awards programs and other activities.

The meeting will feature 18 timely workshops on topics such as federal funding, cybersecurity, fiscal issues, housing, labor law, cannabis, human resources and workplace issues, municipal law, policing, communications, PFAS and wellness.

The meeting will kick off with a special session to help first-time attendees get the most from the opportunity.

The last in-person MMA Annual Meeting, in January 2020, was attended by a record 1,300 local leaders, and the Trade Show featured more than 225 exhibitors. The 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings were held virtually. Companies, nonprofits and government agencies interested in exhibiting at the meeting can find <u>details and contract</u> <u>information on the MMA website</u>. For Trade Show and Partnership Program information, contact Karen LaPointe at 617-426-7272, ext. 154. ●

# WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Oct. 15

Registration and

begin at 8:30 a.m.

The program will

start at 9 a.m. and

conclude at noon.

to eat on-site with

Boxed lunches

will be available

colleagues or to

take to go.

networking will

"Creating balance as a female leader" will be the theme of the Women Elected Municipal Officials' fourth annual Leadership Conference on Saturday, Oct. 15, in Melrose.

A keynote speaker will be followed by a series of small group breakout discussions focusing on how female leaders handle crises, and strategies and current tools for self-care.

The conference will conclude with an interactive stress management and mindfulness workshop for women elected leaders. The workshop will be led by Trish Hart, founder and stress management and resiliency educator with Hart Mind Body Solutions.



Trish Hart

The conference will be held at Melrose Memorial Hall at 590 Main St. The cost is \$40.

Additional information, including an announcement of the keynote speaker and a complete agenda, will be available in the coming weeks. Registration will be available at <u>mma.org</u> in early September.

The MMA currently requires attendees of in-person events to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins at iienkins@mma.org

## ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 5 in Sharon

All local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees's Annual Meeting on Nov. 5 at the Sharon Community Center.

Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick will open the meeting with a presentation on resiliency, sharing insights on her own resiliency journey spanning 25 years in local government. Her crowd-sourced poem, "We Long for a City Where We Go Hard on the Issues and Easy on the People," has become nationally recognized.

The meeting will feature four educational workshops, running concurrently during two time slots.

The first session will be Finance Committee and Budgeting 101 with Northborough Town Administrator John Coderre, covering the basics for new members, and a session on climate change and sustainability initiatives.



The second session will feature a workshop titled "The Great Resignation and How It Affects Your OPEB Liability," led by Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler and Jim Powers, CPA, of Powers and Sullivan, and a second

Kate Fitzpatrick

workshop featuring Westborough Chief Assessor Jonathan Steinberg taking a closer look at the assessing function and the ways it affects municipal finance.

A general session, following lunch, will focus on the overall economic outlook and its impact on municipal budgets. This session will be interactive, and members will be encouraged to ask questions.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. The cost is \$55 for dues-paying ATFC finance committee members and \$65 for nonmember finance committee members and all other local officials.

All local officials may attend. Online registration and a detailed agenda will be available on <u>www.mma.org</u> in early September.

The MMA currently requires attendees of in-person events to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

## Women Leading Government to meet on Nov. 3 in Oxford

Women Leading Government will meet on Nov. 3 at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Oxford.

The program will feature facilitator and life coach Amy Goober, known for her signature program "Drive Your Life." Goober will lead a half-day session that includes interactive small group work and networking.

The cost of the program is \$25 and includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Women Leading Government is an initiative of the Massachusetts



Amv Goober

in appointed positions in local government. A full agenda and registration link

will be available later this month on www.mma.org.

Municipal

Management

WLG events are

open to all staff

Association.

The MMA currently requires attendees

of in-person events to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

# Let us know about your local news

Every day across the Commonwealth, municipal leaders are figuring out ways to deliver services more efficiently, save taxpayers money, engage more citizens in the vital work of local government, and improve the effectiveness of the layer of government that has the most direct impact on people's lives. The MMA wants to recognize and help spread the word about these local creative solutions.

If your community has launched a new program or initiative, or has found a

unique solution to a common problem, please let us know by filling out our new Local News Tips form on the MMA website.

## MMA.org has latest news for Mass. cities, towns

The latest developments on issues affecting Massachusetts cities and towns can always be found on the MMA website (www.mma.org). The website is a valuable resource for news updates in between issues of The Beacon. The website also features the latest details about MMA meetings, a Resource Library for key documents, MMA advocacy updates, and much more. ●

### SEAPORT

Continued from page 12

2015.

"Our waterfronts are economic drivers for Massachusetts, supporting maritime industries and drawing visitors to enjoy our beaches and local businesses," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "Providing the resources to shore up our waterfronts through infrastructure improvements and coastal resiliency efforts is integral to both the long-term environmental and economic health of our Commonwealth."

The town of Chatham received \$1 million to help address various structural and public safety deficiencies at the Municipal Fish Pier, a key part of Chatham's fishing and maritime heritage, with stakeholders including the local and regional fishing community and visitors who seek access to an authentic working waterfront. The Fish Pier services the largest commercial fishing fleet on Cape Cod and is one of the largest tourist destinations on the Cape.

<u>View list of all grant recipients</u>

## **Send us your Municipal Innovation Award entries!**

- Has your community been working on a new and unique project?
- Do you have a solution to an issue faced by many municipalities?
- Has your community found a way to improve efficiency in providing municipal services?

If so, your community should enter the MMA's Innovation Award contest!

The Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award is sponsored each year by the MMA to recognize municipalities that have developed unique and creative projects or programs to increase the effectiveness of local government. It is named in honor of Kenneth E. Pickard, executive secretary of the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns from 1969 to 1973. Any city or town that is a member of the MMA is eligible to apply. The awards will be presented at the MMA's Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January 2023.

Entries are due by Monday, Oct. 31.

### HOW TO ENTER

- Fill out the summary sheet found on the MMA website (at <u>www.mma.org/mma-annual-meeting/awards</u>), including a description of the project, the groups and individuals involved, goals, strategy, results and funding structure.
- Have your community's chief municipal official sign the nomination form (found at <u>www.mma.org/mma-annual-</u> <u>meeting/awards</u>).
- Include any additional materials that would assist the judges in understanding the project or program. Feel free to send photos, brochures, maps, newspaper articles, videos, etc.

Entries MUST include a summary sheet and signed nomination form and must be submitted by email.

### JUDGING

Entries are judged by the following criteria:

- Project originality or novelty
- Adaptability to other communities
- Cost-effectiveness
- Efficiency or productivity
- Improvement of a municipal service / administration / performance
- Consumer / community satisfaction

## Please send one electronic copy to dyi@mma.org.

**For more information, please contact** Daniel Yi at the MMA: 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org.

### DROUGHT

Continued from page 3

activity has increased across the state. Wildfires in remote areas with delayed response are now burning deep into the organic soil layers. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has temporarily banned all open flame and charcoal fires within state park properties.

Watering restrictions outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan help keep water supplies at safe levels and minimize environmental impacts during periods of stress. To reduce the strain on local water systems, municipalities in regions designated Level 3 are advised to ban all non-essential outdoor water use. Essential uses for water include health, safety and regulatory uses, as well as for the production of crops, maintenance of livestock and other core business functions.

Municipalities in regions at Level 2 are advised to limit outdoor watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

"The Commonwealth is experiencing extremely low streamflows in all regions, decreasing levels in reservoirs, dry streambeds, ponding, and diminished extent of streams in many watersheds leading to issues like lack of flow. increased turbidity, higher water temperature, and increase in growth of plants and algae in the water," the task force states.

All drought guidance stresses conservation, as conditions could deteriorate further without preventative action.

According to <u>data published by the</u> <u>Massachusetts Department of Environ-</u> <u>mental Protection</u> on Aug. 16, 168 cities and towns have implemented outdoor water use restrictions, and 156 of these restrictions are mandatory. (For more information, see <u>Outdoor Water Use</u> <u>Restrictions for Cities, Towns, and Golf</u> <u>Courses.</u>)

## Everything new on the MMA website, straight to your inbox.

MMA.org is the best source for the latest developments affecting Mass. cities & towns:

- State budget & local aid
- State & federal grant opportunities
- Member group meetings & webinars
- Annual Meeting & Trade Show announcements
- And much more!





Sign up for our Weekly Update newsletter, sent every Friday morning.

SIGN UP TODAY

Visit mma.org/weekly to get on the list today!

# **Around the Commonwealth**

## Gardner

# City, state join forces to fill empty storefronts

With additional state funding to bolster its ongoing economic development efforts, the city of Gardner seeks to fill vacant storefronts in its business districts and bring more people downtown.

In June, the state's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council approved the designation of two areas — downtown and the nearby Timpany Boulevard Corridor — as Vacant Storefront Revitalization Districts. Under this program, the state and Gardner will give business owners financial incentives to open up shop in storefronts that have been vacant for at least a year.

The state designations add to numerous revitalization efforts involving those two areas, including a recent influx of private investment by developers, previous state funding, and infrastructure upgrades made by the city. Mayor Michael Nicholson said these efforts are transforming an area that had been hurt by rundown buildings and absentee landlords.

"My goal for the next 10 years in Gardner would be to see the buildings all brought back up to the shape that they were once in," Nicholson said, "and make it a lively walking area in the downtown that people are looking to visit."

According to Nicholson, the downtown has 34 storefronts, and the Timpany Boulevard area has 16 storefronts that would qualify for this program. For selected applicants opening businesses in those storefronts, the state will provide up to \$10,000 in tax reimbursements for startup and fit-out costs, and the city will provide \$10,000 grants. The state will limit its awards to two businesses a year in Gardner, he said. During the program's first two years, Gardner will use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for its grants.

"The program both complements and encourages growth in our city moving forward," said City Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas in a statement.



Gardner held a ribbon cutting ceremony in November for a new Starbucks in the Timpany Boulevard area, one of the two city districts eligible for vacant storefronts funding. (Photo courtesy city of Gardner)

"My goal for the next 10 years in Gardner would be to see the buildings all brought back up to the shape that they were once in, and make it a lively walking area in the downtown that people are looking to visit."

### - Gardner Mayor Michael Nicholson

The state designation builds on momentum that had been transforming Gardner's business districts. Just as the pandemic began, a shopping center had opened in the Timpany Boulevard area, Nicholson said. And in the downtown, developers recently bought 12 of the 19 major buildings there, with plans to renovate them.

Within the next year and a half, Nicholson said, the downtown will get about 164 additional residential units that are either newly rebuilt or renovated and brought back into use. The city also expects to see a couple of new restaurants downtown within the next six or seven months, along with additional retail, he said.

Nicholson said developers are coming to Gardner because they see how much the city has already invested in its business areas. Last year, Gardner won a \$4.1 million state MassWorks grant to build a new parking lot and event plaza in connection with a large private apartment development project. It also recently replaced all the utility lines downtown, and is in the process of replacing sidewalks. The mayor said that most of the downtown now has new water and sewer infrastructure, new crossing signals, new light posts and repaved streets.

In addition, funding through the state's Underutilized Properties Program is supporting the refurbishment of two rundown buildings downtown.

This was Gardner's fourth attempt to get the vacant storefronts designations. Nicholson said the previous attempts, which predated his administration, seemed to be based on a strategy to get the designation first, and then make upgrades. This time, he said, the city had already put significant work into the area when it applied.

So far, the city has heard from eight to 10 business owners potentially interested in filling the vacant storefronts, Nicholson

**COMMONWEALTH** continued on 21

# **Around the Commonwealth**

### COMMONWEALTH

Continued from page 20

said. Within the next few years, he said, he hopes to see at least six or seven new businesses come in as a result of these efforts.

### – Jennifer Kavanaugh

## Richmond

# Construction begins on \$8M town center complex

Realizing a dream decades in the making, Richmond recently broke ground on a new town center that will house the Town Hall, library and a community room, and will give the town an important landmark.

Town officials held an official groundbreaking ceremony in early July on a property along Route 41. The \$8 million project, the largest municipal project in Richmond's history, will combine the various services in an 11,000-square-foot complex, next to the Richmond Consolidated School. It is expected to be finished by late 2023.

Up until now, the town has lacked a focal point, and this project will finally provide one, said Board of Selectmen Chair Roger Manzolini.

"It just brings the town's people together," Manzolini said. "I like that whole idea of people coming together, the whole concept of people talking to their neighbors. It's just the way it used to be, and the way it ought to be, in my opinion."

The project has been years in the making. Manzolini said the town bought the property about three decades ago, with the idea of eventually building a town center. About 15 years ago, he said, a previous plan was narrowly defeated by Town Meeting. In 2017, Richmond started assessing its building needs, and

## **Meeting space wanted**

Does your municipality have a public meeting space that would be appropriate for an MMA event?

With more than 60 meetings each year, the MMA uses several different types



Foundation work is underway on the new Richmond Town Center project. (Photo courtesy P-Three and town of Richmond)

that process ultimately led to the plan for the new center.

Richmond, now with nearly 1,500 residents, has growing needs. The 100-year-old town hall has been deteriorating badly, and the community meeting room fails to meet the basic needs of the people meeting in it, officials said. In addition, the library has been operating out of a former truck garage. The new complex will offer better air quality, electrical upgrades, and improved access for people with disabilities.

By 2020, officials were ready to bring their new plan to Town Meeting, but the pandemic pushed the request into 2021, when residents approved it, said Patricia Callahan, chair of Richmond's Municipal Building Committee. Increasing construction costs during the pandemic drove the bids up to about \$8 million, however, and town officials found themselves about \$1.5 million short for the project.

The town had more than \$200,000

of function spaces around the state. The use of municipally owned meeting rooms greatly improves the organization's ability to sponsor affordable educational events in a variety of places. donated by the Friends of the Richmond Free Public Library group, and could use about \$300,000 from its American Rescue Plan Act funds, but it needed an additional \$1 million. The town asked residents to increase the bond authorization level in May, Callahan said.

"We got 80% approval," Callahan said. "We said to people, 'you can't ever find 80% of any group to agree on almost anything these days.' But the town approved it. It was really heartwarming."

After the new town center opens, Richmond officials plan to give up the rental on the current library building, and sell the Town Hall. If the town can't sell the property, Manzolini said, it will demolish the building to minimize maintenance costs.

Callahan and Manzolini said the new complex will have a classic New England style, with clapboard siding and a roofline matching that of the nearby school. Of the 11,000 square feet, the library and the town hall portions will get about 4,000 square feet each, and the community gathering space will have about 3,000 square feet. The building will be on one level, Callahan said, except for a storage area underneath the library.

In the building design, the town decided to focus more on solid infrastructure rather than extra design elements, Callahan said.

"We didn't need to spend an extra million dollars on fancy," Callahan said. "But I think it's going to be solid, and I think it's going to be clean, and healthy, and comfortable."

### – Jennifer Kavanaugh

This monthly column features local and regional news items related to local government in Massachusetts. To suggest an item for this column, email editor@mma.org.

To offer your town or city's municipal function space, contact Timmery Kuck, the MMA's conference and meeting planner, at tkuck@mma.org.

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Serving Massachusetts' communities since 1982

## Shovel-ready projects receive funding advantage

### By Joyce McMahon

MIIA

Thomas Edison said, "Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning." That is the case with two Massachusetts communities whose diligence in creating sound capital plans allowed them to take advantage of new funding opportunities. Notably, many of the projects that were the beneficiaries of the new dollars helped reduce risk and improve quality of life.

Capital planning is not new to Medway. Town Manager Michael Boynton said the town had an "elaborate, extensive and thorough" capital planning process in place when he came on board in 2014. The town's two-part process determines if a project or equipment purchase is worthwhile, and, if so, includes a mechanism for funding.

The town of Acton's capital planning process looks out 10 years, as opposed to five, which is common in most communities.



John Mangiaratti

Michael Boynton

"The finance committee asked for a 10-year plan," said Town Manager John Mangiaratti. "Doing so allowed us to look at longer term projects such as replacing a ladder truck or completing a building rehab."

### **Getting work done**

The water treatment and distribution facilities are a focus of capital planning in Medway. Medway Water Facility Building Committee Member Ted Kenney, formerly of the New England Water Works Association, said the long-term planning strategy led to a "paradigm shift" in town.

"Long ago, the focus was on keeping a 'small town feel' and low costs for ratepayers," said Kenney.

But with extended planning and participation by experienced members of the community in the process, "The Select Board and residents embraced the need for the water projects and understood that undertaking them was important to public health."

Through an integrated water resources management plan in 2015, the town identified that a centralized water treatment facility and upgrades to the 100-yearold distribution system were necessary, Boynton said.

"We had three challenges to address: capacity, delivery and quality," Boynton said.

■ MIIA continued on 23

### **MIIA launches Unemployment Services Program**

MIIA has been hearing from its members that managing unemployment benefits is putting a strain on human resources departments and personnel. To help alleviate some of that stress, on July 1, MIIA launched its Unemployment Services Program.

It's no wonder that managing unemployment claims has become problematic. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, Massachusetts paid \$1.3 billion in fraudulent unemployment claims, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

MIIA's new program is designed to improve unemployment claim processing and reduce overall related costs. To help combat fraud, the MIIA program includes a proprietary unemployment claims management system that issues "red-flag alerts" for 27 possible payment errors, while highlighting probable fraud cases, thereby helping to protect members' interests.

MIIA Executive Vice President Stan Corcoran said the cost of a single unemployment claim in Massachusetts can exceed \$25,000.

"As a partner to our member communities in managing risk," he said, "MIIA was happy to respond to requests and design this program, which should result in savings of dollars and valuable personnel time."

The MIIA Unemployment Services Program also provides unemployment risk management and training, unemployment claims management, claims payment processing subject to member reimbursement, and the option to purchase customized "stop loss" (excess) insurance coverage.

MIIA is partnering with Unemployment Tax Management Corporation and First Nonprofit Companies, two companies with more than 90 years of combined experience in claims management and HR and unemployment training, respectively, to provide the new Unemployment Services Program.

Program participation is initially limited to MIIA's workers' compensation program participants, but will be rolled out to the larger membership in coming months.

To learn more, visit <u>www.emiia.org/</u> <u>unemployment-services</u>.

– Joyce McMahon

### MIIA

Continued from page 22

Town officials estimated it to be a \$13 million project, but bids for just the first phase of improvements came in \$7 million higher than anticipated. Because of the town's comprehensive planning, however, they were able to make up the difference.

"In addition to rate funds, we were able to access \$4 million in ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funding, \$1 million from a Chapter 40B host community agreement, \$350,000 in state funds, and \$2.75 million from a federal earmark," Boynton said. "Each funding mechanism requested justification before handing over the funds. It was fast and simple for the town because we had all the details ready — and more importantly, community support for the project."

### **Engage the community**

Boynton and Mangiaratti cite community engagement as a key component of the planning process.

"We had a robust community engagement plan as part of our planning process," Mangiaratti said. "We worked with the Finance Committee to come up with a list of projects that had been vetted and accelerated. Then we issued a community survey, presented before the Select Board, held several public meetings, and conducted outreach to partner organizations.

"When the ARPA funds became available, we got to use them versus spending

### MIIA welcomes new Property & Liability members

MIIA is pleased to welcome the towns of Abington, Ayer, Easthampton, Hanson and Royalston as new members to its Property and Liability insurance group, joining the 372 existing members.

Now in its 40th year, MIIA continues to help communities make informed choices for improving safety, protecting property, mitigating liability exposures, and managing their bottom lines.

time sorting out what to do with them, because we had done all of the planning in advance."

Some of the risk-related projects Acton moved on included a storm water management plan, helping the water district address PFAS to improve water quality, and a study to examine a solution to septic system issues in the Great Road Corridor, among other renewable energy and sustainability efforts.

Boynton said Medway's process was also a team effort.

"From the DPW's boots on the ground determining work schedules, to the finance director, and volunteers from the building commission, water and sewer advisory and finance committees, as well as the



### Session helps newly elected select board members

Westwood Select Board Member Michael Walsh, president of the Massachusetts Select Board Association, and Adams Selectman Christine Hoyt, the MSA's District 1 representative, answer pressing questions from newly elected select board members about their role during the MSA's July 23 training for recently elected members in Devens.

### "We had a robust community engagement plan as part of our planning process," Mangiaratti said.

select board's support and community outreach campaigns," he said, "we were successful when it came to town meeting this spring, with the \$21 million water project passing unanimously."

MIIA Executive Vice President Stan Corcoran applauded the efforts of the two communities.

"MIIA appreciates the work these two communities have undertaken to improve services and eliminate risks that could ultimately prove even more expensive than the projects themselves," Corcoran said. "Their foresight and extensive planning processes are to be commended."

### Keep up the plans

Mangiaratti said it's useful to plan for major expenses. The town's most recent capital plan for fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2030 was published in December 2020 – well in advance of ARPA funds.

"Competition for grants and other funding opportunities can be tough," Mangiaratti said. "It's beneficial to have a long list prepared."

When it comes to looking at projects, Kenney said, "Don't think either/or, think both. With a road map charted out, you'll be able to take advantage of funding opportunities that come along and can get more done."

Joyce McMahon is a freelance writer.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Continued from page 2

One reason that the July 31 finish line is not the end of the policy-making race is that the Legislature has a long track record of navigating complex policy issues through informal sessions, including year-end budget bills, corrective legislation, and high-consensus measures that are fully vetted. The only bills that are off-limits are ones that require a recorded roll call, such as bond bills and certain land transfers. Given this history, there are many important bills that can move forward during the next several months, measures that can benefit cities and towns and meet critical needs for our residents, taxpayers and economy.

Two of these bills deserve special mention because of their magnitude: the economic development bill and legislation investing in our local public health system.

### **Economic development**

The most visible issue is the \$4 billion <u>economic development and tax relief</u> <u>bill</u> that was paused at the last minute when news hit that up to \$3 billion of the state's surplus revenue will need to go back to taxpayers under Chapter 62F, a 1986 law that caps allowable tax growth. This will shrink the fiscal 2022 budget surplus by more than half. With about one-third of the economic development bill funded with surplus revenues, and a lack of clarity about how the tax rebate would be distributed, lawmakers opted to delay action until the fiscal picture comes into better focus in September.

The good news is that it now appears that the remaining surplus, even after closing out the 2022 budget year with necessary transfers and new spending authorizations proposed by the governor, will still reach about \$1.5 billion. Combined with the remaining \$2.2 billion in the state's American Rescue Planning Act account, this will provide ample resources to allow legislators to advance a large economic development package that includes funding for key municipal priorities that were in the House and Senate bills, such as MassWorks grants, environmental infrastructure, the Clean Water Trust, and affordable housing, as well as a multitude of shovel-ready local projects.

With some members of Congress gearing up to claw back unspent ARPA funds,

waiting until next year to act on the state's ARPA funds would put those funds at risk, which is why moving forward in the coming weeks is the best strategy. Even during formal sessions, the House and Senate passed their respective economic bills by unanimous vote, a positive signal that this critically important bill will make it to the governor's desk shortly.

Cities and towns will use these vital resources to build stronger local economies and meet key needs for residents and taxpayers, which is why local officials are eager to work with their legislators to pass this bill as soon as possible.

### **Public health**

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear to all that local public health departments are vital to the health and safety of everyone in the Commonwealth. The pandemic also unveiled significant disparities between communities and populations, in terms of access to services and available funding to support robust services. That's why the MMA greatly appreciates and supports the intent of pending legislation to invest in our public health system.

<u>H. 5104</u>, known as SAPHE ("safe") 2.0, is a proposal to advance the capacity of local and regional public health departments. Its goal is to strengthen capacity, collaboration, and investment in public health across the board. As the bill was moving through the process, the MMA consistently voiced strong support for the intent, and deep reservations about its potential to impose a new and unaffordable annual unfunded mandate of at least \$140 million on municipalities without adding clear protections.

The legislation calls on the state to provide funding to boards of health to implement and comply with new stateset minimum operational and service standards. The aspirational goal of H. 5104 is to support the transformation of public health through future investments. As written, however, the bill does not mandate that the state meet its obligation to financially support the outlined goals. Instead, the state's responsibilities would be subject to appropriation, while municipalities would not have that flexibility, and would be forced to fund the new costs imposed by the Department of Public Health, regardless of whether

future state support is sufficient, and regardless of limits of Proposition 2½.

The bill was enacted by the Legislature in July without addressing this fundamental concern. The governor recognized the dangers of an unaffordable unfunded mandate in future years, and he returned it to the Legislature with a proposed amendment. The bill is still pending, and lawmakers are considering how to move forward.

Since gubernatorial vetoes cannot be overridden during informal sessions, the clear solution is to add language clarifying that the final bill would not impose an unfunded mandate, by making local obligations conditioned on receiving full state funding of all additional costs necessary to implement the new law. That way, if future state funding falls short (which is very common with many state mandates), communities would be relieved of their new responsibilities. This would provide the same subject-to-appropriation standard for cities and towns that the bill would set for state agencies.

The MMA's proposal would incentivize the state to fulfill its obligation to provide the necessary funding, safeguard local budgets, and guarantee a full and sustainable state-local partnership to fortify our public health systems for the future. Passage this fall, during the informal session, would give the incoming governor the lead time needed to include necessary funding in his or her fiscal 2024 budget proposal, which must be submitted to the Legislature shortly after the new governor takes office next year.

Cities and towns will use these vital resources to build stronger local public health departments and close health disparities within and between communities, which is why local officials are eager to work with their legislators to amend and pass this bill as soon as possible.

On economic development, public health, and many more issues, our lawmakers have a busy autumn ahead of them, and local leaders recognize and appreciate their continued hard work.

# People

Yi-An Huang will

6, replacing **Louis** 

DePasquale, who

after six years in the

role and 47 years of

retired on July 5

serving the city.

employed at the

Boston Medical

System for nearly a

decade, as executive

director of clinical

2021, and as chief

BMC Health Plan,

operations since

transformation

officer for the

Center Health

Huang was

become the new

city manager in Cambridge on Sept.



Yi-An Huang



Louis DePasquale

senior director of population health analytics for the health plan, senior director of clinical operations for the hospital, director of strategy, and senior project manager. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in business administration, both from Harvard University.

DePasquale had served Cambridge as assistant city manager for fiscal affairs for more than 14 years, and as budget director for more than 20 years.

Public Works Commissioner Owen **O'Riordan** has been serving as the acting city manager.

**George Proakis** 

became the new

city manager in

Aug. 15, taking the

place of long-time

manager Michael

in January after 45

vears of service to

Watertown.

Driscoll, who retired

Watertown on



George Proakis

Proakis had been working for the city of Somerville for the past 12 years, as director of planning and zoning from 2010 to 2018, and then as executive director of Somerville's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. Previously,



Michael Driscoll

Consulting Services, which for four years provided assistance and recommendations for environmental, energy and economic development programs. He has also taught as an adjunct lecturer at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. In 2014, he gave a <u>talk for TEDxSomerville</u>: "Zoning by Design."

he worked for the

city of Lowell for

more than seven

years, as associate

planner/Planning

chief planner and

planning and

Board administrator,

permitting director.

In 1998, Proakis

started Fenmore

Proakis has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northeastern University, a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University, and a master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Driscoll became town manager in 1993, and became city manager when the role was renamed in the past year. Driscoll was previously Watertown's skating rink manager from 1977 to 1985, and treasurer/collector and parking clerk from 1985 to 1993.

City Auditor **Thomas Tracy** served as the city's interim manager before Proakis arrived.



Justin Casanova-Davis

International City/ County Management Association's Early Career Leadership Award during its Annual Conference, to be held Sept. 17 to 21 in Columbus, Ohio.

The ICMA award recognizes early-career local government professionals who have

demonstrated leadership, competency and commitment to local government as a profession. Each year, the ICMA presents the award to one person worldwide who is nominated by their peers. The winner receives a \$5,000 stipend for professional development.

The ICMA also recently chose Casanova-Davis as a fellow for its Leadership Institute on Race, Equity and Inclusion for the upcoming year.

Until last month, he had worked for four years in Brookline, first as the assistant town administrator and also later as the acting finance director/treasurer-collector. He previously worked for two years as the principal budget analyst in Cambridge, and for almost a year as a budget analyst for the House Committee on Ways and Means.

He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Boston College, and a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University. He also completed the 2019-2020 MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.

In Norfolk, Casanova-Davis will replace Blythe Robinson, who left earlier this summer after three years in the role. She has since become a senior project manager for Capital Strategic Solutions in Marlborough.

Nicholas Milano

will become the new

town administrator

in Milton on Sept. 6.

Milano has been

administrator in

Medfield for the

past three years.

Previously, he was a

senior policy analyst

the assistant town



Nicholas Milano

for the Boston Municipal Research Bureau in 2019, was the executive aide to Marlborough Mayor Arthur Vigeant from 2015 to early 2019, and was a project coordinator for the Massachusetts School Building Authority from 2014 to 2015. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from UMass Amherst, and a master's degree in urban affairs from Boston University. He also

**PEOPLE** continued on 26

This month. Justin Casanova-Davis will become the new town administrator in Norfolk and receive a leadership award. Casanova-Davis

will start in Norfolk

on Sept. 6, and

will receive the

September 2022 • The Beacon • 25

# People

### PEOPLE

Continued from page 25

completed the 2021-2022 MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.

Milano will replace Michael Dennehy, who left in February after five years in the role to work in the private sector. **Annemarie Fagan**, a longtime Milton town employee who had served as the town's administrator for four years until her 2017 retirement, has been filling in as the interim administrator.



Rvan McLane

**Ryan McLane** became the new town administrator

in Carlisle on Aug.

22. McLane had been the town administrator in Hubbardston since 2018. Previously, he served for six-anda-half years as the

director of veteran services for the city of Melrose, and worked as a veterans services representative for the U.S. Department for Veterans Affairs for three years before that. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Stonehill College, and a master's degree in public administration from Norwich University. He also has a master's degree in public policy from UMass Boston and is currently a Ph.D. candidate there.

McLane also has two decades of military service. He is a first sergeant in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, for the HHB 1-101 Field Artillery Regiment in Brockton, and served three overseas deployments. He served in Iraq in 2004 and in Afghanistan in 2010. Starting in the summer of 2021, he served in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq until his tour ended in April.

In Carlisle, McLane replaces **Timothy Goddard**, who retired earlier this year. **Steven Ledoux** had been serving as interim town administrator.



had worked as director of budget and finance and treasurer in Dartmouth. Previously, he was

**Gregory Barnes** 

town administrator

Since 2010, Barnes

in Raynham on Sept.

became the new

1.

**Gregory Barnes** 

the town administrator in Townsend from 2004 to 2010, town administrator in Swansea from 2001 to 2004, assistant to the town administrator in North Attleborough from 1999 to 2001, and as a finance/management assistant for the town of Dedham from 1996 to 1999. He has a bachelor's degree in political science/ policy and management studies from Dickinson College and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University.

In Raynham, Barnes is replacing Graham Waters, who left the role in June. Fire Chief Bryan LaCivita had been serving as the interim town administrator.



who was Beverly's longest-serving mayor and served as president of the MMA in 2010, has published a memoir. My Story: Bringing Beverly Back from the Brink."

William Scanlon,

William Scanlon

the succeeding years.

Published by Historic Beverly.

Scanlon's book recounts how, as a newly elected mayor without previous political experience, he brought a financially distressed city back from the threat of receivership and led Beverly's revival. Scanlon relates what happened between his surprising election and his first term,

Nearly 20 years before he was first elected mayor in 1993, Scanlon had been transferred to Beverly by his employer to drastically downsize United Shoe Machinery, the city's largest, but failing, business. Ultimately, Scanlon served nine

and the many challenges and rewards of

two-year terms as mayor, from 1994 until 2002, and from 2004 until 2014.

Proceeds from Scanlon's book will benefit Historic Beverly, the Beverly Rotary Club Foundation and Harborlight Community Partners.

### 



Dan Koh

Dan Koh. a former Select Board member in Andover who has served in Boston City Hall and in the U.S. Department of Labor, is now working for the White House.

In July, Koh was named deputy cabinet secretary in

the Executive Office of the President. Since February 2021, he had been serving as chief of staff for Labor Secretary Martin Walsh. From 2014 to 2017, he had been Walsh's chief of staff when Walsh was the mayor of Boston. Koh had served on the Andover Select Board from 2019 to 2021, stepping down when he took the Labor Department post.



the House of



of President **Joe** Biden.

Maria Robinson

on July 17 to take a position in the administration

Representatives

Robinson is director of the Grid

Deployment Office in the U.S. Department of Energy, as one of several appointees brought on recently to help further the administration's net-zero emissions goals. The first Korean-American to have been elected to the Massachusetts House, Robinson had represented the Sixth Middlesex District (Framingham) since 2019. With a background in clean energy work, she led the Clean Energy Caucus in the Legislature, was the state's lead for the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, and served as the only state

PEOPLE continued on 27

# People

### PEOPLE

Continued from page 26

legislator on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.



Daniel Bogan, a

former longtime city councillor in Fall River who served briefly as mayor in the early 1990s, died on July 16 at age 89.

Bogan served for 22 years on the council, with 14

of those as council

Daniel Bogan

president. Starting in December 1990, he served six months as interim mayor when the previous mayor, **Carlton Viveiros**, stepped down to accept a clerk magistrate position. A U.S. Army veteran who served during the Korean War, Bogan was also the owner and CEO of the Borden & Remington Corporation in Fall River.



William Sarro Sr., a former selectman and local business owner in Mansfield, died on July 21 at age 72. Sarro served for four

vears as a selectman

in the late 1980s

and early 1990s,

William Sarro Sr.

according to The Sun Chronicle newspaper. He had also served as a firefighter for the town. He was well known as the owner of the Mansfield restaurant Fresh Catch, which is now operated by his son.

This monthly column highlights transitions, accomplishments and awards, and life events of municipal officials. To submit information for People, contact MMA Associate Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh at 800-882-1498 or jkavanaugh@mma.org.

## Brookline administrator and former MMA president to retire

### By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Brookline Town Administrator Melvin Kleckner will retire this month after more than four decades of municipal service.

Viewed as a mentor by many, Kleckner will step down on Sept. 14 after 12 years in Brookline. He previously served as the town manager in Winchester, town administrator in Belmont and Wilbraham, and as an assistant town manager in Arlington.

During his career, Kleckner has also been an active member of the MMA, having served as president in 2017. Last summer, he was recognized by the International City/County Management Association for 40 years of service.

At a July meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, Kleckner's colleagues presented him with a signed basketball to acknowledge his service and to congratulate him on his retirement. The basketball was a nod to his family's longtime connection to the sport. Kleckner had played basketball for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and then for Saint Anselm College. His grandfather played for Northeastern University, his father had played for the University of Connecticut, and his son played for Ithaca College. Each year, Kleckner runs a March Madness college basketball pool for his family and friends.

In retirement, Kleckner said he plans to develop an encore career involving teaching, consulting and community service.



Melvin Kleckner holds a basketball signed by his colleagues during the July 21 meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

On Sept. 15, Charles Carey will take over as Brookline's new town administrator. A Concord native, Carey has spent five years working for the city of New York, in roles that included deputy general counsel, general counsel, deputy director for law and policy, and acting director for the New York City Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations. He had also served for more than a year as special counsel for NYC Health and Hospitals, helping the public health care provider address legal issues related to COVID-19.

Previously, Carey worked as an assistant corporation counsel for the New York City Law Department, as a law clerk in the federal court system, and as an associate at a New York City-based law firm. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Columbia University, a master's degree in creative writing from Warren Wilson College, and a law degree from Georgetown University.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **City Auditor**

### **City of Watertown**

Watertown, Mass. (35,329 pop.), a thriving community that provides a suburban-like setting with urban amenities, is seeking an experienced and knowledgeable financial professional with excellent financial management skills, superior knowledge of governmental accounting, and strong organizational skills to serve as its next City Auditor. The city, located six miles from Boston, provides access to the economic, cultural, and educational resources of the larger city. Watertown is well managed and well situated for continued success. It has a nine-member City Council, an FY23 budget of \$174 million, and AAA rating. The City Auditor is responsible for the compliance with public finance laws and the application of general accounting practices and other financial practices of the city. The City Auditor works under the policy direction of the City Council. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in finance, accounting, or a related field, and at least five years of experience in governmental financial management or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Mass. Municipal Auditors' and Accountants' Association certification required or obtained within three years of hiring. The successful candidate will receive an attractive compensation package, including health and retirement plans. Annual salary: \$130K+/- DOQ. AA/EOE. For additional information related to the position, the city, and the application process, visit www.communityparadigm.com or contact Bernard Lynch, Principal, Community Paradigm Associates at BLynch@communityparadigm.com. Position is open until filled with a first review of application materials on Sep. 15, 3 p.m. EST. Send resume and cover letter in a single PDF via email, in confidence, Subject: Watertown City Auditor, to Apply@ communityparadigm.com.

### **Pretreatment Coordinator** Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Responsible for day-to-day supervisory operation of the Industrial Pretreatment Program and ensuring that related regulations and requirements are being met. Responsible for all pretreatment monitoring and reporting, management of enforcement activities, and for assuring that industrial monitoring activities are carried out safely. The Pretreatment Coordinator is also responsible for management of hauled waste applications and permits and to initiate investigation of any odor complaints. Assists in laboratory analysis of wastewater samples as needed. Position includes supervising other pretreatment staff. The pretreatment coordinator will review and/or prepare all industrial inspection and monitoring reports and permits. Candidates will also perform bacteriological and chemical tests and analysis and complete basic analyses in connection with wastewater treatment. Duties will include maintaining pretreatment sampling and testing equipment for collection of wastewater samples. Requirements: Bachelor's degree with major work in chemistry, biology, engineering, earth science, or related science. Thorough knowledge of industrial processes and local, state, and federal regulations as they apply to industrial wastewater, hazardous

waste, air quality, and pretreatment requirements. Knowledge of chemistry as it relates to industrial pretreatment systems and wastewater treatment plants. Excellent written and verbal communication and experience managing laboratory data. Prior work in laboratory environment is required. A valid driver's license is required. This is a full-time position. Some weekends and holidays are required. Upper Blackstone offers a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, and 403(b) retirement plan. Employees are part of the Mass. State Retirement System. Send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources Manager, hr@ubcleanwater.org.

### Engineering Aide, Grade 2 City of Marlborough

The city of Marlborough's Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the full-time (40 hours) position of Engineering Aide Grade 2. This is sub-professional civil engineering work performed in the field and office. Work involves the performance of assigned civil engineering tasks requiring some knowledge and training in civil engineering principles and practices. Hiring Rate: \$27.48/hr. Step Rate: \$27.48-\$30.91/hr. To see the full posting: www.marlborough-ma.gov/ human-resources/files/engineering-aide-grade-2. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: hrjobs@ marlborough-ma.gov. Open until filled. AA/EOE

### Assistant Town Accountant Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland seeks qualified team-oriented candidates for the position of Assistant Town Accountant. The Assistant Town Accountant, under the general direction of the Town Accountant, is responsible for maintaining accurate financial records for the town and ensuring the information is properly imprinted for reporting purposes. Reviews and verifies payroll documentation prior to submission. Assumes the responsibilities of the Town Accountant in their absence. Full-time, grade 5 AFSCME Clerical Union, full job description, employment application and instructions for applying can be found at <u>rockland-ma.gov</u>.

#### Junior Civil Engineer City of Marlborough

The city of Marlborough's Department of Public Works – Engineering Division is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Junior Civil Engineer. Responsibilities include civil engineering design and plan preparation for public works projects, review of plans for permitting, surveying for marking property lines, construction layout, data collection for city asset management, and construction cost estimating calculations, including field measurements and plan take-offs. Hiring Rate: 34.21/hr.; Step Rate: \$34.21-\$38.28/hr. To see the full job ad: Junior Civil Engineer. Please forward a cover letter and resume to: hrjobs@marlborough-ma.gov. Open until filled. AA/ EOE

### Assistant City Engineer City of Chelsea

Position Summary: Assist the City Engineer and Department of Public Works (DPW) management in the implementation of plans and policies in support of the overall mission of DPW. Oversee DPW infrastructure projects during the planning, design and construction phases. Education and Experience: BS in civil engineering. Three to five years of professional civil engineering work experience in municipal infrastructure management, design and construction. Day to day field inspection experience is highly desirable. Valid Mass. Professional Engineer's License in Civil Engineering preferred. Click on the link below for the full job description. www.chelseama.gov/humanresources/blog/assistant-city-engineer. EEO

#### Principal Clerk - IT City of Marlborough

The city of Marlborough is seeking to fill the full-time, benefitted position of Principal Clerk in our Information Technology Department. Candidate provides clerical support to assist with the management of the IT financial records. This

**CLASSIFIEDS** continued on 29

### **Classified advertising rates and information**

The Beacon publishes classified ads from units of government, public agencies, and companies.

Classified advertising categories are: Employment Opportunities, Requests for Proposals, and Services. Only one job opening or RFP can be listed per ad. The MMA cannot assume responsibility for information or claims made in any advertisement.

### Classified advertising rates

Classified ad rates include publication in The

Beacon and on <u>www.mma.org</u>, though a discount is available for those who request placement of an ad only in The Beacon or on the website.

#### Member rates

- \$100 for first 100 words; \$100 for each additional block of up to 100 words
- Rate for one format only (print or website): \$75 for first 100 words, \$75 for each additional block of up to 100 words

#### Nonmember rates

- \$150 for first 100 words; \$150 for each additional block of up to 100 words
- Rate for one format only (print or website): \$125 for first 100 words, \$125 for each additional block of up to 100 words

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### Beacon deadlines and publication dates

The Beacon is published on the first business day of each month, except in the summer, when a combined July-August issue is printed in mid-July.

### October Beacon

Deadline: September 26 Publication: October 3

### November Beacon

Deadline: October 25 Publication: November 1

#### **Placing an ad**

You may use our convenient online form at www.mma.org/municipal-marketplace/ add-listing/.

#### For more information, call Amanda Brangwynne at the MMA at 617-426-7272.

Missed the Beacon deadline for an employment ad? You can still get the word out – right away.

See <u>www.mma.org</u> for details.

### CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 28

position is responsible for reviewing all IT financial payments, projected revenues, financial records, and transactions and will assume a lead position in the IT budget/bid process under the direction of the IT Director. Hiring Rate: \$27.63/hr. Step Rate: \$27.63-\$31.08/hr. To see the job posting: <u>Principal Clerk</u>. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter and resume to: hrjobs@marlborough-ma.gov. Position will remain open until filled.

### Highway Laborer Town of East Brookfield

The town of East Brookfield is looking for a Laborer. Minimum Requirements: Must have a CDL Class B License with an Air Brake Endorsement. Must obtain a 2B Hoist Engineer's License within one year of employment. Must have a valid D.O.T. physical card. Letters of interest and resumes can be mailed to: Town of East Brookfield, Highway Department, 424 East Main St., East Brookfield, MA 01515 and will be accepted until filled. The town of East Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Secondary Water Operator Town of East Brookfield

The town of East Brookfield Water Department is looking for a Water Department Secondary Water Operator to assist the Superintendent in daily duties. Water Treatment License T1/D1 and valid Mass. Driver's License are required. Resumes and statements of interest should be sent to: Board of Selectmen, Town of East Brookfield, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA 01515. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The town of East Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Town Planner

### Town of Rockland

Would you like to be the town of Rockland's first Town Planner? The town of Rockland is excited to seek an experienced Town Planner who is responsible for performing professional and administrative work for the town's Planning Department, including the town's Planning and Zoning Boards. Work involves implementation of comprehensive plans; assessing proposals for land use and development; determining compliance with zoning ordinances, and applicable state and federal laws; attending Planning & Zoning Board meetings in an advisory capacity; assisting with long range planning projects; acquiring and administering grants; and recommending policies, standards or criteria, zoning bylaw changes. Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in urban planning or relative field required, master's degree desirable, and minimum three years' experience in the land use planning, preferable local government of which at least three years were in an administrative or supervisory position; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Annual salary: \$70,000-\$80,000/ DOQ. Excellent benefits: town share 79% of BCBS premium and 50% of dental premium. Full job description found online at <u>rockland-ma.gov</u>. Please send a cover letter, resume and application to Human Resources, scallahan@rockland-ma.gov.

### Sewer Superintendent Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland seeks motivated applicants for Sewer Superintendent. Responsible for the planning,

budgets, organization, direction, management of the operations and activities for town's 2.5 MGD, Grade 7 treatment plant, collection and storage system. This position will ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state mandates and regulations as well as exercise direct authority over all plant staff, including outside contractors in accordance with all town policies and procedures. Excellent benefits, 40 hours per week, on call 24/7 for emergencies. The full job description is found online at <u>www.rockland-ma.gov</u>. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume and application to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov. Starting salary \$88,000, DOQ.

#### **COA Director** Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland is seeking a Council on Aging Director who oversees the daily operation of an active Senior Center. Responsible for administrative, fiscal management, managerial, supervisory, and social service work in connection with the need's determination, development, implementation of support programs, services, events, activities and facilities of a multi-purpose Council on Aging and Senior Center. Full-time, exempt, annual salary \$70,000/DOQ. Excellent benefits including BCBSMA health insurance with town contribution of 79% of the premium and 50% of the dental premium. Full job description and application can be found online <u>rockland-ma.gov</u>. Please send a letter of interest, resume and application to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov.

### Assistant Assessor City of Medford

Salary range \$1,312.57-\$1,533.96 weekly. Position Summary: Performs skilled routine to complex technical work involved in appraising and examining all types of real property for assessment purposes to Mass. Appraisal Standards. Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration, economics, real estate, or related field. Massachusetts Assessor Certification (MAA, RMS, CMA). To apply and review the complete job description, visit <u>www.medfordma.org/departments/personnel/jobs</u>. Generous benefits offered include 13 paid holidays plus three personal days, vacation time credits prior municipality work, longevity pay eligible after five years, deferred compensation, and more. Applications accepted until position filled.

#### Chief Assessor City of Medford

Salary range \$1,944.80-\$2,274.33 weekly. Position Summary: Performs a variety of duties and manages programs related to the assessment and appraisal function for the city. Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration, economics, real estate, or related field. Applicants must have at least five to seven years of progressive responsibility experience as assessor, property appraiser or in a related field. To apply and review the complete job description, visit <u>www.medfordma.org/departments/personnel/</u> jobs. Generous benefits offered include 13 paid holidays, vacation time credits prior municipality work, longevity pay eligible after five years, deferred compensation, and more. Applications accepted until position filled.

### Assistant Town Administrator of Finance Town of Brookline

Brookline, Mass. (population 59,000) seeks an Assistant Town Administrator of Finance responsible for assisting the Town Administrator with the preparation of the annual comprehensive financial budget and annual report, providing professional advice to boards and committees, and researching and drafting changes to town policies. Brookline is governed by a representative town meeting, fiveperson Select Board, and Town Administrator. Starting salary range: \$89,000-\$94,000 DOQ, with a generous benefits package. The position is open until filled. Submit resume, cover letter, and contact information for five professional references online to Michael Jaillet, Vice President, GovHR USA, LLC, <u>www. GovHRjobs.com</u>.

### **Assistant Sewer Superintendent** Town of Orange

The town of Orange Wastewater/Sewer Department is seeking a full-time Assistant Superintendent. This position provides professional management and supervisory functions for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and Sanitary Sewer System. Responsibilities include reviewing operations to ensure compliance with permit regulations; supervising, training and assigning staff; preparing and administering department budget; developing and implementing policies and procedures; allocating funds, staff and equipment to provide for efficient operations; and performing a variety of supervisory and management functions for the department. For more information and job description, please visit: www.townoforange. org/home/pages/job-opportunities. The town of Orange is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Human Resources Manager Town of Clinton

The town of Clinton is seeking to appoint a skilled and experienced professional as Human Resources Manager for the municipality, including schools. The Human Resources Manager serves as a key member of the management team to effectively administer and oversee the human resource functions in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. Candidate resumes will be reviewed on a rolling basis. More information on requirements for this position can be found at <u>ma-clinton.civicplus.com/Jobs.aspx</u>. The town of Clinton is committed to diversity and equality in employment. EEO/AA

### **Fire Chief**

### **Dartmouth Fire District No. 2**

Dartmouth Fire District No. 2 is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is a full-time employee of the district. Dartmouth Fire District No.2 is located on the south coast of Massachusetts and covers approximately 23 square miles, primarily in a residential and agricultural area in the town of Dartmouth, Mass. The district has a population of approximately 7,000 permanent residents with more during the summer months. A full job description and job posting is available on the district's website: <u>www. dartmouthfiredistrict2.org</u> under the Employment Opportunities tab.

### Executive Assistant - Mayor's Office City of Brockton

Brockton, a vibrant city located 20 miles south of Boston, is seeking a motivated and talented Executive Assistant for the Mayor. The individual who fills this essential position will perform highly responsible administrative and clerical work that

**CLASSIFIEDS** continued on 30

### CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 29

supports the operations of the Mayor, the Chief of Staff, and the Mayor's office. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to become involved with a variety of fascinating projects promoting the city's values, programs and initiatives. Preferred minimum qualifications include an associate's degree or similar professional training and at least three years of administrative experience, supervisory experience and/or municipal experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Employees are our most valuable asset! We offer a comprehensive benefits package and a supportive and inclusive work environment. This is a full-time position. Compensation is \$45,000-\$50,000 annually, depending upon experience, plus a generous benefits package. Please go to brockton.interviewexchange. com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=152388 for a complete job description and application instructions. The application deadline is Sept. 9. Please note that the review of applications will begin immediately.

#### Director of Finance Easton Public Schools

General Statement of Duties: The Director of Finance is a key member of the central office team. The primary purpose of the role is to organize, develop, and implement the financial functions of the Easton Public Schools. The primary responsibilities include managing a municipal financial accounting system, preparing the annual budget and monitoring expenditures, and preparing and analyzing strategic and long-range planning projections. Reports To: Superintendent. Supervision: The incumbent will supervise the Business Office and Food Service Department. Work Year: This is a 12-month, full-time position. Salary Range: \$130,000-\$155,000. Apply for the position at <u>School Spring</u>.

#### Administrative Assistant - Land Use Department Town of Groton

The town of Groton is accepting applications for a Land Use Department's Administrative Assistant. This position would be the primary support staff for the Building Department, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and Historic Districts Commission (HDC), while assisting all the Land Use Departments as needed. This is a full-time, 40 hour position. The salary range for this position is \$25.52-\$34.87. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: answering questions and providing information to applicants/contractors, the general public and town employees concerning town policies, rules, and regulations; receiving and responding to complaints appropriately; making appropriate referrals as necessary. Acts as first contact for Building Department, ZBA and HDC; assists the Land Use Director/Town Planner and Building Commissioner in coordinating permit applications from the time they are submitted until permits have been granted and occupancy permits have been issued. Serves as Department Administrator for online permitting software. Coordinates meetings and records minutes for the HDC and ZBA. Provides assistance for U.S. passport applications. Candidates must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills as well as the ability to work well under public scrutiny. Ability to work independently and collaboratively is essential. Working knowledge of administrative and bookkeeping techniques, and

office information technology. Familiarity with permitting software such as ViewPoint is a plus. General knowledge of the applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws pertinent to the Land Use Departments is preferred but not required. High school diploma with course work in finance, business, accounting, or a related field, and three years of related experience; experience in a municipal setting desired; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. To apply, please complete a job application and submit to Melisa Doig, HR Director, Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 01450 or by email to humanresources@grotonma.gov. For questions, please call 978-448-1145. Job description is available by request. Applications can be found on the town of Groton website, www.grotonma.gov. Application deadline is Sept. 16. The town of Groton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **Executive Director**

Massachusetts Health Officers Association Are you an innovative, forward-thinking leader with a passion for local public health? The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) seeks a talented, motivated individual to serve as its Executive Director and lead this statewide association of more than 600 public health officials. MHOA leads, supports, and advocates for the delivery of statutory and foundational public health services across every municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MHOA informs, educates, and empowers its members to ensure healthy communities for all. The Executive Director reports to the MHOA Board of Directors and will assume leadership responsibility for the organization's \$1.96 million FY 2023 annual budget, and will directly supervise five staff members and indirectly manage four other staffers. The position would be a great fit for an experienced local public health official who desires a new challenge, or a skilled non-profit leader with an interest in public health looking to put her/his stamp on a growing organization. MHOA encourages applicants from a variety of backgrounds to consider applying before Sept. 16. The full job description is available at bit.ly/ MHOAExecDirector.

### Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

### Town of Chelmsford

The town of Chelmsford is seeking qualified candidates to fill a full-time position of Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer. The ideal candidate will be familiar with building, construction, plan review, and the enforcement and interpretation of the State Building Code, local zoning bylaws, and any other applicable regulations. Must be able to interact diplomatically with contractors, residents and colleagues. Candidates with professional backgrounds in electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and/or heating trades would be a plus. Minimum qualifications: Must be a Certified Building Official in Mass., an associate's degree in engineering or a related field, and five years of progressively responsible experience in the construction/building field; OR any equivalent combination of education and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and ability. Work schedule is 37.5 hours per week with on-call rotation to respond to emergencies. Prior municipal experience in a similar position is preferred. Pay range is \$68,770 to \$74,058 annually, depending on experience. Position is open until filled. A town of Chelmsford job application is required. Position

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is open until filled. Send applications to: Jeanne Parziale, Human Resources Director, 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 or email: jparziale@ chelmsfordma.gov. The town of Chelmsford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### General Manager

**Reading Municipal Light Department** Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) seeks a General Manager with exceptional leadership, management, communication, negotiation and strategic planning skills. RMLD is a municipal electric utility serving four towns. The position is subject to M.G.L. Ch. 164 and interacts with a myriad of governmental bodies. Candidates must demonstrate skills leading an electric utility and have a minimum of 10 years' experience at a senior level management position. Municipal experience is a plus with a good understanding of government requirements. Bachelor's degree in a related field is required. A master's degree in business administration, management or public administration is desired. RMLD offers a competitive benefits package. Qualified in-house applicants must submit resume, references and salary requirements to Janet Walsh, Director of Human Resources, RMLD, 230 Ash St., Reading, MA 01867, email: jwalsh@rmld.com.

### Payroll and Benefits Coordinator Town of Sturbridge

The town of Sturbridge seeks qualified candidates for a full-time Payroll and Benefits Coordinator position in the Finance Department. This position provides office clerical assistance to the Finance Director in all areas of payroll and benefits administration, as well as provides support for tax collection, account reconciliation and accounts payable. The candidate should be a highly motivated and detailed oriented individual who enjoys working with the public. Experience in accounting or related field; municipal experience, or any equivalent combination of education and training. Working knowledge of Munis software is preferred. This is a full-time, 35 hours a week, benefitted position. Pay range is \$20.10-\$27.15/hour DOQ. Please send a cover letter and resume to: Barbara Barry, 308 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566 or email to: bbarry@sturbridge. gov. Open until filled. Priority consideration given to resumes received by Sept. 1. The town of Sturbridge is an EEO/AA employer.

### Assistant Treasurer/Collector Town of Sturbridge

The town of Sturbridge seeks qualified candidates for a full-time Assistant Treasurer/Collector. This position assists the Finance Director in the areas of billing and collection of taxes, receipt of local receipts, payroll and personnel administration, and cash management. This position may act as Treasurer/Collector in the department head's absence. The selected applicant must be bondable. The candidate should be a highly motivated and detailed oriented individual who enjoys working with the public. Experience in accounting or related field; municipal experience, or any equivalent combination of education and training. Working knowledge of Munis software is preferred. This is a full-time, 37.5 hours a week, benefitted position. Pay range is \$23.09-\$31.19/hour DOQ. Please send a cover letter and resume to: Barbara Barry, 308 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566 or email to: bbarry@sturbridge. gov. Open until filled. Priority consideration given to resumes received by Sept. 1. The town of Sturbridge is

**CLASSIFIEDS** continued on 31

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

Continued from page 30

an EEO/AA employer.

### **Cultural Liaison** City of Quincy

Liaise and serve as primary contact for multicultural residents and businesses looking to connect with the Mayor's Office/City Council and facilitate the delivery of services in collaboration with city departments. Advocate to the Mayor and or city departments on behalf of the needs and requests of multicultural residents and businesses. Encourage, facilitate, and maximize multicultural residents for input and participation through service requests, neighborhood meetings, resident mailings, and emergency responses. Coordinate resources and introductions to multicultural communities throughout the city to bridge cultures. Distribute city information and facilitate the delivery of services in collaboration with city departments to multicultural residents. Encourage and support multicultural residents, businesses, groups, and organizations to share their culture and celebrations with other residents and the community. Attend and/or represent the city and Mayor's Office in local multicultural community events and celebrations. Work closely with the Mayor's Office, Constituent Services Department, and City Council to learn and advocate for the needs of multicultural residents. Interested persons should submit a resume to Patricia McGowan, Director of Human Resources, at pmcgowan@quincyma.gov.

#### Town Manager Town of Winterport, Maine

The town of Winterport is accepting applications for the position of Town Manager. Winterport is a small New England town located along the banks of the Penobscot River and just 12 miles south of Bangor, Maine's third largest city. It retains its 19th century charm, which blends well with its 21st century conveniences. From a thriving downtown to a heavily utilized waterfront, and with community spirit and involvement, Winterport offers an excellent community to live and work in. Winterport has a year round population of 3,817 with a municipal budget of \$2.7 million, five full-time employees, and four part-time employees. Winterport has a Charter with a Town Manager/Selectboard/Town Meeting form of government which includes a five-member Council elected with staggered terms. The Council is seeking candidates with a minimum of five years of demonstrated municipal management experience as a manager or similar related position. Knowledge/ experience in areas of budget/finance, grant writing and implementation, human resources, planning, policy management, and project management are desired. Strong background and awareness of technology and its application in a municipal setting is desired. Superior supervisory and organizational skills, excellent written and oral communications, as well as excellent interpersonal skills are required. Leadership with integrity, honesty, openness and humor combined with creative problem solving will be essential. The successful candidate is expected to become an active member of the community and residency in Winterport is desired but not mandatory. Applicants will possess a bachelor's degree in public administration or a closely related field with a master's degree preferred. Salary range is \$85,000 to \$95,000 to be determined based on experience and qualifications. For more information go to

www.winterportmaine.gov. Submit cover letter, resume, salary requirements and five references by Tuesday, Sept. 13 to: Winterport Town Manager Search, Eaton Peabody Consulting Group, Attn: Don Gerrish, 77 Sewall St., Suite 3000, Augusta, ME 04330; dgerrish@eatonpeabody.com.

### Part-Time Administrative Assistant Town of Williamstown

The Town Clerk's Office is seeking a part-time, 20 hours per week Administrative Assistant to provide clerical and administrative assistance to the Town Clerk. The work involves attention to detail to maintain accurate records, answering customer inquiries, vital records, elections and more. A complete job description including minimum qualifications, is available at <u>williamstownma.gov/employment</u>. The pay is \$18 per hour. This position is eligible for benefits. To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to Nicole Beverly, Town Clerk, 31 North St., Williamstown, MA 01267 or email to nbeverly@ williamstownma.gov. Position will remain open until filled.

### Town Manager

### Town of Brighton, Vermont

The town of Brighton is seeking a proven leader to serve as the Town Manager. Appointed by and reporting directly to the Select Board, the Town Manager serves as the Chief Administrative Officer. As an administrative and municipal expert, the Town Manager recommends and provides advice to the Select Board on all matters affecting the town. The Town Manager supervises daily operations of the town government, directs multiple work functions, and provides leadership and direction to the heads of town departments. To view a complete job description and apply for the position, please visit <u>TMSearch</u>. <u>BrightonVT.gov</u>. First review of applications Sept. 21.

### Deputy DPW Commissioner City of Chelsea

Under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, the Deputy DPW Commissioner will assist with the development of department objectives, plans, and goals; recommend a range of programs/ services designed to support objectives and planning initiatives and to enhance the provision of quality services. The Deputy DPW Commissioner will assist the Commissioner of Public Works in developing and recommending department budget requests for review before the City Manager and City Council and work within the approved budget in a manner consistent with city policies and procedures. Click on the link for full job description: www.chelseama.gov/humanresources/blog/deputy-commissioner-departmentpublic-works-dpw. EEO

### Assistant Finance Director Town of Hudson

The town of Hudson seeks a qualified candidate for the Assistant Finance Director/Assistant Town Accountant position. Responsible for the accounting of appropriations, expenditures, receipts, and general ledger entries; assists in reconciliation of cash and receivables; and assists in compiling data for state and federal reports as well as the town's audits. Replaces Finance Director/Town Accountant in their absence. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in finance or business-related field; five years' experience in municipal finance, business or related field with two years in a supervisory capacity; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of Mass. laws pertaining to municipal finance and financial software highly desirable but will train; ability to grasp new concepts as they relate to Massachusetts General Laws, town policies and bylaws and other federal and/or state regulations; experience with computerized financial systems and strong Excel spreadsheet skills required. Strong communication skills and ability to work collaboratively with town departments, boards and committees, and auditors. This is a full-time, benefits-eligible, non-union position; the current salary range for this position is \$57,114-\$75,157. Please email a resume and cover letter to Patricia E. Fay at pfay@townofhudson.org. Position open until filled. EOE/AA

### Environmental Scientist City of Quincy

Provide support, coordination, and professional management for the city of Quincy Department of Natural Resources to protect the community's natural resources including its biodiversity, wetlands, watershed, and other water resources. Assist the city of Quincy Department of Natural Resources in planning, acquisition, administration and management of municipal conservation land and wetlands. Salary is \$92,700 annually. Responsibilities include: Responsible for overseeing health watershed lands; evaluation and project analysis of municipal wetlands to include ponds, brooks, creeks, and salt marshes to preserve and improve health of our natural resources; develop strategies and plans to increase health and biodiversity of Quincy's natural resources; leverage existing natural resources to help build resiliency for Quincy's neighborhoods against a changing climate and related impacts; primarily along Quincy's 27-mile coastline; develop best management practices for ongoing care and support of Quincy's natural resources to include all parks and open space areas. Qualifications and requirements: Bachelor's degree in environmental science or related field. Experience in wetlands protection, land conservation, environmental management or related fields (three-plus years required, five-plus years preferred). Valid Massachusetts driver's license. Able to interpret technical data, read engineering maps and plans, and critically analyze information. Strong computer skills including word processing, database management, GIS mapping, spreadsheets, email, and web. Ability to stoop, bend, reach, dig and lift during field inspections. Working knowledge of: Biodiversity, water resource, watershed, and open space protection. Principles of land protection and management. Identification of local plants, natural communities, and wildlife. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and associated regulations and policies. Relevant areas of pure and applied wetlands science such as vegetation communities, functions and values. and replication. Wetlands boundary identification/ verification based on plant species and indicator status identification of hydric soils using Munsell or similar charts. Rare species requirements, vernal pools and the certification process. Geology and hydrology, erosion control techniques, retention, and detention ponds. Interested persons should submit a resume to Patricia McGowan, Director of Human Resources, at pmcgowan@quincyma.gov.

**CLASSIFIEDS** continued on 32

### CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 31

### **Town Accountant**

### **Town of Freetown**

The town of Freetown seeks qualified applicants for the full-time position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant works under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to perform essential functions, ensuring that all municipal financial transactions conform to law and to professional standards. The accountant is responsible for the development, upkeep, and implementation of the town's accounting system and procedures; supervising the expenditure of all town funds; providing financial information; ensuring the integrity of financial data; and rejecting unlawful or fraudulent expenditures. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or a related field; at least five years of progressively responsible experience in accounting or financial management; and equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience in municipal accounting and familiarity with the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS) is essential. Familiarity with Vadar Accounting system is preferred. Massachusetts Municipal Auditors' and Accountants' Association (MMAAA) certification required or obtained within three years of hiring. Interested

### SERVICES

applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to lsouza@freetownma.gov. This position will remain open until filled with review of applications beginning Sept. 1.

### **Municipal Energy Services**

Through the MMA's MunEnergy program, MMA members have access to an energy contract designed exclusively for Massachusetts cities and towns. The MunEnergy program offers access to energy experts at Constellation, a vetted municipal energy contract, and options for sustainability programs. Energy professionals at Constellation, the MMA-endorsed supplier for MunEnergy, work with municipalities to manage electricity costs for the long-term. Constellation is also on the forefront of sustainability programs and provides financial support to the MMA for its promotional and marketing efforts. To learn more, visit www.mma.org/munenergy. To be notified about MunEnergy events, send contact information for the person on your team who handles energy for your city or town to energy@mma.org.

### Leadership Skills Online Program

UMass Donahue Institute, in collaboration with University Without Walls (UWW) and UMass Online, is offering an online leadership development certificate program. The Leadership Excellence program is for emerging leaders who need new skills and tools to implement organizational change and propel their careers forward. The five-module program provides 30 hours of hands-on learning over eight weeks in an interactive online classroom. Participants complete two online leadership assessments and receive individualized coaching to interpret the results. Program completion earns learners a certificate and three CEUs through UWW. A 25% discount for those registered before Nov. 30. The program begins with orientation on April 20, 2023. <u>www.donahue.umass.edu/leadershipexcellence</u>.

### Creative, Cost-Effective Municipal Services to Maximize Success, Minimize Risk

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusettsbased, woman-owned business, composed of former municipal employees. Our team of dedicated and experienced professionals provide an abundance of support services to guide municipalities through the challenges they face, allowing for continuity of services at a fraction of the cost of a full-time employee. We specialize in public administration, finance and grant management, human resources, public works and water quality, public safety, capital improvement planning, project management and oversight, emergency management and fire services, public relations/community outreach, and more. For more information, visit: <u>Capital-Strategic-Solutions.com</u> or call 508-690-0046.

### **New Manager Webinar Series**

Designed for those with limited experience managing direct reports. Focused on core skills any manager should master to engage, develop and retain talent, and drive the team member performance. Reflection questions and assignments are designed to further support skill development and behavior change. Each learning series and each webinar is recorded to make up missed sessions. Webinar length: 90 minutes. Starts Sept. 14. Visit <u>donahue.umass.edu/businessgroups/organizational-development-learningsolutions2/new-manager-webinar-series</u>.

### **Public Management Consultants**

MMA Consulting Group Inc. provides consulting services to cities, towns, and other public agencies. We specialize in public safety/emergency response (police, fire, EMS) issues, the design and administration of assessment centers, structured oral panels, and recruitment of police and fire executives. For information, contact Mark Morse, President, MMA Consulting Group Inc., 101 Court St. #7, Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-746-3653; mmacginc@gmail.com.

### **Municipal Accounting Services**

Melanson is one of the largest non-national Certified Public Accounting firms in New England and has been a leader in the accounting and auditing profession for over 42 years. Our Governmental Services Department includes eight principals and 65 professionals who work exclusively on governmental services. Among them are our outsourcing professionals, who are here for you and have the experience and knowledge to help solve your internal accounting challenges. We provide both long- and short-term services as well as flexible access, either remotely or on-site without adding to your long-term employee benefit costs. Contact us today! contactus@ melansoncpas.com

### Executive Recruiting, Management and Governance Consulting Services

Community Paradigm Associates provides comprehensive professional services to public sector, private sector, and not-for-profit clients, including organizational and management studies, executive recruiting, operational analyses, personnel studies, compensation and classification plans, charter

development, strategic planning, leadership training, and facilitation services. Community Paradigm Associates has a team of seasoned associates with expertise in all aspects of municipal government. For more information, contact Principal Bernard Lynch at 978-621-6733 or BLynch@CommunityParadigm.com; www.communityparadigm.com.

### Executive Recruiting, Interim Staffing, Human Resources and Management Consulting

GovHR USA/GovTempsUSA provides executive recruiting and interim staffing solutions, management and human resource consulting to local government and nonprofit clients across the country. Seasoned local government professionals provide five-star quality services including: Classification and Compensation Studies; Temporary and Outsourced staffing; Performance Evaluation System and Training. Visit our website at <u>www.GovHRusa.com</u> or contact us at 847-380-3240 or info@govhrusa.com to discuss how we may serve your organization. Post to our job board at <u>www.govhrjobs.com</u>.

### **GIS Consulting Services**

As a local government, does your community expect more from you? Geospatial technology is a great tool to use to meet these expectations and build trust. Spatial Relationships is a GIS consulting firm in Boston that specializes in on-demand personalized GIS services for local government. Need extra GIS support for an important project, but don't want to deal with the overhead of a large firm? Don't have GIS staff, but have a one-time need? Indispensable GIS staff going out on leave? We're here to help. To learn more about us, please visit www.spatial-relationships.com.

### **Town Counsel Services**

KP | Law is a municipal law firm. With offices in Boston, Hyannis, Lenox, Northampton and Worcester, we serve as town counsel to more than 125 towns throughout Massachusetts, from Provincetown to Williamstown, and as special counsel to another 90. For more than 30 years, we have devoted ourselves to municipal law and have become experts in the defense of all areas of municipal trial matters. We have specialists in all areas of municipal law and maintain an environmental and land use law department that is on the cutting edge of planning, zoning and conservation. KP | Law is highly sensitive to the limited legal services budgets of Massachusetts communities and thus has highly competitive billing rates to give your town the best quality legal counsel in the most cost-efficient manner. There is never a need for special counsel. Our breadth and depth of experience helps keep our cost per opinion to a minimum and enables us to service our clients quickly and efficiently, and is consistent with our commitment to excellence. For additional information on the legal services that KP | Law provides, please visit www.k-plaw.com or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq., at 617-556-0007, or toll-free at 800-548-3522, or at lgoldberg@k-plaw.com.

## General Consultant, Recruiting and Special Studies

Municipal Resources Inc. has been providing management solutions to New England municipalities since 1989. MRI is able to provide expertise when and where it's needed. Our services include executive recruitments, assessment centers and promotional

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

Continued from page 32

testing; public safety organizational studies; finance operations; interim staffing; internal investigations; efficiency and regionalization studies. MRI has an extensive group of experienced subject experts that are able to provide the technical and management expertise that can help communities deliver quality services and resolve complex problems with real-world solutions. Contact us at 866-501-0352 or info@mrigov. com.

### **Town Counsel/Legal Services**

Brooks & DeRensis, P.C., is available to provide services to government entities at the state, county, city, town or regional district level. Legal services available include procurement law, contracts, eminent domain, labor relations and civil rights. Contact Jack Dolan for labor, employment, civil rights and retirement matters or Paul DeRensis for all other public law issues at 857-259-5200.

### Organizational Development and Conflict Resolution

The Mediation Group is New England's one-stop shopping for conflict resolution and organizational development. With 30-plus years of experience, our multi-disciplinary team provides individuals and organizations with support to move forward constructively and improve functionality. Our services include: facilitation, mediation, training and coaching, leadership development, cultural competency, independent workplace investigations, stakeholder assessments, public engagement and process design. For more information, visit <u>www.themediationgroup.org</u>, email info@ themediationgroup.org or call 617-277-9232.

### **Town Counsel Services**

Miyares and Harrington LLP provides Town and Special Counsel services to help build and implement local programs that serve community needs. We have the expertise you require, based on decades of real-world experience. We take the time to understand your situation. We inquire, listen, and respond. We provide options that will work for you. We are committed to the values of democracy, to preservation and enhancement of natural resources and the built environment, and to excellence and care in support of municipal objectives. We offer competitive rates, personal service, diligent attention to our clients' needs, and good humor. Please contact us at contact@ miyares-harrington.com or 617-489-1600.

The Massachusetts Municipal

government.

Management Association offers free

considering a change in their form of

The MMMA, a member group of the

MMA comprising town managers,

administrators and assistants, has

compiled answers to frequently asked

questions as well as descriptions of the

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resources to help communities that are

Form-of-government resources available

### **Tax Title Legal Services**

KP | Law has been providing a full range of legal services to municipal treasurers and collectors for more than 30 years. Our experienced tax title attorneys draft collection letters and payment agreements; prepare all instruments relative to tax takings and tax sales; draft pleadings for Land Court foreclosures; and provide full representation of municipalities in Land Court actions. We also provide assistance with disposition or reuse of tax parcels. The breadth of our experience, volume, use of experienced paralegals, state-of-the-art computer and informational services, and close proximity to the Land Court enables us to provide prompt, costeffective services. For additional information, please visit www.k-plaw.com or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq. at 617-556-0007, or toll-free at 800-548-3522, or at lgoldberg@k-plaw.com.

### Municipal Financial Management Software: Accounting, Cloud, Utility and Collections

VADAR Systems provides financial management software to more than 100 Massachusetts municipalities. Our accounting, cloud, utility and collections applications are designed exclusively for Massachusetts municipalities by Massachusetts end users. The VADAR Cloud maximizes efficiency with 24/7 secure, remote access to all your applications from any device. Our user support offers unparalleled expertise. Proudly serving Massachusetts for 20-plus years. For a free on-site demonstration, please contact us at 877-823-2700 or sales@vadarsystems.com. Learn more at <u>www.VADARsystems.com</u>. Locally owned and operated at 20 Main St., Suite G1, Acton, MA 01701.

### Labor Counsel Services/Municipal Human Resources Specialists

Clifford and Kenny, LLP provides quality representation to cities, towns and school districts in the area of labor and employment. Attorneys John Clifford and Jaime Kenny have many years of experience in representing clients for collective bargaining and personnel-related matters including discipline and discharge of unionized employees. We have extensive experience in the area of police and fire injured-on-duty cases, and have worked extensively with municipalities and insurers to resolve costly longterm claims. We offer training in sexual harassment, social media and the "just cause analysis" to municipal managers. We also serve as appointed hearing officers on a case-by-case basis. Many of our clients take advantage of a flat monthly rate for unlimited phone

different forms of government with a professional administrator.

Also available are reports on towns that have gone through changes in their forms of government.

A management chart shows the progression of management authority in a decentralized vs. centralized form of government. calls and emails, which encourages key managers to work with counsel prior to making critical personnel decisions. Check our website at <u>CliffordKennyLaw</u>. <u>com</u> to see a complete list of our satisfied clients or call John Clifford or Jaime Kenny at 781-924-5796 for more information.

### Municipal Financial Management Services

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA, has been involved in municipal finance since 1994 in various capacities, ranging from Finance Director to an auditor of municipalities as a Certified Public Accountant. Cities and towns in need of a CPA specializing in municipal auditing and consulting are offered services such as municipal audits, assistance in year-end closing, interim treasurer, collector and town accountant services, revenue forecasting, and capital financing plan assistance. If you are in need of a municipal audit or a financial consultant, please contact Eric Kinsherf at eric@erickinsherfcpa.com or at 508-833-8508. Learn more at <u>www.erickinsherfcpa.com</u>.

### **Human Resources Consulting**

Human Resources Services Inc. provides a full range of human resource management consulting services to Massachusetts' local governments and other public agencies. Specialization includes compensation/ classification, performance appraisal, job analysis and evaluation, job descriptions, salary/benefits and total compensation surveys and analytics, personnel policies/handbooks, staffing and organizational management studies, HR audits and assessments, HR training services, recruitment and selection services, web-based HR services, and special projects. Please contact Sandy Stapczynski, President, Human Resources Services Inc., 9 Bartlet St., Suite 186, Andover, MA 01810; 978-474-0200; hrsconsulting@ comcast.net; or visit www.hrsconsultinginc.com. WBE certified.

### Executive Recruitment and Municipal Management

Groux-White Consulting, LLC, is a full-service municipal management consulting firm specializing in executive recruitment, interim management, form of government studies, organizational effectiveness evaluations, strategic and financial planning and conflict resolution. Tom Groux and Rick White, One Pelham Road, Lexington, MA 02421; rickwhite58@verizon.net; 781-572-6332; www. grouxwhiteconsulting.com. ●

These and other related resources can be found in the MMA website Resource Library.

Members of the MMMA are also available to meet with charter commissions, government study committees and select boards to discuss options and answer questions.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

# Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

9

### Massachusetts Select Board

Association, webinar, 9:30-10:45 a.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

**Massachusetts Municipal** 13 Councillors' Association,

board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, board 13 meeting, 10-11:15 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board 13

**Association**, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

14-15 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources, Fall Conference, Nantasket Beach Resort,

Hull. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

17-21

### **International City/County** Management Association,

annual conference. Contact: icma.org

**Massachusetts Mayors'** 28 **Association**, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership **Director Candace Pierce** 

**Massachusetts Municipal** 29 Management Association, Boot Camp, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon, Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise

### OCTOBER

Baker

MunEnergy, webinar, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Contact: MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue

MMA contacts

Denise Baker can be reached at dbaker@mma.org

Isabelle Jenkins can be reached at iienkins@mma.org

Timmery Kuck can be reached at tkuck@mma.org



**Massachusetts Municipal Association** 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

Note: The MMA is requiring attendees of in-person meetings to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

MMA Board of Directors. 11 annual long-range planning meeting, The Conference Center at Waltham Woods. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Women Elected Municipal 15 **Officials**, Leadership Conference, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Melrose Memorial Hall, Melrose. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

**Massachusetts Municipal** 20 Management Association, monthly meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Olde Scotland Links, Bridgewater. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

**Massachusetts Select Board** 22 Association, leadership conference, 8 a.m-12 p.m., Pompo Community Center, Stow. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Massachusetts Mayors' 26 **Association**, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership **Director Candace Pierce** 

**Massachusetts Municipal** 28 Human Resources, Labor Relations Seminar, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

### NOVEMBER

Women Leading Government, 3 meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Pine Ridge Country Club, Oxford. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

For more information, visit www.mma.org

5

### Association of Town Finance

**Committees**, Annual Meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

**Massachusetts Municipal** 8 Councillors' Association,

board meeting, 11:15 a.m.-noon, virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, board 8 meeting, 10-11:15 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board 8 Association, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Massachusetts Municipal 17-18 Management Association, Fall Conference, UMass Amherst. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

### DECEMBER

**Massachusetts Mayors'** Association, holiday dinner, Boston, Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce

To list an event of interest to municipal officials in The Beacon, send information about the event, including date, location, sponsorship, cost, and whom to call for more information, to editor@mma.org.

**Online registration is available** for most of these events.