The Beacon

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January 2023

Administration shares vision, optimism

By Dave Koffman

Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll were sworn into office on Jan. 5 before a joint session of the House and Senate in Boston. In her inaugural address, the new governor set an optimistic tone for tackling the many challenges facing the Commonwealth.

She made several policy pledges expected to be part of the administration's work in its first several months, as well as what may appear in her fiscal 2024 state budget recommendation, which is due by March 1. Her identified priorities include housing, tax reform, child care, workforce development, education, transportation, equity, and climate change.

She said her early work will include:

- Creating a secretary of housing, to support cities and towns with tools to address housing needs
- Identifying unused state-owned land that could be used for building housing

units within one year

- Expanding the child tax credit for every child and family
- Developing a program to make community college free for adults 25 and older
- Forming an interagency task force to improve the Commonwealth's competitive position for billions in federal infrastructure funding, and providing necessary support for the state's roads and bridges
- Providing funding to hire 1,000 additional employees at the MBTA
- Performing an equity audit across all state agencies
- Doubling the state's offshore wind and solar targets
- Electrifying the state's vehicle fleet by 2030
- Allocating at least 1% of the entire state budget to environmental



Gov. Healey gives her inauguration address at the State House on Jan. 5. Seated behind her is Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

agencies, including a tripling of funding for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

She said her first executive order, to be filed on Jan. 6, will create the state's first cabinet-level climate chief, reporting directly to her to help the state and cities and towns meet climate goals.

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Inside

Annual Meeting is 2 weeks away

By John Quellette

In just two weeks, more than 1,000 MMA members will convene in-person for the first time since 2020 for the 44th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

If you haven't already done so, there are still a few days to <u>register at the early rate</u>. The largest regular gathering of local officials in Massachusetts returns on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 20 and 21, under the theme "Connect, Engage, Be Inspired!"

Members will be able to get a sense of the new administration's priorities for the coming year from newly inaugurated Gov. Maura Healey during the Opening Session, and from Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll during the Women Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Luncheon on Friday as well as the MMA Annual Business Meeting on Saturday.



The MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show will be held in-person for the first time in three years on Jan. 20 and 21.

The speaker lineup also includes:

- Keynote <u>Elizabeth Lombardo</u>, a noted psychologist and author who offers strategies for improving mental and emotional resilience
- Friday dinner speaker <u>Anthony Everett</u>,

■ ANNUAL MEETING continued on 28

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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Jill Hai, MMA Vice President Select Board, Lexington

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Executive Director's Report

A new year brings promise, challenge and change

The calendar has turned another page, as it inevitably does, ushering in a new year filled with new promise, enduring challenges, and the steady drumbeat of change.

The work of government is frequently described as "three yards and a cloud of dust," meaning that forward progress requires a lot of steady effort and teamwork, and large, easy gains are pretty rare. That's the way the founders intended our public systems to work, putting in place checks and balances, and giving voters a

regular say in who is on the field.

As we enter another January (my 31st at the MMA), I feel the same level of excitement and enthusiasm that every new year brings. Cities and towns are striving to address current challenges, focusing on the best ways to make progress on the critical issues of the moment, and looking ahead to identify new questions and problems that will need attention downfield. Thousands of elected and appointed municipal officials are doing this all at once, and the energy generated by this dedication to advancing and improving our communities is palpable and contagious (in a very good way).

The MMA has worked to set an ambitious agenda for the coming year, designed to address the most pressing issues that communities face. The MMA Board of Directors convened this fall to set a number of key priorities, which I shared with you in my December column. These issues cover



By Geoffrey Beckwith

a wide range of major concerns, including revenue sharing and Chapter 70 school funding, municipal infrastructure, municipal workforce recruitment and training, increased education funding beyond the Student Opportunity Act, housing and zoning, and addressing rising incivility at the community level.

Providing a deeper dive on fiscal 2024 funding priorities, the MMA has provided the Healey-Driscoll administration with a detailed outline of the central budget needs for cities and towns, including revenue sharing (Unrestricted General Government Aid), a wide range of school and municipal funding needs, and the need for early and enhanced Chapter 90 funding for local roads. These budget priorities have been set to provide communities in all parts of the state with the resources necessary to provide world-class municipal and education services to 7 million residents and tens of thousands of businesses.

2023 is also ushering in a very big change at the State House, with Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito departing after eight years of partnership with cities, towns, and the Legislature. Local leaders are deeply grateful for the very close working relationship they enjoyed with the Baker-Polito administration, and are equally excited by the opportunity to forge a powerful and fruitful relationship and

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

Arthur Vigeant, Mayor, Marlborough

Michelle Wu, Mayor, Boston

Kristi Williams, Town Manager, Westborough

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to be WEMO speaker

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Just two weeks after becoming the state's newest lieutenant governor, Kim Driscoll will share her insights on leadership and perseverance at the Women Elected Municipal Officials' Leadership Luncheon on Jan. 20 during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston.

Driscoll, who had been mayor of Salem since 2006, will discuss her experiences as a woman in politics and local government, and her journey from municipal service to the state's second-highest office. After their inauguration on Jan. 5, Driscoll and Gov. Maura Healey formed the state's first all-women administration, and Massachusetts is now one of the two first states in the country, along with Arkansas, to have women occupying the two top executive roles.

Before she was elected as Salem's 50th mayor in 2005, Driscoll had to overcome a significant challenge: No woman had held that job before. In an August episode of the podcast "Authentic Leadership for Everyday People," Driscoll recalled the skepticism she heard during that first mayoral campaign.

"Salem had never had a woman mayor, and it never had a mayor who did not grow up in this community," said Driscoll, who was born in Hawaii. "So it was somewhat big to overcome that, and it was talked about openly at the



Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll

time, which is kind of crazy to me now ... 'Kim's really smart, she's really good, but we're not ready for a woman.' Those were often comments made. And I think voters said, 'No, no, we want somebody good,' or, 'We want somebody who's got skills.' And thankfully, it worked out in my favor."

Driscoll — who had experience as chief legal counsel and then deputy city manager in Chelsea, as community development director in Beverly, as a councillor in Salem, and as an intern in Salem's Planning Department — won that election, and then won four more, while becoming recognized as a regional leader and a passionate advocate for

local government.

Though she had strong family ties to the north of Boston, Driscoll gained an early exposure to the world outside Massachusetts, with her mother hailing from Trinidad, and her father serving in the Navy. As part of a military family, she moved frequently when she was young before going to college in Salem. She majored in political science and played basketball at Salem State University, and later went on to earn a law degree at the Massachusetts School of Law.

During her nearly 17 years as mayor, Driscoll has been credited with helping to stabilize and improve Salem's finances, overseeing infrastructure upgrades, investing in public school improvements, championing climate initiatives, prioritizing downtown and waterfront revitalization, and promoting equality, among other accomplishments.

Driscoll has been actively involved in the MMA and served as president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association in 2012. She has also chaired the North Shore Coalition of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and she has served on the Massachusetts Workforce Development Board, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee, the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council, and the Massachusetts Economic Development Planning Council, among other activities.

Sharing her leadership advice on the "Authentic Leadership for Everyday People" podcast, Driscoll listed several principles, including "surrounding yourself with people who are smarter than you," creating a culture of continuous learning, and not being afraid to "fail up" and try new initiatives. Ultimately, she said, good leadership means not taking shortcuts.

"I always say there's no substitute for hard work," Driscoll said. "I know that sounds very cliche, but you've got to put in the time. There's just no way to overcome putting that time into the work that you have, whether it's the private sector or the public sector. People appreciate hard workers, for sure, but you can't phone it in a job like this, or for any leadership position."



MMA honors Baker-Polito administration

On Dec. 6, during Karyn Polito's last meeting as lieutenant governor with the Local Government Advisory Commission, MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith (right, holding picture frame) presented Polito (left) with framed prints recognizing her and outgoing Gov. Charlie Baker's dedication to a strong state-local partnership during their eight years in office. The prints feature the "Entering" signs for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. Polito famously visited every community in the state during her tenure.

Gov. Healey names key members of her team

By John Ouellette

Gov. Maura Healey has made key appointments to her team, recruiting state government policy veterans, including from her former Office of the Attorney General.

Matt Gorzkowicz has been named as secretary of Administration and Finance, an office that plays the lead role in the development of the governor's state budget proposals and includes the Division of Local Services, a key office for municipal officials.

Gorzkowicz, a Winthrop resident who has served for more than a decade as associate vice president for administration and finance at UMass, has previously held two roles in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, as undersecretary (2009-2012) and as assistant secretary for budget (2007-2009). He



Matt Gorzkowicz

has also worked in the Department of Mental Health, as chief financial officer at the Massachusetts School Building Authority, and as budget director in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Healey has also named former Lynn schools Superintendent Patrick Tutwiler as secretary of Education, Gina Fiandaca as secretary of Transportation, Rebecca Tepper as secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Melissa Hoffer as a new Cabinet-level climate chief.

Most recently, Tutwiler was a senior program officer for the Barr Foundation, where he developed new models for high school education. Fiandaca, who had been serving as assistant city manager in Austin, Texas, is also a former commissioner of the Boston Transportation Department.

Tepper had been working in Healey's former office as chief of the Energy and Environment Bureau, serving as chief advisor on energy and environmental policy and heading the AG's energy transition and climate-related affairs.

Hoffer had been the principal deputy general counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Healey is splitting the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two distinct Cabinet posts.

Healey said that Yvonne Hao, her choice to lead the Executive Office of Economic Development, will be the first woman and person of color to lead the state's

■ **HEALEY TEAM** continued on 29

Cannabis Control Commission releases initial memo on HCAs

By Ali DiMatteo

The Cannabis Control Commission has <u>issued a memo</u> regarding its decision to not review any compliance requirements pertaining to host community agreements until it promulgates final rules pertaining to these contracts.

This notice has been a priority for the MMA, to recognize the fact that more than 1,000 mutually agreed-upon host community agreements are currently in effect.

A number of municipalities with host community agreements are reporting that they are facing challenges collecting their agreed-upon community impact fees from recreational cannabis licensees. To this point, the CCC memo states, "the commission is not preventing the Department of Revenue from collecting appropriate taxes, including the local tax option, or municipalities from collecting host community impact fees in the regular course."

The recent cannabis law, <u>Chapter 180</u> of the Acts of 2022, which went into effect in November, includes a number of new provisions that affect municipal host community agreements, including a requirement that the impact fee be "reasonably related" to the cost

imposed upon the municipality, and the elimination of community impact fees after the first eight years of a licensee's operation.

The law allows the commission to review host community agreements and their compliance with these new provisions on a yearly basis at license renewal. The MMA, meanwhile, continues to advocate for the existing terms of host community agreements and impact fees to be honored until they expire.

The new law gives the Cannabis Control Commission until November 2023 to promulgate final rules. ●

Website launched to track local earmarks in economic development bill

The Baker-Polito administration has launched a website to provide information on the more than 600 earmarks for local projects included in a \$3.7 billion spending package that was signed into law on Nov. 10.

The <u>website</u> lists every project title, amount, administering agency, and important agency contact information for each earmark. The site also provides clear instructions for earmark recipients to use when starting the process of accessing the funds.

Chapter 268 of the Acts of 2022 is a

combination of an economic development bill and a fiscal 2022 supplemental budget. It is intended to promote economic development, strengthen health and human services, advance clean energy, expand affordable housing, and invest in local communities, businesses and workers. The law allows for spending from the state's General Fund, as well as the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (part of the American Rescue Plan Act).

The earmarks website is run by the Federal Funds Office in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

- Jackie Lavender Bird



A recently launched state website tracks the 600-plus earmarks for local projects included in the economic development package signed into law on Nov. 10.

Polito reflects on Community Compact, partnership

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

On Dec. 6, outgoing Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito gathered with state and local leaders at the State House to celebrate the Baker-Polito administration's popular Community Compact Cabinet and to announce new grants through two of its programs.

In the final weeks of the Baker-Polito administration's eight-year run, Polito appeared at the bottom of the State House's Grand Staircase to speak about the impact of the Community Compact on municipalities. She said that she and outgoing Gov. Charlie Baker, both former local officials, prioritized programs that promote collaboration between state and local government.

"I feel that we have institutionalized a relationship and a system of how state and local government can work and should work," Polito said.

The Baker-Polito administration created the Community Compact Cabinet in 2015 to strengthen the state's partnership with cities and towns, establish best practices, and encourage creative thinking about the delivery of services. The cabinet includes four programs: Best Practices, the Information Technology grant program, the Efficiency and Regionalization grant program, and the Municipal Fiber grant program.

Sean Cronin, deputy commissioner at the



Northfield Town Administrator Andrea Llamas discusses how her community benefits from Community Compact grants during a Dec. 6 event at the State House.

Division of Local Services, said the Community Compact Cabinet has awarded 1,400 grants totalling \$65 million over the past eight years. He said all 351 municipalities have participated in at least one Best Practice initiative, for a total of 1,300 best practices implemented across the state.

"This is an impactful program that's truly a win for everybody," Cronin said.

Newton Mayor and MMA President Ruthanne Fuller described how the Community Compact program helped the city launch an on-demand rideshare program for residents, helped it complete an action plan on climate resiliency, and will allow it to convert documents into digital records. Fuller said Massachusetts is unique in its willingness to work with local officials, and in the amount of trust it places at the

local level. She said that Baker and Polito's backgrounds as municipal leaders carried over to their administration's mindset.

"It's no surprise that as leaders here in the Commonwealth," Fuller said, "they have reflected in their actions their deep-seeded belief in empowering Select Board members and city councillors and town managers and city and town staff and mayors, who know what the priorities are in their local communities and also know how to make good stuff happen."

Danvers Town Manager Steve Bartha said his community has been either the lead applicant or a sub-applicant for \$750,000 worth of Community Compact grants since 2015. In particular, the Community Compact has supported the efforts of Danvers and six other North Shore communities to participate in a regional IT collaborative, "and we're all in a better position because of it."

Northfield Town Administrator Andrea Llamas said her rural community has received seven Community Compact grants in the past three years, for a total of about \$160,000. The grants have helped to support emergency services succession planning, the hiring of consultants to work on an ambulance regionalization study, and the bolstering of the town's computer network, which allowed the town's systems to rebound quickly after a recent lightning strike.

"The Community Compact projects have truly helped to bridge funding gaps, and gives initiatives, gives us ideas we haven't even thought of, more than even just the funding," Llamas said. "It allows us to offer the best government services to our residents."

MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith said the Community Compact program exemplifies government in action, allowing municipalities to respond to evolving needs — such as calls for more diversity, equity and inclusion resources after the 2020 murder of George Floyd — and the increasing cyberthreats that communities

"This program has helped communities act their way into a new way of thinking," Beckwith said. "But it has also been a model for how state governments in every part of the country can take similar action to invest in their communities."



MMA president thanks administration

During the Dec. 6 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, the final gathering presided over by Karyn Polito as lieutenant governor, Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller (right) thanks Polito for the administration's eight years of partnership with cities and towns. She also thanked the administration for filling a \$139 million supplemental budget bill to address the housing needs of migrants coming into the state.

Fiscal policy resolution on tap for business meeting

By John Ouellette

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will hear from the new lieutenant governor and consider a resolution on the state-local fiscal partnership during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 21 in Boston.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll will address MMA members just two weeks after being sworn into office.

The proposed "Resolution Supporting an Enduring Fiscal Partnership Between Cities and Towns and the Commonwealth in Fiscal 2024 and Beyond" was drafted by the MMA Fiscal Policy Committee this fall and approved by the MMA Board of Directors on Nov.

The resolution lays the groundwork for an effective revenue-sharing program, identifying municipal needs in areas such as unrestricted aid, education and charter school finance, employee benefits liabilities, capital needs such as road maintenance and municipal and school facilities, water and wastewater systems, climate resilience, broadband



On Jan. 21, local leaders will vote on a resolution on the state-local fiscal partnership during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting.

and cyber preparedness.

The Fiscal Policy Committee welcomed member comments through Dec. 27 so that committee members would be able to review any input before the Annual Business Meeting.

The MMA's Annual Business Meeting is a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which is held each January in Boston. The policy discussions at the business meeting help to guide the advocacy work of the MMA in the year ahead.

Voting at the business meeting

Voting at the Annual Business Meeting is open to all municipal members of the MMA through voting delegates as defined by the MMA's bylaws.

Individuals eligible to vote at the meeting are:

- In the case of a city, its chief executive or a councillor designated in writing by the chief executive
- In the case of a town, the chair of the select board or town council, or another select board member or councillor designated in writing by the chair, or the manager designated in writing by such

In early January, the MMA will be sending a letter about voting procedures to chief municipal officials in each community.

Those who will be voting on behalf of their community should visit the credentials table outside of the business meeting between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Only one voting card will be issued per member community.

Proposed Resolution Supporting an Enduring Fiscal Partnership Between Cities and Towns and the Commonwealth in Fiscal 2024 and Beyond

Whereas, the well-being and success of the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth depends on the fiscal health of cities and towns and the ability of local government to provide efficient and progressive public services and adequately invest in reliable and resilient public infrastructure; and

Whereas, cities and towns are highly reliant on the tightly capped property tax to fund local budgets and capital programs, and this heavy reliance on the property tax severely limits the ability of cities and towns to respond to new challenges and opportunities, or implement necessary investments to benefit the public; and

Whereas, adequate and sustained state support for local public schools is essential for student success and the health of the Massachusetts economy; and

Whereas, the state's charter school finance statute imposes significant financial and program challenges for public school districts, particularly in regions where there is a large concentration of charter schools; and

Whereas, state law limits the allowable growth in municipal revenues to a level that is far below the region's rate of inflation, at a magnitude that is unprecedented during the Proposition 21/2 era; and

Whereas, to avoid becoming overly reliant on the property tax and to ensure that municipalities have the fiscal capacity to deliver the high-quality municipal and school services that are essential to support local economies and families in every corner of the Commonwealth, it is imperative that cities and towns receive an adequate share of state revenues, have an effective and fair municipal tax system, have the tools necessary to plan for and fund long-term liabilities and make investments in people and capital, and receive full funding for any new or existing state mandates;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure a strong partnership between cities and towns and the Commonwealth in fiscal 2024 and beyond:

In the Area of Municipal and School Aid

- In fiscal 2024, unrestricted municipal aid should grow by at least the same rate as the growth in state tax collections based on the revenue projections in place when the state's annual budgets are enacted and signed into law, and be distributed without earmarks, conditions or restrictions to all cities and towns, so that local officials and residents can adequately fund public safety, public works and all basic municipal and school services while avoiding overreliance on the property tax;
- · All State Lottery proceeds, and the revenue from expanded gaming that is statutorily dedicated to pay for municipal services, should be used to help fund unrestricted municipal aid;
- · Chapter 70 school aid should be increased in fiscal 2024 consistent with the Commonwealth's constitutional obligation to ensure adequate funding in all schools, at a minimum following the updated spending standard and original phase-in schedule adopted in the 2019 Student Opportunity Act, with each city, town and school district receiving a minimum increase of \$100 per student;
- The governor and the Legislature should review the calculation of the required local contribution under Chapter 70, including the "target local share," and adopt changes to mitigate reliance on the property tax to fund local schools, and should review and address fiscal challenges facing rural schools;
- The governor and the Legislature should amend charter

school finance law, consistent with MMA legislation, to bring transparency and accountability to the law by limiting charter school tuition assessments placed on local government and providing a means for direct state appropriation of additional tuition payments to charter schools, funded in the state budget;

- Pending passage of charter school finance reform legislation, the full amount of the schedule in the Student Opportunity Act to fund charter school mitigation payments should be appropriated for fiscal 2024 and so that each district is reimbursed in full according to the schedule in the Student Opportunity Act;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's commitments to the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program, as provided by state law, should be appropriated, adhering to the funding timeline outlined in the Student Opportunity Act;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations to the program for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes for state-owned land, as provided by state law and including a hold-harmless provision, should be included in the fiscal 2024 budget;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations to reimburse the costs of regional school transportation, regular school transportation, out-of-district vocational education and the transportation of homeless students under the McKinney-Vento unfunded mandate, should be included in the fiscal 2024 budget;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to Chapter 40S "smart growth" reimbursements, regional and municipal libraries, anti-gang grants, innovation and regionalization grants, and other effective

■ **RESOLUTION** continued on 7

MMA holds webinar on Peace Officer Standards, Training

By Lily Rancatore

An <u>MMA webinar on Dec. 7</u> discussed common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

The policing reform law signed two years ago and rules subsequently developed by the POST Commission aim to enhance the oversight, regulation and training obligations of local police officers and departments as the state moves to improve accountability for policing practices.

Pittsfield Police Chief Michael Wynn, also a POST commissioner, opened the session by reviewing the primary objectives of policing reform. He emphasized the importance of improving standards for training and policing, as well as ensuring accountability when officers are accused of misconduct. Wynn explained how installing mechanisms to suspend, retrain, and/or remove officers from law enforcement following the misuse of force enhances trust between police and the communities they serve.

The primary charge of the <u>POST Commission</u> is to develop certification standards

for officers and agencies in partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee. Wynn discussed how a range of authority and diverse membership perspectives are essential to the commission's organizational structure.

Enrique Zuniga, executive director of the POST Commission, outlined certification requirements and information that must be submitted to POST when seeking appeals or re-certifications. The POST Commission will investigate complaints submitted by police personnel or by the public via an online form. Complaints that allege bias, excessive force or a lack of professionalism, among other issues, fall under the commission's jurisdiction. Law enforcement agencies can submit disciplinary records and certification documents online.

Zuniga reviewed key provisions for appointing authorities and discussed the commission's upcoming priorities, which include new developments in standards, certifications and technology.

The webinar concluded with 25 minutes of questions and answers, moderated by



During a Dec. 7 webinar hosted by the MMA, Enrique Zuniga (top left), executive director of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, Pittsfield Police Chief Michael Wynn (top right), and MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman discuss common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the POST Commission.

MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman. Inquiries about re-certifying officers, conducting appeal investigations, and the commission's process for decision making were addressed.

View the webinar

RESOLUTION

Continued from page 6

municipal and school aid programs should be included in the fiscal 2024 budget; and $\,$

In the Area of Capital Budgeting

- The governor and the Legislature should work together early in 2023 to ensure enactment of a multi-year transportation bond bill that provides at least \$300 million annually for Chapter 90 local road projects, indexed to grow to match construction inflation, with a notice of allocations for fiscal 2024 by March 1, 2023, with authorizations for the Complete Streets and small municipal bridge programs provided as additional and separate allocations;
- The governor and the Legislature should strengthen the Massachusetts School Building Authority and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants by adjusting reimbursements to reflect the actual costs of construction;
- The state's fiscal 2024 capital plan should include funding for the MassWorks program to help pay for local economic development projects, including housing, development and road safety programs;
- The state's fiscal 2024 capital plan should include additional funding for water infrastructure projects, including basic drinking water capital and water contamination mitigation (PFAS), wastewater capital and Combined Sewer Overflow mitigation, and stormwater management;
- The governor and the Legislature should support programs in the fiscal 2024 state budget and capital plan to help cities and towns assess and respond to challenges related to climate change, including the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, Coastal Resilience Grant Program, Green Communities Program, GreenWorks and others:

- The governor and the Legislature should continue to make the installation of high-speed internet access in unserved and under-served cities and towns a high priority,
- The governor and the Legislature should deploy federal American Rescue Plan Act funding for water, sewer, environmental, broadband, and housing infrastructure in a timely manner so that communities can leverage these funds to address critical local needs;
- The governor and the Legislature should work with cities and towns to identify the scope of investment needed to ensure that municipal information technology systems are modernized and resilient from cyberattacks, and enact a state funding mechanism and program to provide the resources needed to implement these investments across the state.
- The governor and the Legislature should work with cities and towns to identify the scope of investment needed to ensure that municipal buildings critical to the delivery of essential public services are safe and modern, and enact a state funding mechanism and program to provide the resources needed to implement these improvements across the state; and

In the Area of Local Taxing Authority and Other Revenues

- Cities and towns should be granted new local-option flexibility to adopt local taxes and other revenues to help pay for municipal and school services and the construction and maintenance of local capital projects;
- •Cities and towns should be granted increased local-option flexibility to implement targeted property tax relief programs including for seniors and low-income homeowners, and to adjust the relative property tax burden for residential and commercial and industrial properties; and

In the Area of Long-Term Liabilities and Sustainability

- In order to allow cities and towns to manage current costs and ensure fiscal sustainability over the long term, the Legislature, the governor and state agencies should determine, report and review the actuarial liability of post-employment benefits for public employees and undertake a comprehensive reform of the laws and practices related to post-employment benefits for public employees, with an immediate focus on Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liabilities related to health insurance for retired public employees. Reform should include ways to manage liabilities and finance benefits, and should not impose any new unfunded mandates or preempt any existing decision-making authority that cities and towns currently use to manage their OPEB liability;
- The governor and the Legislature should determine and report the long-term cost to cities and towns as part of the evaluation of all legislative proposals to amend public employee benefit programs, and no legislation to expand benefits should be acted upon until this cost analysis is complete and made public; and

In the Area of Timely Notice of Local Aid for Good Planning and Implementation

• To ensure orderly and efficient financial planning at the local level and implementation of balanced and adequate local operating and capital budgets, the governor and the Legislature should reach early agreement on unrestricted municipal aid and Chapter 70 school aid and local contribution amounts so that a consensus local aid resolution can be approved and reliable Cherry Sheets can be released by March 1; and

It is further resolved that a copy of these resolutions shall be provided to the Governor and Members of the General Court of the Commonwealth.

MMA announces legislative package for 2023-24 session

With the Legislature set to begin the 2023-24 legislative session in early January, the MMA has prepared a slate of 24 local government bills to be filed for the session.

The bills were recommended by the MMA's five policy committees and were approved by the MMA Board of Directors on Nov. 8. They include nine new proposals and 15 bills that are being refiled.

Each bill filed for the new session will be assigned to a legislative committee sometime after the session convenes. Public hearings for many bills will be held in the spring and early summer of 2023.

The MMA legislative package represents just a small portion of the hundreds of bills affecting local government that are expected to be filed in the new session. MMA policy committees and staff will be evaluating these bills, preparing testimony, and working with other local government groups on a range of bills over the two-year session.

The following are the MMA bills, listed by policy committee:

Fiscal Policy Committee Municipal and public safety building authority (new): This bill would establish a new independent state authority, the Massachusetts Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority, chaired by the state treasurer, that would assist municipalities with the construction of or improvements to public safety or municipal buildings and facilities.

Local-option meals tax (refile): This bill would increase the local-option sales tax on meals from 0.75% to 1.5%. Approval would be by vote of the local legislative body. The receipts from the tax would continue to be for the municipal general fund.

Local-option excise on alcohol for substance abuse prevention and public health programs (refile): This bill would allow cities and towns to adopt a sales tax of up to 2% on the retail sale of alcoholic beverages, including sales in bars, restaurants, package stores and other non-pouring establishments. Approval would be by vote of the local legislative body. The revenue would be dedicated to help pay for local substance



The MMA has prepared 24 bills for filing in the 2023-24 legislative session.

abuse and other public health programs.

Policy Committee on Energy and the Environment

Sustainable water resource funds (refile): This bill would clarify and strengthen the authority of cities and towns to establish water, stormwater and wastewater utility fees to support the cost of expanded or upgraded water infrastructure, protect public health, and meet federal Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and other state and federal environmental requirements.

Net metering (refile): The state's net metering law currently allows utility companies to submit proposals to the Department of Public Utilities for a monthly minimum reliability contribution ("MMRC") payment to be included on electric bills for customers who receive net metering credits, subject to the review and approval of the DPU. This bill would exempt municipal ratepayers, low-income, community solar and small-scale ratepayers from paying a monthly minimum reliability contribution.

Extended producer responsibility for paint (new): This bill would require producers of paint to submit a plan for a post-consumer paint collection and stewardship program and would direct the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate regulations related to enforcement procedures and to publish plan information on its website.

Protecting water systems through the labeling of flushable wipes (new):

This bill would require manufacturers of disposable products such as diaper wipes, toilet wipes, household cleaning wipes, personal care wipes and facial wipes to label wipes that do not meet

performance standards for flushing as non-flushable. The bill would also set standards for required labeling, require manufacturers to test products and verify that they meet performance standards, set penalties for violations, and allow the attorney general to enforce the law.

Policy Committee on Municipal and Regional Administration Permanent option for remote public meetings (new): This bill would create a permanent option for remote meetings and participation. Members participating remotely would be considered present and in attendance when determining a quorum and would participate as full members. Meetings of public bodies that are held remotely or in a hybrid format would be required to make provisions to ensure public access and ensure that any party entitled or required to participate by law, local ordinance or bylaw may do so through remote means as well. The executive body of a municipality must develop and adopt standards and guidelines for remote participation prior to any remote meeting being held pursuant to this law.

Local option increase of civil penalty (refile): This bill would allow a municipality to increase the cap for civil penalties under Section 21D of Chapter 40 from up to \$300 to up to \$500 by local option to account for cost-of-living increases since this law was last adopted.

Shared services and regionalization bonus points (refile): This bill would direct the Division of Local Services to work with all state agencies to assign bonus points to rural communities who, as part of an application process for a discretionary grant or incentive program, indicate that they intend to share services or regionalize with another community in order to be eligible for the grant. Rural communities for the purposes of this bill are municipalities with population density of less than 500 persons per square mile.

Legal notices (new): This bill would allow a municipality which does not have a local print edition newspaper to satisfy the publication requirement for legal notices by publication on its own website, or on the websites of a local, regional or statewide online newspaper that does

■ LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE continued on 9

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Continued from page 8

not maintain a print publication.

Procurement parity and technical corrections to public construction law (new): This bill would increase the procurement cap under the Uniform Procurement Act (Ch. 30B) from \$50,000 to \$100,000, to bring all municipal purchases (not including property) in line with the changes made in the recently passed school operational efficiency law. It would also close the RFP loophole by allowing RFP or qualifications-based selection for purchases made between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

Outdoor dining flexibility (new): This bill would make permanent flexibility for outdoor dining ordinances, many of which were introduced and later extended as part of COVID-19 pandemic recovery bills. The bill would allow for a city or town to approve a request for the expansion of outdoor table service and allow local licensing authorities to grant approval for the change in description of the restaurant for purposes of permitting outdoor alcohol service.

Payment of veterans' benefits

(refile): This bill would streamline the state's system for financing benefits paid to veterans consistent with sound direct payment practices adopted by other state agencies. A single state appropriation for payment of 100% of benefits directly to veterans would simplify the financing and administration of this program with the Department of Veterans' Services. This change would reform current law, which requires cities and towns to separately try to predict and finance the needs of the Commonwealth's veterans and adjust during the course of the year.

Extending the right of first refusal timeline (refile): This bill would extend the right of first refusal timeline under Chapter 61A to give a city or town more time to determine whether it is able to purchase agricultural or horticultural land from the landowner before sale.

Municipal control of liquor licenses (refile): This bill would give a municipality's legislative body the authority to set the number of liquor licenses available each year, eliminating the need to go to the Legislature with a home rule petition to increase the number. The licensing board or other

local body responsible for issuing licenses would still control the granting of such licenses.

Alternative delivery of infrastructure projects (refile):

This bill would provide an alternative delivery method to traditional project delivery systems. This would allow for greater private sector participation in the financing and delivery of projects, offering efficiency and innovation.

Policy Committee on Personnel and Labor Relations Membership on State Retiree

Benefits Trust Fund Board of

Trustees (refile): This bill would add a municipal seat and a "schools" seat to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Municipalities and regional school districts have the option to invest in the SRBTF to meet their other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liabilities. This proposal would ensure that municipal and regional school district perspectives are properly recognized on the board.

Municipal unemployment insurance reforms (refile): This bill would make teachers, professional and nonprofessional educational employees who work on behalf of the school system, but are paid through municipal budgets, ineligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits when school is not in session by extending them a "reasonable assurance" of employment. The bill would also reduce unemployment benefits by an amount equal to 65% of a retiree's weekly pension for retirees collecting both unemployment benefits and a pension from the same public or private employer.

Structure of the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board (refile):

This bill would modify the membership of the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board to require that the three members include a management representative, a labor representative and a neutral party. Currently, the only stipulation for membership is that no more than two members can be from the same political party. Party affiliation, however, is not an adequate proxy for an individual's leanings toward management or labor.

Revocation of Civil Service by local option (new): This bill would allow for the revocation of the Civil Service statute

by local option without the approval of the Legislature. This bill would also require a city or town to provide documentation to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Service outlining the local policy or policies that would replace the Civil Service system in that municipality. The bill would also allow cities and towns to address a veterans' preference at the local level, and would exempt any municipalities that have already withdrawn from Civil Service through a home rule petition.

Policy Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities

Municipal authority in public rights of way (refile): This bill would give municipalities increased authority over utilities that operate in the public right of way. The bill specifies that, if utilities delay the relocation of poles and wires, municipalities have the authority to move them and may charge utilities for non-performance. The bill would also give municipalities the ability to assess fees and levy taxes on utilities that operate in the public right of way and give municipalities the ability to pass local bylaws or ordinances related to the licensing and permitting of utilities in the right of way. Finally, the bill would give municipalities and public utilities the right to purchase utility poles from investor-owned utilities at a price that takes depreciation into account.

Assisting municipal and district ratepayers (refile): This bill would establish a mechanism through which the state must identify and enumerate any costs, benefits and financial impacts of rules and regulations proposed by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs before they take effect. The bill would require a more detailed cost-benefit analysis than what is currently required by the rule-making process.

Chapter 90 bond authorization

(new): This bill would fund the Chapter 90 local road program at a minimum of \$300 million per year for two years (fiscal 2024 and fiscal 2025), with timely disbursement to ensure that money is available by April 1. ●

Trade Show to feature latest products and services

By Karen LaPointe

The 2023 MMA Trade Show on Jan. 20 and 21 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston will feature companies, professional associations, government agencies and more that provide the latest products and services to manage communities.

Attendees will have opportunities to meet with representatives of more than 200 companies, state agencies and associations whose cost-saving, innovative and informative ideas help with the delivery of municipal services.

Exhibitors represent a wide array of sectors, including financial services, construction and project management, economic development, energy, engineering, insurance and risk management, software, and waste management. This year's show will feature new exhibitors



Attendees will have opportunities to meet with representatives of more than 200 companies, state agencies and associations at the MMA Trade Show in Boston later this month.

specializing in athletic courts, outdoor lighting, new municipal software, pest control, environmental consulting and more.

Government Row will bring all the state

government agencies together in one area.

MMA and MIIA staff members will be available at their respective Trade Show booths, along with representatives of MIIA's Wellness and Risk Management programs.

Also in the Trade Show are the <u>Learning Labs</u>, where exhibitors will present 10 fast-paced, 30-minute interactive sessions on a topic, with the opportunity to follow up with speakers at their Trade Show booth.

The Trade Show will be open on Friday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Hynes.

For more information about the Trade Show, contact Karen LaPointe at 617-426-7272, ext. 154, or klapointe@mma.org.

Solutions

The following is the list of exhibitors (subject to change):

Abacus Health Solutions Acentech Adobe Al Engineers AllOne Health EAP Altus Dental Insurance Company Always Health Partners American Kennel Club Ansor Advisory Aguarion Water Company Architectural Heritage Foundation **Auctions International** Bartholomew & Company **BCBSMA BELFOR Property** Restoration **BFTA Group BL** Companies Boston Mutual Life Insurance **Bridgewater State** University Brody Hardoon Perkins & Kesten **Brooks & DeRensis BSC Group Busch Systems CAI Technologies** Capital Strategic Solutions Cascade Cart Solutions Casella Waste Systems **CDM Smith** City Point Partners CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) ClearGov **CMRK** C.N. Wood Colonial Life - Kimberly

Company Constellation Cook and Company Insurance Services CRANES 101 Creative Services Inc. (CSI) Crews & Associates Cyvl DebtBook EA Engineering, Science, and Technology **Environmental Partners** Group Inc. Eric A. Kinsherf CPA Esri Firefly Health FlashVote F.R. Mahony & Associates, A Division of Cummins Wagner Full Circle Technologies Fuss and O'Neill GeoEngineers USA **Good Energy** GovDeals GovHR USA GovInvest Greater Boston Police Council Green International **Affiliates Group Insurance** Commission Hapco Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a Pointe32Health company Health New England Hilltop Securities Horsley Witten Group Howard Stein Hudson ICC Community **Development Solutions ICON Architecture**

indus InstaTrac IPS Group John Guilfoil Public Relations KFDA Kimley-Horn Kleinfelder **KP Law** LifePlus Insurance Agency Lightpath Litek America Corp. Locke Lord M.E. O'Brien & Sons Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Massachusetts Broadband Institute Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Massachusetts Cultural Council Massachusetts Council on Aging Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources - Green Communities Division Massachusetts Department of **Environmental** Protection Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards Massachusetts Department of Revenue/Division of

Local Services

Massachusetts Education

& Government Association (MEGA) Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association (MFAA) Massachusetts Federation of Building Officials Massachusetts Highway Association Massachusetts Housing Partnership Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association Massachusetts Maritime Academy Massachusetts Municipal Association Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor, Division of Local Mandates Massachusetts State Lotterv Massachusetts State Treasury MASSCOR MassDevelopment MassDOT MassRecycle MBTA Advisory Board Mead Talerman & Costa Melanson CPAs MHEC Mirick O'Connell MissionSquare Retirement Miyares and Harrington MMDT **Modern Pest Services** Monroe Tractor & Implement Co. MSPCA - Angell municibid com

Municipal Resources Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane NEDCC - Northeast **Document Conservation** Center NEWWA/MWWA Nitsch Engineering Norwood Bank OpenGov **Operational Services** Division PARE Corporation PEER Consultants PC **PeopleGIS** Petrini & Associates Pierce, Davis & Perritano Pioneer Institute PMA Companies - New England Police Reform Insight Group Powers & Sullivan Precision Concrete Cutting Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) RCAP Solutions Read Custom Soils, an A.D. Makepeace Company RealTerm Energy Rehrig Pacific Company Republic Services RetroFit Technologies Rimkus Consulting Group Rockland Trust Investment Management Group Roselli, Clark & Associates Roux Associates Safety NetAccess Santander Bank N.A. Schaefer Plastics North America Scott+Scott Attorney at Law SenesTech Sertex Broadband

ServiceMaster by Gaudet I Williams | South Shore Signify SLR International Corporation Solect Energy Development Spatial Data Logic Sport Court MA Springbrook Software Sterilis Solutions Sternberg Lighting Stonybrook Water Company StreetScan StressCrete Group Suffolk University Institute for Public Service Tetra Tech The Lighting Quotient The Liro Group The Collins Center Tighe & Bond T-Mobile **Toss Corporation** Traffic Logix Trident Environmental Tyler Technologies **ÚMass Transportation** Center Unibank Fiscal Advisory Services **USDA Rural Development** Southern New England Vadar Systems Verizon Vertical Communications West Group Law Weston & Sampson Woodard & Curran Workday Wright-Pierce Zobrio

Cunningham

Environmental

Consigli Construction

Comm-Tract Corp

Comprehensive

Session planned for new conference attendees

The MMA will hold a special orientation session for first-time attendees of its Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Friday morning, Jan. 20.

The session will provide an opportunity to learn from seasoned MMA members about the best strategies for making the most of the Annual Meeting experience as well as MMA membership. Speakers will discuss how to make the most of Annual Meeting workshops, the Trade Show, networking opportunities and more.

Speakers will include:

- · Amherst Town Manager Paul Bockelman
- Watertown Councillor Lisa Feltner

- Lexington Select Board Chair and MMA Vice President Jill Hai
- Westwood
 Assistant Town
 Administrator/
 HR Director Molly
 Kean
- Cohasset Select Board Member Diane Kennedy
- Malden Councillor Amanda Linehan
- Deerfield Select Board Member Carolyn Shores Ness
- Retired town manager Jeff Nutting



Jill Hai

- Southborough Town Administrator Mark Purple
- Cohasset Human Resources Director Kim Roy
- Maynard Assistant Town Administrator Megan Zammuto

The orientation will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Hall C Foyer on the second floor of the Hynes Convention Center.

If you are planning to attend the MMA Annual Meeting for the first time, or have any questions about the event or the first-time attendee session, contact MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 105. ●

Select Board Association to hold Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 21

During its Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 21, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will discuss municipal flag flying policies in the wake of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Shurtleff v. City of Boston.

The meeting will be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

MSA First Vice President and Williamstown Select Board Member Andy Hogeland will give opening remarks, followed by a report from the MSA Nominating Committee and a vote on the MSA Board of Directors for 2023.

A panel of legal experts will then discuss municipal flag policies. Robert Arcangeli, assistant corporation counsel with the Boston Law Department, and Deanna



Deanna Barkett Fitzgerald



Margaret Hurley

Barkett Fitzgerald, senior attorney at Ropes & Gray, will give an overview of the Shurtleff case and its implications.

Margaret Hurley, director of the Municipal Law Unit in the Attorney General's Office, will discuss the impacts that the Shurtleff decision has had and will have



Rob Arcangeli

on municipal flag flying policies going forward.

All select board members in Massachusetts are considered members of the MSA and are invited to attend the MSA Annual Business Meeting, provided

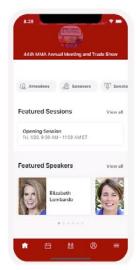
they are registered for the MMA Annual Meeting. Attendance at the MSA Annual Business Meeting is limited to MSA members.

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

Going to the MMA Annual Meeting? There's an app for that

Attendees of the 2023 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show can use the event's free mobile app to find comprehensive information pertaining to the conference.

Users will find schedule details, workshop listings, speaker profiles, exhibitor information, an interactive map of the Trade Show floor — everything they need to make the most of their conference experience.



Attendees can use the app to personalize their meeting schedule, network with other attendees, and receive up-to-the-minute updates and alerts.

Now in its fifth iteration, this year's app features an updated interface. The app is available for all smartphone and tablet devices.

A guide for accessing the app will be emailed to Annual Meeting registrants in the weeks before the event. The app features

a two-step login process. Attendees should complete all steps to have access to all of the app's features, including connecting with fellow attendees.

Advance registration for Annual Meeting is advised so attendees have time to explore the app, set their schedule and take advantage of the app's many features.

Assistance will be available at the Annual Meeting to answer any questions and help on-site registrants gain access.

– Meredith Gabrilska

Community One Stop seeks Expressions of Interest

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development is launching the fiscal 2024 Community One Stop for **Growth** application process tomorrow with the opening of the Expression of Interest period.

Submission of an Expression of Interest is a highly recommended but optional step in the process to compete for funding through the Community One Stop program. Organizations may submit one EOI to seek input on a number of potential projects. Applicants that submit an EOI by Feb. 3, 2023, may seek input on up to five project ideas, while those who submit EOIs after Feb. 3 may seek input on up to two projects.

The EOI period is open through March 17, 2023.

EOIs are reviewed by staff at all participating agencies, and feedback will be provided to help potential applicants strengthen prospective grant applications.

Details about the EOI process, including an EOI template, are available online.

Community One Stop, which was unveiled at the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2021, is a single application portal and collaborative review process to help cities and towns compete for state grant funding for housing and economic development programs. Communities can be considered by multiple grant programs simultaneously, have access to guidance and partnership from state agencies, and are able to receive referrals to additional funding opportunities. The program also helps the state better understand the community development needs and goals in municipalities throughout the Commonwealth, which better informs funding opportunities and coordination.

Community One Stop uses a framework modeled on a Growth Development Continuum that represents the life cycle of a major community development project from initial visioning to final construction. The **Development Continuum** informs the application process and includes five categories, in two broad groups: Grants that help communities prepare for growth by supporting actions and preliminary steps to guide and attract private investment; and grants meant to catalyze specific projects by supporting implementation of construction activities to leverage

private, commercial, industrial and residential investments.

Twelve programs will be administered through the fiscal 2024 application

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

- MassWorks Infrastructure Program
- <u>Urban Agenda Grant Program</u>

Department of Housing and Community Development

- Housing Choice Grant Program
- Massachusetts Downtown Initiative
- Community Planning Grant Program
- Rural and Small Town Development Fund

MassDevelopment

- Brownfields Redevelopment Fund
- Site Readiness Program
- Underutilized Properties Program
- Collaborative Workspace Program
- Real Estate Services Technical Assistance
- Commonwealth Places Programs

The full application period for fiscal 2024 will open in May 2023 and close on June 2, 2023.

Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute is accepting applications for the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, which provides communities with expert planning services related to digital equity and bridging the digital divide.

The Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, funded through the state's American Rescue Plan Act allocation, is designed to integrate with the Massachusetts Statewide Digital Equity Plan.

Planning activities will be provided from a network of consultants overseen and funded by the MBI. Program activities will provide communities with strategic documents designed to identify the community's needs, interests, and key assets while providing a framework to guide municipal decision-making specific to increasing access and usage of the internet for the populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program also seeks to prepare participating municipalities to submit digital



The Massachusetts Broadband Institute is accepting applications for the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program to help communities bridge the digital divide.

equity-related grant applications.

Participating cities and towns can choose from two program options: a short-term planning charrette or a longer-term Digital Equity Plan process. Municipalities may participate in both options and may collaborate with neighboring communities to take a regional approach. Regional collaborations are encouraged.

Eligible municipalities must include populations that are at or below 185% of the poverty line or 300% of the poverty line, as defined under U.S. Treasury Guidance related to ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and can be submitted through an online application form. The form requires demographic information, an explanation of interest, and a letter of support from a municipal chief executive (town manager, mayor, etc.) or a majority of select board members. Participating municipalities will be required to designate a staff member to be responsible for coordinating planning activities.

For more information, contact Josh Eichen, program manager for partnerships at the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, at eichen@masstech.org.

The MMA held a webinar in November that included information about the MBI and the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program.

MSBA to begin accepting Statements of Interest

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has announced that it will begin accepting Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023 on Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.

Submitting a Core Program SOI is the necessary first step in the MSBA's program for school building construction, addition/renovation, and extensive repair grants. The SOI informs the MSBA about deficiencies that may exist in a local school facility and how those deficiencies inhibit the delivery of the district's educational program.

For 2023, there are changes specific to the vote requirements.

All required vote documentation must be uploaded in the SOI system in order to submit an SOI and in the prescribed format set forth within the MSBA's SOI



On Jan. 13, the Massachusetts School Building Authority will begin accepting Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023.

Application System.

Cities and towns must submit the following vote documentation:

 Vote of the municipal governing body (i.e., city council/select board/equivalent governing body) authorizing the superintendent of schools to submit the SOI Vote of the school committee authorizing the superintendent of schools to submit the SOI (meeting minutes are not required)

Regional school districts must submit the following vote documentation:

 Vote of the regional school committee authorizing the superintendent of schools to submit the SOI (meeting minutes are not required)

The SOI closing date for districts submitting for consideration under the Core Program, which is primarily for projects considered as extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction, is April 14.

There is no filing period for the Accelerated Repair Program in 2023. ●

Culvert Replacement Grant Program accepting project inquiries

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting project inquiries for the <u>Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program</u>. By submitting a pre-RFR project inquiry, potential applicants can discuss their project ideas with DER staff prior to the grant application opening.

The CRMA provides funding to municipalities interested in replacing undersized, perched and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value, with the intent of meeting the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. The program encourages cities and towns to replace culverts with better-designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria.

Projects must be designed to support fish and wildlife passage, maintain natural



The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting project inquiries for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program until Feb. 1.

flow of water and sediment, and reconnect upstream and downstream habitats.

Awards generally range from \$25,000 to \$400,000.

Submission of a pre-RFR inquiry is an optional, but recommended, step in the CRMA grant application process. Potential

grant applicants should email project ideas to DERCulverts@mass.gov by Feb. 1. Staff members will then reach out to set up a call. Prior to the call, prospective applicants will be asked to give basic project information so staff are able to provide feedback on the proposed project prior to submitting an application during the RFR period.

Grant materials will be posted on <u>COMMBUYS</u>, with other technical resources available on the division's website in mid-January 2023.

A pre-RFR grant briefing will be held on Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. (Register online)

The grant application period is anticipated to open in mid-February and close in mid-March, 2023. Pre-RFR information, including a Notice of Funding Opportunity, is available online. ■

MMA to host webinar on 1st Amendment audit protocols

The MMA is hosting a free webinar on Jan. 10 on First Amendment "audit" protocols, given that municipalities are increasingly subjected to "auditors" who record interactions with local government officials and post them online.

Appointed and elected officials are invited to <u>register now</u>.

Lauren Goldberg, managing attorney at KP Law, will give an overview of

First Amendment audits and how to prepare for one. Goldberg will also share strategies for calmly communicating with auditors, reporting the interaction, and determining follow-up measures.



Lauren Goldberg

For more information, contact MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore at lrancatore@mma.org.

Meet MMA staff, learn about programs at MMA booth

By Daniel Yi

Local officials will be able to talk about the important issues facing cities and towns with MMA staff and representatives from MMA member groups at the MMA's Trade Show booth during the Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 20 and 21.

MMA Legislative Division staff will be available to discuss a variety of policy issues, as well as the MMA's policy committees, Best Practices series, the business meeting resolution, legislation for next session, and other priorities.

Board members from Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will be at the MMA booth on Friday to discuss issues pertinent to their members and their priorities for 2023.

Laura Ducharme, community resources coordinator in Acton and president of the MMA Human Services Council, will also be available.

The MMA booth will also have information about MMA programs and events, such as the spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings, and member group information.

Details about the 2023-2024 MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management Program and the MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar will also be available.

For the full schedule of the MMA's Trade Show booth, consult the Annual Meeting website or the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show mobile app.

MMA seeks members for its five policy committees

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees for 2023.

More than 100 local officials from communities across Massachusetts serve on MMA policy committees, which advise the MMA Board of Directors, MMA staff and MMA members on legislative, regulatory and public policy issues.

- Online application form
- Deadline: Jan. 26

The committees also draft resolutions for the MMA's Annual Business Meeting, municipal best practices for the MMA's Best Practices series, and bills (biannually) for the MMA's legislative package.

Each committee has a regular schedule of meetings, usually one per month. Additionally, committee members may be asked to read legislative summaries, bill text, and/or position papers to prepare for meetings.

Each committee is assigned an MMA staff member to assist with its research, consideration of issues, and administrative functions.

Each committee has 23 members, including mayors, selectmen, councillors, city and town managers/administrators, and finance committee members, plus four presidential appointees and four technical appointees.

The MMA president names the chair and members of the committee, subject to approval by the MMA Board of Directors.

Those with the interest and time to serve on a policy committee are asked to fill out



Sen. Brendan Crighton (center) meets with the MMA Policy Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities on Oct. 7. The MMA policy committees give members a voice in legislative, regulatory and public policy issues affecting cities and towns.

the application form on the MMA website by Jan. 26. The form provides space to list areas of interest and expertise so that a good match can be made between volunteers and the work of the committees.

About the policy committees

- **Fiscal Policy Committee:** This committee considers all municipal finance issues. Legislation that has a fiscal impact is referred to this committee from other committees as well. This committee also develops a policy framework for local government financing in the future.
- Policy Committee on Energy and the Environment: This committee formulates policy in the following areas: water quality, water supply, air quality, solid waste and recycling, hazardous waste, wetlands, coastal areas, wastewater treatment, renewable energy and energy conservation.

 Policy Committee on Municipal and Regional Administration:

This committee considers issues that relate to the organization, structure, efficiency, and productivity of local and regional government and the relationships between the two levels of government. Issues include housing and zoning, procurement, economic development, regulation of marijuana, open meeting law and public records law, public health and safety, and licensing.

- Policy Committee on Personnel and Labor Relations: This committee considers issues in the following areas: collective bargaining, civil service, employee benefits and pension reform.
- Policy Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities:

This committee considers the wide range of issues related to public works, with an emphasis on transportation. Topics include the relationship between municipalities and utility companies and state departments; funding for roads, bridges and water infrastructure; DPW workforce topics; transportation planning, and more.

The MMA is the one voice that advocates for direct aid and support for core municipal and public education services provided by every community in Massachusetts. The MMA's advocacy efforts are focused on a single goal: Building strong communities in Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Daniel Yi at dyi@mma.org or or visit www.mma.org/advocacy.

Mass. Cyber Incident Response Team created

On Dec. 14, Gov. Charlie Baker signed an executive order to establish the Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team, which will enhance the Commonwealth's ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against and recover from significant cybersecurity threats, which threaten the continuity of essential government services.

"State governments and other organizations across the country are increasingly being targeted by bad actors aiming to disrupt operations and compromise information systems," Baker said. "This executive order will further strengthen the Commonwealth's policies, procedures and resources required to prevent potential threats and appropriately respond to attacks on government infrastructure and services.

"As state governments expand their digital footprints — moving more services online and allowing for a more connected workforce — it's critical that we make the necessary investments to protect this critical technology infrastructure from acts of terrorism and criminal, organized crime and gang activity," he said.

The MA-CIRT, led by the secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, will convene cybersecurity and public safety experts from across state government as required members, including leadership representatives from the Commonwealth Security Operations Center, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit, the Massachusetts National Guard, and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.



The new Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team will help the state address cyberthreats.

To prevent against attacks and increase the Commonwealth's cybersecurity resiliency, the <u>Executive Order</u> underscores the need for preparing for and marshaling a coordinated response, mitigation and recovery effort from significant cybersecurity threats or incidents.

The order requires the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security and MA-CIRT to assist the <u>MassCyberCenter</u> with efforts to foster cybersecurity resiliency through communications, collaboration and outreach to state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions and industry partners.

The order also:

- Requires MA-CIRT to review cybersecurity threat information and vulnerabilities to make recommendations and establish appropriate policies to manage the risk of cyber incidents for executive department agencies and all other state agencies served by EOTSS.
- Requires MA-CIRT to develop and maintain an up-to-date Cyber Incident Response Plan.

- Requires executive department agencies to comply with protocols and procedures established by MA-CIRT and EOTSS.
- Requires Commonwealth executive department agencies and other state agencies served by EOTSS to identify and report significant cybersecurity incidents and coordinate efforts to mitigate and prevent further damage from cyber incidents.
- Requires all executive department personnel to annually complete the EOTSS-approved security awareness training program administered by the Human Resources Division.
- Encourages other governmental entities throughout the Commonwealth not served by EOTSS to report cybersecurity threats or incidents to the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

In 2021, the U.S. Congress established a \$1 billion State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The four-year grant program requires 80% of funds go toward assisting municipalities in enhancing their cybersecurity posture.

The new federal program complements the Baker-Polito administration's support for municipal cybersecurity efforts, including the <u>Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program</u>, the free <u>Cybersecurity Health Check Program</u>, and the <u>Community Compact IT Grant Program</u>.

The EOTSS was established in 2017 as the Commonwealth's lead technology and cybersecurity agency. ●

Local Bottleneck Reduction Program accepting applications

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the fiscal 2024 <u>Local Bottleneck</u> Reduction Program.

The competitive grant program assists with innovative solutions to improve traffic flow and ease congestion at local roadway intersections.

Grant recipients receive scope-of-work and design services from MassDOT-led consultants and up to \$500,000 for construction projects that address traffic delays and congestion generally due to poor signal timing, outdated equipment,

faulty vehicle detection, or geometric deficiencies.

Construction projects are conducted by the municipality. Cities and towns are reimbursed for eligible costs up to the grant value upon completion.

All municipalities are eligible to apply for projects on municipal roadways through March 31. Cities and towns may apply in collaboration with a Regional Transit Authority and — new this year — multiple municipalities may submit a joint application. Applications are accepted online through the Massachu-

setts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT).

Single applications may include proposals for one or multiple intersections within a corridor or impact area. Selection is based primarily on congestion and delay metrics.

In addition to improving traffic flow and congestion, Local Bottleneck Reduction Program projects seek to improve safety for all roadway users.

For more information, email LocalBottleneckGrants@dot.state.ma.us.

Traffic safety law addresses local speed limit process

By Adrienne Núñez

On Jan. 2, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law intended to improve safety for vulnerable road users — anyone other than a vehicle using a road — by clarifying key definitions, outlining vulnerable user passing requirements, requiring safety equipment on specific state vehicles, and clarifying a process for municipalities to reduce speed limits on roadways.

The law formally defines "vulnerable road users" as pedestrians, road workers, bicyclists, skateboarders, roller and in-line skaters, wheelchair users, non-motorized scooter users, users of electric assistive mobility devices, horses, horse drawn carriages, micro mobility devices, and operators of farm tractors and similar vehicles. The law grants the registrar of motor vehicles authority to add to this list, as needed, by regulation.

The law requires vehicles to pass vulnerable users at a safe passing distance of at least 4 feet, meaning they may cross the center line to provide this space, if needed and safe to do so. Further, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will create and maintain signage informing drivers of these safe passage rules on public ways.

The law modifies the process for municipalities to amend speed limits or to restrict use by certain vehicles on



A new state law is intended to make the streets safer for road users other than vehicles.

municipal and state roads. Amendments to speed limits on municipal roads approved by local governing bodies will need certification from MassDOT's Division of Highways that the change is in the public's interest. Previously, such a change required certification from MassDOT and the registrar of motor vehicles.

The law also allows local governing bodies to petition MassDOT to adjust speed limits on state highways within a municipality. MassDOT must approve or respond to a petition within 90 days. If no response is provided, the new speed limit will become effective. MassDOT will be responsible for associated speed limit signage.

The law requires bicyclists to use rear red lights while riding at night, though a lack of such lights will not be cause for a stop by law enforcement. The require-

ment can only be enforced if a cyclist is stopped for another offense.

The law defines a number of vehicle safety devices and requires their use on state-owned and leased large trucks. Vehicles of Class 3 or above are required to be equipped with a lateral protective device, convex mirrors, cross-over mirrors, and backup cameras. The law prohibits after-market modifications that cause visual obstructions on such trucks.

As of Jan. 1, 2025, these safety requirements will extend to such vehicles that are operated under a contract with the state. MassDOT will initiate a study with the USDOT Volpe Transportation Systems Center on the affected large trucks, with the intent of producing safety recommendations related to direct vision afforded to drivers.

Within a year, MassDOT, in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, will develop a standardized tool to report crashes and incidents involving vulnerable road users. Law enforcement or emergency medical services providers who respond to the incidents will be required to use the form. Data will be submitted to the registrar of motor vehicles and made available on a publicly accessible database.

View text of the law (H. 5103)

USDOT seeks RAISE transportation grant applications

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), a competitive grant program that provides investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact, is accepting applications through Feb. 28.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation and funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, RAISE will award \$1.5 billion in fiscal 2023. Grantees may receive up to \$25 million per project and will receive no less than \$1 million for rural-area projects and \$5 million for urban-area projects. No more than \$225 million awarded to a single state.

The <u>notice of funding opportunity</u> is available online.

For urban projects, the federal cost share is capped at 80%, except for projects located in an Area of Persistent Poverty or a Historically Disadvantaged Community. The cost share may exceed 80% for rural projects.

The USDOT seeks to award projects that improve equity and environmental justice by addressing transportation-related disparities and climate change-related consequences, as well as projects that target at least 40% of resources and benefits toward low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, communities underserved by affordable transportation, or overburdened communities.

Capital and planning projects will be funded for surface transportation

infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity, including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

At least \$75 million will be awarded for planning projects, and at least \$15 million will be awarded for projects located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities.

Applicants may submit up to three project applications, and applications are being accepted via <u>Grants.gov</u>.

For more information, contact the Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation at RAISEgrants@dot.gov or 202-366-0301. ●

\$7M in IT and efficiency grants announced

At a State House event on Dec. 6, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announced \$7 million in fiscal 2023 grants awarded through two Community Compact programs:

<u>Information Technology</u> and <u>Efficiency</u> and <u>Regionalization</u>.

IT grants totalling \$5 million were awarded to support technology-focused initiatives in 61 municipalities, and 17 Efficiency and Regionalization grants, totalling \$2 million, were awarded for efforts across 102 municipalities.

"This grant cycle includes a number of important technology and cybersecurity project proposals at the municipal level that will improve digital services offerings to constituents and strengthen municipal cybersecurity defenses against potential threats," said Technology Services and Security Secretary Curt Wood. "I thank our partners in municipal government for their continued leadership on technology modernization and cybersecurity enhancements throughout the Commonwealth."

The IT grant program focuses on driving innovation and transformation at the local level. More than \$24 million has been distributed through 425 grants, supporting nearly 300 municipalities and school districts in efforts to modernize and improve local technology infrastructure and software.

The Efficiency and Regionalization grant program helps municipalities provide services in a more efficient and cost-effective way. Funds are used for the planning and implementation of regionalization initiatives (such as shared services) and for efficiency efforts. Since the program's launch in fiscal 2017, a total of \$9.1 million has been provided through 103 grants that have supported 287 municipalities and school districts.

IT grants

The IT grants announced yesterday include:

• Stoughton (\$200,000), Foxborough (\$198,960), Wellfleet (\$190,708) and Southbridge (\$143,360) for the implementation of e-permitting systems, which will improve efficiencies and enhance the ability of residents and businesses to transact and interact with town departments



On Dec. 6, then-Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announces \$7 million in fiscal 2023 grants awarded through two Community Compact programs.

- Methuen (\$200,000), Sheffield (\$200,000), Watertown (\$190,300), Newton (\$140,000) and Paxton (\$115,000) for the implementation of records management systems, which will enable more effective management of records, reduce record-keeping redundancies, reduce storage costs, and increase usable office space through the elimination of unnecessary files
- Berkley (\$173,349), Dedham (\$139,398) and Chicopee (\$133,391) for disaster recovery/cybersecurity enhancements
- Rowe (\$133,400), Goshen (\$86,047) and Warren (\$65,000) for the implementation of financial management systems
- Taunton (\$200,000) for a surveillance system for the city's water department assets to enhance the city's ability to quickly detect and respond to water quality issues
- Hanover (\$196,495) for the purchase and installation of a multi-site Ultra High Frequency digital radio system for the town's schools, which will improve the communication capabilities and enhance the safety and security of public schools within the community
- New Marlborough (\$23,791) for the purchase and implementation of management software
- Sandisfield (\$75,000) for the implementation of a centralized, webbased security system for a number of municipal buildings
- See the full list of Information Technology grant awardees and projects

"This grant cycle includes a number of important technology and cybersecurity project proposals at the municipal level that will improve digital services offerings to constituents and strengthen municipal cybersecurity defenses against potential threats," said Technology Services and Security Secretary Curt Wood.

Efficiency and Regionalization grants

The fiscal 2023 Efficiency and Regionalization grants include:

- \$200,000 for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to modernize a regional e-permitting system for 23 towns
- \$178,123 for Blandford and Chester to share water operators
- \$155,000 to complete the final design of a sanitary sewer connection between the towns of Amherst and Hadley
- \$147,855 for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the development and implementation of an enhanced regional emergency preparation system for the 26 towns of Franklin County
- \$100,000 for an electric vehicle charging station plan across Revere, Winthrop, and Chelsea
- \$75,000 for regional combined sewer overflow management for the Merrimack River, which will benefit 18 municipalities in the Merrimack Valley
- See the full list of Efficiency and Regionalization grants

Insight sought for MVP Planning Program Review

By Josie Ahlberg

As part of its efforts to update the process for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning grants in 2023, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is convening an MVP Review Panel.

The panel will help guide the MVP Planning 2.0 initiative, which seeks to build on the work communities have done to date and support communities with new resources and tools for climate resilience planning.

The review panel will gather ideas, identify challenges, and offer feedback on the MVP planning process. Municipal staff, volunteers, regional and community-based organizations, MVP service



providers, and community members who have taken part in community resilience building workshops for MVP planning grants are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 25.

The MVP program helps communities define climate-related hazards; understand how their community may be impacted by climate change; identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths; and develop, prioritize and implement key actions. State-trained MVP providers offer technical assistance to communities in completing the assessment and resiliency plans.

Communities that complete the MVP planning grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP action grant funding. So far, 335 municipalities across the Commonwealth have participated in the MVP planning program since it launched in 2017.

For more information on MVP Planning 2.0, see the MVP Program's Winter 2022 newsletter. Questions can be sent to MVP Regional Coordinator at carrieanne.petrik@mass.gov.

DOER provides information, best practices on municipal aggregation

By Josie Ahlberg

The Department of Energy Resources is in the process of making information about municipal aggregation more accessible and understandable for communities.

With an aggregation program, a municipality purchases electricity in bulk from a competitive supplier on behalf of customers in the community, offering more competitive pricing, higher renewable energy content, and relative price stability. Aggregation has become an important local option for Massachusetts municipalities since 1997, as the number of communities with active aggregation programs continues to grow.

On Nov. 15, the department released a draft of its Municipal Aggregation Manual and Best Practices Guide, which was available for public comment through Dec. 7.

Most comments submitted by individu-



The state is working to make information about municipal electricity aggregation more accessible to communities.

als and organizations underlined the necessity of creating such a comprehensive document to explain municipal aggregation — particularly given the recent spike in basic service rates. Commenters sought more detailed information, not only for communities looking to launch an aggregation program, but for those who are approaching the end of their

current contract or are amending their program's offerings.

The department's draft manual and best practices guide highlights the importance of goal setting. Goals such as longer-term price certainty, increased renewable energy content, and consumer protection should be considered throughout the program formation process. In comments on the draft, the Local Energy Aggregation Network said goal setting is "a cornerstone topic for the evolution of aggregation across the country."

The department has created a Municipal Aggregation Manual & Best Practices Guide Public Comments website. The MMA's comments are also available on www.mma.org.

The MMA also offers the MunEnergy program to help members stabilize energy costs and simplify energy management.

INAUGURATION

Continued from page 1

Speaking moments before Gov. Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, a longtime mayor of Salem, underscored the new administration's commitment to working in close partnership with cities and towns.

"Local officials are on the front lines doing some of the most important work residents rely on, educating our kids, keeping

our neighborhoods safe, investing in the places where we make memories, and supporting healthy and vibrant communities, good cities and towns," she said. "They don't just happen by accident. It takes intentional and thoughtful leadership, and a whole lot of work and collaboration among state and federal governments, private and public sector partners, and institutions of all sizes and magnitude."

Over the past several weeks, the governor has appointed a number of top-level staff, bringing in veterans of state government and her former Office of the Attorney General, all of whom will be pivotal in advancing the administration's agenda in the months ahead.

Draft VW settlement plan released for 2nd round

By Josie Ahlberg

On Dec. 12, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection released a draft second amendment to the Final Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.

Massachusetts received \$75 million of the national settlement, the first tranche of which was finalized in December 2018 through the Final Massachusetts Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. The plan detailed the Commonwealth's allocation of \$40.7 million toward the electrification of regional transit authority buses, installation of light duty electric vehicle supply equipment, and replacement of affected diesel vehicles or equipment with electric versions.

The draft second amendment details the proposed expenditure of the remaining

\$34.3 million, as follows:

- \$26.8 million for the Cape Ann, Cape Cod, Montachusett and Southeastern regional transit authorities to electrify transit buses and purchase charging equipment
- \$7.5 million for the VW Open Solicitation offering to replace diesel vehicles or equipment with electric vehicles and equipment
- \$50,000 for administrative costs associated with dispersing checks to grantees

The 2017 Volkswagen Settlement was a result of a multi-year vehicle emissions scandal in which the company sold 590,000 diesel cars (2009 through 2016) that contained "defeat devices" — software that could detect when the vehicles were being tested, allowing the

diesel cars to pass laboratory and station testing even though they emitted nitrogen oxides at levels up to 40 times the allowable limits during normal operation.

Volkswagen was found to have violated the Clean Air Act and other federal and state regulations and agreed to pay billions of dollars toward environmental mitigation and clean-emissions infrastructure causes, as well as repairing or buying back the affected vehicles.

The MassDEP is seeking public comment on the proposed draft second amendment through Jan. 13. Comments may be sent to vw.settlement@mass.gov with the subject line "Comments on VW BMP Amendment."

For more information, visit the Mass-DEP website.

MMA webinar to cover DLS's municipal finance resources on Jan. 25

Online registration is open for "Municipal Finance Management: Resources and Tools," a free webinar being co-hosted by the MMA and the Division of Local Services on Jan. 25.

The webinar will help appointed and elected municipal officials discover, navigate and use the tools available via the DLS's robust Municipal Finance Training and Resource Center, its website, and its YouTube channel. The resource center's plain-language videos, templates, and visualization tools provide both introductory and thorough approaches to key topics in local financial management.

Panelists from the DLS will discuss the wide array of interactive and on-demand materials created to help new local officials and seasoned municipal finance professionals. They will also discuss how to leverage the wealth of publicly available municipal finance data to better identify fiscal trends and craft more informed financial policies in communities.

The session will conclude with an interactive question and answer session where panelists will provide real-time support and demonstrate how to use management tools and calculators on fiscal inquiries submitted by webinar attendees.



Kirsten Shirer



Lisa Krzywicki



Sean Cronin



Zack Blake

Panelists from the DLS will discuss the wide array of interactive and on-demand materials created to help new local officials and seasoned municipal finance professionals.

Speakers from the Division of Local Services will include:

- · Sean Cronin, senior deputy commissioner of local services
- · Dan Bertrand, director of administration

- · Zack Blake, chief of the Financial Management Resource Bureau
- · Kirsten Shirer, director of the Data Analytics and Resources Bureau
- · Lisa Krzywicki, deputy director of the Data Analytics and Resources Bureau

For more information, contact MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore at lrancatore@mma.org.

Around the Commonwealth

Avon, Acton, Auburn, Brockton, Chelmsford, Hanover, Plainville, Rowley and Stoughton

Communities join forces to protect water systems from cyberattacks

Working with eight other communities so far, the town of Avon has secured a state grant to promote information sharing and collaboration around an increasingly urgent cybersecurity concern: municipal water systems.

In December, the nine communities received an Efficiency and Regionalization grant for nearly \$200,000 through the state's Community Compact Cabinet. The funding will help the community water systems form a coalition to address cybersecurity concerns and conduct a feasibility study exploring whether a shared service provider model would create efficiencies and help water systems save money. Avon, the lead applicant, is working with Acton, Auburn, Brockton, Chelmsford, Hanover, Plainville, Rowley and Stoughton.

Local water system operators say they are dealing with unique cybersecurity challenges, given the size and scale of their facilities, complex water safety regulations requiring specialized knowledge, and the difficulty of integrating standard information technology resources with their operational technology systems — not to mention a worst-case scenario of a disrupted or contaminated drinking water supply.

"There are things we absolutely have to deal with, and we all have so many other demands on our time, with PFAS ('forever chemicals') and with aging infrastructure, affordability of rates, a complete lack of operators," said Bill Fitzgerald, Avon's public works director. "People are so overwhelmed."

Cyberattacks against U.S. water systems have gained greater attention in recent years. In one well-publicized incident,

a hacker broke into a water treatment plant's system in Oldsmar, Florida, in 2021, and attempted to poison the water supply, before an employee noticed unusual activity and thwarted the attack.

Federal and state agencies, along with insurance companies, are paying more attention to the threat. The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, for instance, has identified water and wastewater among 16 critical sectors that need special protection. And insurance companies have been looking at enhanced cybersecurity requirements for water systems. Local water officials say they welcome the increased vigilance, but wonder how additional requirements will affect their systems' finances and operations.

Fitzgerald said he got the idea for the water-systems collaboration while attending the MassCyberCenter's Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in October and learning about an IT collaborative, including a shared fiber optic network, led by Danvers with several nearby North Shore communities.

Fitzgerald said he saw a similar possibility for municipal water systems. And since the systems wouldn't have to be physically linked by fiber networks or other infrastructure to benefit, he envisioned a network of water systems spread around the state, and asked other communities to join the grant application.

Some of the grant money (\$67,710) will help extend an existing project already underway in Avon. For the past six months or so, Fitzgerald said, Avon has been working on a pilot project, funded through the Department of Environmental Protection's State Revolving Fund, to investigate its system's cybersecurity hygiene. The new funds will help support an implementation phase, and help assess the applicability of Avon's project to the collaborative and to other water suppliers.

Another grant participant, the Chelmsford Water District, is one of three separate water districts serving that town. In terms of cybersecurity, the district's 14 employees have much to protect: 20 wells, three treatment plants, five tanks,

two booster stations and more than 200 miles of pipe, said Superintendent Andy Reid.

"We're small staffs, but we're often dealing with multi-million dollars in assets," Reid said of water systems.

He said water systems often turn to outside vendors to meet their specialized cybersecurity needs. By the time this grant wraps up in 18 months, he said he hopes the process will produce "some sort of standard of practice or guideline" for systems to follow.

- Jennifer Kavanaugh

Franklin

Town develops Commercial Driver Licensing training program for employees

Following changes to federal training requirements for Commercial Driver's Licenses, the Franklin Department of Public Works has received federal approval of an internal training program, designed to bring in qualified hires while saving money for employees who need a CDL license.

The <u>CDL</u> training changes, which took effect last February, require applicants to receive training by an approved trainer prior to taking the CDL test — and the cost for the training can be as much as \$10,000. Prior to the changes, and for the last 15 years, the town was able to train employees in-house, according to Public Works Director Brutus Cantoreggi.

"It's very hard to find CDL drivers, so I would hire folks without the license and train them in house," Cantoreggi said. "It brought in a lot of folks who had permits. ... But with the regulation change, we couldn't find people already licensed for these jobs."

When Cantoreggi and Environmental Affairs Coordinator Derek Adams examined the federal changes, they found that they could meet the requirements to be a certified trainer and get the training program approved by the federal government. Adams became the town's point person for the program.

■ **COMMONWEALTH** continued on 21

Around the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH

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Franklin was the first municipality in the state to get federal approval for a training program, and others have followed suit.

"It worked out last year as we were working on this that we were going through collective bargaining and were able to get the union to buy into it," Cantoreggi said. "The union is providing two trainers that management approves, and they are paid overtime to train our drivers after hours."

After going through the training program, which includes federally mandated training hours and a quiz, trainees go to the Registry of Motor Vehicles for approval and then on to the State Police for testing.

The town has four employees in the program now, and Cantoreggi said he has gotten good feedback from the State Police about the program.

"A big part of having this training in house is if we had an employee who wanted that CDL, they would have to take time off to do that." Adams said.



The Franklin Department of Public Works provides internal Commercial Drivers License training for employees. (Photo courtesy town of Franklin)

"When they come to us with a CDL permit, they can work and get paid while on probation, then spend their time after hours doing that training, so there is not lost time off of work. ... We're not waiting to hire somebody while they go get that training elsewhere. We can hire people quickly that way."

With the difficulties that municipalities are facing in finding qualified employees, Cantoreggi noted that the program gives the town an edge over the private sector.

"This has huge value for the town because you can come work for me without your CDL, but you want to get your CDL, and it's not going to cost you \$10,000," he said.

Cantoreggi said that there has been some interest from other towns in having Franklin train their employees, so his department is looking into the possibility, though there are obstacles to consider, including union requirements and liability concerns.

For towns interested in developing their own training program, Adams said the first step is registering your program with the federal government and having someone with a CDL to oversee the program.

"You really need someone to take the lead on it and stay with it," Cantoreggi said.

– Meredith Gabrilska

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.

MunEnergy can help manage municipal energy costs

With winter here and energy costs climbing globally, the MMA's MunEnergy program is available to help cities and towns manage energy-related costs.

Founded by the MMA more than two decades ago, the MunEnergy program is designed specifically for municipal governments. The contract provides stability as well as flexibility in managing energy usage, renewable energy projects, and more.

The MMA's endorsed supplier for the program, Constellation, recently received the Supplier of the Year Award from The Energy Professionals Association for excellence in competitive retail electricity and natural gas markets. The award recognizes Constellation's dedication to customers and its comprehensive, innovative and strategic vision that's moving the industry forward.

Constellation has been the MMA's MunEnergy partner for more than 20 For more information about how the MunEnery program can help manage energy costs, sustainability goals and



more, visit www.mma.org/munenergy or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org.

Managers discuss labor law

Attorney John Clifford speaks during the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association's holiday meeting on Dec. 15 in Devens. Clifford, a partner at Clifford and Kenny, focused on collective bargaining and recent Joint Labor-Management Committee cases.

Serving Massachusetts' communities since 1982

Facilities director can be key member of design team

By Joyce McMahon

If your city or town is planning to construct a new municipal facility, a recommended best practice is to include your facilities director, or similar team member, on your design team, according to Ken Wertz, executive director of the Massachusetts Facilities Administrators' Association.

Why? Your facilities director has the most interest in the process, as he or she will be the one holding the keys and having access to sophisticated building systems after the ribbon is cut and the design team has moved onto another project.

One of the most popular sessions at the MFAA's 2022 Annual Fall Conference, Wertz said, focused on the importance of having facilities directors as part of new construction teams.

In many instances, he said, municipal building projects continue to be underrepresented and unsupported by the owner's facilities team. Communities often form a construction committee that manages new building projects and renovations, he said, but the makeup of these groups often

does not include the voice of the person who has the most knowledge of the building being worked on — and who will be responsible for the new facility when it is turned over to the city or town.

What participation looks like

Wertz said real team participation includes giving someone on the facilities team a seat on the committee and the power to make decisions that align with project goals. Providing administrative support, as well as understanding the time commitment needed for active committee participation — such as attending design and construction meetings, visiting other buildings to see proposed design elements in a working municipal environment, and time to review design documents — can bring additional benefits.

Sometimes, a municipality or committee might suggest that an owner's project manager can cover what the facilities manager would do. Wertz noted, however, that not all projects fund outside services to help manage the project on behalf of the owner.

Even if there is an owner's project manag-

er, he said, that person or firm is unlikely to come to the table with the same pride of ownership or passion that's brought by someone from the city or town organization.

Relationships can also make things messy, as an owner's project manager may have a prior working relationship and/or plans for future projects with the architects and builders, which can complicate negotiations related to errors, omissions and change orders. The facilities manager, meanwhile, isn't beholden to anyone but the community, so its best interests will always be put forward.

Options exist

In reality, not all communities have a facilities director with the needed skill set or exposure to current design trends and systems, Wertz said. And budgets are a real concern for many communities. But cities and towns are still advised to put systems in place to ensure that they will have proper management of sophisticated building systems.

With new energy and building code

■ MIIA continued on 27

Winter tips to prevent property losses

Some things you should know about property losses:

- The largest and most costly property losses happen during the winter months, especially when buildings are closed.
- Property losses cost time and money.
- The more losses you experience, the greater likelihood your insurance premiums will increase.
- The good news: You can stop bad things from happening. Property losses are preventable.

What you should do

 Set heat setbacks to an appropriate level to prevent freezing – about 55-

- 58 degrees. Identify cold spots that may need to be set higher or need supplemental (and safe) heat sources. Do not add additional trip or electrical hazards with supplemental heat.
- Properly close and secure all exterior doors and windows. Some interior doors may be left open if it helps circulate heat into unheated areas.
 Document these on a building closure plan.
- Perform regular walkthroughs of the whole building and look for signs of damage or cold areas.
- Check unit ventilators to make sure they are functioning properly. A thermographic camera can be useful to

- see how cold the area is around a unit ventilator.
- Keep a list/map of key shut offs and share with staff and vendors.
- Inspect water connections and shut them down if feasible.
- Test sump pumps to ensure they'll work when needed.
- Ensure that remote sensor devices are fully charged, that alert numbers and emails are up-to-date, and that emergency contacts understand their duties.

For more information, visit <u>www.emiia.</u> <u>org/risk-management-resources/best-practices-and-resources.</u>

MMA, Suffolk University to host information sessions

By Katie McCue

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session for their Municipal Fellowship Program on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. To register for the Zoom session, visit www.mma.org/events or click here.

The Municipal Fellowship Program was launched in 2021 by Suffolk University in partnership with the MMA to offer significant support to municipal managers and professionals to attend Suffolk's master's in public administration program at its Sawyer School of Business.

The fellowship program will provide a scholarship of up to \$28,000 while the recipient's municipality commits to continuing their salary and position while they attend the program part-time.

Applicants must already be accepted for admission to the master's in public administration program and receive the support of the chief municipal official in their municipality. Consideration will be given to graduates of the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.

The application will be available on the MMA-Suffolk programs web page on Feb. 1. The application deadline is May 1 at 5 p.m.

Certificate Program

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold Zoom information sessions for up-



On Dec. 2, 25 students graduated from the Fall 2022 MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar. It was the finance seminar's ninth session, and 228 people have graduated to date.

coming Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs on March 9 at 10 a.m. and March 16 at 2 p.m.

The two sessions will cover the same information. To register, visit www.mma.org/events.

In September 2023, the MMA and Suffolk University will launch the 21st and 22nd certificate programs.

The graduate-level academic program provides a solid grounding in municipal management, and covers topics such as human resources management, budgeting and financial management, and

strategic leadership.

The program is held over the course of 25 Fridays from September through May.

The program application will be available on the MMA website on Feb. 1, and the deadline to apply is April 30.

For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit mma.org/suffolk or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org, or Kate Evarts at 617-426-7272, ext. 172, or kevarts@mma.org. ●

MassDOT seeks applications for school zone traffic-calming signs

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking applications for combination speed feedback and speed limit sign assemblies for school zones.

Up to 50 municipalities will be chosen to receive two assemblies to support one school zone area. Communities are encouraged to apply for the location that is the highest priority. Awardees will be selected based on need, context, environment, risks and crash history.

Applications will be accepted <u>online</u> through Jan. 18. Questions can be directed to MassDOTSafeRoutesTo-

School@dot.state.ma.us.

MassDOT says the speed-calming assemblies are being offered in response to an increase in speed-related traffic deaths and injuries in Massachusetts, as well as a recent revision to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices that now defines school zones to include grades 9 through 12.

– Adrienne Núñez



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is accepting applications for school zone traffic-calming signs through Jan. 18.



MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show

January 20 and 21, 2023 Boston Hynes Convention Center

CONNECT, ENGAGE, BE INSPIRED.

NETWORKING

The MMA Annual Meeting provides countless opportunities to discuss the challenges you face and to learn what your peers are doing to move their communities forward.





TRADE SHOW

The MMA's Trade Show is a great opportunity to find out what's new in the municipal marketplace! More than 200 exhibitors will be showcasing the latest in products and services tailored to Massachusetts cities and towns. The Trade Show also features a series of 10 Learning Lab workshops.

WORKSHOPS

18 workshops will cover the latest developments affecting local government:

- The ABCs of EVs: Electric Vehicles 101
- Can I Work From Home?
 Succession Planning
 Post-Pandemic
- Cooling Hostility: Tools and Strategies
- Cultivating an Effective Manager/Board Relationship
- Economic and Fiscal Outlook
- Going, Going, Green!
 Municipal Aggregation and Clean Energy
- Hot Topics in Municipal Law
- How Municipalities Can Achieve Housing Goals
- The Latest in Labor Law
- Mental Health and Policing: Crisis Intervention and Co-Responders

- Neighborhood Joints: Social Consumption in Your Municipality
- The Path Forward on PFAS: Examining State and Local Approaches
- Private Roads: Political Nightmare, Legal Reality
- Reframing Recruitment:
 Advancing Municipal
 Hiring Strategies
- Regionalization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- Strengthening Your
 Municipal Cybersecurity
 Program and Incident
 Response Planning
- Transportation
 Funding Opportunities
 Through the Bipartisan
 Infrastructure Law
- Using Public Communications to Build Community and Trust



Join more than 1,000 local leaders at this inspiring, can't-miss event devoted to learning, problem solving and idea sharing!

For complete MMA Annual Meeting information, visit www.mma.org. And follow #MassMuni23 on Twitter and massmunicipal on Facebook.

SPEAKERS



Opening Session: Gov. Maura Healey

The first woman and first openly gay elected governor in state history will address local officials from across the state just two weeks after her inauguration, highlighting her policy priorities for the coming year.



Keynote: Elizabeth Lombardo

The noted psychologist and author — dubbed the "Head Coach for Happiness" by NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal — will provide strategies to manage your anxiety and "Get Out of the Red Zone."

COVID Precautions

The MMA will not be checking vaccination status, but attendees are urged to take an at-home COVID test prior to attending, and not attend if they have any COVID symptoms or if a household member has tested positive.

Attendees are welcome to wear a mask if they choose.

See the website for more details.



WEMO Luncheon: Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll

The long time mayor of Salem will discuss her experiences as a woman in politics and her journey from municipal service to the state's second-highest office.



Friday Dinner: Anthony Everett

The long time "Chronicle" host, known for his "Main Streets and Back Roads" segments, will share stories about hidden and not-so-hidden gems of the Bay State.



Headshot Station

Attendees can sign up on-site to get free professional headshots taken.





Closing Session: Clarence Anthony & Marc Ott

The executive directors of the National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association will discuss the challenges and opportunities for building diverse, equitable and inclusive communities.



Visit www.mma.org/register



Make the most of your MMA Annual Meeting experience with our official app. Find out more on page 11.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 2

partnership with Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. We know the state-local partnership will be outstanding, because these two leaders have demonstrated their positive and collaborative leadership style time and again during their service as attorney general and mayor.

This past fall, the MMA outlined 10 partnership principles that build a strong state-local partnership, and we are fully confident that these will thrive under the Healey-Driscoll administration, from the very first day they take office.

Just 15 days into their new administra-

tion, Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll will be joining more than 1,000 local officials from across Massachusetts at the MMA's 44th Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston. Gov. Healey will be speaking at our opening session on Friday, Jan. 20, and Lt. Gov. Driscoll is the featured speaker at our WEMO luncheon on Friday, and will also provide remarks at our Saturday business meeting.

We hold the MMA's annual conference in January so that we can start the new year off with energy, aligned on an agenda to help all 351 of our cherished communities thrive. This year's theme is "Connect, Engage, Be Inspired," because that's what happens when more than 1,000 leaders

get in the same room to talk about their common cause and passion to build strong hometowns everywhere. If you haven't registered for the meeting, please do so right away, as you'll want to be there to connect, engage, and be inspired by the new administration, and by your colleagues from across the state.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting, as we usher in a new year filled with new promise, explore ways to address enduring and emerging challenges, and harness all the opportunities that change can bring.

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!

Applications due Jan. 15 for Municipal Finance Seminar

By Katie McCue

The MMA and Suffolk University are offering three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs in 2023, and the application deadline is approaching for the spring session.

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

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

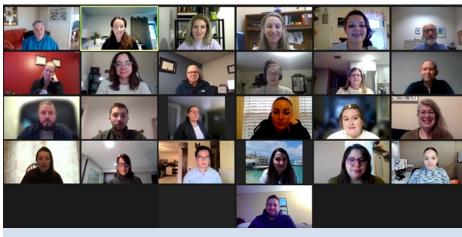
• Winter 2023: Jan. 6

· Spring 2023: March 3

• Fall 2023: Oct. 20

The deadline to apply for the winter session has passed, while the deadline for the spring session is coming up on Jan. 15.

Applicants must be currently employed by



The MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar kicked off its 10th session with an orientation on Jan. 6. Twenty-seven students are participating.

a city or town, and must have the approval of their municipal manager, administrator or mayor to apply. The application is available online 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.

For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit mma.org/suffolk or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org, or Kate Evarts at 617-426-7272, ext. 172, or kevarts@mma.org.

MIIA

Continued from page 22

requirements, and technological advances in building controls, Wertz said a community's involvement early in the design process is a huge help, especially if that team member will be the one to manage the new asset.

Options for communities include an outsourced service contract for building systems management, or creating a new position, such as a building operator.

In the end, Wertz said, involving your facilities director in new building projects offers the benefit of their knowledge and expertise, and provides them with an opportunity for professional growth, an increased sense of pride of ownership, and a clear message that they are an important and respected part of the organization.

MIIA has partnered with the MFAA, a community of public facility directors dedicated to improving the performance and operation of public facilities, to enhance its members' risk management efforts. MIIA members are eligible to receive a free first year of membership to the MFAA by attending 60% of scheduled MFAA trainings between January and June 30, 2023.



LGAC addresses municipal recruiting

During the Dec. 6 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Sandwich Town Manager Bud Dunham (right) thanks outgoing Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito for the administration's creation of the Local Finance Commonwealth Fellowship Program, designed to address the challenges local leaders face in keeping municipal finance positions filled. Dunham said the pandemic has only exacerbated the shortage of qualified municipal finance professionals. Also pictured is Danvers Town Manager Steve Bartha.

ANNUAL MEETING

Continued from page 1

an Emmy-winning journalist and longtime host of WCVB Channel 5's "Chronicle"

Closing speakers <u>Clarence Anthony of</u>
 <u>the National League of Cities and Marc</u>
 <u>Ott of the International City/County</u>
 <u>Management Association</u>, who will
 discuss diversity, equity and inclusion in
 local government

Eighteen informative and timely workshops will cover topics such as succession planning, municipal law, regionalization, cybersecurity, housing, labor law, PFAS, communications, energy, policing, recruitment, and transportation funding. There will also be 10 half-hour Learning Labs on the Trade Show floor.

Additional conference features:

- A lively <u>Trade Show</u> featuring the latest services and solutions for cities and towns
- Member business meetings and important policy discussions
- · Countless networking opportunities
- Municipal awards programs

Two new features this year:

- A <u>Headshot Station</u>, where municipal members can get a professional photograph taken for free (Details onsite; space is limited)
- A roundtable discussion on Saturday morning, "Taking the Next Step in Your Career"

First-time Annual Meeting attendees will get a special welcome during an event-opening orientation session from 8 to 9 a.m. The session is an opportunity to learn from seasoned MMA members about the best strategies for making the most of the Annual Meeting experience, as well as MMA membership.

The Trade Show will be open on Friday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Companies, nonprofits and government agencies interested in exhibiting at the meeting can find details and contract information on the MMA website.

"I encourage everyone to register," said Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer, "as this is an experience you don't want to miss."

"Do whatever you can to be part of this fantastic event!" said Westwood Select Board Member Michael Walsh, president



The MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show gives attendees plenty of opportunities to connect during the two-day event.

of the Massachusetts Select Board Association. "You won't be disappointed."

The MMA Annual Meeting website has all the details about this dynamic forum for learning and celebration of the innovations and best practices in community governance.

About a week to 10 days before the conference, all registrants will get an email about the comprehensive, and free, MMA Annual Meeting mobile app. The app, optimized for both smartphones and tablets, is the best tool for making the most of the conference experience.

The MMA will not be checking COVID vaccination status, but is advising attendees to keep up with the latest COVID vaccines for which they are eligible. Attendees are urged to take an at-home COVID test prior to attending, and not attend if they have any COVID symptoms or if a household member has tested positive. Attendees are welcome to wear a mask if they choose. (See the website for more details.)

Registration

Information about online registration is available at www.mma.org/register, and the early rate is \$225 for members. The WEMO Luncheon is already sold out, but tickets are still available for the Friday evening dinner and entertainment, which costs \$55.

Only online registrations will be accepted. No registrations can be accepted by mail or over the phone. The MMA accepts credit cards for Annual Meeting transactions, or we will invoice your municipality after the meeting. MMA staff are happy to help anyone who needs assistance. Attendees may use their unique username and password to register. Those who don't

have a username and password, or who have forgotten them, may email amregistrations@mma.org.

MMA Partnership Program members qualify for member rates. All Partnership Program members must renew membership with payment by Jan. 1 in order to register for and attend the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. Partnership Program renewals or applications will not be accepted during the Annual Meeting. MMA Partnership Program members who exhibit should not register through the member portal, but should contact Trade Show Manager Karen LaPointe at klapointe@mma.org.

After the early registration deadline of Jan. 11, all registrations will be made onsite at the rate of \$275.

Hotel information

The MMA's discounted room block has sold out at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, located adjacent to the Hynes, but rooms can still be booked at the regular rate by contacting the Sheraton Boston directly at 888-627-7054.

Other hotel options in the area include the Hilton Boston Back Bay (40 Dalton St.), the Boston Marriott Copley Place (110 Huntington Ave.), the Westin Copley (10 Huntington Ave.), the Colonnade Hotel (120 Huntington Ave.), and the Courtyard by Boston Marriott Copley Place (88 Exeter St.).

For more information on the Annual Meeting, contact Timmery Kuck at 617-426-7272, ext. 106. For Trade Show and Partnership Program information, contact Karen LaPointe at 617-426-7272, ext. 154.

MMA webinar covers EV policy landscape and municipal opportunities

By Lily Rancatore

An MMA webinar on Dec. 12 provided an overview of significant electric vehicle policy developments and resources becoming available to municipalities.

Daniel Gatti, director of clean transportation policy in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, discussed the billions of dollars included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for EV-related initiatives, as well as federal tax credit changes included in the Inflation Reduction Act that will affect consumers, dealers, businesses, municipalities and manufacturers.

The Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan calls for EVs to account for a majority of new cars sold in the state by 2030 as a primary strategy to reduce emissions. Various pieces of state legislation codify many of the components of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan, establish incentives for the implementation of these components, and create funding sources to promote implementation.

Carrie Lavallee, deputy administrator and chief engineer at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, discussed the state's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan, known as its <u>NEVI plan</u>, which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in September. She said the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program will provide Massachusetts with significant formula funding over five years to sup-



A Dec. 12 webinar hosted by the MMA focused on significant electric vehicle policy developments and resources becoming available to municipalities. Pictured are (clockwise from top left) Carrie Lavallee, deputy administrator and chief engineer at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; Heath Fahle, assistant secretary for federal funds in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance; and Daniel Gatti, director of clean transportation policy in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

port the construction and operation of charging stations along major highway corridors.

The session concluded with a review of existing municipal programs in Massachusetts meant to leverage funding and incentivize the use of EVs. Additional grant funding opportunities are anticipated to be available upon establishment and approval by the EV Intergovernmental Coordinating Council.

Heath Fahle, assistant secretary for federal funds in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, opened the

session with an overview of the federal funding opportunities in four major infrastructure areas: transportation, climate and power, <u>water and sewer</u>, and <u>broadband</u>.

The webinar concluded with 20 minutes of questions and answers, moderated by MMA Senior Legislative Analyst Jackie Lavender Bird. Inquiries about developing charging station infrastructure and the electrification of MBTA buses were addressed.

• <u>View the webinar and presentation</u> materials

HEALEY TEAM

Continued from page 4

chief economic development secretariat. Hao previously co-founded and held top roles at the investment firm Cove Hill Partners, was an operating partner at Pillar Ventures, and has been active in the Bay State business community. She lives in Williamstown and Cambridge.

Mary Beckman, who recently served as the chief of the Health Care and Fair Competition Bureau in Healey's AG office, was named acting secretary of Health and Human Services — the largest secretariat in Massachusetts. Once Healey appoints her long-term secretary, Beckman will shift into the role of senior advisor at HHS. Marylou

Sudders, the secretary of Health and Human Services for all eight years of the Baker-Polito administration, will serve as a temporary advisor to the incoming Healey administration.

Beckman, a Milton resident, was a deputy legal counsel to both Gov. William Weld and Gov. Paul Cellucci.

Jason Snyder has been chosen to run the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security. He has served as chief technology officer at Harvard University since 2015 and was chief technology officer for Massachusetts under Gov. Deval Patrick from 2007 through 2015. Gov. Charlie Baker created the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security in 2017 based on the former Massachusetts Office of Information Technology. The secretariat plays a lead role in cybersecurity issues, including support for municipal programs.

Healey named First Assistant Attorney General Kate Cook as chief of staff and Gabrielle Viator, chief deputy attorney general, as her senior advisor. Jillian Fennimore, a former newspaper editor who worked in press roles at the AG's office, will serve as communications director.

As of Jan. 5, Healey had not yet named her secretaries of Housing, Public Safety and Security, and Labor and Workforce Development.

People



Eric Batista, who had been serving as Worcester's acting city manager for the past several months. officially became the city manager after the City Council approved his contract on Dec. 6.

Batista had

been serving in the acting role since his predecessor, Edward Augustus, stepped down at the end of May. Batista has been serving in Worcester for the past decade, in roles including chief of operations and project management in the city manager's office and director of the Office of Urban Innovation. In fall 2021, he was promoted to the role of assistant city manager. He has an associate's degree in architecture from the New England Institute of Technology, a bachelor's degree in economics from UMass Amherst and a master's degree in business administration from Assumption University.

Jay McGrail became the new town manager in Middleborough on Nov. 21.

McGrail had been the town administrator in Marion since 2019. Previously, he was director of facilities for the Sandwich public schools from 2018 to 2019, and director of South Shore Country Club in Hingham from 2007 to 2018.

He has a bachelor's degree in plant sciences from UMass Amherst and an MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management.

In Middleborough, McGrail replaces Robert Nunes, who retired in the fall after four decades of government service. Nunes had been the town manager in Middleborough since 2014, and previously served as the mayor of Taunton from 1992 until 2000, and from 2004 until 2007. He also served in the administration of former Gov. Deval Patrick as head of the Division of Local Services. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association.



Andy Sheehan

Andy Sheehan will become the next town manager in Sudbury on Feb. 13.

Sheehan has been the town administrator in Middleton since December 2015. Previously. he served for

more than five years as the town administrator in Townsend. He has also served as an assistant town manager in Westford, as the assistant to the city manager in Lowell, as the conservation administrator in Pepperell, and in several roles in Chelmsford, including land use coordinator, community development coordinator and community development

He has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in education, both from UMass Lowell. He also received an MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management in 2015.

In Sudbury, Sheehan replaces Henry Hayes, who left in June after two years. In the meantime, Maryanne Bilodeau has been serving as interim town manager.



Katelyn O'Brien

Katelyn O'Brien, an MMA alum. became the new assistant town administrator/ human resources director in Norfolk on Dec. 5.

O'Brien is Norfolk's first assistant administrator/HR

director. In the HR role, she is replacing **Scott Bragdon**, who recently retired.

O'Brien was the assistant town administrator in Dover since January 2020. Previously, she worked as the economic development coordinator in Westborough for two years, was the community information specialist in Foxborough from 2016 to 2018, and was a human resources assistant in Wayland.

O'Brien spent five years at the MMA as an assistant editor. She also worked as a research assistant for The Eleanor

Roosevelt Papers Project and for the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prisoners Project.

O'Brien has a master's degree in public administration and in political science from Suffolk University, and a bachelor's degree in political science from The George Washington University.



Liz Hartsgrove

Liz Hartsgrove became the new assistant town administrator in Bourne on Dec. 5.

Hartsgrove had served for more than eight years in the town of Barnstable, in positions including

consumer affairs supervisor, assistant director of planning and development, and most recently as deputy director of asset management and licensing director. Previously, she served for five years as executive assistant to the town administrator in Yarmouth, almost three years as executive assistant to the town administrator in Wellfleet and almost four years as the licensing agent in Provincetown.

Hartsgrove has a bachelor's degree in dance performance from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University. She also has an MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management.

In Bourne, Hartsgrove replaced **Glenn Cannon**, who left in March to become town administrator in Rochester.



In recognition of her more than three decades of municipal service, Newbury Town Administrator **Tracy Blais** received the Eugene H. Rooney Jr. Public Service Award on Dec. 14.

Blais received the

■ **PEOPLE** continued on 31

People

PEOPLE

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award during the 38th Massachusetts Annual Performance Recognition Program Awards in Boston. The award is given to those who "selflessly personify a deep commitment to serving the people of the Commonwealth," and who have promoted learning, teamwork, creativity and innovation in the areas of human resources development and training.

Blais has been administrator in Newbury for almost 12 years, after serving in West Newbury for 19 years. Before entering municipal service, she spent five years working for an accounting firm that specialized in municipal audits.



Josh Ostroff

Josh Ostroff.

a former MMA president and Natick selectman, became the director of transportation planning in Newton on Jan. 3.

Ostroff had been serving as interim director of

Transportation for Massachusetts since July 2021, and had been a member of the T4MA staff since 2014, including as the organization's partnerships director.

Ostroff served as president of the MMA in 2011 and has chaired the nominating committee for the Massachusetts Select Board Association. He served as a selectman for a decade, until 2016, and served Natick in numerous other capacities, including as a Town Meeting member, and as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee.

Shannon Coffey has joined the Board of Selectmen in Avon after winning a Dec. 10 special election. She filled the seat left vacant by Steven Rose, who stepped down in September.

D.J. Wilson, who recently retired after almost three decades as tobacco control director at the MMA, received the President's Award from the Massachusetts



D.J. Wilson

Health Officers Association on Oct. 26 in Falmouth. The award recognizes people who have championed public health throughout their careers.

For 28 years, until his retirement at the end of June, Wilson

provided technical and legal assistance to municipalities on various aspects of tobacco control, including enforcement issues. He also testified at public hearings about tobacco control measures, and served on the policy committee at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The MMA's tobacco control director position is contracted through the Department of Public Health. Currently serving in that role is **Lisa Stevens-Goodnight**.



Stephen Kulik

Stephen Kulik,

a former MMA president, longtime legislator and passionate advocate for rural western Massachusetts, died on Dec. 18 at the age of 72, after a battle with colon cancer.

He was elected to

the Planning Board in Worthington in 1979, and to the Board of Selectmen four years later, serving until 1993. He served as president of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association (now Select Board Association) in 1991 and as president of the MMA in 1993. He also served as a Hampshire County commissioner from 1989 to 1992.

In 1993, Kulik won a special election for the First Franklin District, serving for a quarter century, until his retirement at the end of 2018. By the end of his tenure, he was vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee. He also started the Legislative Rural Caucus and helped create the Food Policy Council.

Kulik, widely recognized as a patient listener and dedicated public servant, was a powerful advocate for policies to improve the lives of residents in rural and small towns, with a focus on issues including broadband access, agriculture and educational equity. During his career of public service, Kulik was deeply engaged in the MMA's work.

In retirement, Kulik served on the boards of Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, the Double Edge Theatre, Cooley-Dickinson Hospital, and the Massachusetts chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He was also a justice of the peace and enjoyed presiding over weddings.



Sheila Russell

Sheila Russell, who served as a mayor and city councillor in Cambridge, died on Dec. 12 at age 87. Russell was mayor from 1996 to 1997, having been elected by her fellow councillors.

In 1985, she ran for

the Council seat held by her late husband, Leonard Russell, himself a former mayor, and served on the council for 14 years, until her retirement in 1999. The Russell Youth and Community Center in Cambridge is named after her.



Michael Rourke

Michael Rourke,

a longtime public servant who had worked in both Natick and Newton, died on Dec. 7 at the age of 79.

In his 33 years working for the town of Natick, Rourke was the

recreation director from 1965 to 1981, and assistant town administrator from 1981 to 1998. After that, he became the chief administrative officer in Newton, where he served until his retirement in 2007.

Rourke was deeply involved in community service and received numerous awards, including the Emil S. Skop Award for his contributions to the field of municipal human resources management, and the

■ PEOPLE continued on 36

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant City Clerk City of Chelsea

Salary: \$69,252.45-\$86,769.76. Under the general direction of the City Clerk, this position coordinates office and staff clerical functions. Responsible for assisting mandates applicable to the office including, but not limited to, vital statistics, voter registration, census, and filings of boards and commissions meetings. Ensures the organization and maintenance of office records, city records, and maintains databases necessary to department operations. Performs highly responsible administrative and clerical functions in the office of the City Clerk and in the statutory functions associated with the responsibilities of the Board of Voter Registrars. Click on the link below for the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_T14_R47.php.EEO

General Manager Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, Vermont

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, a 19-member union municipality located in Montpelier, Vermont, is hiring a General Manager. The General Manager oversees eight full-time and two part-time employees, manages an annual budget of \$1.3 million and is responsible for the performance of the district. The primary role includes staff assistance to the Board of Supervisors in formulating and implementing policies, managing personnel and financial resources, and representing the district with municipalities, members of the public and solid waste partners. The General Manager's duties include coordination of solid waste planning and implementing projects, including planned development of a new facility; budget and capital plan preparation and monitoring; oversight of ongoing programming and operations; personnel management; grant administration; compliance with federal and state laws; technical assistance to the Board of Supervisors, local officials, and persons requesting to communicate with the district. This is an exempt full-time position. Salary range of \$70,250 to \$92,900 (negotiated rate), plus outstanding benefits package. For full details please visit cvswmd.org. To apply, send resume, cover letter, writing sample and three references to: administration@cvswmd.org or: General Manager Search, CVSWMD, 137 Barre St., Montpelier, VT 05602. Position will remain open until filled.

Finance Director Town of Yarmouth

The town of Yarmouth is searching for a Finance Director! Administrative, supervisory and technical work in the coordination and direction of financial management operations, under the direction of the Town Administrator; oversees the Finance Department Divisions of Accounting, Assessing, Collector/Treasurer, Clerks as well as payroll. Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field; ten years of progressively responsible experience in accounting or financial management, experience in municipal accounting preferred; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Application procedure: Please visit www.yarmouth.ma.us/jobs to download and complete an application to submit with your resume to humanresources@yarmouth.ma.us.

Assistant Assessor

Town of Clinton

The town of Clinton Assessors Office is seeking a full-time Assistant Assessor. Under the direction of the Principal Assessor, this position performs a variety of professional and technical work related to managing the assessment and appraisal functions for the town. To see the full job ad and description, please go to employment opportunities, www.clintonma.gov/jobs. To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to: employment@clintonma.gov, open until filled. EOE/AA

Licensed Electrician

Town of Saugus

Town of Saugus is looking for an experienced Licensed Electrician to join our facilities maintenance team. Essential Responsibilities: Installs control and distribution apparatus such as switches, relays, and circuit breaker panels. Observes functioning of installed equipment or system to detect hazards and need for adjustments, relocation or replacement. Repairs faulty equipment or systems. Keeps records and prepares sketches showing location of wiring and equipment, or follows diagrams or blueprints, ensuring that concealed wiring is installed before completion of future walls, ceilings, and flooring. Connects wiring to lighting fixtures and power equipment. Connects power cables to equipment, such as electric range or motor, and installs grounding leads. Tests continuity of circuit to ensure electrical compatibility and safety of components with testing instruments such as ohmmeter, battery and buzzer, amp meter and oscilloscope. Job Requirements: Knowledge of the National Electrical Code (NEC). local codes and construction safety requirements. Experience in a commercial/industrial environment is preferred. Experienced in all electrical systems preferred. Qualifications: Five years of experience in residential and commercial building electrical installations; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Active journeyman or

master electrician license. OSHA 10 required/OSHA 30 preferred. Familiarity with interpreting electrical schematics, blueprints and manuals. Valid driver's license. Please submit your cover letter and resume to hr@saugus-ma.gov.

Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Town of West Newbury

The town of West Newbury seeks qualified candidates for a full-time, benefits eligible Executive Assistant to the Town Manager. Attendance at periodic evening meetings required. Associate's degree in office management, business administration or related field; and three years of related experience in municipal administration or office management; or equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Prior municipal experience is strongly desired. Applicants should possess excellent organizational, communication and computer skills. Complete job description: www.wnewbury.org/jobs. Hourly rate \$23.61 to \$33.73 per hour. Position open until filled. Please send a cover letter and resume to: Town of West Newbury, ATTN: Town Manager, personnel@ wnewbury.org, 381 Main St., West Newbury, MA 01985. AA/EOE

Finance Department Assistant Town of West Newbury

The town of West Newbury seeks qualified candidates for a full-time, benefits eligible Finance Department Assistant. Associate's degree or equivalent in accounting or finance, and three years of related experience; or equivalent combination of education, training, certification and experience. Prior municipal finance experience is strongly desired. Applicants should possess excellent organizational, communication and computer skills. Complete job description at www.wnewbury.org/jobs. Hourly rate is \$23.61 to \$33.73 per hour. Position is open until filled. Please send a cover letter and resume

■ CLASSIFIEDS continued on 33

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 www.mma.org, 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

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.

February Beacon

Deadline: January 26 Publication: February 1

March Beacon

Deadline: February 23 Publication: March 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 www.mma.org for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

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to: Town of West Newbury, ATTN: Town Manager, personnel@wnewbury.org, 381 Main St., West Newbury, MA 01985. AA/EOE

Assistant General CounselCity of Gloucester

The Assistant General Counsel provides full municipal legal services to city of Gloucester departments, as assigned by General Counsel. As a professional lawyer, this position uses independent judgment in representing the city's interests and remains responsible for advising and guiding all departments within the municipality on matters of legal compliance. For a full job description, please click here: gloucester-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8928/Assistant-Genneral-Counsel-December-2022. Salary range: \$89,154.09-\$112,012.39. Qualified candidates should respond to the city of Gloucester, Human Resources Department, 9 Dale Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930, or email resume and application to: jobs@gloucester-ma.gov. AA/EOE

Assistant Town Accountant Town of Wellfleet

The town of Wellfleet has a FY2023 budget of \$25 million and is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Assistant Town Accountant. Associate's degree in accounting, business administration, or a closely related field; a minimum of three to five years' general ledger accounting experience, preferably in the municipal field and experience with municipal financial software applications; or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. Salary range is \$54,442-\$67,165. Position is full-time with full benefits. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and a completed town employment application form by email to HumanResources@wellfleet-ma.gov. Position will remain open, and applications are accepted until filled. Complete position details and application available at: www.wellfleet-ma.gov/employment.

Heavy Motor Equipment Operator/ Driver/Laborer/Solid Waste Division Town of Raynham

Raynham Highway Department is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Heavy Motor Equipment Operator, Solid Waste. This position is full-time, 40 hours (Tuesday-Saturday). Base hourly wage is \$19.57-\$25.60. Two to five years' relevant experience and licensing (Mass. CDL Class B with air brakes, minimum 2B hoisting license; 1B, 2A, 4G is required within a 12 month probationary period, subject to skills testing/evaluation). Full job description is available at the Raynham Highway Department or website. Position is open until filled. Raynham is an EOE. Submit application to HumanResources@town. raynham.ma.us or Raynham Highway Department, 1555 King Philip St., Raynham, MA 02767.

Heavy Motor Equipment Operator/ Driver/Laborer

Town of Raynham

Raynham Highway Department is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Heavy Motor Equipment Operator. This position is full-time, 40 hours (Monday-Friday). Base hourly wage is \$19.57-\$25.60. Two to

five years' relevant experience and licensing (Mass. CDL Class B with air brakes, minimum 2B hoisting license; 1B, 2A, 4G is required within a 12-month probationary period, subject to skills testing/evaluation). Full job description is available at the Raynham Highway Department. Raynham is am EOE. Submit application to HumanResources@town. raynham.ma.us or Raynham Highway Department, 1555 King Philip St., Raynham, MA 02767.

Assistant Assessor City of Chelsea

Annual Salary: \$69,252.45-\$86,769.76. This position provides support to the Director of Assessing and office staff in administrative and assessing tasks. Appraising and classification of all properties and interpretation of Massachusetts general laws relating to real estate assessment for tax purposes. Assist with in-house revaluation and certification programs required by the Department of Revenue. Responsible for sales analysis utilizing MLS (Multiple Listing Service) under the supervision of the Director of Assessing and fulfills the Director's responsibilities in the Director's absence. Click on the link below for the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_T14_R45.php. The city of Chelsea is an equal opportunity employer.

Recreation Programs Administrator City of Chelsea

Annual Salary Range: \$48,027.63-\$61,055.99. The Recreation Programs Administrator provides administrative support to the Community Recreation Managers. The Programs Administrator also leads the Program Assistants in the organization and maintenance of the daily operations, and record keeping of year-round, citywide recreation and arts programs. Provides leadership and support in assuring standards and requirements of the program are met. The Administrator is required to work a flexible schedule, which includes midday schedule, nights and rotating weekend days. This is driven by the calendar and seasonal events that will vary. Click on the link below to view the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_T14_R44.php. EEO

Clerk to Chelsea City Council City of Chelsea

Part-Time 20 Hrs/Wk. Salary Range: \$30,409.60-\$37,980.80. Position summary: The Clerk will contribute to the preparation and efficiency of city council meetings and ensure that overall parliamentary procedures are carried out in a timely manner. The Clerk will also provide advice and opinions to the City Council on legislative process and related procedures. Also provides clerical assistance to members of the City Council and performs related work as required. This position requires understanding of the City Council and its members' obligations under Massachusetts general laws, the ordinances of Chelsea, and rules of City Council. Click on the link below to see the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_T14_R41.php.EEO

Law Clerk City of Chelsea

Exempt/MM4. Annual Salary Range: \$54,819.06-\$68,461.49. Position summary: Reporting to the City Solicitor, the Law Clerk provides clerical and administrative support for the Solicitor's Office, with a focus on the delivery of exceptional services to the community and city departments. Other duties as

assigned. Chelsea residency preferred. Click on the link below for the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_T14_R43.php. The city of Chelsea is an equal opportunity employer.

Town Engineer Town of Saugus

The town of Saugus seeks qualified applicants for the permanent, full-time position of Town Engineer. This position performs various types of labor related to the study, analysis, and engineering of the town's infrastructure and equipment; undertakes a variety of activities pertaining to public works. Maintains the town GIS as well as other equipment, records and information for the department. Requirements are a bachelor's degree in a related field, at least seven to 10 years' experience in study, permitting, design, construction and operations of municipal highway, roadway, water, sewer, drainage sidewalk and other public works related areas. Strong management experience of public works projects. Must have the ability to deal with multiple tasks simultaneously. Please submit a cover letter and resume by email to gchristina@saugus-ma.gov.

Human Resources Generalist Town of Saugus

Applications are being accepted for a full-time Human Resources Generalist for the town of Saugus. The ideal candidate will be responsible for processing, tracking and maintaining all employee benefits and reconciliations, and participate in the recruitment and screening of new employees, manage an electronic filing system and various programs within the department. The ideal candidate must be proficient in benefits management, detail-oriented, computer savvy (including Excel spreadsheets and charting), an effective communicator, able to work on multiple projects simultaneously, keep matters confidential, and work with our Payroll Department and other departments throughout the town. Must be able to manage their own workload, manage all files and update them on a regular basis, be able to develop new systems as needed, be able to work independently, be able to think outside the box, and collaborate with other personnel to effectively serve our employee's needs. Must be able to stay current with office paperwork and prompt filing of employee records. Municipal and MUNIS accounting/HR experience is a plus. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please email applications/resumes to: gchristina@saugus-ma.gov.

Health Director City of Beverly

The Director, Health Department is responsible for planning, implementing and enforcing public health laws, codes, regulations, board policies, rules, and preventative health and environmental programs. Exercises administrative and technical supervision over all employees of the Health Department; directs all activities of the department in accordance with policies of the Board of Health and public health laws. Please visit beverlyma.gov/Jobs.aspx for a detailed job description and qualifications. Salary range is \$105,000 to \$115,000, depending on education and experience. Please send resume and cover letter to jobs@beverlyma.gov. EOE/AA

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Industrial Electrician Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Skilled and committed to the inspection, maintenance repair and rebuilding of instrumentation, electronic operating and control systems, and industrial electrical systems and equipment of modern wastewater facilities. Performs work of a difficult and skilled nature. Provides detailed records of daily work activities, accident reporting, tool and equipment inventories, and predictive, preventative, and corrective maintenance information to the Electrical Systems Manager. Assures security of tools and equipment used in completion of work. Coordinates health and safety concerns and policy with the Safety Officer. Interacts with plant personnel and outside vendors, suppliers and engineers. Works inside and outside, as well as in tanks and other confined spaces. Performs maintenance work involving the inspection, calibration, troubleshooting, repair and replacement of electrical components and equipment, electronic operating and control systems, generation and power distribution systems, motor control and distribution centers, lighting systems, and process instrumentation associated with operating a modern wastewater treatment facility. Performs minor mechanical work of an incidental nature during electrical repairs, adhering to safety program requirements and maintaining superior housekeeping standards. Must pursue work with energy and drive. Possession of a valid Electrician Journeyman's license issued by the state of Massachusetts is required. Must have a valid driver's license. Five years of industrial experience in electrical maintenance. 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. www.ubcleanwater.

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 industrial wastewater samples. Requirements: Bachelor's degree with major work in chemistry, biology, engineering, earth science or related science. Massachusetts certified Wastewater Operators License Grade 4. Massachusetts certified Lab Analyst I. 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 a laboratory environment. 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. www.ubcleanwater.org.

Assistant City Engineers City of Brockton

The City of Champions is hiring! Our DPW is seeking two Assistant City Engineers with strong critical thinking and project management skills. The individuals who fill these positions will work closely with the City Engineer in the design and permitting of a variety of essential public works projects. You will have the opportunity to play a seminal role in improving and advancing the city's infrastructure. Preferred education and experience: bachelor's degree in civil engineering; eight to 10 years of experience in design and/or field construction of public works projects, municipal experience; Engineer in Training (EIT) and OSHA 10 Certificate preferred. Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering or the ability to obtain PE within 12 months of hiring required. This is a full-time union position with a salary range between \$83,999 and \$104,126 (step system). Employees are our most valuable asset! We offer a comprehensive benefits package, a defined benefit pension, and a supportive and inclusive work environment. Application deadline: Jan. 13 (Please note that review of resumes will begin immediately). To review the complete job description and to apply, visit brockton.interviewexchange. com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=156457.

Council on Aging Director City of Beverly

The Director of the Council on Aging and Senior Community Center is a highly skilled human services professional who provides leadership and administrative oversight to the programs, services, facility and finances of the Council on Aging and Senior Community Center. Please visit beverlyma.gov/Jobs.aspx for a detailed job description and qualifications. Salary range is \$95,000 to \$105,000, depending on education and experience. Please send resume and cover letter to jobs@beverlyma.gov. EOE/AA

City Solicitor City of Medford

Salary range is \$115,193.43-\$131,925.32, annually. Position summary: The City Solicitor is the chief administrator of the city's law department and is responsible for overseeing the provision of legal services to the city of Medford, the Mayor, City Council, and all city departments, boards and commissions. Education: Juris doctor degree with more than 10 years' prior work experience, preferably in a municipal law practice at a partner level. To apply and review the complete job description, visit www.medfordma.org/departments/personnel/jobs/. Generous benefits offered include 13 paid holidays, vacation time credits for prior municipality work, longevity pay eligible after five years, deferred compensation, and more.

Director of Community Development Town of Orange

The town of Orange Community Development office is seeking a full-time Director. Position operates under the direction of the Town Administrator and is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, integrating and coordinating all town of Orange Planning and Community and Economic Development initiatives and activities. This position will work in collaboration with and provides technical assistance to other departments and boards, including: planning board, community development authority, zoning board of appeals, conservation commission, department of public works, historical commission, and other economic development program committees and such boards, committees, commission agencies or departments. For more information: www. townoforange.org/home/pages/job-opportunities. The town of Orange is an EOE.

Drinking Water Operator Town of Georgetown

Seeking a qualified candidate for a full-time, benefits eligible operator of a T2/D2 water system, responsible for the repair, maintenance, construction, and operation of the town's water treatment and distribution system, along with record keeping and reporting. Must have a high school diploma or GED, ability to perform physical tasks, ability to use hand and power tools, and a valid driver's license. For the full job description and to apply, visit georgetownwater. org/news.

SERVICES

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 <u>www.mma.org/munenergy</u>. 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.

Air Flow and Ventilation Efficiency

Did you know dirty HVAC coils are the single biggest choke point in buildings? By ensuring equipment is running at peak performance levels, municipalities can drastically improve energy efficiency and space conditioning. RealTerm Energy employs a patented enzyme foam treatment to remove biofilm and restore the building's HVAC coils to maximum efficiency from the most fouled and plugged coils using the unit's airflow to migrate the foam entirely through the coils. For more information, view our website at www.realtermenergy.com or visit us at Booth 511 at the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January.

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Creative, Cost-Effective Municipal Services

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusetts-based, 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: Capital-Strategic-Solutions.com or call 508-690-0046.

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 www.GovHRusa.com 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 www.govhrjobs.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 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.

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,

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stakeholder assessments, public engagement and process design. For more information, visit www.themediationgroup.org, 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.

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, cost-effective services. For additional information, please visit <u>www.k-plaw.com</u> 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 www.VADARsystems.com. 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 long-term claims. We offer training in sexual harassment, social media and the "just cause analysis" to municipal

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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 calls and emails, which encourages key managers to work with counsel prior to making critical personnel decisions. Check our website at CliffordKennyLaw. com 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 www.erickinsherfcpa.com.

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.

RFPs

Audit Services Town of Ware

The town seeks an accounting firm with a minimum Massachusetts CPA background familiar with Massachusetts general laws. The proposed Forensic Audit will include a three- to five-year look back, analyzing financial records and transactions in Town Hall administrative departments, tracing assets, and other items as defined by the Clerk of the Selectboard. Additional specific areas may be designated if any unusual activity is observed. Massachusetts general law on conflict of interest will be followed. All disclosures shall be brought to the attention of the Clerk of the Ware Select Board, Proposals may be submitted to Clerk of the Ware Select Board, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082 or by email to tbarnes@ townofware.com. Questions may be directed to the Clerk at the given email. Qualifications will be received until a firm is selected.

PEOPLE

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M.E. O'Brien Recreation Service Award. He had earned a bachelor's degree in recreation management from Springfield College and a master's degree in municipal management from Northeastern University. After his retirement from municipal service, he worked as a consultant.

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 ikavanaugh@mma.org.



Driscoll honored for mayoral service

On Dec. 7, Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer, president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association (right), presents a gift to outgoing Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll (center), who stepped down after being elected lieutenant governor. MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith also participated in the presentation, which took place during the mayors' holiday meeting in Boston. To thank them for their service, the MMA gave personalized leather folders to Driscoll and outgoing Attleboro Mayor Paul Heroux, who stepped down after five years as mayor to become the new Bristol County sheriff.

Calendar

JANUARY

20-21 44th MM/ Meeting 8

44th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show,

Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel, Boston. Contact: MMA Conference and Meeting Manager Timmery Kuck

FEBRUARY

Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association,

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

MMA Board of Directors, 10-11:15 a.m., hybrid (MMA office and Zoom). Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board
Association, board meeting,
2:15-3:30 p.m., hybrid (MMA office and
Zoom). Contact: MMA Senior Member
Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Massachusetts Mayors'
Association, monthly meeting,
virtual. Contact: MMA Communications
and Membership Director Candace Pierce

MARCH

Association of Town Finance Committees, board meeting,
4-5 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior
Member Services Coordinator Denise
Baker

Women Leading Government, conference, Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

Board Association, webinar. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Massachusetts Select

MMA contacts

Denise Baker can be reached at dbaker@mma.org
Isabelle Jenkins can be reached at ijenkins@mma.org
Timmery Kuck can be reached at tkuck@mma.org
Daniel Yi can be reached at dvi@mma.org



Massachusetts Municipal Association

3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

Note: The MMA is not checking vaccination status for in-person meetings, but is advising attendees to keep up with the latest COVID vaccines for which they are eligible. All attendees are urged to take an at-home rapid antigen test prior to attending, and not attend if they have any COVID symptoms or if a household member has tested positive for COVID. Attendees are encouraged to wear a mask if that is their preference. These protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

9 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources, webinar.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Massachusetts Mayors'
Association, monthly meeting,
9:15 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA
Communications and Membership
Director Candace Pierce

Massachusetts Municipal Management Association,

monthly meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, Bolyston. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

APRIL

Massachusetts Select Board Association, Western Mass. Conference, The Delaney House, Holyoke. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins

Association of Town Finance Committees, board meeting, 4-5 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association,

board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., hybrid (MMA office and Zoom). Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, 10-11:15 a.m., hybrid (MMA office and Zoom). Contact: MMA Executive Director's office Massachusetts Select Board Association, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., hybrid (MMA office and Zoom). Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Jenkins



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.

For more information, visit www.mma.org

Online registration is available for most of these events.