

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON
SLADE BUILDING, UNIT 3
7A MAIN STREET
HUBBARDSTON, MA 01452
Office No. 978-928-1400 x 200
admin@hubbardstonma.us

MEMORANDUM

It has come to the attention of the Board of Selectmen that incorrect information is being disseminated through the town regarding what is happening to the \$497,765 state grant received from the Secretary of Administration and Finance for the new Hubbardston Senior Center. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen I offer this memo as clarification of the intent of the Board of Selectmen to follow through with the contract established between the Town of Hubbardston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for these grant funds:

The \$497,765 state grant received earlier this year was, very specifically, provided to the Town for the purpose of funding costs associated with the “design, engineering, septic system and well installation, and constructing a senior center” anticipated to be built on the “DCR lot”. Since the town meeting and election votes for the necessary debt exclusion (needed to fund the construction of the center) have failed, the Selectmen requested that we complete our due diligence by checking with the state to determine if there was any prohibition from using the state grant funds as was mandated within the grant contract. All responses from the state indicated that the funds are still able to be used for their intended purposes of the design of the senior center, and the associated site improvements. Any monies remaining after that work, that might have been used to help reduce the cost of the construction, shall be returned to the state.

Given this affirmation of the Town’s ability to use the grant funds, the Selectmen have committed to using the funds to move ahead with securing the services of the state-mandated Owners Project Manager, and of a qualified architectural firm for the design of the senior center. To be clear, since town meeting has authorized funds for the completion of a conceptual design of a new public safety building, the architect hired will also be asked to complete that design task, and will be required to have proven experience in the successful design of senior centers and of public safety buildings in Massachusetts.

The state grant funds will be very helpful to the Town to create an efficient and affordable design for a new senior center. This design, as well as the engineering work and site improvements, will stand the test of time and be available for the use Town in the event that a future town meeting and election do approve the funds to build the new senior center on the DCR parcel as is planned.

If anyone has any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me, Anita Scheipers, Town Administrator, at 978-928-1400 x 200, or via email at admin@hubbardstonma.us.