



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Town of Wrentham**  
Board of Selectmen  
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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Selectmen

From: William Ketcham, Town Administrator

*William Ketcham*  
*-nal*

Re: Town Administrator's Report, January 29 – February 12, 2015

Date: February 12, 2015

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**Telephone System**

Meetings were held with the vender, BETCO, and also with Comcast in regard to the cost of connecting the several outlying buildings to the PRI's to be placed in Town Hall and the Wrentham Elementary School. The concept of using internet connections from the Library, Public Works, Inspections, and Senior Center to connect to the Town Hall PRI was found to be more costly than the benefit gained. POTS lines will be retained to these buildings. The cost of connecting the town buildings with fiber will be investigated.

**911 Regional Dispatch – Metacomet Emergency Communications Center**

The MECC Board of Directors met on February 2nd, and again with the Operations Committee on February 11th. The architect, David Hume of Jacunski Hume presented a schematic design for the 14 Sharon Avenue site. Comments were received; concerns from State 911 Department representatives were presented. These resulted in the design being downsized to 6 stations with wiring for 9 stations and training space being eliminated from the construction plan. Mr. Hume will present a revised schematic design to the Board of Directors and Operations Committee on February 17th.

**Snow and Ice**

The Town has dealt with two more major storm days since the February 3rd meeting. A severe problem arose statewide in availability of road salt. Initially the contracted vendors said that trucks were not available to deliver the salt that we had ordered. Superintendent Lavin then contracted with DiPlacido Construction for trucks to go to the vendors premises in Providence and bring the ordered salt to Wrentham. The trucks did return with salt, and the Town was then told that no salt would be available to towns as it would first go to the State. Subsequently, Governor Baker announced that the State would act to get salt supplies to the towns. Snow and ice costs are \$212, 474.59 to date.

**Health Insurance**

The proposal before the West Suburban Health Group Board of Directors at their meeting of February 12th was to increase health insurance rates an average of 12.5%. Increases by insurer

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ranged from 8.6% for Tufts to 14% for Harvard Pilgrim and Blue Cross. In dollar terms this would cost the Town approximately an additional \$300,000 in next year's budget. WSHG advised that no recommendation would be made to use fund balance to reduce rate increase in view of the declining fund balance; from \$22,771,076 in June 2012 to \$18,023,939 in June 2013 to \$9,558,331 in June 2014. In FY14 \$5,900,000 in fund balance was used to reduce rate increase. This year (FY15) \$2,000,000 in fund balance was used to reduce rate increases to a range from 1.6% for Fallon to 17.8% for Blue Cross.

It does not appear from the financial discussions that the WSHG will be financially sustainable in the future and the Town should consider other options.

WK/nal