

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warwick Selectboard has scheduled a **Special Town Meeting for September 22, 2014 at 7:00 pm** at the Town Hall. This is a Monday. Four articles are anticipated. Two action items have to do with getting a Green Communities designation and the others contemplate revisiting the town's Pioneer Regional School District appropriation. One would be shall we rescind the vote and the other a new and presumably lower budget amount.

A Green Communities designation would bring grant funding to town in excess of \$125,000 in the first year to fund energy saving work or alternate energy development. To be eligible the town must adopt by right zoning for some form of alternate energy and it must adopt the local option "Stretch Code" provisions of the building code which defines minimum energy saving outcomes for new housing and not most additions to homes. There will be a **Stretch Code presentation and discussion on September 11 at 6 p.m.** at the Town Hall. The strongest argument against adoption of the code is the requirement that the builder hire an accredited inspector to review and test the builder's work. An argument in favor is that had this been done at the school when it was built we wouldn't be remediating the 1999 construction on the gym roof today and would have saved a ton of energy and lots of money over the past years. In addition it takes on average only three years to recover the added construction cost from energy savings obtained from the "Stretch Code".

The Green Communities requirement that the town provides for expedited permitting and some sort of "by right" alternate energy development is being met by designating the entire town-owned "Allen Lot" on which the transfer station is located, as zoned for solar. This meets the Green Community requirements while maintaining local control by way of the Selectboard, and for contracts longer than three years, the Town Meeting.

The Selectboard has reached a consensus that the Annual Town Meeting school district appropriation needs to be addressed in light of new information obtained. This includes budgetary changes made by the district subsequent to the vote, changes to the revenue picture since the vote, and a concern about the District's lowering school choice and tuition revenue and thus shifting cost to the local taxpayers.

Reminder: important **Special Town Meeting on September 22, 2014 at 7:00 pm** at the Town Hall. Registered voters, please attend.

The Warrant closes on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Look for more detail regarding this meeting in the mail in a few weeks.

David Young

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