

ANNOUNCEMENT – NOTICE OF GRANT AWARDS

It is with absolute pleasure to inform you that we have received notice of the grant awards for the sewer projects.

In the notice given by USDA-RD , the Town of Hardwick has been awarded the following funds:

USDA Grant: \$17,017,500.00 (Thank You USDA!!)

State Bond: \$5,000,000.00 (Thank You Senator Anne Gobi!!)

Total Funds Awarded: \$22,017,500.00 (*that the town does not have to pay back*)

The Agency award is 75% grant. With above Agency funding and the State Bond directed to this project through Sen Gobi, the all-in funding package will enable Hardwick to complete the \$27.7M project with only \$5.7M in loan. This amount of loan is very close to the appropriation the voters approved in 2018 just for the Gilbertville Wastewater Treatment Plan. The difference is that this time it is for the Gilbertville and Wheelwright Wastewater Treatment Plants and the Sewer Line Extension and its pump station from Eagle Hill School to Gilbertville's collection system. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that will not come around again.

I have been told that this amount of grant funding is the highest awarded nationwide!! It's just an incredible outcome for Hardwick that charts a new course for the town's future... a bright future!!

The last important step to obtaining these funds is by your vote. Article #16 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant scheduled for this coming Monday, June 29, 2020 at 6PM at the Hardwick Elementary School. The article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the grant funding and authorize the appropriation of the \$5.7M for the loan.

USDA will be present at 5:15PM at the Hardwick Elementary School just before the Annual Town Meeting (6/29/2020) to further announce the award and provide you with information regarding the grant and answer any questions that you may have. In addition, in the spirit of transparency we will present the impacts of the loan for the taxpayers and the sewer users.

Thank you to all of you for your support over the last several years leading to this point. This type of success is largely in part due to the Hardwick voters. Your voices were heard and as a result, Hardwick will now have the means necessary to sustain itself and work towards shaping Hardwick's future.

Respectfully:

Theresa A. Cofske

Town Administrator