The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY COMPACT

WHEREAS cities and towns and the Commonwealth must work together to create the conditions for a strong and resilient economy; and

WHEREAS cities and towns face increasing pressures on municipal and school budgets which impact essential services; and

WHEREAS cities and towns are partners with the Commonwealth and the Baker-Polito Administration is recommitting itself to that partnership through the Community Compact Cabinet; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth is committed to promoting mutual standards of best practice for both the state and municipalities that will create clear standards, expectations, and accountability for both partners; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Massachusetts are right to expect forward-thinking, innovative government from both the Commonwealth and local governments.

Commonwealth Commitments

As a sign of its commitment to an improved partnership with cities and towns, the Baker-Polito Administration:

- Intends to be a reliable partner on local aid.
- Pledges to work with our partners in the Legislature toward earlier local aid formula funding levels.
- Will work to make available technical assistance opportunities for cities and towns as they work toward best practices.
- Will not propose any new unfunded state mandates, and we will look at existing mandates with a goal toward making it easier to manage municipal governments.
- Will give special attention, in its review of state regulations, to those that affect the ability of municipalities to govern themselves.
- Pledges to work closely with municipal leaders to expand opportunities to add municipal voices to those state boards and commissions that impact local governments.
- Will introduce incentives for municipalities that sign Compacts in existing and proposed state grant opportunities, including proposals for technical assistance grants available only to compact communities.
- Will identify ways to expedite state reviews that can often slow down economic development opportunities or hinder other municipal interests.

Community Commitments

NOW THEREFORE the Town of West Boylston pledges to adopt the following best practices:

1. Implement the Complete Streets Program by becoming certified through MassDOT and demonstrate the regular and routine inclusion of complete streets design elements and infrastructure on locally-funded roads.
2. Develop a Pavement Condition Index that rates street condition for the municipality.
3. Create a Housing Production Plan that accounts for changing demographics, including young families, changing workforce, and an aging population.

The Commonwealth will work with the Town of West Boylston as a partner in implementing these best practices, including prioritizing technical assistance when that is needed to accomplish execution of a new best practice.

Commonwealth Compact Community Incentives

The Baker-Polito Administration seeks to recognize municipalities that are striving to become more innovative and accountable and introduce incentives through various state grants and programs to reward municipalities who have signed Community Compacts and committed themselves to continuous improvement. Municipalities that pledge to adopt best practices through compacts will get bonus points on selected state grant programs and will be prioritized for various technical assistance programs.

TOGETHER we sign this Community Compact in a spirit of partnership and public service, understanding that we serve the citizens of our Commonwealth and that our citizens deserve the best government possible.

Signed this 14th of November in the Year 2016

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Christopher Rucho
Chair, West Boylston Board of Selectmen

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts