



April 15, 2022

Town of Orange Secures \$1 million in MassWorks Grant Funding for the Orange Industrial Park Water Tank Project

Funding will help protect employees, preserve business, and prepare for growth

ORANGE, MA - During a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Town of Orange announced the successful award of \$1,000,000 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. This award will be used to construct a new water tower to provide fire suppression service at the Orange Industrial Park. This tower will provide dedicated water at a capacity that will preserve business well into the future, and better protect hundreds of employees within the park.

“This award is the result of 10 months of planning by the Municipality and unyielding advocacy from State Representative Susannah Whipps and State Senator Jo Comerford. This award would not have been possible without their constant support,” said Alec Wade, Director of Community Development for the Town of Orange.

“I was very happy to join Senator Comerford to advocate for this funding. Not only does this grant support economic development in Orange, it increases the safety of those who work in this park. The Town of Orange, led by Alec Wade, stepped up and moved quickly to rectify this situation. I’m grateful that the Administration and Secretary Kennealy recognized the importance and urgency of this project” said Representative Whipps.

“I’m deeply grateful to the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and the MassWorks program for providing much-needed funding,” said Senator Jo Comerford (D - Northampton). “This project will ensure worker safety and sustained economic wellbeing for the town of Orange. I’m honored to work on behalf of Orange, in partnership with Rep. Whipps. Heartfelt congratulations to the town for your tireless work and smart planning and economic development efforts – all of which will help bolster the town for years to come.”

In the Summer of 2021, the Town was made aware of insurance challenges faced by employers within the Orange Industrial Park. Due to an aged water main system, inadequate service is provided for optimal industrial activity and employee safety. This award will be used to construct a new water tower to provide fire suppression service at the Orange Industrial Park. This tower will provide dedicated water at a capacity that will preserve business well into the future. The Town's grant will be matched by ARPA funding, a federal relief program designed to improve infrastructure such as this. By constructing this water tower, the Town ensures the longevity of hundreds of jobs and provides greater public safety to employees within the park.

The Town expects to complete Design and Engineering in the summer of 2022. In the coming weeks, the Town of Orange will execute contracts with the state. Following successful execution of contracts with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, procurement and construction will be able to begin immediately following design. The Town expects to connect businesses to this vital resource in 2023.

The Orange Office of Community Development would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of State Representative Susannah Whipps and State Senator Jo Comerford. Without their constant support and tireless advocacy, this project would not have come to fruition.

Further, the Orange Office of Community Development would like to thank Secretary Mike Kennealy, the Executive office of Housing and Economic Development, and the MassWorks team for considering the need and granting this award.

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