

Town of Ayer

Benefits and Payroll Department

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Memorandum

Date: October 19, 2021
To: Town Manager Robert Pontbriand
From: Kevin A. Johnston *KAS*
Subject: Monthly Report – September 2021

The September 2021 monthly report for the Benefits and Payroll Office includes the following:

COVID-19

Return to Work Guidelines for COVID-19 close contact exposure and for COVID-19 diagnosis was updated to include the most recent protocols for fully vaccinated individuals.

Workers Compensation Audit

Payroll information was compiled and delivered for the FY 2021 Workers Compensation insurance audit.

Council on Aging (COA)

- A Meet & Greet for new COA Director Katie Petrossi was held on September 15th at Pirone Park.
- The August 2021 MART Mobility Assistance Program report for the Town of Ayer was prepared and delivered to MART.

Harpers Payroll

- I participated in a 2021 Year End planning webinar with Harpers Payroll on September 29th.
- A review of Affordable Care Act information for CY 2021 in Harpers Payroll has begun.

Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG)

The MNHG Board met remotely on Monday, September 13th. The meeting included the following:

- The fund balance continues to be strong and is currently at \$8.9M, well above the target of \$5.4M.
- The Board accepted voted unanimously to accept an initial proposal from Blue Cross of Massachusetts to replace Fallon Health care for both a Limited Network option and a Broad Network option for the FY23 plan year that begins on July 1, 2022. Joe Anderson from MNHG plan administrator Gallagher will work with Blue Cross to finalize plan design and begin working on rates for FY23.

Massachusetts Municipal Reinsurance Arrangement (MMRA)

The MMRA Board met remotely on September 16th; the meeting included the following:

- Financial reports for the 2020 and 2021 MMRA plan years were reviewed.

- Pinnacle Health Care made a presentation that could help the MMRA reduce high claim costs; MNHG could realize a cost savings of >\$500K. More information is needed from the health care providers before a decision is made regarding this program.
- OptiMed Health Partners reported that MNHG saved >\$10k in pharmacy costs through 9/9/2021.
- The MMRA Management Structure was reviewed and will be discussed further at future meetings.