

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Eric A. Kraus, Chairman
Michael C. Berry, Vice Chairman
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
Christopher G. Timson
Nancy Mackenzie



TOWN HALL

135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
(508) 660-7277
(508) 660-7276
Fax (508) 660-7303

January 26, 2012

Director Kurt Schwartz
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Dear Director Schwartz:

The Walpole Board of Selectmen respectfully requests your assistance in appealing the determination by FEMA not to provide communities in Norfolk County with reimbursement assistance relative to the October 30th Storm damages. On the heels of Hurricane Irene at the end of August, the costs associated with the October Storm created a major funding problem for our operations. We certainly understand the general formula used in determining damages across the County. However, given the major geographic and climate disparities within Norfolk County, it is easily understandable why a community such as Cohasset would not experience the same weather challenges and damages as those sustained in the immediate Walpole & Foxborough area. Our crews worked in excess of two weeks to clean-up from this major weather event. Tree damage alone was extreme throughout Town, in turn making roads and sidewalks impassible and damaging Town property and equipment. As such, it was much appreciated that the Governor and MEMA requested financial aid for Walpole in the major disaster declaration. We now seek your help again in asking FEMA to reconsider its denial.

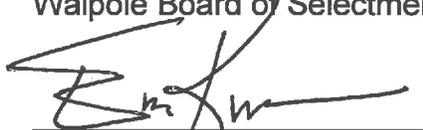
The costs of Irene and the October 30th Storm combined will nearly exceed our entire Free Cash available balance. We are encouraged that some reimbursement will be forthcoming for the hurricane, however the full absorption of over \$100,000 in the October Storm costs could jeopardize much needed capital items, such as public safety equipment, school textbooks, and town-wide facility repairs. The October storm was indeed unprecedented in that the trees were still laden with leaves which heavy snow accumulated on resulted in similar damage to Irene. The cost of the damage to Walpole as well as the amount of time homeowners were without electricity was similar in both the Irene storm and the October Storm, yet we qualify for relief under one but not the other. We recognize and understand that FEMA's ability to assist communities directly is not automatic. However, given the most recent example of non-county-wide

reimbursements for Sturbridge and Southbridge from the June 1 tornado, it would seem logical that the same consideration be given to Walpole in this regard.

On behalf of the Town of Walpole, we thank you for your consideration of this request, and invite you to call on us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Walpole Board of Selectmen



Eric A. Kraus, Chair



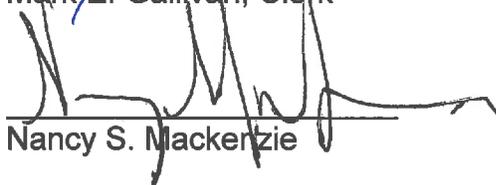
Michael C. Berry, Vice Chair



Mark E. Gallivan, Clerk



Christopher G. Timson



Nancy S. Mackerzie

cc: The Honorable Senator John Kerry
The Honorable Senator Scott Brown
The Honorable Congressman Stephen Lynch