

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: November 17, 2021

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- Council Goal Setting – I attached the 2020 Council's goals as part of the orientation materials that went out to all council members. The newly seated council should discuss the goals and vision statement to either agree that they remain valid or a consensus of the council should be reached for appropriate amendments. The goals are a useful tool to me in guiding the organization. They should also be used as tools for the council to make decisions in keeping with your agreed up goals.
- Potential Federal Funding – As the Council may have seen reported in the press, a bipartisan infrastructure bill was finally passed at the federal level. Much of the funding will be directed to the States. Of the funds targeted to Connecticut, \$445 million is to be made available over 5 years to drinking water infrastructure. While it is still early and the funding opportunities will need to be monitored, this new source of funds may help fund water infrastructure in the Rocky Ledge area. CCM and the National League of Cities will be monitoring this bill and help spread the word about funding opportunities.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments is not scheduled to meet again until December. However, I did participate in discussions on how the COG could engage a firm that would assist towns with reporting of their ARPA expenditures and aid in transparency of expenditures to residents. A scope of work is being developed that, ultimately, will be shared with COG towns. The scope of work is envisioned to be at two levels. One level to aid in scoping projects and compliance with Treasury requirements. This work would be town-specific depending on projects chosen for funding. The second level of the scope would be to complete the regular reporting to Treasury of expenditures through the end of the grant period. It will be up to each town to decide if they will participate or not. If spread across all 17 municipalities, the reporting compliance work should be very small and reduce the burden placed on all small Finance Departments.

Additionally, the COG is working on a joint bid for document digitization which might be of interest to Clinton. Clinton did start digitizing its land use records with the intention of digitizing more. A regional bid with a new approach might be beneficial to us.

3. 9 Town Transit:

The full Board of 9 Town Transit will meet on November 19, 2021. However, subcommittee meetings continue for the Finance Committee and Expansion Transition Committee. Both subcommittees are discussing aspects of the merger with Middletown Transit.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Historic Preservation Grant – Previously, the Council approved a grant to be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office to fund a consultant to aid in documenting the historic assets in the Commerce Avenue/Leffingwell Road area. The intent of the work is to seek designation as a National Register Historic District. I completed the application narrative and required documentation with Peggy Adler and the application was submitted in October for SHPO review. The grants are reviewed on a rolling basis and considered for funding monthly.
- FY22-23 Budget – Department Heads and other budget requesters were given instructions to start preparing their budget requests to the Town Manager. Requests should be submitted by the end of December for the Town Manager's review. I will meet with budget requesters in January to review their requests and make adjustments as necessary in the lead up to presenting a budget to the Council in February. I am also looking to deliver to the Council a more robust multi-year capital plan that will provide more detail into projects to help the council understand the project, timing and impacts of funding decisions.
- Insurance – Tied to budget planning is the direction of some insurance coverages for the Town and Board of Education. After the policies for the current year were renewed, we were told that placing cyber insurance coverage for FY22-23 might be problematic given the losses seen and capacity in the marketplace. Both the Town and Board of Education IT staff are working on renewal forms now to document cyber risk management tools and policies so updates can be made if necessary prior to placing coverage. As this relates to the budget, premiums may increase and deductibles for FY22-23.

Property coverage is another area of emerging concern given the recent spikes in construction material costs and scarcity. As a result, replacement building values for building could be increased by insurers. As a result, increased replacement values would result in an increase of premiums. Nothing is definitive at this point and carrier decisions seem to be in flux, but there is some concern in the marketplace which we will have to plan for.