

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: December 15, 2021

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

### 1. Council Business:

- Historic Preservation Grant – The State grant that will fund a review of the structures in the Commerce Street/Leffingwell Road area was approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. The immediate next step is to complete the grant contracting process with the State. Following the execution of the grant agreement by the State, the Town would issue a Request for Proposals seeking qualified firms that could handle the documentation of historic resources in the project area. The intent is to seek designation as a National Historic Register District. There are two other districts in Clinton which have this designation.
- Bonding – The Town is preparing to issue bond anticipation notes (BANs) and bonds (which convert short-term BANs into long term debt). The new funding is for projects that were previously approved by the voters at a referendum in 2019. There is also a small opportunity to refund some older debt to a lower interest rate. The anticipated savings are meant to be targeted toward chipping down the peak of the debt curve as we will be at the top of debt service payments in the next few years.

The bond sale is targeted for February but could be accelerated depending on market conditions in 2022. We will have a rating call with Standard & Poors to discuss the state of the town and secure our prior bond rating.

### 2. River COG:

The Council of Governments met virtually on December 8, 2021. Highlights from the meeting included:

- UR Community Cares Presentation – Clinton was highlighted for launching this program meant to provide volunteer assistance to seniors and is a first in this region to utilize UR Community Cares.
- Regional ARPA Project Discussion – The COG is moving forward with Requests for Proposals to identify pricing for 3 regional programs that could be funded with ARPA funding. First, is financial and administrative support for all towns to aid in reporting. Second, is a records digitization program. Finally, the COG will seek pricing for a regional consultant that could assist with selected human resources activities.

- **Regional Housing Study** – The regional housing study will start moving to local discussions from the regional housing analysis that was presented previously. The local discussions will drive the creation of a state-mandated, local affordable housing plan. Local meeting in the region will carry on through March.
- **Comprehensive Economic Strategy** – The COG is moving forward on the previously noted effort to develop a regional comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) which is a tool to leverage federal economic development funding. They issued a request for proposals to engage a consultant that would help build the plan.

### **3. 9 Town Transit:**

The Expansion Transition Committee met earlier this month to discuss the merge of 9 Town Transit and Middletown Transit. The most important part of the merger has been securing the State's funding commitments from DOT which are necessary for a successful merger. Dollars are now starting the flow that will aid in the merger. New positions were approved by the DOT and funding has been released. Operational studies that will help merge the two districts into one entity are also moving forward.

Middletown has already voted to leave Middletown Transit and is seeking membership in 9 Town Transit. Durham will do the same later this month. Middlefield is scheduled to act in early January. 9 Town Transit will act to accept the MAT towns which will help move the merger forward.

### **4. Miscellaneous:**

- **COVID** – The total number of positive COVID cases in Clinton recently topped 1,000 since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020.