

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: March 2, 2022

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

1. Council Business:

- ARPA Fund Allocation – As a follow-up, I provided the Council with the motions to the Special Town Meeting that would appropriate ARPA dollars that were discussed previously. I also noted that the Charter allows the Council to make appropriations for allocations under \$50,000. After the Town Meeting acts, I will have motions for the Council to act on at the under \$50,000 level.

I also need to point out that there appears to be a certain amount of miscommunication coming out of the Council's review to certain potential applicants. The requests which I stated need more detail were miscommunicated to those individuals and they were told that they were ineligible. As these individuals have come forward I have corrected the record, explained what actually transpired at the meeting, and gave them accurate information.

2. River COG:

River COG held a regular meeting on February 22, 2022. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Resiliency – UCONN's Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaption was previously charged with a role to aid in planning for climate change. Their scope is change from a planning focus to one that will look toward projects that can be implemented. This new role will be state-wide in scope. The process is one in which topics at a regional level in hazard mitigation plans and climate drivers could be matched with funding for implementation.
- Federal Infrastructure Funding – Given the State's interest in maximizing federal infrastructure dollars and federal guidance encouraging regional projects, discussions will likely start on how infrastructure projects in the COG region could be combine and packaged together to be more competitive than a stand-alone project. Initial discussions will be held with the Governor's lead on infrastructure funding to strategize on a path forward.
- ARPA Regional Projects – the COG was interested in potential projects that could have been ARPA eligible but had a regional benefit. The two that advanced were document digitization and grant administration assistance. Interest in the region seems to have waned with grant administration. Document digitization needs to be refined as interest was strong to scan documents but the retrieval system was less certain.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Purchasing – There are a number of purchasing items I am working on. First, the RFP for an update to the Harbor Management Study needs to be re-issued. This project is grant funded but

received no responses when it was last made available. Another RFP is issued seeking firms to aid in capping the landfill and preparing the site for a beneficial re-use. Last, we will re-issue the RFP for Town Engineer. The Town issued an RFP previously but did not make an award. We will go back out the marketplace with the intention of making an appointment.

- Hiring – Backfilling a number of vacancies is also consuming my time as we try to fill positions. I am reviewing applications and will be interviewing for clerk positions in Land Use and Building, a grant-funded program coordinator for Human Services, a part-time clerk for the for WPCC, and the Senior Program coordinator. We are at the start of the process to fill these 5 vacancies which will continue into March.
- Façade Program – I did meet with some representatives of the EDC to go over the façade program again to make sure the message getting out to the business community is correct. Everyone now seems to have the same understanding of the program. Additional awareness was discussed to get projects moving. The meeting also confirmed that Mike Nuzzo's application was not completed and was being prepared by John Allen.