

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: November 2, 2022

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

1. Council Business:

- Charter Revision Commission – The Charter Revision Commission met on October 26, 2022 to review suggestions and comments prepared by the Town Attorney. Those suggested were accepted by the Commission. The Commission appears to be ahead of schedule. They are planning their final public hearing on the draft changes to the Charter for December 7, 2022.
- EDC Strategy – I will be meeting with a select group of EDC Commission members to discuss the strategy and direction of the Commission. The intent is to help them focus on consistent activity that advances economic development.
- STEAP Grant – The Town is still waiting for our grant agreement for the \$500,000 STEAP grant that is dedicated to the public safety radio upgrade project. We cannot move forward with the project until the agreement is signed by both the State and the Town.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments met on October 26, 2022. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Eversource Update – Information was provided on electricity and gas bill assistance. We posted the information on the Town's accounts and a copy was provided to Human Services for their use.
- Office of the Inspector General – the Inspector General (IG) made a short presentation. The position of IG came out of the Police Accountability Law. The office investigates any police officer involved shooting or an in-custody death. Municipalities were strongly encouraged to direct all media inquiries during a use of force investigation to the Office of the Inspector General.
- UConn CIRCA Resilient 2.0 – A presentation was given documenting the UConn CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaption) Program's mapping of the RiverCOG area focusing on heat mitigation. The program will be looking for small projects that could be funded looking at small-scale flooding or heat mitigation in the built environment.
- Legislative Agenda – The COG Towns are working on a shared legislative agenda that responds to the needs of the region. The current plan is for the agenda to be settled in November for presentation to area legislators.

- Regional Housing – The COG staff are preparing a tool kit for regulations and policies which will help towns move forward with their local Affordable Housing Plans. Discussions are also underway for the creation of a regional housing committee which would be a voluntary association of towns.

3. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):

The CCM Legislative Committee will meet again on November 2, 2022 which conflicts with the Town Council meeting. The main item of business will be ratifying the final legislative agenda and priorities that will guide CCM outreach for the upcoming session.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Fish Ladder – The grant-funded project to design a fish ladder for the mill pond next to Indian River Shops is moving forward. Two engineering firms made proposals for the design of the fish ladder. We are reviewing the proposals. Additional compliance work with the DEEP also needs to be performed in the near term. The grant consultant for the project will handle that compliance work.
- Bond Preparations – We had our initial planning meeting to prepare for our next bond issuance. Based on the current state of approved projects and funding needs, it looks like our strategy will be to “roll” the bond anticipate notes forward for another year. This approach meets our cash flow needs. Additionally, we hope the market will settle down given recent rate hikes approved by the Federal Reserve. At present, the interest paid on short-term notes will likely double over the rates we enjoyed previously when interest rates were very low.
- ARPA Funded Projects – Human Services is moving forward with some of their previously funded activities. In this case, the project was focused on helping connect technology with those who do not have a device or access to the internet. These tools can help people connect with employment opportunities as they recover from the economic impacts of COVID.