

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: November 16, 2022

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

1. Council Business:

- EDC Strategy – The Economic Development Commission has agreed to go through a process to set a directions and focus on consistent activity that advances economic development. I will be working with them to refine their mission, set goals, identify outcomes and activities. The EDC will have a series of special workshop meetings to go through this process to help re-set their direction.

The timing of this effort is good for giving an increased sense of purpose to the EDC but also to connect with new resources. I met recently with a representative from the UConn Innovation Partnership Building which has resources and equipment available which would be of benefit to local manufacturers. Bob Werner on the EDC is helping make the connections between the UConn program and our local businesses.

- STEAP Grant – The Town finally received gran contracting materials for our \$500,000 STEAP grant that is dedicated to the public safety radio upgrade project. A resolution appears on the agenda for approval which is part of the packet of materials that need to be prepared for the State in advance of having a finalized grant agreement that allows the project to move forward. Given the time sensitivity of securing a piece of technology (which is experiencing supply line delays) this has been given a priority.
- FY2023-24 Budget – Department Heads have been given access to operating and capital budget forms to develop their requests for the upcoming budget. All of them were advised on the outcome of the budget forecasting workshop. The need for continued budget restraint was communicated as well as the need to prioritize capital funding requests.

In other budget-related news, our insurance broker gave us an update in where the insurance market could be when we are out for renewal and what it will mean for the budget. When I developed the forecast, I did assume a spike in property and casualty insurance lines. Pricing and shoreline property risks could challenge the assumptions I used in the forecast. Needless to say we will see increases in several of our insurance coverages for FY23-24.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments will have a special meeting on November 30, 2022 to finalize the region's legislative agenda.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Clinton Harbor – Attached to this report, you will find a letter of support from Congressman Courtney supporting efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers to identify funding that would help keep Clinton Harbor safe by, at a minimum dredging “hot spots” where sediments have accumulated creating navigation risks. The larger request is for the Corps to address dredging the harbor. This letter is the result of a joint effort between the Town and Cedar Island Marina to get the attention of the Army Corps to assess the channel during the summer and to seek Congressman Courtney's support.
- DPW Hiring – We are back out on the street for a Truck Driver positon in DPW. This vacancy is the result of a retirement in a higher position which was backfilled by promotional process. There will be more to report on this and ultimately, it will come to the Council for ratification.
- Treasurer – Given the changing interest rate landscape, Sue Cunningham and I met with Town Treasurer Todd Pozefsky to discuss ways the Town could change its investment positon to increase the yield on our investment income to help supplement Town revenues. Up until this point, interest gains were minimal. We want to position the Town to be able to take advance of some of the upswing.

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN

SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
READINESS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



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Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

November 4th, 2022

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Spellmon:

I write to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include dredging for the Town of Clinton, Connecticut, in the fiscal year 2023 Work Plan.

My staff and I have had discussions with the Town of Clinton and local businesses about the need to dredge Clinton Harbor. Given the influx of resources to USACE from the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and the urgent need for addressing this issue, I am requesting that this project be prioritized for work as soon as possible.

As you may know, USACE completed surveying the Clinton Harbor Federal Navigation Project on July 1, 2022. USACE New England District found that the project needs maintenance dredging in both the entrance channel and around the bend of Cedar Island. To bring the project back down to its authorized depth, approximately 49,000 cubic yards must be removed. The largest volume of material that must be dredged is in the 8-ft Wheeler Rock and 8-ft Cedar Island Shoal reaches of the project. This past summer, USACE New England District engineers informed local businesses and the Town of Clinton that they would be working with the Town of Clinton to develop a plan for a partial or full dredge. USACE confirmed to local stakeholders that, if funded, they could undertake work in May or June 2023. In September of 2022, USACE confirmed that a smaller portion of the overall effort could be completed with the Government Dredge MURDEN / CURRITUCK for “hot spots” of the area.

I request that USACE identify funds for this work in the fiscal year 2023 Work Plan to correct hot spots in Clinton Harbor, and to identify funds in future fiscal year Work Plans to complete the full dredge necessary for the harbor. The smaller dredge project, at a cost of approximately \$1 million, should be completed as soon as possible to ensure safe passage through this area.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As always, I look forward to working with you to ensure that this critical priority for my district is addressed.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress