

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: March 15, 2023

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

### 1. Council Business:

- Charter Revision – The Charter Revision Commission met to consider the recommendation from the Town Council to increase the threshold for a special appropriation to require a referendum for approval. The original Charter set this amount at \$300,000. The Commission's draft report set the threshold at \$500,000. The Council recommended a limit of \$700,000 which the Commission has agreed with. The next steps in the process are that the Commission will now finalize its report by filing the final report with the Town Clerk. The Council's action following the filing will be to approve or reject the report in its entirety. The opportunity to amend the report will conclude with the filing of the final report.
- Landfill Closure – The additional permitting recommended by the DEEP to move the landfill closure along has been completed and filed. This added permit was recommended to the Town of West Hartford in their effort to cap their landfill following the same process as Clinton. West Hartford wants to move their closure permit faster than 1 year which was the length of time it took for Plainville to get their permitting from the DEEP.
- Hiring – For the Council's awareness, Human Services Director David Melillo will be retiring on July 14. The Human Services Commission is very interested in the hiring process for filling this vacancy. Over the next few months a process will be started to identify and hire a new Director. The Commission will discuss which of their members will serve on an interview panel to help evaluate potential candidates. The hiring process will likely start in the spring to recruit a candidate before the end of the fiscal year. The hope is for the new Director to have an opportunity for some overlap with David before his retirement date. There will be more to report on this as we enter the spring.
- Congressionally Directed Spending – Short turnaround time to apply to our congressional delegation regarding earmark requests in either the House or Senate. Congressman Courtney's Office held a presentation to towns and non-profits regarding potential applications for funding on March 7. Applications for House funding are due on March 15. Senate funding is March 19. Rules and available programs differ between the House and the Senate. The terms of each program determines the extent of eligibility, requirements and local match requirements. The intent is for projects to be "shovel ready" if funding is approved as part of the federal budget process.

**2. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):**

The CCM Legislative Committee met recently to discuss a number of pending bills that are of interest to cities and towns. Some of the highlight which would be of interest to Clinton include: an update on the Governor's solid waste bill and an additional fee to be collection (or paid by municipalities which increases tip fees further), early voting continues to evolve, possible delay in implementing change to motor vehicle assessments could slow the straight line depreciation and its impact on the car tax, and a number of housing bills which impact local decision making that puts grants at risk.

**3. River COG:**

The Council of Governments will meet on March 22, 2023.

**4. Miscellaneous:**

- Union Contract Negotiation – As I reported earlier, the Town will be in negotiations with all unions for different reasons. The Police Union will be negotiating both their pension plan and their regular union contract. The dispatchers' union will also be negotiating their full contract. The Supervisors, Clerical and Public Works Unions are all in negotiations for just their wages for one year. The process has started with Police, Dispatchers and Supervisors. Formal initial meetings are pending with Public Works and Clerical.
- Clinton Harbor Dredging – I have been informed by Congressman Courtney's staff in Washington D.C. that the Army Corps of Engineers will add "hot spot" dredging in Clinton Harbor to their work plan for this federal fiscal year. The work would entail address the areas of highest need which cause a hazard to navigation. These areas were identified by the Corps this past summer.