

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: June 21, 2023

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

1. Council Business:

- Pierson RFP Responses – As the Council is aware, the Town received 3 responses to our Request for Development Proposals for the former Pierson School. An initial review of the responses has been completed by the Town Planner and myself. We have a number of questions regarding points to be clarified to better understand each proposal and level them to allow for better comparison. We will need to get answers to our questions before being able to discuss the proposals with the Council and layout the next steps in the process.

2. River Valley Transit Meeting:

The Board of Directors for the transit district met on June 9, 2023 to discuss operations of the transit district. Some items of note for the Town Council includes, the “Shoreline Connection” is running again using the Clinton Trolley to carry passengers from Old Saybrook, through Clinton, to Hammonasset State Park. The service is fully funded by the DOT. Ridership levels for all routes are returning to pre-COVID levels. However, now that fare collection has resumed some routes are seeing a small drop in ridership.

A series of challenges have been presented to the district with the State legislature pushing the implementation of electric buses (and the inability to use State funds to purchase diesel buses). Specifically, the electrical infrastructure is not in place to support bus charging. A statewide plan by the DOT to examine electrical infrastructure is not complete. At present, the best option for the district is a single charger for a bus (which requires over 8 hours to charge). Per the DOT charging must take place outdoors. As a result, one bus can operate during 1 shift. At this point, it will be a learning exercise.

The budget for the district was also approved.

3. CCM Legislative Committee Meeting:

CCM held a meeting on June 13, 2023 to review the recently concluded legislative session with a focus on discussing issues likely to re-emerge in the next session and strategies to respond. The legislative policy development process will also start up again to shape the CCM legislative agenda.

4. COG Meeting:

The Council of Governments will meet again on June 28, 2023.

5. Miscellaneous:

- Union Contract Negotiations – The agenda includes potential action on a contract settlement. I will need time with the Council to discuss that agreement.
- Hiring – Hiring is underway to find a new department director for Human Services with the pending retirement of David Melillo. We are also trying to fill an IT Technician position which was also vacated by a retirement.

We are at the interview stage for the Human Services Director position with representation from the Human Services Commission.