

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: July 5, 2023

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

### **1. Council Business:**

- Pierson RFP Responses – Interviews have been scheduled with the 3 developers that responded to our Request for Development Proposals for the former Pierson School. The Town Planner and myself will interview each firm to get more detail on their proposals which will allow us to better compare the merits of the three proposals. The interviews have been scheduled for later this month. Once complete, we will be looking for an Executive Session with the Council to discuss the results of the review and our approach to any real estate transaction.

### **2. COG Meeting:**

The Council of Governments met on June 28, 2023. Highlights of the meeting that are of interest to Clinton included:

- Early Voting – A report was given by the Regional Election monitor regarding the roll out of early voting for the Presidential Preference primary in April 2024 in terms of the number of days, operating hours and required staffing. Every town is being given a grant of \$10,500 to go toward expenses associated with offering early voting. It remains to be seen if this will be sufficient funding. Right now, this funding will not be provided into the future so the cost for early voting will have to be added to every town's budget. Further, funding that was supposed to help with public education on early voting and how it works was not in the State budget. As a result, it is not clear who will help the public understand the process and who will pay for it. I have asked our Registrars to determine if their professional association is developing standardized materials so a consistent message can be given since none seem to be in the offering from the State.
- Cyber Security – A presentation was given from the Department of Homeland Security for the resources they have available to help local governments to evaluate cyber security risks.
- COG Budget – The COG's budget was amended and re-adopted to reflect additional State grants funds being provided for regional projects. The COG will survey towns to determine potential projects that could have a beneficial impact across the member towns.
- Regional Solid Waste Grant Application – As of the meeting, the COG had yet to hear from the DEEP on the status of the grant application to fund technical assistance to aid in evaluating a regional solid waste authority. The program received far more grant applications than funds

available. The additional regional funds described above could be used to address this concern if the COG is not awarded the grant.

**3. Miscellaneous:**

- Discussion on Downtown Clinton – As a follow-up to the last meeting and the brief discussion regarding a presentation on the downtown, at staff level we are planning to start that discussion at the Council meeting of July 19. Given some time constraints, we wanted to introduce some concepts at the Council meeting with a deeper dive and further discussion during a subsequent workshop meeting.
- Union Contract Negotiations – Negotiations are on-going with the Police Union as the last union contract to be settled.
- Hiring – Hiring is still in process to find a new department director for Human Services following a re-advertisement of the position with the pending retirement of David Melillo.