

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: September 2, 2020

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

1. Council Business:

- a) STEAP Grant: The STEAP Grant request to the State for \$128,205 (the maximum possible award) was submitted on August 28 for the "Clinton Business Improvement Initiative" which would primarily fund façade and site improvements to businesses in the Downtown area along Route 1 as a priority area, but also provide funds to any commercial property along the corridor as a second priority.
- b) Pleasant Valley Bridge Replacement: The Town issued a bid for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Bridge. This project was included in a previously approved referendum to be financed partially by local bond proceeds and a 50/50 grant. Bid documents are being reviewed to make an award. The apparent low bidder is Old Colony Construction at \$1,186,057.85. The second and third lowest bidders were both slightly more than \$1,273,000.
- c) Stanton House Lease: At the last meeting, the Town Council renewed the Stanton House lease for 6 months for property that abuts the Pierson School. In its letter, the Stanton House Board was seeking a timeline to restore the property which include removing playground equipment, removing fencing, grading the site and re-planting grass. The majority of that work can be done by Public Works. However, the playground equipment does have a value to the Town and could be re-used at another location. The cost to remove the equipment and re-install it is over \$50,000. That cost would have to be budgeted for in FY21-22 budget. It is too early in the current fiscal year to see if the cost for that work could be found within existing appropriations. Future Council action will be required on this items.

2. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:

- a) The CCM Legislative Committee did not meet in August.

3. River COG:

- a) The River COG held a special meeting on August 26, 2020. The highlights of that meeting were as follows:
 - Draft 2021 Transportation Improvement Program – The public comment period for the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is open now running from August 24 through October 9. A public hearing will be held on the TIP on September 16. The TIP can be found on the River COG website at: www.rivercog.org/tip.

- Storm Recovery – The Eversource storm response was discussed with representatives of Eversource in attendance at the meeting. The frustration of many was voices as well as suggestions to improve storm responsiveness which we based on prior storm successes. The COG was going to submit testimony on behalf of the region to both PURA and Committee hearings into recent storm response.
- Regional Services Grant – the Regional Services Grant is one of the major sources of funds for the COG and it provided by the State. The grant given to the COG this year came with strings attached. OPM wants to see the COHG deliver plans which would consolidate the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and regional tax assessment. Any plans would not be implementable based on a number of hurdles that the State needs to help clear.

4. Miscellaneous:

- a) Town Engineer RFP: I previously reported that I was in the process of preparing specifications prior to issue a Request for Proposals for Town Engineering services. At present, these services are provided by DTC who help support Public Works and Land Use. The RFP has been completed and will be advertised. Proposals are due back before the end of September.
- b) Clinton Crossing Signage: I am sure Council members may have been asked for an update on the signage for Clinton Crossing. The Outlet planned on replacing all of its signage. With the exception of one sign, the size of the signage was like-for-like which would have made for a quick replacement approval. The pylon sign at the highway was proposed to be larger than the existing sign which exceeded current zoning regulations. The Outlet made a decision to reduce the size of the pylon sign to confirm with existing regulations. The replacement project is now back on track. New signage which was reviewed by Design Review are in production and according to the Outlet staff, the project is due to be complete by the end of October.