

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: April 7, 2021

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

**1. Council Business:**

- a) FY21-22 Budget: The next step in the budget process is the public hearing on the Town Council's Proposed Budget set for April 7 at 6:00 p.m. Given the pandemic meeting rules, the public hearing will be held electronically as it was last year. An email address is also being offered to receive public comments in addition to those wishing to speak.

The referendum will be an in-person vote as it was in prior years. While the Legislature extended the Governor's emergency powers beyond April 20 into May, nothing has been communicated that would prevent an in-person budget vote.

**2. CCM:**

CCM will hold its Legislative Committee meeting on April 6, 2021. I will be able to report on this meeting verbally during our meeting on Wednesday. In agenda includes legislative leadership providing an overview of the session thus far and a discussion of legislative issues of concern to towns and cities.

**3. River COG:**

The Council of Governments met on March 24, 2021. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Federal Relief Briefing – Staff from the regions federal delegation participated in the meeting to discuss federal relief funding provided in the American Recovery Plan which includes a direct allocation of funding to municipalities. Given the uniqueness of direct federal funding, the majority of questions revolved around a definition of eligible expenses and compliance requirements. Guidance is to be issued by the Treasury Department which is being monitored by delegation staff and OPM at the state level. The discussion also ranged into possible regional projects that could be completed with the towns assigned some of their funding to an entity like the COG. Treasury guidance is required for this too.

It was noted that Treasury guidance (or at least the initial guidance) should be issued to coincide with the initial release of funds from the federal government.

- Regional Bike Plan - The COG started but never completed a regional bike and pedestrian plan. There is renewed interest now in trying to get the plan moving. The COG intends to hire a consultant and define the scope of work. Ultimately, local input will be sought to support the plan and shape its priorities.

- Regional Affordable Housing Plan – The regional affordable housing plan, which is meant to comply with a state mandate, is due to get underway. Consultants are due to be hired which will help with data collection and analysis, and policy recommendations. COG staff are looking for their involvement to begin when activity the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development slows and frees up their time. The target to complete the plan is the first quarter of 2022.
- Regional Plan of Conservation and Development – A draft version of the plan was provided to the Regional Planning Commission and their comments have been received. A public comment period is planned to start on at the end of April. Adoption of the plan by the Regional Planning Commission is targeted for July. More will be coming on the public participation phase of the plan.
- Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update – The regional plan remains under review by FEMA. There is no identified date when the plan will be released by FEMA which would set in motion the local approval process for each town's annex.

**4. Estuary Transit Board:**

The Transit District Board will meet on April 16, 2021.

**5. Miscellaneous:**

- Regional Emergency Planning Team – I participated in a special meeting of the Regional Emergency Planning Team to authorize the re-allocation of available federal funds. The planned use was to fund a number of variable message boards for use in the region. Clinton would be one of those host town. While we would keep it locally and it could be used for our local needs, it would remain a regional asset. Given the traffic volume that is created locally with Clinton Crossing and fireworks, the sign can be of great value to address a number of local issues.