

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: April 21, 2021

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

1. Council Business:

- a) FY21-22 Budget: As noted previously, the budget referendum will be an in-person vote as it was in prior years. The Governor's recent Executive Order does allow for the expanded use of absentee ballots to vote in local budget decisions up to May 20. We also have permission to use the State ballot box that was provided as part of the November election process. Originally, we were being told that the box could not be used for any local-only elections.

The only point of concern with the budget adoption process is how a second vote will be handled if needed. A second referendum on one or both questions would be after May 20 (unless the Governor's Emergency Powers were extended again). A second referendum vote would not enjoy the expanded use of absentee ballots.

2. CCM:

CCM will hold its next Legislative Committee meeting on May 11, 2021.

3. River COG:

The Council of Governments will meet on April 28, 2021.

4. Miscellaneous:

- STEAP Grant – Progress is being made with the staff at the Department of Economic and Community Development to get our STEAP grant for downtown facades in place. We were able to come to an accommodation on purchasing so local business would not have to issue a bid for their work. Instead they will be able to submit quotes to the Town which will make it easier for businesses to make a project move forward. The project budget was submitted at the beginning of March. At this point, the final piece in the process is to have a grant contract prepared by DECD for local approvals.
- FEMA – As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, FEMA reimbursements for pandemic-related expenses were increased from 75% to 100%. In Connecticut, the other 25% which would have been a local match requirement was filled with the State's allocation of CARES Act money. This new change brings new FEMA funding in and requires the CARES Act money received from the State to be reallocated to other eligible expenses.

- Policies – I am working with the Finance Director to update a number of financial policies for the Town which have not been updated for many years. When completed, the policy drafts will be brought to the Council for further consideration and action.