

Town Manager Report

01-11-2016

I am pleased to have the holidays behind us and the opportunity to put more energy and time into the many projects we have before us. There is a lot of work to do, and I am hopeful that we can work together constructively to achieve everything that is possible for the Town.

Activities over the past two weeks:

- I am happy to announce that Bruce Chandler Jr. was hired as our new maintenance employee. He has had to hit the ground running and has done an excellent job of dealing with a work backlog, training, and emergency weather issues. Welcome to Bruce!
- The first group of departments presented their budgets to the Budget Committee last week and the initial work to come from that meeting will be presented later in the meeting tonight. The next budget meeting is on January 19th at 5:30 pm at Giles Hall and will cover Community Services, Regional Assessments, Protection, and Cemeteries. We will also be reviewing the budget of the Conservation Committee.
- We are pursuing additional quotes for repair to the 1-ton truck, as well as costs for used and new equipment in order to present a fully researched set of alternatives for the Board to consider, with a target date of the 25th.
- Many thanks to the residents who reported issues with the plowing this past storm - it helps us to understand the areas of need and allows us to better work with the contractor by addressing issues early. With the coming storm events this week please continue to keep us informed by calling the Town office in addition to contacting McGee directly if you choose to. Thank you.
- We have begun to implement the conditions of the recently negotiated union contract and are looking for feedback with respect to a potential reduction in Town Office hours. If you have any suggestions or concerns please contact me at the Town office.
- Robin has been working with our website provider to look at options for improved function, access, and general usability. We are also considering additional funds in the budget process to support this fundamental communication tool. If you have any suggestions for the website please be sure to pass them along to Robin or myself.
- I have begun reviewing ordinances that may need revision at Town Meeting, including the "Recall Ordinance" and Administration Ordinance. I encourage all of our Boards, Committees, and Commissions to consider any changes they might recommend for any of the Town's ordinances following their work this past year. We are scheduled to have our first review of the warrant on April 4th so proposed amendments should be submitted well in advance of this date.