

## Mayor's Report – August 2021

The town has continued to move forward with budget preparations for the 2021/2022 fiscal year and hosted the first joint Commission/Finance Committee meeting of the season. The budget was presented with a millage rate consistent with the rate presented and accepted by the Commission last year. Should this rate be accepted again, it will allow the Town to begin putting money into reserve accounts as recommended by Finance Committee for future maintenance of our Town's roads and culverts as well as to begin saving for replacement vehicles for our police department. It is important, that we as a Town, look ahead and begin being proactive in preparing for future improvements and general maintenance that is expected by our residents.

Over the last few weeks, the Town has been gaining insight into the monies that will become available to us through the Rescue Act. We are in the process of thoroughly understanding the requirements and allowed uses to ensure that the Town is able to use the monies and not encounter any snags in reimbursement/payback. Once the contract is signed, we will receive half our funds up front and the remainder at the close of the program in December 2024. As we get a more defined understanding on what projects are permitted, they will be presented to the Commission for discussion and approval.

The annual employee review process is coming to a close as we finish up the month of August. Changing the timeline was recommended by our previous mayor to help us better prepare our budget for the upcoming year and plan employee raises appropriately.

Lastly, we heard a presentation at our July monthly meeting requesting the Commission consider the changes presented Summer 2020 by the Traffic Committee to square off our main intersections. Doing this will force vehicles to come to a complete stop and eliminate the ease of rolling through the stop signs. This action would make it less enticing for people to cut through our Town as well as make it easier for our Police Department to enforce our laws. This action would also make it safer for all our residents that walk and bike along our roadways. Following the discussion and direction from the Commission to investigate, Superintendent Ward and Chief Loos (with assistance from Sgt. Viena), conducted some preliminary investigations into the process and what would be needed to comply with DOT. We are still in the process of investigating and do not yet have a plan to present to the Commission.

As we finish up the month of August, we will be moving quickly into finalizing the budget for next year and preparing for the 2021 election. I'm excited to see such a great interest in our local government. There are seven qualified electors that will be running for 4 seats on the Commission in the November election. We will also be moving forward with a kick-off meeting for the Charter Review Board as we begin the much needed update.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve. Wishing you all health and safety.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor