

Mayor's Report – November 2021

I want to start this monthly report by thanking the residents who took the time to submit all the forms and volunteered to run for a seat on the Commission. They spent time in the community talking with neighbors and have reached out and inquired about issues that are currently affecting our Town. As I stated last meeting, this town runs on volunteers and without them, we would cease to exist. It is this type of involvement and citizenship that sets us apart. Congratulations to the four who won a seat this year, Valerie Calenda, Sue Ditty, and Gary Ingram for a two-year term, and Gerda Murphy for a one-year term. Thank you to Peter McCharles, who volunteered last year and stepped in when we had a vacancy, we appreciate your dedication and hope that you, and all the other candidates, stay involved and help keep our town thriving.

On Saturday, October 30th, the Town, in conjunction with the AHF, hosted a fall event. The AHF provided a bounce house, games, and treats, while the town set up a trunk-or-treat in the parking lot and a photo booth. We were happy to see lot of children and families take part in the event. It is my hope that a few times a year, the town and AHF can come together for the betterment of the entire town to host family friendly events for all residents.

The Town continues to move ahead with establishing clear guidance on the rules for using the funds for the Rescue Act. If permitted, the funds could be used to fix our failing and damaged culverts in the town, alleviating the burden in the immediate future. Our Town Superintendent recently completed a survey with an engineer regarding the health of a handful previously identified culverts and they have placed priority on which will need replacement or repair and within what kind of time frame. Public Works also recently had a paving company come out and assess the health of our asphalt and they have identified key areas that need to be fixed. We look forward to creating a comprehensive list and timeline of future projects to better prepare as a town for what lies ahead.

The town office continues to strive towards cleaning up the records room, streamlining processes, and seeking a higher quality of work. The number of responsibilities for the position of Town Clerk are growing and this may be an area that needs to be addressed later with some of the roles and responsibilities shifting to the Deputy Clerk and potentially other department heads.

As we move into the final weeks of the year, we will begin undertaking a few projects. Public Works will be handling the minor work at the intersection of Sheridan and West Pine as well as South Drive and Dayton. This is the plan that has been previously surveyed and approved by the commission that will create a more defined intersection, with more visible lines of sight for all vehicles/ pedestrians at these locations. Most of the work will be minimal with the use of paint and reflectors. Secondly, the Commission will begin updating our Employee Handbook. This document is out of date and there are key areas that need to be addressed. Finally, we are in the beginning stages of updating our website. We will be soliciting formal quotes with the goal of creating a website that is easy to navigate for users and simple to update for staff.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve. I hope that you all have a great Thanksgiving.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor