

Mayor's Report – December 2021

December is here and it is a great time to reflect on where we started in January and to where we are now. It is safe to say that it has been eventful. We have welcomed a handful of new staff in all departments and with that brought many opportunities for learning and growth. We have also seen others depart and in that change, hopefully learned how to better manage and create a work environment that is welcoming.

As it relates to the town office, we have seen some of the greatest change. We are continuing to find and correct errors that have been overlooked or unrecognized for years in some cases. We are continuing to improve processes and organize the office. Though our audit this last year was not highly favorable, we have made great strides to correct many of those errors. In fact, we will be submitting the trial balance this month, nearly six months earlier than done in the recent past. This will hopefully set us up for success over the next few months as the auditor begins her work. Our office staff, especially our town clerk, has been putting in a great deal of time and hours to help bring our town to where it needs to be. And while we know there is still work to be done, I want to take this opportunity to thank them and to just recognize what has been accomplished. We only have one full time staff and two part time staff to do what many towns do with many more.

Our police and public works have continued to produce work that we as a town should be proud of. The police have brought in additional grants and donations this year, allowing them to have better equipment and vehicles that otherwise would not be afforded them. They also provide a level of service to residents that we have all come to appreciate while living in the Village. Public Works has made the biggest impact on the profitability of the Hester Wagner Community House with their work and overseeing of the updates this past year. They are continuing to streamline their work and be more resourceful with their budget and time.

There are also a number of volunteers who continually serve our town and keep us moving forward. There are a few committees that meet regularly and handle aspects of the town that we simply could not do with our limited staff. Finance, at the leading of Ross Whitely, has helped in so many ways. They are the extra eyes that we need on the numbers and help keep us in line to succeed as a town. TRB and Beautification have also been busy this year as we have seen an uptick in permits and the install of the pedestrian bridge was finalized. It is the volunteers that keep us moving and allow the staff to focus on the details.

And lastly, a thank you to the commissioners who serve along side me. You all have a passion for this town that is evident. Thank you for taking the time to meet formally each month, but also taking the time to reach out and speak with your neighbors and care for them. It is in the friendships that are formed between neighbors that makes this a truly wonderful place to live.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday and a new year of health and blessings.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor