

Mayor's Report – May 2022

As the months pass, challenges continue to surface. I feel that we have been in a clean-up mode for the last year and a half constantly working on issues as they arise. We have had a new Town Clerk for the last month and due to a short training period, has been learning many of the processes as she goes, which was also the case with our previous Clerk. Working this way obviously leads to tasks taking much longer, though I'm confident that with time, this will no longer be the case. Moving forward we are beginning to update/rewrite procedures to prevent this in the future.

Currently FPL is in Town replacing the power poles as part of their hardening efforts. I attempted to follow up on the statements made on lines being buried in the future and as of this report, the project manager has yet to confirm the dates. This doesn't mean never, the dates will just likely shift. As always, when they provide more information, I will share.

As we approach the summer months, the Town has a handful of important tasks ahead. First will be the audit for 2020/2021, we are tentatively planning to have this all wrapped up by the end of May, but potentially will go into June. Secondly, the first issue of the Cardinal for 2022 will be headed your way in the next two weeks. Summer also brings budget preparations and deadlines for the upcoming fall election. We will have three commission seats and the seat for mayor up for election/reelection in November.

In closing, I am often reminded why my husband and I chose to move here. It is someplace special. However, there is a lot of work to be done. Things that have been overlooked for too long and many missteps that were never corrected. I'm thankful for the commissioners and residents alike who reach out and ask to help. Looking back, it has been tough, there is a sense of division that does nothing but make things more difficult. My hope is that through these hard months and likely years of work, the Town comes out ahead. That we work side by side for the betterment of the Town as a whole, and less for personal gain, because it is the only way that the Town of Melbourne Village will continue to thrive for the next generation.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor