

## **Mayor's Report – October 2022**

As we end the month and look forward to entering the final month of the 2022 Hurricane Season, I'm thankful that what our Town faced with Hurricane Ian was minor. After seeing footage from across the state, we were certainly fortunate to have been spared the brunt of the storm. We closed the office for a day and a half as the storm began to pick up on Wednesday and continued throughout the day Thursday. Though we experienced a few hours of calm as the edge of the eye sat over us, the winds that came after continued to knock more limbs loose and fell more trees. Thankfully, only a small percentage of homes were affected by loss of electricity for about 2 days.

The storm provided a great opportunity for our new public works team to witness how our drainage system works during a heavy storm. They have highlighted a few areas to look into more as they are prone to flooding. In addition, I have been in contact with Waste Pro, they are working as efficiently as they can to remove debris. They provided a few options following the storm; to take what they can each week until it is cleared; to take a small amount from each pile each week until it is cleared; or to pay an additional \$275 - \$300 per hour to remove it fully as soon as possible. Almost every town that they service went with the first option, so I followed suit feeling that it was the best use of our budget. The county dump is inundated with debris like ours from every other municipality and just the time to take their loads in and dump has been greatly impacted thus reducing the number of times that they can get out and back to our town each week. As a reminder for future yard debris pickup: consolidated piles are preferred, keep them clear of power lines or low hanging limbs, and avoid piling in the ditches. They also made the request that in the future, it is much more efficient for hand pick up if your limbs are facing the same direction, specifically palm fronds.

As a reminder, November 8<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. We have four seats open and five candidates. Information on each candidate was in the latest issue of the Cardinal, if you did not receive one, please make sure that your address is on file with the office and we have additional copies in the back. We also have begun collecting email addresses and updated contact information for our Town. We would use email addresses to send out updates such as a change in meeting time/location, notices about any potential utility disruption, etc. We have been working diligently over the last six months to make changes to the website with the help of former staff and a great volunteer, it will be the best place to find updates and information.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor