

July
25 June 2023 Mayor's Report

Welcome everyone. While summer is often thought of as a slow time of year and perfect for vacations – please know it is quite busy for the Town as we prepare for elections, budget and tax millage decisions, repairing our buildings and culverts, and now the unexpected loss of Public Works personnel. We will discuss this later in the meeting, but sadly, Jeff Conklin, our PW Maintenance Tech resigned unexpectedly last week.

This past Saturday, we held the 3rd of 4 Law Enforcement Workshops to inform residents on the difference between a Service Contract and an MSTU with BCSO. Pat Reilly, Mayor of Malabar joined us as a guest speaker to discuss their experience with MSTU. Mayor Reilly and our own Commissioner, Dave Jones, presented information regarding the financial ramifications for the Town and residents. But more importantly, Commr Jones discussed as the personal aspects and considerations of continuing with a Service Contract or transitioning to the MSTU. The presentations are available on our website. The Commissioners are in agreement that residents should decide what the level of Law Enforcement presence is wanted and whether they are willing to pay for it.

Our Town Clerk is in full swing and working hard to prepare for November's election. Qualifying dates for residents planning to run for one of the 3 commission seats on the ballot, will open Aug 9th and close Aug 18. Write-in candidates have until Aug 23 to submit their paperwork. Recent legislative changes to the Financial Disclosure requirements are a bit more complex than in the past. There will be a seminar for sitting commissioners, town board members and anyone planning to run for any of these positions at 7pm Aug 10th. I realize this date conflicts with the AHF BOT meeting but is based on the availability of our Town Attorney.

Last, but certainly not least, we held a joint workshop last night with the Finance Ctme and the Commission to review the first draft of our FY23-24 budget. I'd like to thank the members of the Finance Cmte and our Town Clerk for their time, diligence, and attention to the needs of the town in preparation for the meeting. Please thank them, and your commissioners for the 3 hours we spent reviewing and discussing each line to ensure we are making fiscally responsible decisions for the Town. Additional budget meetings and hearings to be held over the next 2 months. Please attend and hear the reasoning behind the decisions that affects the Town this year and in years to come.

Thank you. Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor