

22 August 2023 Mayor's Report

So many things are happening in the Town I'm not sure where to start. It's like the movie, "Everything Everywhere All At Once".

In the past month we lost 3 staff members; the deputy clerk resigned for another employment opportunity, and we lost our Public Works department due a resignation and a termination. We are collecting applications for the PW Supervisor position, who will then have input in hiring the PW Maintenance Tech. In the interim, we hired a temporary PWs laborer to help with routine summer maintenance and janitorial duties under the supervision of Commissioner Muzzone.

We have two good candidates for the Deputy Clerk position and are conducting interviews this week. Hopefully, we'll fill this position soon to alleviate the workload for Heather and Marissa. Both of whom have really stepped up and are doing whatever is needed to keep us on track and meet resident needs. It's been a rough few weeks, but we are making progress and focusing on the future. Ever forward.

To add to Heather's workload, we've held two Budget workshops and are preparing for the first Budget Hearing, tentatively scheduled for Sept 8th. Based on our current discussions, residents will see an ~5% reduction in the Town's millage rate. This may not sound like a lot, but expenses have increased and most importantly, we are finally able to set aside funds for the Town's reserves which will enable us to address infrastructure needs in the future.

I would be remiss not to mention all the tropical activity happening in the Atlantic Basin and Gulf of Mexico. Let us all be aware and prepare.

Lastly, but not least – I'm sure many of you have noticed the changes around Town. Thank you to Commissioner Muzzone and the volunteers who are mowing the ROWs and swales, clearing ditches, and removing limbs and brush impeding the roadways. Plus, the HWCH volunteers who have made repaired and cleaned the doors, swept, mopped floors, cleaned windows, and have cleaned after each rental. Commr Muzzone's report later in the meeting includes much more information, but I just wanted to express my gratitude as well.

We are a Town, but more importantly we are a Community. Thank you to all the volunteers, seen and unseen.

Thank you. Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor