

28 November 2023 Mayor's Report

Our November meetings are a time of transition for the Town Commission. Tonight we lose valued commissioners and welcome a new member to the table. Change is inevitable, but as your Mayor, surrounded by the strong men and women of our Commission and Staff, it is not something I fear. Together, the Town Commission, Staff and our faithful volunteers will continue our efforts to improve services and protect the integrity of our Town because we believe in each other and our community.

We are working hard to get things done. Particularly, the much-needed repairs to the Hall Road culvert. In this case, the Town is ready to act, but getting quotes from contractors is delaying the start. We are also eager to get started on replacing the aged-out septic systems here at the Town Office, HWCH and PW garage. Restoration of the HWCH exterior is also on the docket and hopefully will begin in early 2024. Sidewalks on Dayton Blvd are another project slated for early 2024. And finally, work to replace the playground equipment should start in January.

The Town continues to search for qualified applicants to fill the Public Works Supervisor and Maintenance Tech positions. While the PW Supervisor position is an integral part of our staff, it is most important that we find a qualified person who is the right fit for our team and our Town. I am hopeful that we will hire a PW Maintenance Technician in the very near future and with guidance from Commr Muzzone, take some of the burden from our volunteers. Which reminded me, that I have been remiss in thanking those who perform custodial duties late at night or early mornings after each and every event in the HWCH. Thank you is due as well for the "Elves" in town who decorated our street poles for the holidays with festive ribbons and bows.

Our first Veteran's Day Recognition Ceremony was well attended and a great opportunity to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of residents who served in the Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, Charles Buchanan, our only WWII veteran arrived at the end of the event due to another commitment. I was honored to speak with him at length and he agreed to stick around until next year so everyone can thank him for his service.

As I close, I want to acknowledge out-going Vice-Mayor Valerie Calenda. She has served our Town as a Commissioner and Vice-Mayor with integrity and honor for at least 14 years. Vice-Mayor Calenda, Val, has been a steadfast presence at the table, keeping me on track as I learned meeting protocols, providing insightful commentary, asking the probing questions, maintaining historical continuity and perspective, and providing stability and support during difficult times. I know Val won't slide quietly into the sunset but will continue being a voice for residents and hold us accountable for the betterment of the Town. As Mayor, and a friend, please join me in thanking VM Calenda for her many dedicated years of service.

Thank you. Now - let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor