

This last month has been a great learning experience, with exposure to how the town office operates as well as meeting with the departments to begin getting an understanding of their role and expectations.

The town is in the midst of the annual review and many of the concerns regarding the financial reporting during 2020 are being confirmed. There were numerous errors in the documentation of employee dependent insurance which resulted in the town paying the entire amount. There was also inconsistency in input of data into our system. This has all led to extra hours (and thus larger bills) being required by the town clerk, accountant, and auditor. We have also been made aware that as of this time, the town will be unable to receive the entire funds set aside in the DEP grant for the Dayton Road Culvert project. There are many people advocating on behalf of the town, trying to secure as much of the funds as possible, currently we are set to receive about \$30,000.

As you are aware, the road had to be closed down again at Hammock and Live Oak due to the heavy rains over the last week. It has caused more washout in the road base and is making the intersection unsafe. Bradley is working diligently to get the requested engineering and quotes so that we can move forward with replacing the culvert.

Also, at the last commission meeting it was recommended by the commission, that I, as interim mayor, proceed with disciplinary action regarding the previous actions taken by Chief Loos. I took them under consideration, and spoke with our attorney, and have moved forward with placing a letter in his personnel file as well as requiring employee training to be completed within the next 6 months. A few weeks ago, I went before the AHF Board of Directors to talk about our plans for the 4th of July. They were equally excited about the opportunity to work together on behalf of the town to create a great event. Together we will be hosting the annual parade which will end at the pedestrian bridge for our dedication. Per resident and commission request/consent, we will be dedicating the bridge in honor of all Mayors who have served the town, with special thanks to Heidi Salmon and Willow Martin for bringing it to its final resting place. Following the dedication, we will open the Hester Wagner Community House for refreshments. The Police Department will also be on hand hosting a "meet the cops" event and handing out public safety information. This will be a great opportunity for our town to come back together after over a year of missed events due to COVID and also recognize all the work that has been going on behind the scenes by Bradley and Ryan, as well as volunteer Norton Muzzone (and various contractors) to get the Hester Wagner building up and running again.

If you have stopped in the town office recently, you may notice some new friendly faces. The office has been short staffed with an employee out on extended leave, and we all hope will be back soon. There have been a couple of volunteers who I'd like to recognize because without them, that office would have been in trouble. These two women have come in and dedicated their time, energy, and knowledge to helping us all out, and I am incredibly grateful. They answer the phones, greet residents and customers, hand out permits and paperwork. Judy Loos, thank you. And Leslie Fay, thank you – Leslie has been so helpful in getting the permits back in order.

It has been a very busy and productive month in the village., I am grateful to the staff, residents, and commissioners that are truly working hard to make this a wonderful place to live.

Tabitha Niemann