

## Mayor's Report – September 2021

This month has been a busy one with many meetings as we enter the final weeks of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and prepare to begin 2021/2022 on October 1<sup>st</sup>. I am pleased to report that your Commission passed the proposed budget with approximately \$50,000 going into reserves that will help prepare the Town for needed improvements and maintenance in the future. The reserve accounts that were established this year include: roof replacement (as the Town Office and Police Department roof is nearly 20 years old), police vehicle replacement, and roads/culverts. The hope is that each year as the budget allows future Commissions will continue to add to these reserves and set the Town up to care for itself and properly plan and prepare for needed work and equipment replacement. As I've mentioned before the health and success of our Town is carried by its residents. With such a limited commercial district the large majority of the tax burden has always fallen on the residents. The Commission also passed our millage at 9.8103, keeping in line with the millage rate last year. It is because of this decision that we have the funds available to begin building reserves.

This month also saw the first meeting of our newly appointed Charter Review Committee. It has been nearly 50 years since our Charter has been reviewed and it is a critical and important step for our Town. The Committee will be meeting over the course of the next year, reviewing our Charter section by section and making changes that will then be recommended to the Commission late next spring. From there the Commission will have the opportunity to review and accept or deny the proposed changes. Once a decision has been made by the Commission the proposed changes (if accepted) will be on your ballot in November 2022.

One of the last major things that began this month is the arduous work of cleaning and organizing our file archive room. The Town follows the state laws and requirements on records retention and depending on the type of file they are to be kept anywhere from 2 years to over 50. Once this process is complete all boxes that are found to be past the required retention date will be disposed of properly. This work will streamline the records request process and assure that all current and relevant documents are available for easy retrieval.

As you will hear in the department reports every facet of the Town is staying busy. Public Works has continued maintenance on the ditches throughout the Town and clearing limbs as we are in hurricane season. Our Town Clerk and office have continued to see many rentals and bookings for the Hester Wagner Community House and building permits being pulled. The Police department also handled in a professional and diligent manner the unfortunate incident which occurred near the Dayton Road culvert.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve. Wishing you all health and safety.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor