

Town Administrator's Report

September 23, 2014

The areas and issues in and on which we have worked, since the last meeting are as follows:

Attractive Nuisance Ordinance: Following the Public Hearing on the Attractive Nuisance Ordinance, the thoughts, concerns and ideas of the Board and the public have been integrated into an Amended Ordinance which will be considered at this evening's (9/23) Board meeting. The critical issues reflected in the Amended Ordinance revolved around narrowing issues and interpretations to provide greater clarity and precision, as well as reconciling permit requirements with enforcement provisions. There is some confidence that this has been accomplished and the Amended Ordinance meets the needs and interests of the Town and its concern with public safety.

Winter Transportation Committee: Following passage of the Resolution and appointment of members, we moved forward to schedule the inaugural meeting and prepare and post its agenda. The meeting was held this morning (9/23) with the full membership. General organizational issues were dealt with and issues for the future addressed. The Committee will meet with some regularity in the near-term in order to address contractual issues and ensure a safe, efficient and economical (to the extent possible) winter transportation season in 2014-15. In addition, longer-range issues were set out and will be addressed to ensure long-term stability and cooperation in our winter transportation effort.

Law Enforcement Issues and Review Panel: While controversial and, at times, contentious, we have worked diligently to provide the Board and public with accurate and comprehensive information about the necessity and desirability of establishing a Panel and overall opportunities regarding the control, oversight and management of law enforcement. Progress has been made – greater clarity as to issues and opportunities has been gotten – but there remains additional issues and considerations with which to be dealt. The process continues.

Property Tax Exemption Application: The Administrator met with the County Administrator to discuss issues of waiver of 30-day response requirement, calculations and formulas for determining exemption amount and the potential for reimbursement of the amount rather than reorganization of property tax bills --- Copy of the Memo regarding that meeting is attached. The process will continue, but both entities are determined to arrive at a fair and equitable arrangement.

Zoning – County Overlay: The Town will be meeting with the County Zoning Committee (10/9) regarding the review of the Overlay and discussion of relief from the administrative costs regarding both Kale lawsuit and any County Board meetings.

Budget Meetings and Progress: The process of the development of the Town Budget for 2015 continues unabated. Department/Town Administrator meetings are in full swing with five (5) department meetings taking place this week (9/22 – 26). These meetings are primarily ‘first-reads’ with line-by-line discussions and questions which will then be factored in to a second round in the next few weeks. The target and goal are to have solidly fleshed out and vetted departmental budgets prepared for the Budget Workshops scheduled for 10/13 – 23. We began this process in late June and have worked through both the present --- YTD and resources required to finish out the year (with an emphasis on husbanding as many resources as possible in order to respond to the budget challenges that confront us at the present time) as well as the development of next year’s budgets. The process appears to be working well – some issues that have plagued the Town in years passed are being addressed and, hopefully, resolved effectively.

Community Communication and Outreach: The importance of reaching out into the community and listening to concerns, ideas, complaints and observations – as they relate to the pressing issues of the day – cannot be overstated. We have attempted to devote sufficient time -- - some time each day – to discuss the issues and challenges we collectively confront. That initiative will continue.