

## **Town Administrator's Report October 14, 2014**

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

**Department Budgets:** The number and frequency of budget meetings between department heads and the Town Administrator have accelerated as we have moved closer to the Workshops and assembly of a final budget. Generally, the meetings have been productive; department heads have worked hard to bring in requests that meet department/town needs while paring away superfluous expenditures. The process continues now with the Board and, doubtless, will result in additional modifications and adjustments that reflect both town needs and financial realities.

**County Budget Contribution:** The Administrator has been in communication and contact with the County Administrator to establish County contributions to law enforcement, zoning and response to the Town's Act 282 exemption request. The meetings have been productive, but have yet to yield a satisfactory – or reasonably fair – financial arrangement. The Administrator will be meeting with the County Administrator on Thursday, 10/16, to hammer out, what hopefully will be, final numbers and an Inter-Municipal Zoning Administration Agreement that can be brought to the Board and integrated into our budget formulas.

**County Zoning Committee Review of Hegwood Mitigation Agreement:** The Administrator and the Zoning and Planning Administrator appeared before the County Zoning Committee to review progress and effect of the agreement arrived at to mitigate the adverse effects of the Hegwood decision. Generally, there was agreement that the arrangement is working well, but the Administrator addressed issues of both legal costs and the reasonability of the Town underwriting County Board meetings necessary to protect its zoning and shoreline authority. The County Administrator indicated that the County would ensure that subsequent meeting, if necessary, would be integrated into regular meetings to avoid Town costs. In addition, any legal costs (Kale) that could be covered by County litigation insurance would be covered. The current case is moving into depositions and will result in additional legal expense if it continues to be pursued.

**Propane Issues:** The Town has moved decisively to mitigate the challenges to its propane supply and delivery. There is every confidence that, under the prospective arrangement, fairness, equal opportunity and propane security will be achieved. The Board will receive and consider RFPs for the purchase of tanks next week – this will establish sufficient storage capacity to allow the Town to fill once per year, prior to transportation limitations. The prospective arrangement has the demonstrated potential ability to save the Town substantial revenues and ensure energy security to town facilities.

**Personnel Policy:** The Personnel Policy working group has made substantial progress in putting together a Policy that is tight, comprehensive and reflects both requirements and the dynamics of our community. There is some confidence that a draft will be ready for legal scrutiny in a couple months – it will be the master document from which department head and employee handbooks will be assembled. There is every belief that we will have a current, comprehensive Personnel Policy(ies) in early Spring.

**Attractive Nuisance Ordinance:** The ANO has been subjected to several reworks and modifications since its introduction (first-read), public hearing and the discussions that followed. The Board will undertake its second-read and potential vote this evening. The Ordinance has passed legal, administrative and public muster. It mends a substantial and potentially dangerous hole in the fabric of enforcement available to the Town when confronted by potential public safety situations --- it is a good piece of legislation.

**Outreach and Community Communication:** We have maintained our habit of reaching out into the community – both business and citizenry – to discuss issues, potential legislative efforts and areas of concern. The contributions of both business and public to the work of the town administration have been essential and effective in bringing our community to positions and policies that have made and will continue to make a positive difference to our residents – both year-round and seasonal. The greater the citizen and business participation in public policy and governance, the better our community will function and progress; it is an area of effort that will continue to be maintained and enhanced.