

Town Manager's Report to the Select Board January 3, 2022

Woodsville Lawsuit:

The Woodsville Fire District filed a lawsuit against the Town of Haverhill in Grafton Superior Court in 2019, related to Town funding of the Woodsville Highway Department. The Woodsville Fire District filed for Declaratory Judgement in early June. The Town requested that with the passing of SB26 that both parties agree to drop the case, the Woodsville District Commissioners declined. In November the court approved Woodsville's Declaratory Judgment motion. However, the order did not provide the clarity both parties needed to end the case. The trial is still scheduled for February. However, the Town has asked Woodsville's council to agree to a status hearing in hopes of avoiding a trial. **The Woodsville District's legal counsel sent to the Town's legal counsel a requested settlement figure of nearly \$800k. The Town performed the calculations per SB75, the Memorandum of Understanding, and the Addendum to the MOU, in exactly the manner used by Glenn English and Jo Lacaille previously, and determined an amount hundreds of thousands of dollars lower than the one requested by the District. If the two parties can not agree on a number than the issue will need to go to hearing. All court filings are public record.**

North Haverhill Cross Walks:

The Town has sent its formal request for approval to install five new pedestrian crossings along Route 10 in North Haverhill Village. The sidewalks will need to be ADA accessible, pedestrian signs and cross walk markings would need to be installed, and possibly street lighting. The locations have tentatively been identified, one near the entrance to River Meadow Campground where the sidewalk ends, one near Aldrich's Store, one near the Town Administration Office, one near the Fire Station, and one near the Post Office. The installation of one cross walk (depending upon elements needed at the location) range from \$5,000 - \$15,000 each. We are still awaiting design and estimates from the NH DOT for these crosswalks.

Mailbox Relocation Requests:

After concerns were raised about the safety of residents due to the location of their mailboxes along Route 10 in North Haverhill, the Town submitted a request asking for permission from the USPS to work with twenty-four (24) homeowners to relocate their mailboxes to the side of the street their homes sit upon. I visited with the No. Haverhill postmaster and he indicated that he passed our request onto the Federal United States Postal Service and does not expect them to approve it. A letter was sent to Janeen Shaheen asking her for assistance with this matter, and her office responded. We will be polling residents along Route 10 to ensure they want their mailboxes moved prior to filing a formal request through Janeen Shaheen's office.

Project Bids & Bid Results:

Town Cemetery 3-year mowing contract. Apparent low bidder was Robbins Property Maintenance at \$45,326.00 which was an increase of \$2,158.00 per year over the last contract. Contract award is pending approval of the Cemetery Commission

Governor's Booster Blitz:

On Saturday December 11th there was a COVID Booster Blitz held at the Clifford Memorial Building. Another local COVID Booster Blitz is planned for January 8th at the Horse Meadow Senior Center. For those wanting to get a booster can sign up on the State's website at <https://business.nh.gov/covidvaccineregistration/>

2022 DRAFT Budget:

The draft 2022 budget was provided to the Select Board, along with revenue and expenditure reports for 2020 and 2021, the tax rate history, and the unassigned fund balance information. We are still working on the final anticipated revenues for 2022. All of which will be reviewed at a Select Board Budget Workshop prior to the formal Select Board Budget Hearing schedule to take place on February 7th.

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will be hosting a Public Hearing tomorrow night January 4th at the Clifford Memorial Building to consider the Vertex Cell Tower building permit variance request.

Members of the ZBA include:

1. Mike Bonnano, Chair
2. Sandi Pierce, Vice Chair
3. Rick Henson
4. Esther A. Hodges-LeClaire
5. Matthew Bjelobrk, Ex officio



Haverhill Broadband Committee:

In preparation for a local build-out of the "last-mile" of fiber which will provide high speed internet to households throughout Haverhill, the Haverhill Broadband Committee met to set a schedule, elect officers, and to begin to establish a plan of action. Their next meeting will be on January 12th at the James R. Morrill building in North Haverhill.

Haverhill Broadband Committee Members include:

1. Aaron Palm, Chair
2. Gary Chase, Vice Chair
3. Stephanie Marston
4. Greg Mathieson
5. Joe Kirkpatrick

Grafton County Broadband project:

The engineering cost for the backbone "middle-mile" project is being paid for by ARPA funds from the County that the Commissioners and Delegation have supported. The funds provided will complete engineering to get to the first 17 municipalities in the network, which includes the Town of Haverhill. The "head end" locations have been identified as the Town Halls in each municipality. As engineering continues, we will begin working with eX2. The next step is for Construction Manager Jim Guarino to schedule a time when he and team can access the Town Halls to do the initial survey work, which is expected to begin in January.

Haverhill Public WiFi Network:

In September of 2021 the Town of Haverhill deployed a public WiFi network along parts of Central Street in the Village of Woodsville. Currently there are three (3) hosts; Vickie Wyman of The Atlantic Real Estate Network; Robert Welsh of Welsh Reality Apartments; and Mike & Brie Choate of Mike's Garage in Woodsville Village. We are still seeking a few more hosts along Central Street to complete a contiguous network. With the network active we have been tracking usage and we are pleased to report that through the month of December there were 525 unique clients who used the network, with an average of 40 clients per day.

Clients per day



Department Head Reports:

- ❖ Tax Collector – Tax rate has been set and the tax bills will be printed and sent out by Friday January 7th.
- ❖ Dean Memorial Airport – The fuel pump credit card reader is now operational. We will now retrieve all fuel keys, will transition to credit sales, and will raise the fuel price to \$5.95 per gallon. An automatic fuel shut-off button will be installed soon. The credit card reader only takes VISA and Mastercard currently.
- ❖ Highway Dept – The highway crew has been busy with recent snowfall and icy conditions. They were out most of the day on Christmas maintaining the roads.
- ❖ Maintenance Dept – The Town's Ice-Skating Rink has been put up and filled. The ice skating rink is in its new location behind the James R. Morrill building (Town Hall). Whenever the building is open, ice skaters are welcome to come in to warm up or use the bathrooms in Town Hall.
- ❖ Emergency Management – Working to assist with the Governor's 2nd Booster Blitz event here in Haverhill.
- ❖ Parks & Recreation Dept – The first HARP winter camp had to be cut short due to a camper coming down with COVID.
- ❖ Welfare Dept – Finalizing updates to the Welfare Guidelines, these will be presented to the Select Board for review and approval soon. Also, monitoring, tracking, and managing active cases.



- ❖ Public Health – Working toward disposal of contaminated soils and contaminated materials from of the house and camper at 42 Railroad Street when we are able to arrange for it to be dismantled. Working on a couple difference septic issues in Town and performed health inspections at local facilities.
- ❖ Town Fire Department – New gear has been ordered for the Haverhill Corner Fire Fighters to bring them into compliance.
- ❖ Police Department –
 - HPD organized a “Stuff a Cruiser” event in December that provided numerous toys for families throughout Haverhill for Christmas.
 - HPD helped TM Codling pick up a Christmas tree and deliver it to a household in need of a tree for Christmas, presents were also delivered.
 - Chief Appleby will be presenting tonight to the Haverhill School Board, information requested by SAU23, related to Public Safety Officer position in the Haverhill school system.

2022 Goals and Action Items:

1. Update strategy for working with Haverhill schools
2. Numerous grant writing support endeavors underway
3. Change of strategy on motor vehicle and criminal patrol
4. Addition of speed and DWI detail patrols
5. Addition of 2022 thanksgiving food collection
6. Addition of Part time Animal Control officer
7. Addition of two new officers

