

## **Town Manager's Report to the Select Board September 13, 2021**

### **Dean Memorial Airport Safety Study:**

There will be a public hearing on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm just before the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting. At the Public Hearing Dubois & King will present the final report for the Dean Memorial Airport runway safety study, the Select Board will take public comment, and decide on which option to pursue. After which, the process of producing a construction project will ensue.

### **Grafton County Broadband Committee:**

The Grafton County Broadband Committee has selected EX<sup>2</sup> to design and implement the “middle-mile” Grafton County broadband build-out project. The committee hosted two (2) informational sessions in coordination with Drummond and Woodsum Law offices on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. One of these sessions was held locally at the Clifford Memorial Building and was well attended by members of our neighboring communities. The Grafton County Broadband Committee has identified the following steps Town's should begin now:

1. Convene a local (recommended 5-member) Broadband Committee
2. Budget funds for use by the Broadband Committee
3. Create a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for Broadband
4. Appropriate via Warrant Article funds to be placed in the CRF
5. Acquire grant writing & grant management services
6. Begin planning for a local broadband “last-mile” build out
7. Start building relationships with local partners
8. Communicate – Communicate – Communicate!

### **Economic Revitalization Zones:**

There are two areas of Haverhill that have been designated as Economic Revitalization Zones (ERZ); they are the Village District of Woodsville and the Village District of North Haverhill. Businesses within a designated Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ), who made a capital investment into their business, which resulted in the creation of at least one new full-time job in the last twelve (12) months could qualify for a tax credit. The tax credit would reduce their business profits tax and business enterprise tax when filing their next tax return. For more information business owners in these two districts should visit the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs website.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Event:**

This year's waste collection event will be a Household Hazardous Waste Event. This event will take place on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm at the Center Haverhill Armory. This is not a free event, there is a significantly reduced cost to dispose of household hazardous waste such as motor oil and oil-based paints. There are strict COVID-19 protocols in place for this event so please visit the Town's website under Announcements for more details.

### **Public WiFi in Woodsville Project:**

The Haverhill Public Mesh Wi-Fi Network is now live. We currently have 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 looking for more hosts along Central Street to complete a contiguous network.

### **PRESS RESEASE:**

*The Town of Haverhill is pleased to announce the activation of the Town's first free public WiFi network. The network can currently be accessed along parts of Central Street in the Village of Woodsville.*

*The Town will be installing signs where the signal is the strongest.*

*Some of the best locations for accessing the network are around Railroad Park, near Mike's Garage, and in the vicinity of The Atlantic Real Estate Network and Welsh Reality Apartments.*

*Free public WiFi contributes to a better-connected society and has shown to enhance the stay of tourists and visitors, which will help to make visits to Haverhill more pleasant.*

*Offering free wireless connections help those with limited resources. WiFi is considered a tool for empowerment and social inclusion, as not everyone can afford to buy a computer or get an expensive phone contract with a data plan. Free public WiFi hotspots can provide access for people with limited resources to potentially life-changing information, including job opportunities, health advice, online courses, WiFi calling and more.*

*The Town of Haverhill is still looking for hosts along Central Street to complete the network, if you own a business in the Village of Woodsville and would like to learn more about becoming a host please contact either Andy Mosedale of Mosedale Integrated Solutions at [andy@moseis.com](mailto:andy@moseis.com) or Brigitte Codling, Town Manager at [townmanager@haverhill-nh.com](mailto:townmanager@haverhill-nh.com)*

### **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 responded on Monday June 28th. The Town requested that with the passing of SB26 that both parties agree to drop the case, the Woodsville District Commissioners declined. The court hearing for the original lawsuit scheduled to go to trial this month. However, due to the pending Declaratory Judgement motion made by the Woodsville Village District, the court hearing for the original lawsuit has now been "continued" or postponed until December 2021. All filings are public record.

### **American Rescue Plan Act – State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:**

Letters were sent to the Districts to formally let them know the Select Board reconsidered their previous vote and revoted not to distribute any of the Town's ARPA-SLFRF to the Districts. The letter also outlined available grant options for their water and wastewater projects.

### **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.

### **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. We await a response.

### **White Mountain Drive:**

The Town entered into an agreement with the Mountain Lakes District to widen and make other improvements to and along White Mountain Drive (Killer Hill). The purpose being to allow for year-round, two-way traffic on that hill. This will provide for better traffic flow around the lake and will allow for development along the roadway, which had been requested by a property owner who wanted to build. This work has been rescheduled and will take place the week of September 19th. It is expected that work to reconfigure the intersection of Lake Side Drive, Vernon Drive, and White Mountain Drive will take place September 21st and 22nd; during that time the intersection will be closed.

### **Open Public Discussion:**

The next open public discussion will take place on Saturday October 16, 2021 at 2:00pm at the Robert E Clifford Memorial Building 65 S Court St, Woodsville, NH 03785. Over 100 Haverhill residents attended the last Open Public Discussion and it proved to be a wonderful forum for residents to ask questions, offer comments, and discuss items of public interest with the Select Board, Town Administration, and their neighbors. This event will again be moderated by Doug Dutile and will follow the same format as the Open Public Discussion the Town hosted prior to the 2020 Town Meeting; once a subject arises it will be exhausted before we will move onto another subject.

### **Grant Writing & Grant Management Services:**

The Town put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for grant writing and grant management services that closed on Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> and we will be formalizing selection soon. Having a Grants Management firm contracted will assist us with planning, identifying, applying, and managing grant opportunities. With the highly anticipated influx of grant funding coming available through federal, state, and private entities the Town of Haverhill needs to be ready to take advantage of these programs and acquire as many grant dollars as possible.

## **Department Head Reports:**

- ❖ **Tax Collector** – Reviewing her list of 2018 outstanding taxes and making phone calls to property owners stressing that if they pay their outstanding taxes, they can avoid the issuance of a tax deed notice. She has had some positive results so far and will continue working on this list for the next couple of weeks.
- ❖ **Dean Memorial Airport** – The Airport Awareness Day has been scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, the updated CIP was reviewed and approved by NH BOA, the Safety Study has concluded, and a public hearing scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Highway Dept** – Preventative paving will take place this week, work along “Killer Hill” will take place the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>, and work on Allagash Road has been scheduled for the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, the crew continues grading, roadside mowing, ditching, and other related work. With the recent weather events there has been a lot of tree clearing from roadways and clean up of debris from roadways due to heavy rains.
- ❖ **Maintenance Dept** – Maintenance has been working on regular maintenance as well as special projects such as troubleshooting plumbing issues. Managing the work of hired contractors, repairs needed at the Sewer Pump Station, and assisting with the set up and break down for meetings and events.
- ❖ **Welfare Dept** – Working on updates to the Welfare Guidelines, monitoring, tracking, and managing active cases.
- ❖ **Emergency Management** – Sitting in on Emergency Operations Center (EOC) calls and keeping apprised of COVID-19 and weather-related events.
- ❖ **Public Health** – Still working on the vacated house in Woodsville, while addressing other concerns around Haverhill.
- ❖ **Parks & Recreation Dept** – Cornhole tournament will take place on Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Railroad Park for more information contact Mona Sanville. Wrapping up our Concerts in the Park series. Continuing with senior stretch, drums alive, and other regularly scheduled programming.
- ❖ **Town Fire Department** – Richard Morris has announced his retirement from the Haverhill Corner Fire Department and Keith Charpentier has been appointed as the Haverhill Corner Assistant Chief. In coordination with Chief Phillip Blanchard, Keith has started reassessing the Haverhill Corner fire service roster and will be soliciting to reappoint officer positions for the Haverhill Corner Station.
- ❖ **Police Department** –
  - Budget compilation underway
  - Participated in three 9/11 ceremonies on September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - CRASE course completed, second class set for September 23, 2021
  - Ground fighting mat received and ready to conduct training

- Minor remodel of the PD main entrance / waiting room underway
- Still awaiting electrical for the Temporary Hold Dog Trailer
- Administrative Assistant DeFosse completed evidence management training and preparing to test for certification
- Continued transfer of hard copy reports to digital format
- Clean up of record storage underway (Seeking mobile shredding service)
- New uniforms and gear nearing conclusion
- ACO training for Officer Brown scheduled in September
- Seeking new training opportunities for Cpl. DiDomenico
- Two new Detective-in-Training hires completed
- SOP re-writes continue
- Officer Mitchell signed up for two firearm classes better preparing him for firearm instruction
- Department ground fighting and de-escalation training set in lieu of Gracie GST
- Still seeking Officer candidates and Deputy ACO candidate

*September 11, 2001 (9/11) Tribute*  
By Chief David Appleby

*On September 11, 2001 (9/11), 19 suicide bombers linked with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two planes were flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. A third plane hit the Pentagon just outside of Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.*

*20 years ago, this was a blatant horrific act fundamentally answering the question of why we fight. What you can ask yourself today is why do I fight and what do I fight for. As Law Enforcement Officers we can make a meaningful impact in our communities and help improve their quality of life while earning a degree of pride for the career you have chosen and the job you do.*

*Honor never grows old, and honor rejoices the heart of age. It does so because honor is, finally, about defending those noble and worthy things that deserve defending, even if it comes at a high cost. In our time, that may mean social disapproval, public scorn, hardship, persecution, or as always, even death itself.*

*The question remains: What is worth defending? What is worth dying for? What is worth living for? ~ William J. Bennett - in a lecture to the United States Naval Academy November 24, 1997*

*Because you have chosen to be a first responder, a police officer and sheepdog, because of your want and capacity to protect and fight out of a deep love for your fellow citizens, your community and our way of life, you have chosen to walk the hero's path. With that decision comes the responsibility to be the role model for moral and ethical living, presenting the best qualities of what a partner, teammate, spouse and citizen has to offer.*

*Understand that there is nothing morally superior about being a sheepdog; it is what you choose to be, so be it, walk the walk in all aspects of your life, not just while in uniform.*

*America is not guaranteed to go on forever. Never forget how magnificent our country is because of the principals of our great nation, what we stand for and why we fight.*