

**For the Week of:
November 13, 2017**

**Manager’s Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

Everyone at the Town of Colchester sends best wishes to our community for a Thanksgiving Day full of gratitude, love, and the simple pleasures of being with friends and family. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Office of the Deputy Town Manager/CFO
Aaron Frank**

FY 18 Budget Update: Three months through the fiscal year, expenses are right on budget.

Local Option Tax Fund: As of September, after having made the FY 18 first quarter debt service payments, the balance of the Local option tax fund, which is restricted for voter approved capital projects, is \$2,140,165.

Capital Planning and Budgeting for FY 19-23: The Town of Colchester avoids debt and related interest payments for most of its capital needs. The Town saves up money in advance for these items much like someone who saves up for a new car, and thus avoids borrowing money and paying interest. This is accomplished through voter approved “pay as you go” capital plans for:

- Transportation
- Facilities, Equipment and Vehicles
- Park Capital
- Public Safety (including specialized equipment for Police, Rescue and Technical Rescue)
- Radio Communications (for Police, Public Works/Parks, Rescue and the Volunteer Fire Departments)
- Information Technology (Town-wide including telecom).

With voter approval, Selectboard support, and staff management, these plans operate efficiently. The lack of debt for the above contributes to the Town’s low debt service ratio of 5.3%. Recommendations for local government debt service are as follows: 20% is a concern, and 10% is considered acceptable. The debt service ratio is our general fund debt service (principal and interest payments) divided by own source revenue (not including payments from State or other governments).

Although the funding is approved for multiple years by the voters, the planned replacements and projects are reviewed annually by Town staff, and will be

considered by the Selectboard through a public hearing later this fall. Last year's plan is available here: <http://colchestervt.gov/documentcenter/view/2205>

**Office of the Town Clerk
Karen Richard**

- Taxes are due **November 15**. You can pay your taxes by check, cash, money order, escrow, auto-debit or credit card. If you pay by credit card there is a convenience fee of 2.6% that is paid to the credit card company and is not revenue to the Town. You can pay by credit card up until midnight on the 15th. Payments will also be accepted in the drop box until midnight on the 15th. Payments received after the 15th in the drop box are considered late and subject to penalty and interest.
- The Town Clerk's office accepts passport applications by appointment only. Appointments can be made for any day except Wednesday. For your convenience we also take passport photos.
- Recently we have added many years' worth of records to the online database. You can sit in the comfort of your home and access our deeds and maps back to 1978. This is a work in progress. We will continue to upload them to the online database as they become available.
- The Town Clerk land records and maps are available online at: <https://i2d.uslandrecords.com/VT/Colchester/D/Default.aspx>

For more about the Town Clerk's Office, <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Special Meeting: Town Department Budget Meetings: Thursday, November 16, 8:00 – 10:30 AM (Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor) This will be a work session with no actions taken.
- **Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, November 20, 7:15 PM (Bayside Activity Center)
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 PM
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, November 22, 8:00 AM (Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor)
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 PM

All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor unless otherwise noted.

Notices:

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

- The Town Offices will be **closed** on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Traffic Notice:

- **Updated schedule for Colchester’s Routes 7/2, 2A, 127 Intersection Improvement Project**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has revised its schedule to complete its project to improve safety at the intersections of Route 7/2, 2A and 127. After construction ceases in early December for the winter, roadway construction will not resume until mid-June 2018. VTrans has shifted the schedule to accommodate a request by the Town of Colchester and local businesses to postpone any substantial work that will cause impacts to traffic to mid-June when the local schools will be out of session and local businesses will be less impacted.

This year the pace of construction was slowed by incorrect mapping of underground utilities and more extensive soil contamination and blue clay soils that required deeper excavation. These conditions added weeks of delay to the project.

Also, VTrans expanded the original scope of work to include additional roadwork. Initial project plans limited Route 2/A and Route 127 paving to the immediate intersection areas where the roads connect with Route 7/2 and over the section of Route 2A where new drainage was put in, not the whole roadway. The project will now pave both roads to the junction of Routes 2A and 127, further east. A longer section of Route 7/2 north of Creek Farm Road will also be milled and repaved.

In the last weeks of this year’s construction, the contractor will:

- Pave all driveway entrances and roadway disturbed or excavated by construction
- Install a traffic signal at Bay Road
- Complete the final paving of Route 7/2 between Champlain Farms and the Irving Gas Station

The projected weather forecast for early next week is promising for the contractor to finish paving.

For more information on the project contact Jill Barrett at 802.272.1248.

 **Remember to follow us on Facebook (@TownColchesterVT)** to get the latest about what’s happening in your community!

 **Share your photos of Colchester with us on Instagram (@colchestervt)**

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

Notify Me: Subscribe to Town news that matters to you most. Visit www.colchestervt.gov and click on the Notify Me icon to sign up.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509