

For the Week of January 6th, 2025

## Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Martin Luther King Jr, Day of observance:** The Town Offices and Burnham Library will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



**Town Municipal Services Budget:** The proposed FY26 municipal services budget would result in a 4.86% municipal services tax rate increase, maintaining the current level of town services and addressing: 1) Additional resource needs in the Assessor's Office necessitated by the state's requirement to conduct a town-wide reappraisal, as well as achieving the Selectboard's goal to reduce costs associated with the mass reappraisal by transitioning to a rolling reappraisal moving forward; 2) Retention of volunteer firefighters by increasing stipends when responding to calls; 3) Recognition of DPW-Highway staff that have gained the skill and ability to operate heavy equipment, creating a growth opportunity within the department, and providing a benefit to the Town by having more than one person able to operate our large equipment when needs arise; 4) Community programming needs within Colchester Burnham Library by transitioning one 35-hour/week library employee to 40-hours/week.

Forty-two percent, or \$7,134,155 of the FY26 Municipal Services budget is dedicated to the Town's public safety services – Police, Fire, Rescue, Tech Rescue, and Public Safety Dispatch. This amount doesn't include the other municipal support services provided for public safety's equipment, vehicle/building maintenance, information technology, human resource, finance/payroll, and general management needs. With those costs included, the Public Safety Services would represent well over half of our municipal services budget.

For a property with an assessed value of \$300,000, the increase would be \$96, or \$1.84/week, compared with the current year.

<b><i>Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY 25)</i></b>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$64	\$96	\$128
Monthly	\$5.32	\$7.98	\$10.63
Weekly	\$1.23	\$1.84	\$2.45

The Colchester Selectboard will be holding a public hearing on the Municipal Services Budget at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Colchester Town Hall, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. For more info: <https://colchestervt.gov/349/Budget-Documents>

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### Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=PLANAGENDA>

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to [zmaia@colchestervt.gov](mailto:zmaia@colchestervt.gov) or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Agenda: [https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB\\_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C](https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C)

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

**Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. in the Champlain Room, Colchester Town Office. [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.htm#\\_CPA1](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.htm#_CPA1)

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