

For the Week of March 10th, 2025

Below is a letter from your Town Selectboard:

March 5, 2025

Dear Colchester Residents:

Your Colchester Selectboard would like to sincerely thank you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal Services Budget, and reauthorizing the current funding levels of the Information Technology Reserve Fund and the Communication Reserve Fund.

We, as your Selectboard, collaborated with Town staff to prepare a municipal services budget that maintained the current level of services, but also addressed: 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 our goal as your Selectboard to reduce costs associated with the mass reappraisal, by transitioning to a rolling reappraisal moving forward, which will be conducted by in-house staff; 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; and, 4) community programming needs within Colchester Burnham Library by transitioning one 35-hours/week library employee to 40-hours/week.

The five-year reauthorization of the Information Technology Reserve Fund and the Communication Reserve Fund will keep the Town services related radio, telephone, and information technology infrastructure up-to-date.

Even when attending to increased municipal service needs, we have and will continue to direct staff to make the most of the non-property tax revenues and prioritize fiscal sustainability for the years to come.

All the Town's work and its accomplishments would not be possible without the input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers and employees - so we truly appreciate all of you.

We send special thanks to the Town Clerk's Office and our volunteer election officials for running an efficient and open election process. The Selectboard is proud and grateful to serve this community, and we look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, public safety, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship, both now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Your Colchester Selectboard

Pam Loranger, Chair

Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair

Jacki Murphy, Clerk

Charlie Papillo, Member

Maureen P. Dakin, Member

Manager's Message: Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Your Town staff would like to thank everyone who attended and voted at the Annual Town Meeting and voted on Town elections and ballot items. It is great to see our residents participate in municipal government.

Thank you to the Colchester High School for hosting the Town Meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the Town Clerk's office, who as our election officials, start work on Election Day at 6:30 a.m. and stay until the votes are tabulated and preliminary results sent to the Secretary of State.

Thank you also to our Justices of the Peace, who are also election officials, and our residents who volunteered at the high school gym on Election Day. In addition, we thank all candidates who ran for office and would like to welcome Jacki Murphy, Paul Pecor, Charlotte Gardner, Scott Barrett, and Carol Anderson to their newly elected positions with the Town.

Health & Human Services Update:

The Town has compiled a list of local resources that can provide support with housing, food, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health, and overall wellbeing. In times of need, these organizations can offer a helping hand and are committed to seeing all Vermonters access the aid and stability they deserve. Learn more about these valuable resources here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/3287/Health-Human-Services>.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, March 11th, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd 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 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

Planning Commission: Tuesday, March 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=PLANAGENDA>

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

Development Review Board: Wednesday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd 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 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

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, March 20th 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, March 17th, at 6 p.m. in the Champlain Room, Colchester Town Office. https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.htm#_CPA1

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov