

For the Week of February 17, 2020

**Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Capital Plans for Technology and Communications:**

Colchester has six capital plans whereby voters approve funding for multiple years at a time. These plans allow the Town to budget for capital expenditures, to make sure that we are able to take care of public investments such as parks, buildings, equipment and vehicles, public safety equipment, information technology, and communications.

These plans allow us to line up future grants by showing we will have funds for the local match. For example, working with the State to obtain the \$100,000 grant for the replacement police boat took four years; a large transportation project such as the recently completed West Lakeshore Drive bike path, matched with over 80% federal funding, can take up to a decade. Knowing our local funding is budgeted over time provides a significant advantage in obtaining grants.

Since the plans span multiple years the funds remain available much as it would with a private company. The capital plans allow us to avoid borrowing and interest costs. Think of these plans like saving a little every year so you have the money to buy a new roof for your home when it wears out.

The plans also allow us to avoid tax spike (a big increase in a single year) – another way that large capital expenses can affect taxpayers if we don't plan and fund them over time.

Two of these voter approved capital plans expire in 2020; we're asking for voter authorization of the Technology and Communications capital plans for another five years. The Technology capital plan raises \$35,000 each year to pay for computer, network, and software replacements across Town departments. The Communications capital plan raises \$25,500 each year and pays for the Town-wide telephone and the central radio systems used by our fire, police, and rescue services. Both plans will continue at their current rates with no increases.

For more about the Town Manager's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

**Economic Development Department**

**Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

- Continue working with the Green Mountain Surgical Center
- Continued review and management of the new website

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

- Met with business looking to expand in Colchester; reviewed financing options as well as working with the Small Business Development Center
- Developing the 2019 Year in Review Video
- Continue work on the SSTA Board of Directors
- Working with stakeholders on possible opportunities at Fort Ethan Allen
- Brought together the Small Business Development Center and a company looking for business advocacy and instruction

For more visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/econdev> or call (802) 264-5508.

#### Department of Public Works Bryan Osborne, Director

- Continue to advance the design for the reconstruction of the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection project
- Public bid opening for the reconstruction of the Blakely Road/Laker Lane Intersection is scheduled for 2/21/20
- Applied for a grant to advance the design of a roundabout at the Bayside intersection. Announcement coming later in February
- Continue the design for stormwater improvements in Shore Acres and the surrounding area to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Continue on the development of a phosphorus control plan to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Continue to advance 30% engineering for the replacement of culverts beneath Lower Mt. View Drive

For more visit <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or call (802) 264-5620.

#### Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. Next Meeting: 3/3
- **Development Review Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 3/11
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00 am, Champlain Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Next meeting: 3/11
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 3/16
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 3/19
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 2/25

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

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

Upcoming events:

- **Annual Community Dinner** at Colchester High School cafeteria, Monday, March 2, 2020, 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Please bring a dessert to share.
- **Annual Town Meeting:** Monday, March 2, 2020 7:00 PM. *Sign-in begins at 6:30 PM.*

Notices:

- **Early/Absentee Voting** is now available at the Town Clerk's office and by mail. Visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/325/Elections> for information about voter registration and early/absentee voting.
- Due to work being done on the flooring at the Colchester Meeting House, **Colchester's regular Playgroup will be cancelled temporarily. Playgroup will not meet starting this Wednesday, February 5, until Wednesday, March 4.** We will resume our regular schedule of Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30am at the Colchester Meeting House on Wednesday, March 4. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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