
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

TO: SELECTBOARD
FROM: PETE WEBSTER
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
DATE: 1/22/2010

Here's a brief summary of the past couple weeks:

- We have had any number of Finance Committee meetings (including a rare Sunday meeting) the past two weeks to go over the proposed municipal budget. At their last meeting, the members of the NFC endorsed my budget which proposes a 7.62% spending cut. We also had a meeting of various parties Listers, Selectboard members, Finance Committee chair, myself, School Board chair and the Valley News staff to try and get accurate information out to the public concerning the budget process, emphasizing the reduced school and municipal budgets, in an attempt to counteract misinformation in a recent Jim Kenyon piece. I've attended the last two meetings of the Norwich School Board to follow their budget deliberations in this extremely difficult budget season, this in an effort to be able to help explain the impact of the statewide school funding formula. Last evening at the Marion Cross School I shared with the crowd present just what the impact of a falling CLA is, and how important every point increase in that ratio will be, justifying your Board's vote to appeal the 91.4 figure—each increase of one point in the CLA equates roughly to \$100,000 in Norwich tax dollars saved.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the GUVSWD, continuing their efforts to analyze the finances involved in the proposed landfill development. This is an ongoing process and you will be hearing more from Brion McMullan and Fred Moody as this due diligence process moves forward.
- I have ARC giving us their thoughts on the heating/cooling system here in Tracy Hall—specifically the controls that regulate the distribution of heat.
- We had a mediation session with Mascoma Bank involving their appeal of their 2008 assessment. Attorney Rob Gerety was the mediator, with the Listers and our Assessor also attending, including our attorney Charlie Merriman.
- We are approaching mediation in the Bragg Hill appeal—early next month we will be mediating this lawsuit, as we are finally through the deposition phase.

- We had another union negotiation session, and I was pleased that a couple members of the Selectboard were able to sit in on the discussions and give me valuable feedback. We have only one more session scheduled (February 2nd at 3:30 pm, here in the Conference Room).
- I attended the fifth session of Leadership Upper Valley, an all day session involving educational opportunities/issues here in the Upper Valley. I have found this course (9 full day sessions stretching over a 9 month period) helpful—each course explores a different issue that impacts our quality of life here in Norwich and the Upper Valley. I would recommend this for other people in a leadership role; as you probably know, both Doug Robinson and Cheryl Lindberg are also in this course, which currently involves a class of 22 people.

That's pretty much it for this period. I look forward to our meeting Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Pete