
TO: Selectboard
FROM: Rod Francis, Acting Town Manager
RE: Town Manager Report
DATE: August 4, 2022

Staffing/Recruitment

Police Chief: I have been working with Trevor Whipple and Jill Muhr from VLCT reviewing candidates for this position. There are currently two candidates invited to interview. It is expected that the interviews will take place during the week of August 15.

Police Officer III (2 positions): I have not received one application for these open positions from the Criminal Justice Council (Police Academy) website. I am reviewing applications received through the Indeed portal daily and have conducted some initial interviews. I continue to search for suitable candidates in the knowledge that candidates selected from this pool will require extensive training at the town's expense.

Planner: I have a second candidate interview scheduled.

DPW Equipment Operator: We have not had any recent applications for the three open positions.

Tracy Hall space needs update

Marcus Jones of living building LLC and Geoff Martin have conducted site visits at Tracy Hall and the DPW garage. They spent time talking with staff and collecting data for subsequent analysis. As expected, the condition of the building envelopes and other constraints limit the potential for reducing energy consumption. We expect the report with recommendations soon.

The space analysis RFQ deadline has been extended and I am soliciting responses from qualified firms. I expect to have a viable response by early September.

Moore Lane Bridge Release of Hazardous Materials

DPW Director Chris Kaufman and I met with DEC Spill Program staff to examine the current state of the emergency response and discuss the best approach to containing the spill in the short-term. Chris and I subsequently met with a bridge engineer from Stantec and staff from Murray and Masterson who analyzed the emulsion and water samples previously. We are now exploring the best approach to containment given the known constraints (stormwater passing through the structure, design features causing the emulsion to pool and then leak down the concrete etc.). The hope is that we can get something in place before the cooler weather when the material becomes less viscous and thus drips less. We will be prioritizing replacing the pavement over the bridge next spring to reduce the volume of stormwater passing through the bridge deck. This will in turn reduce the potential for contaminated water to enter the stream. We continue to actively work with a team assembled to address this issue while waiting for the enforcement letter from DEC.

Beaver Meadow Traffic Calming

In response to a repeated complaint about cars speeding on Beaver Meadow RD I have requested TRORC conduct traffic counts and collect vehicle speed data. The Beaver Meadow Sidewalk Scoping Study suggested the collection of such data in response to community feedback at the time. This action is a follow up to that study. The Police Department has regularly patrolled the road, but the recent reduction in staffing has reduced the frequency of the patrols.

In addition to this form of data collection I am requesting the board approve a purchase order for pole mounted radar speed signs like those already in use on Main Street, Beaver Meadow RD and Turnpike RD. These signs are claimed to be effective in adjusting driver behavior and can also continuously collect data in multiple modes, including when not displaying speed. The new signs would be solar powered, reducing the cost of operation (the existing three signs cost over \$5,000 per year for electricity). With the input of the DPW Director and TRORC transportation planner locations for the three post mounted radar signs will be identified. (See attached request for authorization).

Obtaining speed data will aid in making decisions about how best to approach bike-pedestrian accommodations in the context of the anticipated study. Researching appropriate sign packages reminding all users to share the road responsibly is expected to be the next step. I will be making suggestions in upcoming budget discussions concerning the need to fund traffic safety activities effectively.