



Town of Weathersfield

5259 US ROUTE 5 | P.O. BOX 550 | WEATHERSFIELD, VT 05030 | PHONE (802) 674-2626 | FAX (802) 674-2117

Brandon W. Gulnick
Town Manager

May 3, 2021

Weathersfield Select Board
5259 US Route 5
Ascutney, VT 05030

Re: May 2021 Town Manager Report

Dear Select Board Members & Weathersfield Residents:

The following will keep you up to date on various topics.

COVID-19 & Emergency Management

On April 12th we learned of a COVID-19 positive case at Martin Memorial Hall. All town employees were sent home to work remotely between April 13th & April 21st. During that time, the building received a deep cleaning from SERVPRO, all employees exposed to this official quarantined following contact tracing. All Town employees have been working back at Martin Memorial Hall since April 22nd. The building continues to be open to the public by appointment, phone, and email. Face masks are required when in the presence of others, sign-in sheets are fixed at each entrance door for contact tracing, and tape markings have been placed on the floor to demonstrate 6-FT spacings. If anyone has any questions regarding Weathersfield COVID-19 protocols, please do not hesitate to ask.

Tenney Tree Project

The final phase of the project includes the installation of the display board, signage on the front of the pavilion (which will be made from the remains of the memorial tree) displaying "Tenney Memorial Park," flower plantings on the inner ring around the tree stump, and 2 picnic tables. There is a back order on picnic tables. According to vendors there has been an increase in the sale of outdoor sheds, picnic tables, and other outdoor furnishings. Our vendor (the carriage shed) said we can expect to wait for up to 2 months for delivery. Pricing has similarly increased. The family has decided on 2 types of carvings for memorial plaques and Rockledge Farms will get started carving those next week if they have not already started. The State of Vermont is reviewing the language for the display board submitted from the Historical Society. See Attachment A.

Fire Department Contract Implementation

Due to the COVID exposure in the Office the scheduled Fire Department meetings were rescheduled by combining meeting #1 and meeting #2 together. On April 29th West Weathersfield Fire Department Chief Josh Dauphin, Treasurer Steve Hier, EAF Rosalie McNamara, and I held a meeting to discuss the transition of finance & the Fire Department Drive on the network. Our meeting will take place with the Ascutney Fire Department during the first week of May. All other meetings remain on schedule.

Solid Waste RFP

The Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District received proposals from Alva Waste and Casella Waste.

		Rockingham		Springfield		Weathersfield		Cavendish		Ludlow		District Total
		MSW*	C&D	MSW	C&D	MSW	C&D	MSW	C&D	MSW	C&D	
	Hauls	50	142	65	51	60	76	26	60	65	81	676
	Tons	403	409	676	205	632	249	313	227	577	454	4,145
Alva	Cost per Haul	\$205.00	\$205.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$232.00	\$232.00	\$235.00	\$235.00	
	Cost per Ton	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	
	Total per Town per Type	\$60,411.00	\$74,509.00	\$87,386.00	\$32,445.00	\$82,752.00	\$43,599.00	\$40,775.00	\$39,117.00	\$79,322.00	\$69,429.00	
	Total per Town	\$134,920.00		\$119,831.00		\$126,351.00		\$79,892.00		\$148,751.00		\$609,745.00
Casella	Cost per Haul	\$185.12	\$185.12	\$221.00	\$221.00	\$221.00	\$221.00	\$210.75	\$210.75	\$205.50	\$205.50	
	Cost per Ton	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	\$110.32	
	Total per Town per Type	\$60,060.00	\$71,407.92	\$88,941.32	\$33,886.60	\$82,982.24	\$44,265.68	\$40,009.66	\$37,687.64	\$77,012.14	\$66,730.78	
	Total per Town	\$131,467.92		\$122,827.92		\$127,247.92		\$77,697.30		\$143,742.92		\$602,983.98
Note:												
		YR 1	YR 2	YR 3								
	ALVA Waste annual escalator: 2.25%	#####	#####	#####								
	Casella Waste annual escalator 2.5%	#####	#####	#####								

The Executive Committee held a meeting on April 5th at 9am to review these proposals. After the meeting I was contacted by several of our surrounding communities. By reviewing the abovementioned bids, Alva Waste Services is the most financially beneficial option for Weathersfield and Springfield whereas Casella is the most financially beneficial for Ludlow and Rockingham. According to the Solid Waste District, there is no need for the entire district to select the same company for solid waste. Springfield has notified us that they will be moving forward with Alva Waste Services for Solid Waste. On May 13th the SWWCSWMD BOS will be holding a meeting to discuss.

Weathersfield, VT-131 Speed Limit

On February 17, 2021 we submitted a request to the State of Vermont AOT Traffic Operations requesting a review of the speed limit on VT-131 in the vicinity of Victory Drive and Lavigne Road. The 50MPH speed limit in front of Lavigne Road is not enough time to stop in the case there is a need to do so. There were 2 accidents in that area prior to submitting the letter. Following our letter Traffic Operations conducted an engineering study from the junction of Goulden Ridge Road (within the existing 40-mph zone at MP 7.67±) westerly to an area west of Victory Drive (within the existing 50-mph zone). The existing speed limit changes at MP 7.51±. A total of 3 separate speed studies were conducted. The 85th percentile speeds (the speed below which 85% of traffic measured was traveling) ranged from 49 to 53 mph. Traffic Operations recommended the existing 40/50-mph transition point be adjusted 0.27± miles westerly due to hidden drives and a combination of horizontal / vertical curves as approaching Lavigne Road and the current transition point. The recommendation was forwarded to the Vermont Traffic Committee who held a hearing on April 29th and approved the request. The signs will go up by the end of May.

Transfer Station Update

The Transfer Station Joint Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at 6pm. During this meeting we reviewed and discussed a draft Transfer Station Contract between Weathersfield, Reading, and West Windsor. We will be meeting again at the end of May to discuss any comments, concerns, or recommended changes to the Agreement. Following this meeting our administration will update the contract and submit it to the Weathersfield Selectboard for review (inviting Reading and West Windsor to attend).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

According to VLCT, the sum of the Metro City, Local Government/Non-Entitlement and County Government funds is \$197,569,237. The US Treasury has 60 days from the date of the President signing the bill to send local

aid dollars to states. Then the states have 30 days to disburse local aid dollars to cities, towns, and villages. That means local aid dollars will be in local coffers by June 9, 2021. The state may not direct local governments expenditure of the ARPA local direct aid dollars.

ARPA funds will come with significant restrictions regarding what projects are eligible to be funded, tracking and reporting requirements, and data monitoring, as well as training and general consultation requirements. HR – 1319 provides funding to a narrow set of circumstances which US Treasury will interpret - responding to workers performing essential work during the crisis, provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the state, territory, or tribal government due to the public health emergency, and making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

As we have seen with the CARES Act, Treasury guidance continues to evolve throughout the lifespan of the federal funding program. Nor is it easy to follow. The consequences for failing to comply with Treasury Guidance or constraints imposed by the legislation are significant as the federal government may claw back funding.

The first Weathersfield allocation, according to State Representative John Arrison, will be for \$274,329 and the second will be for \$537,574.

As additional guidance becomes available, we will update you via email/ in SB reports.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
 4/30/2021
4A3BEB6DB9B94C7...

Brandon Gulnick
Town Manager