

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: June 7, 2023

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- Pierson RFP – The closing date for developers to submit proposals for the Pierson school was Monday, June 5. I will give a fuller report at the Council meeting on the submissions and a process moving forward to review the proposals against the criteria and goals in the RFP.
- Pickle Ball – A probable cost estimate was developed to price out the necessary work to convert the basketball area at IRRRC to Pickleball. The plan remains to provide 3 courts which will also be lit. The cost of site work to reconfigure the basketball area and the impacts to the immediate parking lot are a little higher than the balance that was presented for Pickleball at the Council's workshop. As a result, additional funds will be needed from the \$45,000 the Council was holding back. The amount for Pickleball will be increased to \$146,000 which leaves a balance of \$35,822 to be appropriated.

2. RiverCOG Meeting:

The Council of Governments met on May 24, 2023. Highlights of the meeting of interest to Clinton included:

- Eversource Presentation – The President of Electric Operations for Eversource made a brief presentation regarding Eversource's electricity supply. The anticipated rates for the summer will be lower than the standard offer rates offered in the winter. The rate reduction for electricity supply is anticipated to have a 22% decrease or come in at nearly \$0.14 per kilowatt. As a point of reference, this still leaves the standard offer higher than the electricity bids the Town and BOE conducted. It was noted that electricity demand increases in the summer months so while the cost of electricity may drop, bills may not drop given increased demand.
- Regional Solid Waste Grant – As was reported previously, the COG submitted a grant request to DEEP for funding to help plan for a regional solid waste authority as a replacement for MIRA. DEEP has yet to issue an announcement on grant awards.
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – The CEDS developed for the region was submitted to the State for approval. The State has given its approval for the plan and authorized the plan's submission to the federal Economic Development Authority (EDA). The EDA would be the entity to approve the plan and ultimately approve the regional

as an economic development district which could be available for future federal funding for economic development activities.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Façade Improvement Program – The first STEAP grant funded façade improvement has been completed at 55 West Main Street. These local grants are funded 75% by the Town (with the State grant) and 25% by the local business. I am preparing the necessary documentation and financial reports for the State to drawdown the first reimbursement. A second approved project is underway at Clinton Glass.
- Fish Ladder Project – It appears as if the fish ladder project is coming closer into focus now. The dam will stay in place. However, the primary beneficiary of the dam is the Connecticut Water Company. As such we have asked them to take ownership of the dam when the project is completed. It appears as if that is going to happen. The Water Company has also been asked to make a capital contribution to the construction phase of the project which will work with awarded grant funds. The dam needs additional design and construction work to reinforce the structure. The details of this relationship are being ironed out now. An engineer has been picked and is due to start the design work for dam reinforcement and fish ladder installation. This part of the project will be funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as the project will result in opening up more upland spawning area for migratory fish (e.g., alewives).
- Union Contract Negotiations – The agenda includes potential action on some contract settlements. I will need time with the Council to discuss those agreements which have been reached thus far.
- Hiring – Hiring is underway to find a new department director for Human Services with the pending retirement of David Melillo. We are also trying to fill an IT Technician position which was also vacated by a retirement.