

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: January 6, 2021

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

1. Council Business:

- a) FY21-22 Budget: Staff level budget submittals were all due in December. With budgets in, the next step in the process will be review of budget requests and priorities as I craft a budget for the Council's consideration.
- b) Tax Collection: As I noted earlier, the Governor issued a new Executive Order which re-established the low interest rate collection program allowing any resident to be delinquent in payment of their taxes at an interest rate of 0.25% per month instead of the statutory rate of 1.5% per month. This takes us back to closely monitoring revenue collection as we were during the summer.
- c) Appointment to Connecticut Water Customer Advisory Council: Clinton has a vacancy on the Connecticut Water Company's Customer Advisory Council. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is January 6 at 6:00 p.m. and one of the topics of conversation will be the planned rate case filing that was included in this report last month. The membership requirements to be on the Customer Advisory Council are:
 - Appointed by the Town
 - A customer of Connecticut Water
 - Cannot be an employee of Connecticut Water

2. CCM:

CCM will hold its next Legislative Committee meeting on January 7, 2021. Before the General Assembly goes into session, these meetings are usually taking soundings from leadership of the House and Senate. The Governor's Budget is the most significant item to be watching early on as it will clearly have an impact on the local budget development process.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a) Budget Survey: The budget survey went "live" on Friday, December 11 and will be available into January. To encourage more participation, I have asked the Morgan School to life the requirement for a Google account. The Google account requirement was meant to insure that there was only one vote per use/home and create more integrity in the data. The Morgan School team will keep the non-Google account responses in a separate file to make sure we do not have over-representative responses that could skew the data. Again, the plan remains for

the Morgan School students to compile the survey results so a report can be presented at the same time as the Town Manager's Recommended Budget.

- b) 9 Town Transit: I participated in my first meeting as Clinton's appointee to the 9 Town Transit Board of Directors. The focus of the Board is on a merger of 9 Town Transit with Middletown Area Transit. As a part of the merger were a series of bus system improvements. However, the implementation of the plan relies on funding commitment from the State (federal dollars from the DOT and state funding). Securing those funding commitment will be key to the system improvements and operation of the new merged district. I have been asked to serve on the transit district's Legislative Committee and an alternate to the Finance Committee.

- c) CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Update: I reported several months ago on an initiative of DEEP to collect information on solid waste management in response to the decision to not fund improvements to the MIRA burn plant in Hartford. For several months, a number of working groups have been discussing different approaches to waste management including, extended producer responsibility (this underpins electronics recycling in the State), unit based pricing (pay-as-you-throw), food scraps/organics diversion and increased recycling. The coalition is reaching the end of its study phase and will be finalizing its report. A great deal of the implementation of any change to solid waste will require changes in State policy and State law.

At a minimum, we will continue to need to make investments into the transfer station. If nothing happens in the General Assembly, we will still need to keep it operating as is. If new items are made recyclable or other options are brought on-line, the need for the station will grow.