

**Town of Hartford  
Town Staff  
Significant Activity Report, August 30 – September 11, 2017**

**TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS**

Respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Town Manager returned to the office on Monday. As of tomorrow morning September 13<sup>th</sup> my appointment as Acting Town Manager ends.

I attended the contract signing for the Lower Sykes Sidewalk project.

The candidate for the IT Officer's position declined the position. We are continuing to explore options to fill the position.

On Friday, the auditing team from Mudgett, Jennett & Krough-Wisner, PC began the single audit process for fiscal year 2017. They plan to return on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The new Energy Coordinator began a busy week reviewing past Town solar projects in preparation for a Solar RFP that is schedule to be drafted for this Friday.

Departments still continue to hear from residents regarding road repairs from the July 1<sup>st</sup> storm. DPW continues to keep a running list of projects prioritized for completion by winter.

Listed below are those highlights from each Department Head's report:

**STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

The Assessor continues working on Homesteads Declarations and work on the Round-a-bout easements.

Chief Cooney, Captain Rowlee and Paul Saucier went to the E-One plant in Ocala, Florida for two days to inspect the new Engine. We expect to have the new Engine delivered on September 19<sup>th</sup>. There is more work to be done once it arrives before it is placed into service.

Scott Hausler and Allyn Ricker met with Ben Green from the Vermont Dam Safety Program to look at Wright's Dam and the controlled water release we are having. We discussed the check dam option for controlling the silt and discussed long term options that will need to be discussed in the near future. After our site meeting, Ben Green consulted with Todd Menees of the Rivers Program of the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding clearing the inlet and perhaps installing check dams upstream of the inlet. One of the key items considered "Next Steps" is that after 2-years time (from November 2015), the project should be constructed to maintain permit-ability, due to concerns for a new wetland equilibrium taking root in the former pond bed. To this end, it is recommended that we send the most recent plans/specs to Mike Adams to show forward progress and the Town's intent to rehabilitate the dam contingent on funding. I have put a call into Mike Adams of the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss forward progress. More details to follow.

Town Solar Projects - Developing an RFP for implementation of three solar projects for which the Town received Certificates of Public Good earlier this year – WABA, WRJ Wastewater facility, and Public Works building.

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Officer Keeling successfully completed the rigorous, two-week Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) classroom training program hosted by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. Practical/clinical training is scheduled for October.

The Water Dept began chasing a leak in the White River Water System in August. Thanks to some nighttime sleuthing, Jeremy Delisle was able to isolate the leak to a 12” water main fitting at the Wilder Treatment Plant at a depth of 12’. Due to the nature of the soil, the leak did not surface which added to the difficulty in locating this leak. The crew isolated the water line on Monday, Sept 11, 2017 and made the repair.

## **DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Assessor**

Posted for the new Assistant Assessor’s position, receiving and reviewing applications.

### **Finance**

Account Reconciliations

Audit Preparation

Encumbrance Review

### **Fire**

B shift and the Assistant Chief attended the Opioid Awareness Vigil at Lyman Point Park

C shift attended the Labor Day events at Lyman Point Park

All apparatus were updated with new Fire Department logo’s.

Four members attended three days of Paramedic refresher training in Lebanon.

A Shift participated in a “Touch-A Truck” during the Glory Days of Rail

A new dehumidifier was added to Station 2 in Quechee and is permanently plumbed to the outdoors.

The Fire Department responded to 92 calls in the past two weeks.

## **Information Technology**

NSTR

## **Parks and Recreation**

### **Program Highlights**

Youth soccer, NFL flag, field hockey and youth cheerleading continue. Weather has caused a few cancelations and shuffling for indoor space.

Glory Days of the Railroad was a great success. The event was September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10. We have not completed closeout of the event but feel good about the results. Attendance was steady and train ride sales were good. In addition to train rides we also had children's games, entertainment and food on site for the event. Additionally, we held a photo shoot Saturday evening.

Valley Quest Hike on Saturday at 4pm. Collaboration with Vital Communities. 45 min walk in the Hurricane Forest looking for clues to lead to a treasure box. All ages welcome.

Hunter Education Course begins on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at DBS and the Hartford Rod & Gun Club.

Pickleball continues at Maxfield on Tuesdays.

Wednesday Walkers will head to Prosper Trail on Mt. Tom.

Adult Golf Clinic, fall session begins at Fore U Golf Center on Wednesday.

Youth Karate fall session begins as well with Brett Mayfield instructing the course. Classes are held at the middle school.

Drop in youth in-line hockey at WABA the past two weeks. The program is for girls interested in skating and playing hockey using inline skates.

### **Parks/Facilities**

Arena contracts went out this past week for ice sales at the arena. Most of our primetime slots are filled.

Vermont Ventech cleaned the air handling ventilation at the WABA Arena. The cleaning of the duct work is the first time it was done since completion of the arena.

Brad Oaks from Vermont Commercial Refrigeration has been on site working on a few brine leaks. We plan to fire up the refrigeration system September 14<sup>th</sup> if all goes well and begin chilling the floor and begin building the base. Painting crews will be in on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

New England Collegiate Baseball Association is renting Maxfield Baseball field next Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for college level exhibition games.

Mowing has slowed down some allowing us to tackle a few projects in the parks.

Department submitted a letter to the Department of Corrections and all of Hartford's state reps in the House and Senate regarding continuation of the Offender Work Program. We are asking that they reinstate the program and operate it out of Springfield and Hartford Probation and Parole. A \$30,000 expense could escalate to over \$100,000 or even more if all locations were contracted out. Current evaluation identifies 390 work hours per-week maintain all the town properties spread out between 2 work crews. Averages out to be around 40 work hours per-week per-work crew.

Department will be conducting milfoil pulls at Deweys prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Further information to be distributed for volunteers opportunities to help.

Dylan Kreis has accepted the position of Superintendent of Parks & Facilities and will start September 11<sup>th</sup>. Corey Kenison accepted the position of Park Laborer and will start September 11<sup>th</sup> as well. We look forward to Dylan and Corey's addition to the Parks & Recreation Department.

### **Planning and Development**

Energy Coordinator – Geoff Martin started on September 5<sup>th</sup> as the Town's new Energy Coordinator. More information on his background is posted on the Town Website,

July 1 Flood Damage – Continuing to work with the state, UV Strong, and TRORC to assist property owners impacted by the flood.

Vermont Community Development Grant – Held final public hearing for closeout of Twin Pines Housing Trust/Housing Vermont Scattered Sites Housing Project, and working on closeout reports.

Quechee Pocket Park – The improvements now are very visible. Verifying compliance with federal Davis Bacon Wage requirements.

Lower Sykes Mt Ave Sidewalk Improvements – Utility relocation almost complete. Contract signing and construction initiating week of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Planning Commission (PC) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Applications – Completing Findings of Fact for applications going before the PC on September 25<sup>th</sup> and the ZBA on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Capital Improvement Program – Compiled projects for FY 2019-2024.

Sales Tax Reallocation Grant – Attended Governor Scott’s award ceremony for the Town’s receipt of \$305,642 for the Currier and Gates Streets infrastructure improvements project.

## **Police**

August 27<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers assisted paramedics from the Hartford Fire Department with a non-fatal overdose at a private residence on James Street. Patient was transported by ambulance to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for medical assistance.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers attended a community breakfast at the Comfort in on Holiday Drive.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a domestic assault at a private residence along the 200 Blk of Lyman Bacheller Road. A 55 year old woman was arrested and charged with domestic assault and released on bond pending trial.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – The Police Department assisted by community officials hosted an “Ice Cream Social” along Templeton Avenue. The event was attended by 15-20 neighborhood children and their parents.

August 29<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a single vehicle collision with a utility pole along Route 4 west of Murphy’s Road. Investigation and clean-up delayed traffic. The investigation continues...

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a complaint of shoplifting at the Co-op on Maple Street. A 55 year old woman was charged with theft and released pending trial

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to reports from the Barre Police Department of a man in-crisis traveling to the Quechee Gorge Bridge. The man was located, and with the assistance of Health Care & Rehabilitate Services (HCRS) staff transported to Mount Ascutney Hospital for further medical assistance.

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a behavioral emergency involving an adolescent male at a private residence on Sargent Street. Conflict mediated with mother and youth.

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Several members of the police department participated in the National Overdose Awareness Day Candlelight Vigil at Town Hall.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Patrol officers assisted Hartford High School Staff with event security at the first home football game of the 2017-18 school year.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a complaint of shoplifting at the Wilder Smart Shop on Hartford Avenue. Then investigation continues.

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Several members of the police department assisted the Rights & Democracy Group Labor Day Rally with traffic management and security for an impromptu visit by Senator Bernie Sanders.

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to a private residence along the 1700 Blk of Hartford Avenue for a report of a domestic altercation. A 24 year old woman was cited and released on unsecured bond pending trial.

September 5<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers worked with school staff and Fire Department personnel to complete emergency drills at several area schools.

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Patrol officers responded to reports of a loose dog on Horseshoe Avenue. The animal located and returned to its owner.

September 7<sup>th</sup> – The Police Chief & Sergeant Pedro participated in the regular meeting of the School District Safety Team.

September 7<sup>th</sup> – The Police Chief & Police Social Worker participated in the regular meeting of the Hartford Community Coalition Substance Abuse/Wellness Sub-committee.

September 8<sup>th</sup> – The Police Chief & Police Social Worker participated in the regular meeting of the Hartford Area Child Protection Team.

September 9<sup>th</sup> – The Police Department assisted with traffic management for a 5K Run fundraising event in support of Health Care & Rehabilitative Services (HCRS) in Wilder.

## **Public Works**

### **Solid Waste**

Education building at the Recycling Center: The roof has been replaced by Acker Contracting, LLC. The carpet has been replaced by Carpet King and Tile. Wanda and Bob moved in on Friday, September 8, 2017.



Education Building



Temporary Office



New Solid Waste offices are in the Education building (Wanda Stockman and Bob Vahey in photo)

### **Wastewater**

The new sump pump at the White River Headworks Building is now in operation.

The Wastewater Department has posted an opening as an Operator In Training.

### **Water**

Harcros Chemical is unable to make a delivery in and out of the Wilder Water Treatment Plant for Sodium Hypochlorite. They will request a withdrawal from the bid. This leaves Allen Engineering and Chemical as the only other bidder at \$1.345/gallon. The Town of Hartford has used Allen Engineering and Chemical for 30 plus years with excellent services. They are based out of Rutland with a satellite office located on the VA Cutoff Road in White River.

The Water Dept. continues to work on valve maintenance and valve locating with the GPS unit.

The Wilder Well was cleaned to enhance production.

### **Highway**

Pocket Park update: The construction of the wall is on going (see the attached photo taken 9/8/2017).

July 1, 2017 Flooding: The Highway Department continues to work on the numerous list of washouts that occurred on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The roadside mowing operations continue while the road repairs are underway.



9/8/17: Pocket park Project update photo.