TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

- Respectfully submitted for your consideration.

- The Town Staff attended Civilian Response to Active Shooter training presented by SGT Pedro from our own HPD. The training was well done and well received.

- The WABA staff is standing by to provide a walk through tour to members of the Selectboard that desire. We recommend a tour on either a Saturday or a Sunday so that you can see the full operations of the rink under daylight conditions. Let us know what works for you.

- The audit is progressing and nearing the final stages. We expect the report will be completed in time to ensure its inclusion in the Town Report. We have the firm tentatively scheduled to provide you an out brief at the January 30th Selectboard meeting.

- I have received a few open meeting law questions recently, thought they were pretty good, and wanted to share some of the responses with you for your awareness.

  o Committees/Commissions and Executive Session: We actually received conflicting legal opinions on this and were referred to the General Counsel in the Secretary of States’ Office. We have a call out, but nothing back yet. Remember there are few exceptions to the open meeting law that allow executive session. That is where the analysis should start, does the committee have the authority discussed in the exception. In the end, the committee should come to the Selectboard and gain their authorization to operate in executive session.

  o Use of recording devices in meetings: In our opinion, the rights conferred on the public (this includes the press/media) by the open meeting law include the right to tape or record a meeting. As such, the only limitation that is legally acceptable for any committee to impose on the press/media/individual recording is that the recording of a meeting cannot interfere with the meeting (e.g. the equipment must not be noisy, get in the way physically, require interruptions, etc.).
o Collaboration Sites: Legal noted that they are not aware of any instance where a quorum (majority) of members of a municipal board or committee can use an online organizing or editing platform without violating the open meeting law. As such, we strongly discourage such use. Of course, a few members (less than a quorum) may use such a platform/system without violating the law since the law only applied when there are a majority of members involved.

- Listed below are those highlights pulled from each Department Head’s report. Further under are the full highlights from each Department.

**STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

- Assessor Filed Grand List with Property Valuation and Review (PVR).

- FYE17 Audit Compilation:
  o Working with our audit firm to assist in providing any & all documents for them to review, complete, compile & prepare our financial statements:
  o Client Entries
  o Cleaning up historical items
  o Updating Fixed Asset Software with assets and correct depreciation method
  o OPEB Report – Other Post-Employment Benefits

- During calendar year 2017 the Fire Department responded to 1,983 calls for service. There were 1,927 in 2016. This continues the upward trend in service demand.

- Helped Dispatch try and identify cause for outage this week with server. Developed plan with Police/Fire/Dispatch on server migration.

- Members Advantage continues to be the sponsor of the Parks & Rec program guide and the Hartfordrec.com web page. Recently they contributed $4,300 for sponsorship of the guide, web page and several of our winter, spring and summer programs. They are great supporters of the Town of Hartford and its Parks & Recreation Department.

- Dothan Brook School started their enrichment program at the WABA. The program offers children the opportunity to go skating. This is similar to the skiing enrichment program at Quechee. The first few weeks had over 50 children at each skate. School staff provide learn to skate instruction along with games and activities during their visit. The program runs Thursdays from 1pm to 2pm at WABA and will continue into February.
- Since our last Significant Activity Report from Parks & Rec on December 19th, the Department has received 703 registrations for programs. This includes program registrations and all drop-in activities, generating over $11,000 in revenue. Of this revenue, 34% were collected through on-line registrations using credit cards, 15% were transactions in the office using a credit card, and 51% were in-office cash and check transactions.

- We received word through the State of Vermont that they will begin working on the renovation of the Welcome Center in preparation of its move into the center room of the facility. This new location will provide ease of access to the Amtrak Station which is part of the Welcome Center Staff responsibilities.

- We finalized the US Army Corps of Engineers permit application for Wrights Reservoir. Everett Hammond from the Public Works was helpful in reviewing and providing technical information required in the permit. The permit application was submitted on January 8th.

- Town Solar Projects – Construction underway for the DPW office building and WRJ Wastewater facility. The VT Public Utility Commission denied the contractor’s request for an extension of the installation deadline for the WABA building. Norwich Technologies is considering submitting an appeal of the denial.

- December 29th – Emergency Communications Specialists received a 911 call from a lost skier along one of the Quechee Lakes Cross Country Trails. In addition to dispatching first responders, communications staff assisted resort personnel in working to quickly locate the skier unharmed.

- January 9th – 10th – The Police Chief participated in Grant Partner Orientation for the recently awarded Abuse in Later Life Grant released by the Office of Violence Against Women in Washington, DC.

- On January 10, 2018 the Water Department located a 100+ gallon per minute water leak at the municipal pool. The line froze, broke and began leaking after the temperature warmed up. The line has been shut off.

- The Highway crew has been very busy plowing and salting from numerous snow and ice storms. A summary of these storms are as follows:
  o 12/18/2017: Dusting of snow
  o 12/22/2017: 6” to 8” of snow
  o 12/25/2017: 8” to 10” Christmas Day storm
  o 1/4/2018: 8” to 10” snow
  o 1/13/2018: Sleet and freezing rain
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Assessor:

- Completed processing Homestead Declarations for FY18.
- Reviewed and closed Grand List, except for pending appeals (4).
- Prepared and sent Income and Expense forms to all Commercial and Commercial Apartment parcels requesting information for the 2018 Grand List.
- Assisted Planning Department by doing Waiver Valuations for the sidewalk project on Sykes Mountain Avenue.
- Processed Property Tax Transfers (PTTR) received from Town Clerks office.
- Received and reviewed Equalization Study results from PVR.
- Continue to work with Vision Government Solutions Inc. (VGSI) on our software update.
- Prepared reports for the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) report.
- Prepared reports for the Town Report.

Finance:

- November/December Financial & Bank Reconciliations.
  - Monthly Financial Reconciliations ensure all material are posted in addition to ensuring all expenses & coded to the correct GL line. Revenues are also reviewed to ensure proper collection & coding. This information is also used to complete the cash flow forecast.
  - The Bank Reconciliations involve verifying our internal records balance to the bank’s records.

Fire:

- Overhead Door installed a new door opener on the Ambulance bay door after numerous recent failures. This replaces a 15+ year old opener.
- Conducted Fire Drills at the Hartford High School.
- Experienced a malfunction of one of the departments’ cardiac monitor/defibrillators. The manufacturer has taken the unit for repair and provided a loaner unit until returned.

- Fire Safety Talk done at Green Mountain Daycare.

- All apparatus was prepared for the storms, i.e. chains, fuel additive, etc.

- Conducted a Fire Drill at OQS.

- Conducted an Evacuation Drill at HHS.

- Assisted HPD with searching for a lost person in Quechee. The person was successfully located.

- Learned that the new Utility truck is expected to be here the second week of Jan. 2018.

- Covered Lebanon from our station during their annual awards ceremony.

- Sent Firefighting Con-Ed report to the VFA for annual recertification.

- Members worked on various accreditation revisions.

- Town diesel fuel was affected by the cold temperatures. Diesel additive has been provided for all vehicles.

- The department continues to make the transition from the 8th edition of accreditation to the 9th edition. Shifts have been given assignments and work continues towards our 2019 renewal.

- Responded to multiple water problems due to the cold temperature. In most cases failure of water lines was due to unheated space of the building. (White River Inn, Armed Forces Center, Railroad Row)

- In the application process for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). The department is requesting funding to replace our aging station vehicle exhaust system.

- Attended the Town Safety Meeting
- Staff reviewed changes to our Standard Operating Procedures at our January Officer’s meeting.

- The Red Cross has been preparing for cold weather emergencies and possible shelter requests. Our shelter is available and can be activated if needed.

- Dispatch has been experiencing shutdowns of the dispatching software. They are working with the vendor to correct the issue. This may be resolved by completing the migration to the new server.

- Thank you to Tony Gove and CURA Property Maintenance. They approached the department and offered to shovel hydrants for community service. They completed 130+ hydrants in a few days!

- Department responded to Jericho St. for a propane delivery truck rollover. The incident lasted approximately 7 hours as the propane was transferred out of the damaged vehicle to a recovery propane truck before it could be moved.

- Staff attended the Civilian Response to Active Shooter training at Town Hall.

- Attended a Weather Briefing with the National Weather Service and the State Emergency Operation Center regarding the rain storm.

- Attended Health Officer meeting with Fire and Police.

- Responded to evaluate flooding areas on Route 14 and in Quechee during the most recent rain storm.

- During this 4-week period the department responded to 153 calls for service.

**Information Technology:**

- Retrofitted & ordered new PC’s for PD to run new camera software (replacing old PC’s running XP and not viable with new software).

- Set-Up extra West Hartford Library PC as patron PC.

- Finished final walkthrough for copier replacement with National: met with each department and made sure we have every need met. Prepared copier fleet management proposal.
Parks and Recreation:

- Department continues to work on the programs and the publication of the Spring/Summer Program Guide.

- Adult noontime hockey continues on Friday’s at noontime. The program has on average a dozen participants.

- Adult Stick-n-Puck continues on Saturday evening 8:30pm to 10:00pm at WABA.

- Public Skating at WABA continues on Saturday, 4:15 to 5:30pm and Sunday, 4:15pm to 6:00pm. The program continues to be popular and we continue to rent quite a few skates to the general public, getting more patrons through the door that may have not attended if the skates were not available.

- The New Years’ Eve Public Skating at WABA had nearly 80 participants. Music was played and we gave out free refreshments and hot chocolate for the celebration.

- Several new programs started up the first week of January. Start Smart Basketball for children ages 3-5. We currently have 12 registered in the program. K-2 Basketball has 56 children registered. Toddler Open Gym is a new program that we offer on Sunday’s at Dothan Brook School Gym. The first session on January 7th had 30 children. Skiing lessons at Quechee Club also started the first week of January. 34 participants are enrolled.

- Youth basketball continues. The program runs six days each week with games and or practices. Town team basketball continues as well.

- Ultimate Frisbee started at Hartford High School. This new adult program had 17 participants. The drop in program runs on Sunday’s from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

- Adult 25+ basketball continues on Sunday’s at Dothan Brook School. The drop in program runs 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

- Learn to skate lessons continue at WABA. The current session has 49 participants enrolled.

- The Department is working on sponsorships and volunteers for the upcoming Ice Fishing Derby to be held at Dewey’s Pond January 27th. This year we have scheduled a time slot for a “Learn to Ice Fish” demonstration. Jay McDonough will instruct the program. This year’s youth derby is a free event for all youth anglers.
- Director attended the Northern New England Recreation and Parks Conference January 9th and 10th. The conference is held in North Conway, NH and attendees are Parks & Recreation Professionals from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. In addition, there are professionals from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut totaling close to 200 attendees. The Keynote speaker was Chad Pregracke. He was the 2013 CNN Hero and is known for his non-profit organization, Living Lands and Waters. He has spent years organizing volunteers and single handedly cleaning up the Mississippi river. His uplifting story identified how community leaders, such as Parks & Recreation Professional can really make a difference in communities. In addition, Director attended continuing educational workshops on Designing Sustainable Splashpads, Mastering Media Communication Techniques to Effectively Tell Your Story, Overcoming Rec-ism and Putting Your Park Data on the Map. Additionally, there were over 50 professional trade vendors on hand. As a certified professional in the parks and recreation field, there is a requirement to maintain two full educational credits every two years. The NNERPC allowed him to obtain .6 continuing educational credits.

- Over the holiday break we experienced a problem with the WABA tower fan and keeping the fan operational. The cold weather was helpful as the tower fan is not operating 100% of the time during cold spells. However, the tower fan has to function or the refrigeration system will go into an alarm. After troubleshooting we had to contact Vermont Commercial Refrigeration who services the unit. During the service call they were unable to identify a power issue and during a hard reset, the problem didn’t materialize. On January 1st the power issue resulted in an outage of the building which caused us to close the rink and cancel ice reservations. Vermont Commercial returned on the 2nd and identified that the Tower Fan Motor had malfunctioned. Ice reservations were canceled on January 2nd as well due to the fact we could not run the refrigeration unit. The motor was removed and taken to a motor shop for testing. It was determined a new motor was needed. The Department temporarily installed a 42 inch warehouse fan to move air through the tower fan coils and we were able to get the compressor running that evening. On January 4th the motor was installed and the unit is running properly now.

- The outdoor ice rink at Frost Park is open and looks great. The cold weather and late night ice making by volunteer Ben Danaher has made a huge impact on the Frost Park rink. A sign is posted for open skating and open play hockey times. Parking is available near the rink for all patrons to use. Predicted warmer weather may put a damper on the skating but the base is there and should recover with colder temperatures.
- The Department has been working with the Hartford Tree Warden on a RFP for the Tree Pruning and Tree Maintenance of town streetscape trees and trees on various municipal properties. The RFP will be circulated and is posted on the Town Web Page.

- The Department met with Nick Burnham and Bill Soule from the Department of Corrections to finalize town owned properties that the DOC will be able to manage this coming spring and summer. Budget estimates were updated and provides a considerable savings to the estimated contracted services line item. We expect DOC to continue to take care of town owned cemeteries and several of the town parks. The Department will finalize a contractual agreement within the next month.

- The Department, in collaboration with the High School Athletic Department, continues to work on the indoor sports field turf for WABA. While the purchase has been secured through the Athletic Department we will continue to work on this spring’s installation. The indoor turf will need to be installed and we are working to secure the expertise needed for the initial install and fitting to the WABA floor. The initial installation will be a rectangular shape. Additionally, use rules and the type of uses will be worked out through the Athletic Department. Without overhead netting, we will need to be careful on the rules of play and type of activities while we get started with the indoor feature. We are excited about this new opportunity and indoor feature as we continue to work toward year round access and use of the arena. Currently, we have several inquiries regarding private leagues and turf rentals between the time we close the rink and through the month of May.

- The Department continues to work with Jeff Moreno and the Field and Facility Use Committee. The Committee met on January 11th to continue its work.

- Department is working with UVAC on possible summer opportunities for resident swimming at that facility this summer.

Planning and Development:

- Currier Street Reconstruction – Reviewing engineering plans for remaining section of Currier Street. Boundary survey underway.

- Town Buildings Energy Improvements – Following-up on options with GMP and Efficiency Vermont on options for installation of heat pump and other energy saving measures at the Bugbee Building, Public Safety Building, Upper Valley Aquatic Center, and Town water and wastewater facilities.
- Weatherization Program – The Energy Commission and staff are developing a multi-year public education and outreach program on weatherizing homes, working closely with Efficiency VT, Vital Communities and local vendors. Wilder Village is the focus for this year.

- Comprehensive Energy Plan – Staff and the Energy Commission are identifying options for a public information and input process for the plan that will become the updated Energy chapter of the Town Municipal Master Plan.

- Handicapped Ramp on South Main Street – Fire Code compliance has been met. Property owner will remove the snow between the ramp and the light pole for this winter, and continue to work with the Town for a permanent solution for next winter.

- Downtown WRJ Parking Study Implementation – Inventoried parking signage in downtown, and working with DPW to obtain and install additional signage. Working with businesses and patrons to encourage voluntary compliance with parking in the designated limited time and all-day parking areas.

- Update of the Town Forest Land Management Plan – Worked with the Town Steering Committee and grant consultant to plan and publicize a January 23rd community meeting to gather input on issues and opportunities.

- Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustments Applications – Continued working with the High School and Middle School on proposed improvements to parking areas.

- VT Community Development Grant for Scattered Sites Housing Project – Working with the developer to complete final requisition and progress report to close out the grant.

- TIF Projects – Working with DPW to advance the engineering and implementation of the 2016 and 2017 approved infrastructure projects.

- TIF – Completing annual TIF report for submittal to the state.

- Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund – New contract approved and signed.

- Upper Sykes Mountain Ave and North Hartland Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Projects – Finalizing easement agreements with abutting property owners and state..
Police:

- December 18th – Patrol officers responded to reports of an altercation behind a business located along the 700BLK of Hartford Avenue. Persons were dispersing as police arrived, although all were identified and referred to appropriate officials for follow-up.

- December 19th – Patrol officers responded to a motor vehicle collision with injuries along the 100BLK of Truell Road. The investigation continues.

- December 19th – The Police Chief and Police Social Worker attended a regular meeting of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessnessness with representative of the Upper Valley Haven to present information about joint homeless outreach efforts.

- December 19th – Patrol officers responded to a domestic altercation at a private residence along the 2500BLK of Woodstock Road. Verbal dispute was mediated by patrol officers, parties separated.

- December 20th – Emergency communications specialists received a 911 text reporting a two car motor vehicle collision involving a vehicle on its side and submerged in water along Brownsville Road in Hartland. First responders were dispatched accordingly.

- December 20th – The Police Chief attended the Health Care & Rehabilitative Services of Southeastern Vermont Legislative Breakfast to meet with Windsor County Legislators on matters of mutual interest.

- December 20th – Emergency communications specialists received a 911 call reporting an overturned Propane Tanker entangled in power lines in Sharon. First responders were dispatched accordingly and Green Mountain Power notified. Incident operations took approximately five hours.

- December 22nd – Patrol officers were dispatched by communications specialists and responded to numerous weather related traffic accidents and hazards throughout town.

- December 23rd – Patrol officers responded to a domestic assault at a private residence on Brookmead Circle. A male at the home was arrested and charged accordingly.

- December 23rd – Patrol officers responded to a domestic altercation at a multi-unit dwelling along the 600BLK of Bugbee Street. Parties had separated prior to police arrival, not further assistance was needed.
- December 23rd – Patrol officers responded to a neighbor dispute along the unit block of Lexington Street. Patrol officers were able to de-escalate the dispute without further incident.

- December 23rd – Patrol officers responded to a burglary of a private residence along the 1500BLK of Willard Road. Unknown persons reportedly entered the home and removed holiday packages. The investigation continues.

- December 24th – Patrol officers responded to a disorderly passenger on a Greyhound Bus delayed while awaiting a driver at the Station Market. Passenger was de-escalated by patrol officers until bus could resume travel.

- December 25th – Patrol officers responded to a 911 Hang-up at a private residence along the 1200BLK of Quechee/West Hartford Road. Investigation found that a domestic assault had occurred prior to the call. A 33 year old Springfield, Vermont man was arrested and charged with domestic assault and transported to Southern State Correctional Facility where he was held pending a hearing.

- December 27th – Patrol officers responded to a property damage motor vehicle collision along North Hartland Road south of Sykes Mountain Avenue. Investigation completed, information exchanged.

- December 28th – Patrol officers responded with paramedics to a private residence along the unit block of Cross Street for medical emergency. The man was taken by Hartford Ambulance to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for additional medical assistance.

- December 29th – Sergeant Kelley hosted a local Girl Scout troop for a tour of the Public Safety Building and safety lesson afterwards.

- December 29th – Patrol officers assisted the Vermont State Police with traffic control at the scene of a motor vehicle collision with injuries after a Tractor & Trailer collided with a passenger car along I-89 North.

- December 31st – Sergeant Ebbighausen and Officer St. Peter participated in a “Sticker Shock” underage alcohol/tobacco sales awareness campaign at area convenience stores with young adults from the Junction Youth Center.

- December 31st – Patrol officers responded to the Quechee Gorge Bridge for reports of a man in crisis. Patrol officers communicated with family and assisted the man with transport to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for medical assistance.
- January 1st – Patrol officers responded to the Holiday Inn for a disorderly customer. Mediated by patrol officers.

- January 2nd – Patrol officers responded to a private residence along the 200BLK of VA Cutoff Road for a behavioral emergency involving a juvenile. Mediated by patrol officers.

- January 2nd – Patrol officers responded to the Super 8 Motel for reports of a man in crisis. The man was transported by Patrol Officers to the VA Hospital for additional assistance.

- January 4th – Patrol officers were dispatched by communications specialists and responded to numerous weather related traffic accidents and hazards throughout town.

- January 4th - Sergeant Pedro attended the regular meeting of the Hartford School District Safety Team.

- January 5th – Patrol officers located an elderly man injured and laying on the ground along Holiday Drive with injuries to his face. Paramedics from the Hartford Fire Department were summoned to the scene to treat and transport the man by ambulance to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for additional medical assistance.

- January 6th – Patrol officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a private residence along Spring Circle. Dispute mediated by patrol officers.

- January 8th -9th – Several police officers and communications specialists participated in the Department of Justice endorsed, Blue Courage Training.

- January 8th – The Police Chief and Police Social Worker met with the Fire Chief and Town Health Officer(s) on current health issues throughout Town.

- January 9th – Patrol officers responded to a multi-unit residence along the 2500BLK of Hartford Avenue for reports of a woman in crisis. The woman was transported by patrol officers to Dartmouth- Hitchcock Medical Center for additional medical assistance.

- January 9th – Patrol officers responded to a report of a theft from a business along the unit block of North Main Street. Unknown persons reportedly removed two paintings. The investigation continues.
- January 10th – Patrol officers responded to a motor vehicle collision with injuries along Dothan Road at the intersection with Sweetwater Lane. Investigation was completed and citations issued for motor vehicle violations.

- January 11th – Patrol officers responded to a business along the 300BLK of Sykes Mountain Avenue for a man in crisis. The man was taken by Hartford Ambulance to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for additional medical assistance.

- January 11th – Patrol officers responded to a domestic argument at the Shady Lawn Motel. Mediated by patrol officers. The parties were separated prior to police arrival, no further police assistance was required.

- January 12th – Patrol officers closed Old River Road approximately ¼ mile northwest of Upper River Road after finding that an ice jam and plugged culvert caused flooding to area.

- January 12th – Patrol officers assisted a motorist in the private parking area behind the Parker House/Simon Pearce after the vehicle became stuck on a large ice chunk that had washed into the parking lot overnight, Bob’s Towing was contacted and removed same.

- January 12th - The Police Social Worker attended the regular meeting of the Hartford Area Child Protection Team.

**Public Works:**

- Due to the recent retiring of Allyn Ricker; Jeremy Delisle of the Water Dept. was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works for Operations. Jeremy is responsible for overseeing the operation of the water, wastewater and highway departments.

- A Temporary Project Manager Position was advertised to assist the Public Works Department through April while we go through re-organization.

- The Public Works employees attended a session at the Municipal Building on Active Shooter Training.

- New poles for the solar panels were set at the White River Wastewater Plant. The concrete bunker roofs were braced up to handle the weight of the new solar panels.
- The Public Works re-organization has left a vacant position in the Water Department. This position was advertised recently with interviews scheduled the week of 1/15.

- A water leak occurred inside the old Bus Terminal on Jan 11, 2018. This line also froze, cracking the pipe and began leaking as the temperature warmed up.

- The Water Department has a small water leak on Campbell Street, uphill from the booster pump station. The crew continues to search for this leak which is only approximately 6 gallons per minute.

- Bids were received on January 11, 2018 for the engineering design and oversight of the new Well #1 in Wilder, VT. This was advertised in the paper and emailed out to 8 engineering firms on December 18, 2017. A majority of the engineering firms replied indicated that they would not be submitting a proposal. As this is a specialty project, only 1 proposal was received. This proposal was from Otter Creek Engineering out of Rutland, VT.

- The hydrants were shoveled out thanks to the help of the Fire Department, volunteers working for Tony Gove and the State of Vermont probation and parole. This was a great help as the Water Dept has been short staffed.

- The Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) exhaust was pulled out of Highway Truck H3 and sent to Clarks Truck Center to see if it could be cleaned. Clarks had success cleaning the filter which will be installed back on H3.

- A new 1 ton plow truck was delivered in late December, 2017.

- A new sidewalk rental arrived on Tuesday (1/9/2018). This machine will be rented for a period of 3 months while the highway crew fully tests its capabilities. This sidewalk plow, made by Wacker has many different attachments available, including a small loader bucket that can be mounted on the front of the machine. The cost of this machine is nearly half the cost of the existing sidewalk tractors. Should the Town decide to purchase this machine; the full amount of the rental will be applied to the purchase price.

- The Quechee Main Street culvert between The Village Green and Willard Road is in the design stage by Dufresne Group out of Springfield, VT.

- The Gates Street retaining wall from Maplewood Terrace to Fairview Terrace was closed on December 22, 2017 due to safety concerns and monitoring.
- The Highway Department had a highway/equipment maintenance employee quit in early January. The advertisement for this new position will be posted shortly.