

Significant Activity Report

April 6, 2021

FIRE

1. On April 1st the department honored and acknowledged the service of FF Wesley Black. Wesley has served the community over the last five years. He is retiring to be with family.
2. The department has accepted conditional offers of employment to two Fighter/EMT's. Kevin Montminy has been serving with the St. Johnsbury Fire Department and is looking for a new experience in Hartford with his family. Sean Spencer has been serving as a firefighter with the City of Bangor, ME for the last few years, Sean is looking forward to moving back to Vermont to be near family. Both start on April 12, with their previous experience we hope to have them online within a few weeks.
3. The department has completed two months of staffing Station #2 when shift levels are at five. We are already seeing dramatic decreases in response time when staffed. Currently reducing response time on average of 7 minutes.
4. The simulcast radio project continues with finalizing the service contract and the financing agreement.
5. Staff will be traveling to the NH Fire Academy next week to complete their annual live fire training exercises. We will be attending with Lebanon and Hanover Fire Department as they are our primary resources when building fires occur.
6. As the snow season ends and we transition to a greener landscape, we want to remind residents of the burn permit process. Please contact the department to obtain permission to burn (295-3232). Permits are issued daily and determined based on weather conditions. The department has already responded to "out of control" brush fire this season.
7. During this period the department has responded to 70 calls for service.

IT

- Deploy CSensor devices to protect town owned equipment accessing town network resources
- Setup IPads for Fire Dept., replacement iPad for DPW
- Set up new PC's for Parks and Rec, Finance, Fire Dept
- Network Switches upgrade kickoff call
- Helped launch HPD new website

Department of Planning and Development

- "Light First Fridays" – Preparations are in full swing with White River Indie Films (WRIF) for lighting up WRJ First Fridays of the month events beginning in May. In addition to free standing screens and projections on private property, pursuing a "Drive-In" movie location.

- Hartford Energy Commission E-Bike Project – The details for the Energy Commission’s Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) demonstration and loaner project for Hartford in April/May are being finalized. The project is in partnership with *Local Motion*, a non-profit organization that promotes the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation.
- Green-Up Day –Green-up Day is just around the corner on May 1st. Announcements go out next week to let people know how to sign-up on-line or via phone, and when trash bags will be available for pick-up outside Town Hall and Quechee Library. Dumpsters will be at Town Hall and Quechee Green a few days before and through the May 1st weekend. All COVID safety protocols are encouraged.
- Bugbee Senior Center Phase 2 Heat Pump Installation – The Request for proposals was issued on March 23rd. Bids are due on April 15th.
- Historic Preservation Demolition Standards – The Historic Preservation Commission, will be having a third workshop with the Planning Commission and Design Review on April 19th with staff and the consultant. A community meeting is tentatively planned for May.
- Selectboard Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness – The Planning Commission and staff met with two members of the Committee on March 29th to discuss a conceptual planned development and site plan to locate several “micro” housing structures on a single site.
- Climate Action Plan – The Climate Advisory Committee continued working with the consultant, volunteer members of the public and staff to gather and analyze information, and review draft goals, objectives, and actions.
- Development Proposals/Building Permit Applications – Construction season is in full swing and to-date, we have processed 49 zoning permit applications and a high volume of information requests. Continued review and preparation of Findings of Fact for application for public hearings with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustments.
- Cornerstone Community Center (CCC) VCDP Planning Grant Proposal – Worked with staff and CCC on resubmittal of a VCDP Planning Grant application related to the rehabilitation of the building locate at 14 Elks Street in Hartford Village.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

During this period, the police department participated in a virtual job fair at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City as part of its ongoing recruitment efforts.

The police department held oral board interviews for the position of Emergency Communication Specialist. One successful candidate was identified and will be moving to the background portion of the hiring process.

Oral board interviews were also held for the position of Police Officer Candidate. One successful candidate was identified and will also be moving to the background portion of the hiring process. The police department is launching an initiative to provide virtual mental health screenings with crisis workers for individuals experiencing a mental health issue, and for individuals wishing to seek help for addiction, to connect them with a recovery coach. The department has obtained the necessary equipment and is working on the protocols and agreements with our area service providers.

During this reporting period, the department handled 277 incidents. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 5

Assault – 2

Burglary – 1
Citizen Dispute – 5
Larceny – 1
Littering – 1
Motor Vehicle Disturbance – 4
Motor Vehicle Theft – 1
Fraud – 1
Death Investigation – 1
Disorderly Conduct – 2
DLS – 1
Drug Possession – 1
DUI – 1
Noise Disturbance – 2
Sex Offense – 1
Stolen Property – 1
Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 21
Traffic Accident – 8
Trespassing – 1
All other - 216

Assessor

- Attended "Current Use" webinars offered by PVR. Organized all files and maps for review.
- Processed homestead declarations (Starting February 12th, every Monday until November 1st)
- Processed Property Tax Transfers (weekly)
- Created Appeal Value Report
- NEMRC import from CAMA system
- Attended abatement hearing
- Continual data entry for 2021 Grand List
- Worked with District Adviser on understanding of both the 2021 subsidized housing valuation process and 2021 c valuations

Department of Public Works

- This week the Sykes Mountain Roundabout Project re-started!
- The Highway Team dedicated a significant amount of their time to mud season and routine spring road maintenance
- Our Wastewater Team worked closely with a contractor to replace valves in our pump station on Maple Street
- Our Water Team has completed our routine hydrant testing in Quechee
- Hannah worked closely with Tracy, Dan Fraser, Chiefs Cooney and Vail to iron out our summer on street dining plan

Town Clerk

1. The Board of Abatement held Hearings from 10 applicants on March 29th. The Board will be deliberating in April and Decisions will be rendered at that time.
2. The Clerk's office has started to receive some of the approved Liquor Licenses from the VT Department of Liquor Control. We are preparing the licenses for distribution and will contact the liquor license holders when their licenses are available.
3. We have had an influx of dog licenses in the past two weeks; we are nearing 350 processed. Unfortunately, this number represents less than half the normal total of Hartford licensed dogs. The State deadline is April 1st to license any dog six months of age or older. For the health and safety of the dogs and the community, we ask all dog owners to license their dogs.
4. We continue to receive a high volume of recording due to real estate transfers; mortgages/refinances; etc.
5. The Clerk attended a Webinar (Establishing Inclusion as a Value) on March 31st through IMCA (first in a three-part series on Equity and Inclusion).

Parks and Recreation

- The Department has been busy coordinated several community activities for the weekend of April 3rd. Spring Egg Scramble which required a pre-registration and Eggs in the Parks, a fun activity for the family. Additionally the Jelly Bean Contest continues to get submissions.
- Baseball and Softball Registrations continue for T-ball through Majors. Registration Deadline is April 9th for Majors and Minors and April 16th for Rookies and T-Ball. Equipment and supplies are being ordered.
- We continue to register participants for Hartford Youth Lacrosse.
- Vermont E-Sports League is a virtual program we are pushing out through the community.
- The new Parks & Recreation Program Guide was distributed through the schools.
- Office continues to receive multiple reservation requests for park usage.
- Department is working with the WRIF White River Indie Films for use of the projection system and screen for First Friday's and a event in Lyman Point Park this May.
- Camp Ventures Summer Camp registrations continue and sessions are filling up fast.
- We have received several calls regarding patrons not following the rules for dogs on a leash and have pushed out educational information regarding the park rules which includes cleaning up after your pet in public parks.
- The arena season is complete and the facility is ready for High School Spring Sports
- Park crew members are working to open up the park gates. Most parks will be open for use by April 3rd. Many playing surfaces are still to wet for play.
- RFP's are under review for Tree Care and we are executing several tree projects in Cemeteries.