

Town Manager's Report

Yet another year has passed as we all slowly return to some sort of normalcy. One year ago when writing this report, we were a bit over a year deep into the pandemic, vaccines were just released and the hope was that by now Coronavirus would just be a word for the history books...it didn't really work out that way and with the continued spread of various strains of the virus it is difficult to know if the threat of COVID-19 will ever go away. I sincerely hope that the residents of Levant and of all of their family and friends are able to enjoy their lives and stay as safe as possible in the process.

In reviewing the upcoming proposed budget, it appears the mil rate will remain flat again this year. The Town of Levant did receive federal funding as a result of the pandemic and the hope is to use this money to purchase items for the Town that would otherwise be incorporated in the Town's operational budget. This will also hopefully help in keeping the assessment level for at least the next few years.

The Town continues to grow in terms of building with a much higher focus in rental properties. One doesn't have to drive around too much to notice newly created housing subdivisions and apartment buildings. While this growth is significant, I do believe it has been well managed by the Town's governing bodies and has really been a positive thing for the Town.

The Town of Levant wishes to welcome a long time Levant resident, Tim Robinson, to the Town's public works department. Tim comes to us after a full military career and with a vast amount of knowledge in the use and upkeep of the Town owned equipment. There is never a shortage of work to be done around the Town so I am sure you will all cross paths with Tim at some point- we are fortunate to have found him.

The Town of Levant also wishes to welcome James Cote as the new recreation director. James is no stranger to anyone that lives in Town. James has been a substitute teacher in our school system for quite some time and has been involved with our rec program for well over a decade. I welcome his enthusiasm and knowledge in making our programs and experiences for our residents as positive and memorable as possible.

Eric Strout continues to serve as the chief of our fire department. While our department faces many of the same issues that sometimes cripple other departments, Chief Strout has managed to keep our membership at a very healthy level (which is fortunate given that call volume also continues to increase), our equipment in good working order and has provided for a high level of overall public safety. Of course, in addition to Chief Strout's time and efforts I also need to thank our entire membership for their hours and hours of dedication as without the members of our department...

Finally, for the glue that seems to hold the entire operation of the Town together is both Suzanne and Melanie at the Town Office. The Town Office is not only the hub for the various Town departments to get what they need in their daily operations, but is also the face of the Town in assisting our residents. The two have years of experience (Suzanne passed her 25th anniversary at the Town Office last year) and as many of you know are very good at what they do. They say that you never know what you have until it is gone- I never want to find that out what the saying means when it comes to the Town Office staff-I am very appreciative and fortunate to work with them.

A final, but no less sincere thank you to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board members who assist in navigating the direction of the Town of Levant as we continue our growth and face new challenges on a daily basis.

Here is hoping for another great year for the Town of Levant and all of its residents.

Sincerely,

Scott Pullen

Town Manager