

Significant Activity Report

December 27, 2022

Assessor

- Participated in continuing education including Microsoft Power BI and Grand list enhancements.
- Answered questions from a Vermont state auditor concerning high value properties and appeals.
- Standard office activity including property transfers and permits.
- Analyzed new exemption applications.

Assistant Assessor

- Tuesday, December 13th , took “Introduction to POWER BI” class
- Participated in webinar sessions regarding future required enhancements to Grand List and CAMA for 2023 Grand List required by State of VT
- Responded to Vermont State Auditor's Office questions regarding valuation of Commercial property with assessed values greater than \$5 million : valuation methodology; Grievance process; State and Court Appeals process; valuation of convenience stores; potential instances property owners made out-of-the-ordinary attempts to influence the initial assessed value.
- Regular office activity included processing property transfers and permits , helping public with property records and requests, explaining changes, reviewing tax map changes, etc.

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

-After working with the UNH Carbon Clinic this semester on tracking Hartford's greenhouse gas emission and creating a data visualization program the students that worked with Hartford visited the Town to see the facilities they have been analyzing data on and the Quechee Gorge. They presented there finding to the Hartford Energy Commission on 12/15 and answered questions.

-There were some questions from the Select Board about a UNH slide that had T&D losses listed on a slide. That slide was mislabeled, those emissions from the waste water plants are actually green house gas emissions from processing the water. This does not include the electricity used to process the water, but the emissions that comes from breaking down the waste in the effluent. T&D losses are transmission and distribution losses of electricity, it is what is lost as electricity travels on the grid.

- There was a question at the 12/13 Select Board meeting about adding solar to the ice arena, using what WABA needs, and just letting the rest run to the grid without expecting compensation. The Public Utility Commission's [5.100 Regulations on net metered solar](#) was reviewed and regulation 5.104 A (page 4) states *“The electric company which serves the customer or group shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during a billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.”*. So we can not deduct what is used from a net metered system from what is counted towards the 500 kWh cap. The only option if we installed more solar would be to have it

“behind the meter” meaning any electricity not used immediately would need to be stored on site and not have a pathway to the grid.

- The Hartford Energy Commission has decided to draft a letter in support of the Wilder One Solar project on Route 14. Although we as a Town have limited influence on this project, HEC is suggesting that the land used for the solar field serve other functions as well, possibly as a pollinator habitat or something else that could co-exist with the solar panels.

Department of Public Works

Highway

Since the morning of Friday December 16th, we received anywhere between 18 and 24 inches of heavy wet snow. All Highway staff, several from the Water Department, Wastewater Department, the Solid Waste attendant assisted clearing and cutting trees along all Town roads. Highway office staff came in and assisted with communications and clearing roads. Most of highway staff worked anywhere between 30-50 hours of overtime and was in communications with GMP 24/7 coordinating areas with them. Highway also picked up snow in our down town location.

Water

The Water Department assisted the Highway Department with snow plowing during the storm, as well as responding to lost communications at the treatment plant due to power outages and kept in contact with GMP with status of power outages. The Water Department also responded to and fixed a leak at the intersection of Hazen Street and Barnes Avenue. During this major storm event the Water Department also needed to transport portable generators to numerous pump stations to quickly restore water to those locations.

Wastewater

During the snowstorm staff at both facilities cleared the pump stations and treatment facilities of snow. Nine of the eleven Quechee pump stations lost power, three were powered by generators and the remaining six were powered by a portable generator on a rotating basis long enough to pump sewage down and perform checks. Staff at both facilities made multiple trips to DPW for fuel to keep the generators running throughout the storm, while snow removal continued and lab tasks were completed. The White River WWTF also experienced tripped circuit breakers.

Two of the White River WWTF staff assisted the highway department in plowing and clearing trees for the highway department.

The Department of Public Works would like to thank all departments including Police, Fire, and especially Green Mountain Power for their assistance.