

Significant Activity Report

February 8, 2022

Town Clerk

1. The Clerk's Office is in pre-election mode:
 - At COB on Feb. 1st, we had nearly 700 requests for Early/Absentee Ballots
 - Ballots should be in our office from the printer on February 9th.
 - The Town & School Meeting is holding a meeting Monday, February 7th at 5pm in RM 312 at Town Hall to discuss/plan their role during the Town Meeting Cycle of Events.
 - The Clerk is setting up the schedule for the BCA & Assistant Election officials for Voting Day, March 1st
2. The first of the Liquor License Renewals received by our office been submitted to the Local Liquor Control Board. We have more in the pipeline at HPD & HFD. We set a deadline for businesses to submit their applications to the Clerk's Office by February 4th. As of February 1st, 24 applicants have not yet submitted their liquor license renewals to the Clerk's Office.
3. Dog license renewals are beginning to trickle in. We will send out postcards and have the info. posted to Listserv and social media to ramp of licensing in the coming weeks. The statutory deadline to annually license all dogs 6 months or older is April 1st. The fee is \$9, if dog is spayed/neutered; \$13, if not. A late fee will be assessed after April 1st.
4. The BCA is finalizing its recommendations regarding Legislative Apportionment/Re-Districting to the House Government Operations Committee; the deadline for final submissions is February 15th.
5. We continue to process recording; assist researchers within the office, and serve members of the public with a variety of tasks and information.

Department of Public Works

1. Due to staffing shortages, winter events have been an all hands on deck response. A huge thank you to ALL members of the DPW team as winter picks up the pace.
2. Our Quechee Wastewater Division is experiencing hardware and software failures in our SCADA system. We are working closely with Dillon, our team there, and our sole source contractor to develop a timely, cost effective solution. This is not currently affecting normal operations.
3. We are experiencing a failure of one of the pumps at our Maple Street wastewater pump station. We are awaiting a quote for replacement of that pump and evaluating replacement vs. repair options.
4. DPW staff has been working closely with the team at Aldrich and Elliot as we near the bid opening for the South Main Street Phase II Project. Tracy and Hannah have been

chatting regularly to make communications plans and prepare for interruptions in our downtown.

5. United Construction has mobilized on site to begin clean up of the C&D pile.

Parks & Rec Program and Park Highlights

- The Department is busy marketing several up and coming activities and events. Marketing completed for Comics Class, re-marketing for the upcoming Youth Ice Fishing Derby on Facebook page, UV Events page, VNews Events page. We have upcoming programs ready to push out. SOLID Speed and Agility, Boys Lacrosse Camp and a Card Making Workshop.
- We began advertising for the Administrative Assistant P/T Position. The current full-time position held by Karen McNall will be changed into a cooperative shared position. Due to an upcoming retirement, the position will be shared offering 24 hours per-week for two individuals. This change allows for 8 additional hours or service and reduces expenses.
- The Departments Annual Ice Fishing Derby sponsored in part by Mascoma Bank, 802 Credit Union, Claremont Savings Bank, White River Chevy, Steves Bait Shop and Bloods Catering & Party Rentals is Saturday, February 5th. Currently we have 40 signed up for contest and 30 individuals signed up for the fishing clinic.
- The National Recreation and Park Association's Commission on Accreditation has implemented a new format for accredited agencies for filing annual reports. The Department is busy working to comply with the new report format which wants agencies to provide evidence-based materials that outline 5 different national standards. Agencies are required to show that the standards are being fulfilled. Although the report is not due until the end of May, it requires a tremendous amount of time and effort to address each standard.
- The State of Vermont – VTrans Historic Preservation Officer, Judith Ehrlich was contacted about the historic weathervane that was taken over 45 years ago from the WRJ Railroad Station. They appear to be interested in the Loss Art Register and the listing of the weathervane on the Sothbys Auction. We believe we have made the best available connection regarding interest to retrieve the weathervane and hopeful VTrans will be able to identify and address if the weathervane can be acquired and returned.
- DPW staff have been extremely helpful over the past couple weeks with snow removal at WABA. The roof sheds a tremendous amount of snow off the north side of the building and requires a front-end loader to remove it. Additionally, DPW was able to remove a tremendous amount of ice build up caused by the dumping of resurfacing ice from the Zamboni.
- The extremely cold temperatures have caused a few hiccups with the refrigeration system at WABA. With cold temps the chiller cubes do not run, which is good for

costs, but not so good for when the system has to restart. Introducing negative degree glycol into the cubes has caused a sensor alarm to trigger and shut the units down. This causes us multiple manual restarts. At this time, there isn't much we can do as the season continues to have longer periods of extremely cold temperatures that causes this issue. Increasing heat and weatherization improvements to the chiller room will be one solution we plan to implement after the season.

Assessor

- Processed Current Use withdrawals
- Reviewed Veteran exemptions
- Processed property transfers
- Began qualifying sales for the 2023 equalization study
- Reviewed high value property value changes for the 2022 Grand list
- Started entering property changes for 2022 Grand list

Fire Department

Incident Log:

Calls for Service 01/20/22-02/04/22	122		
Incident Type Categories			
Fires	5		
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion	0		
Rescue/Medical	78		
Hazardous Conditions	3		
Service Calls	14		
Good Intent	8		
False Alarm	14		
Weather Emergency	0		
Special Incident/Other	0		

Incidents this month include three mutual aid building fires in Sharon, Windsor and Hartland .

With the recent snow we ask that residents “adopt a fire hydrant” crews will be out shoveling this week. Your assistance is appreciated and helps keep our community protected in an emergency.

A few Winter safety tips:

- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Department held officer oral boards in our ongoing recruitment efforts. Two candidates were successful in moving onto the next phase of the process.

Detectives wrapped up a month’s long investigation into the sexual assault of two minors, arresting a 30-year-old male from Hartford. The individual remains held without bail.

Officers investigated a theft of a motor vehicle from Squechee Clean. The vehicle was subsequently recovered at a later date in Taftsville. A suspect has been identified and the investigation is continuing.

During this reporting period the department handled 330 incidents with 16 arrests. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 9
Arrest on Warrant – 11
Assaults - 10
Citizen Dispute – 3
Disorderly Conduct – 2
DLS - 1
Drug Possession – 2
Fraud – 1
Juvenile Problem – 5
MV Disturbance – 16
MV Theft - 1
Noise Disturbance – 1
Parking Problem – 2
Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 27
Traffic Accident – 9
Vandalism – 1

All other – 229

