



THE TOWN OF WELLS

December 18, 2020 Edition

TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

- Thank you to our DPW crew for keeping our roads cleared during yesterday's storm. I know that it was a long day that started early and ended late, thank you for what you do!
- Thank you to our public safety team that shows up and keeps us safe even when it's a snow day for most of the town. Your commitment to our community is seen and appreciated, thank you.
- Christmas is next week and though I would like this message to be all joy I want to take a moment to ask everyone to be thoughtful about how they celebrate over the next two weeks. Just as predicted, our hospitals and, of greater concern, our ICUs are filling up with people struggling with COVID-19. The Thanksgiving surge has come and as of yesterday, 191 of our fellow Mainers are currently in the hospital, 46 of these people are in critical care. Yesterday alone over 3,000 of our fellow Americans died from COVID-19 complications. So far, we have been fortunate that COVID has not hit our staff in a serious manner. This is a testament to our staff and the care you have taken to protect yourself and others. If you are heading out of state for the holidays, please check in with your supervisor about the protocol for returning to work. You will need to remain out for five days following your return and only come in to work following a negative COVID-19 test result after the five days has passed. The health and safety of our staff and residents is of top priority. Thank you all for doing your part to keep each other safe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/21/2020

Planning Board Meeting @ 7pm

12/24/2020

Christmas Eve Holiday

12/25/2020

Christmas Day Holiday

12/31/2020

New Years Eve Holiday

1/1/2021

New Years Day Holiday

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Code Office is now working within an A & B Team approach. With some Staff working in off site locations it will help prevent a need for a shutdown in the Code Office in the event one of us should become ill. Currently this approach has not impacted any services the Code Office provides. While this is a necessary precaution it does have some challenges. We will continue to adjust our procedures and protocols as things change and we hope you will adjust with us.

FINANCE / TAX COLLECTION UPDATE

Department staff is currently split into two teams. Both teams are adjusting well and the office continues to run smoothly. Vehicle excise collections through the end of November are at a collection rate of 53.3% which is 11.3% higher than expected for the month end. Tax collections on December 7th for the FY 21 bill finished at 47.3% collected on the last day to pay before interest started on the first installment. This was just 1.04% down from last year at the 45 day mark.

The department is currently working with the Town's Wellness Committee to give a family that they adopted through the Outreach Committee a little cheer for Christmas. The Finance Department originally adopted the family for Thanksgiving and gladly agreed to adopt them for Christmas. Through donations from many Town departments the family will have gifts under their tree and Christmas dinner to enjoy. Some department staff spent their snow day this week busy wrapping gifts to prepare for delivery to the family early next week.

ASSESSING OFFICE UPDATE

Our Assessing Office is doing a split team approach. We have people in the office 5 days a week as well as working from home. This approach ensures complete staffing of the assessing office.

We have also been getting back some tax bills and trying our best to redirect them to the newest address we can locate. If you have moved or changed your mailing address for any reason please call our office at 207-646-6081 so we can make the changes.