



February 19, 2021 Edition

TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

- Budget season kicked off this week with a presentation to the Select Board on Tuesday and the first meeting of the Budget Review Committee on Wednesday. All the materials presented are available on our [website's budget hub](#). You can follow the Budget Review Committee discussion through live streams on our [Town of Wells Facebook page](#). If you are not on Facebook, the Committee meets every Wednesday at 5:30 pm via Zoom and attendees, register [here](#), will be able to watch the meeting live.
- The Town of Wells received notice this week that we were awarded \$125,000 in grant money to use for repairs of the culvert on Bragdon Rd. This is from a Maine DEP program and our application, submitted by Carol Murray and Paula Green of DPW, earned us the highest possible award. Repairs to this culvert will begin following the completion of work on Swamp John Rd this spring and summer.
- The winter weather shows no signs of stopping! I receive phone calls and email after each storm about mailboxes that have been brought down by a plow. Please know that our plow drivers are not trying to take down mailboxes and that they do try to avoid them. Snowplows push snow out of the road and into the right of way. Many mailboxes are in the right of way and in the path of the snow. If your box has come down, please consider repositioning it outside of the right of way to avoid it being hit again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/22/2021

*Planning Board Meeting @
7PM*

2/24/2021

*Budget Review Committee
Meeting @ 5:30PM*

ASSESSING OFFICE UPDATE

In the Assessing Office we continue to process deeds. This includes comparing our GIS information on tax maps with legal descriptions on the deed as well as verifying the property account. Along with this we are processing any and all applications to include Homestead, Veterans, Widower and Widows of Veterans, and Blind exemptions.

We are also using the building permit applications submitted to the Code Enforcement Office in our review of properties during our field inspections that are ongoing. During this process we will update in our CAMA system all properties that have been under construction in the past year and pick up any new buildings or out building properties.

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance Department has been continuing on the Team A and Team B shift. Department staff while in the office continues to see steady excise tax and property tax collections. Staff works diligently to keep the wait time for customers to a minimum while working short staffed. The foreclosure date for the 2019 tax liens will be occurring at the close of business on Monday, February 22nd. Any accounts still outstanding will then enter into the 60 day redemption period to keep their property.

CODE OFFICE UPDATE

The Code Enforcement Office has had a very busy January and February. Residential renovation and addition projects continue to stay steady. The weather has been very kind to all the trades this winter which helps to keep projects on schedule.

The State is currently working on rolling out the International Energy Conservation Code 2015 and is working towards adopting the 2015 Mechanical Code as well. As more information becomes available it will be posted to the Town of Wells website under the Department of Code Enforcement.

The Codes Office is pleased to report that a very large site on Littlefield Road has removed over 25,000 tires over the last 18 months. The Codes Office worked with the new owner when purchasing the property in 2016 knowing the process would take time to become compliant. Partnering with the owner to create a long-range plan to reach compliance is the best way to build trust for everyone involved for a successful outcome! These types of situations did not get that way overnight and sometimes the cost burden and amount of labor to clean up the property prolongs how quickly compliance can be reached.