

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., March 30, 2020

I hope everyone is well and safe and practicing good behaviors that have been designed to help us slow the spread of COVID-19.

I want to first acknowledge that it has been just over a month since my last Town Manager Report and I'd like to thank folks for understanding that these times have been pretty extraordinary to navigate. When I delivered my last Town Manager Report, I don't think many of us anticipated what would come next. The terms "social distancing" and "flattening the curve" had not even made it into normal daily conversation yet.

I'd like to note for all readers that overall, our town has done a very good job of handling the current situation and I believe our town volunteers and staff have worked extremely hard during a very trying time to ensure that the town operation of the Town of Hamilton has continued to serve our residents, as best as we can amid the Governor's restrictions and the shelter advisory. The past three to four weeks has been a learning experience for us all.

Unfortunately, one of the casualties of this situation has been my bi-weekly Town Manager reports, which were begun as reports on updates and progress for the Board of Selectmen, but have evolved into a tool to inform our residents about things that have been going on. I will do my best to ensure that this report doesn't continually move to the back burner going forward.

So, without further delay, here are a few things to update you on that have nothing to do with the pandemic or our response to it.

- LED Sign at the public safety building. Folks may remember that several months ago, the Hamilton ZBA approved a request to replace the current wood sign in front of the Hamilton Public Safety Building with a new LED sign board that we could use to deliver information to our residents. After a lengthy bidding and contracting process, the town has a signed contract with a vendor and work can begin relatively quickly, as the installer works alone. We'll provide further updates as necessary, but we're hoping that the sign will be installed and operating in the next few weeks.
- The town has contracted with a vendor to complete roadway striping townwide. This is also a task that can take place now, as it will actually be advantageous for the striping company to have fewer cars on the road.
- The town has received word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that our request for additional reimbursement for the Bridge Street culvert project – back in 2018 - has been approved. The State has notified us that they have received the funds from the federal government and we're working to have those deposited with the town. For those who don't know, the original project had to be expanded and the expanded project was approved by FEMA, but due to a technicality, the funds to reimburse the town for the expanded project were originally denied. The reimbursement total more than \$163,325, which the town had already spent.
- The town has continued during this time to work with the Asbury Grove Meeting Camp on issues related to its seasonal water charges. I am happy to report that the Camp is making several changes that we had requested, in order to better sequester its seasonal usage and that upon completion of those changes, we expect to be able to more accurately charge the association for its seasonal water usage, ensuring that the town is appropriately charging for the seasonal cottages.

- Effective on Monday, March 30, Sharon Road has been closed to through traffic in keeping with the Board of Selectmen's vote in December and based on the traffic study that was conducted in January and February. Sharon Road is closed at the Asbury Street side with temporary barriers., until the town is able to install a permanent closure solution later this summer.

Finally, I' like to thank all residents who have been abiding by guidance of social distancing and staying in your homes as much as possible. This is a difficult time for all of us and with continued, consistent cooperation o our residents we can reduce how far this virus spreads in our community and keep people safe.

Be well!