

First Selectman's Report

January 15, 2019

The Town has hired a new public works employee to replace the retired Steven Bury. The new employee's name is Nate Belmonte and he is fitting in quite well with the crew. Nate brings a strong mechanical background that will be very useful in our department. The crew has been working on maintenance of the vehicles and equipment, tree trimming and removal, and preparing for snow that is expected this coming weekend. They have also been taking care of maintenance projects at the Senior Center and the Town Hall.

The Smokey Hollow Bridge Project will be going out to bid on Thursday, January 17th. Bids will be required to be submitted by February 21st with the opening of the bids on the same day. Construction is expected to begin this spring and to take about 18 months.

The well pump failed at the Town hall and was replaced just after the holidays. We received approval from the State for a grant to cover most of the cost of the security upgrade at the Town Hall and also obtained approval for a grant to replace doors at the Fire house and the Town Hall.

A FEMA grant application has been submitted for an automatic generator to be installed at the James Morris School. The installation of the generator would allow the school to be used as an emergency shelter for the Town of Morris.

The First Selectman participated in the Northwest Hills Council of Governments meeting and the Sewer Commission meeting. Upcoming meetings include the Board of Finance, Council of Small Towns Town Meeting to meet with our legislative leaders to discuss upcoming legislation and the impact on our towns and the legislative platform of the Council of Small Towns. Another meeting will be held with our insurance provider to discuss how to reduce claims and how to deal with municipal cyber threats.

The First Selectman met with the Treasurer, Fire Chief, Sewer Commission Chairman, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Planning and Zoning Chairman, Building Inspector, Assessor, Town Clerk, Fire Marshal, and Activities Director.