

First Selectman's Report

1/21/20

On December 22, 2019, the Town held a Community Dinner which was well attended and enjoyed by Town residents. The dinner was free and prepared and served by volunteers. This is something we hope to do again next year and possibly add a Community Breakfast in the near future.

The First Selectman met with representatives from SHR Energy at the proposed solar array location adjacent to the Transfer Station to determine the area where the array would be located. Another meeting was held today to discuss the process moving forward for the project.

Met with Peter Punzi, the new Executive Director of the White Memorial Foundation to get to know one another and to discuss future collaborations between the Foundation and the Town. Mr. Punzi took over the position when Keith Cudworth retired last August after 21 years as the Executive Director.

Participated in a Board of Directors meeting for the Chore Service Program and was elected vice-president of the Board. The Litchfield Hills Chore Service Program provides an affordable way for seniors to get the extra help they need in order to remain comfortable and safely in their own home for as long as possible. Chore workers are local people, carefully screened with background checks so you can be sure the person coming into your home is honest and reliable. The cost for this service is income based.

The Smokey Hollow Bridge Project work is continuing with the steel beams arriving on January 15th and put in place the same day. Work will continue as the weather allows.

The Highway Department has been busy with several weather events and with routine winter maintenance.

The budget season has started with budget worksheets being sent out to all departments. Once the budgets are all received, they will be compiled and reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and then a recommended budget will be presented to the Board of Finance for their review along with any changes needed.

The renovation project at the Fire House is almost complete with a punch list of items for the contractor to finish up. The ceiling in the meeting room at the Fire House has been replaced with a combination of volunteer work and a local contractor doing the ceiling installation. The volunteers have also insulated and painted the meeting room and kitchen and put a new ceiling in the kitchen. The Legion Post/Fire Marshal office in the lower section of the Fire House is also receiving a new ceiling which is being paid for by a grant through the Thomaston Savings Bank.