

First Selectman's Report

August 21, 2019

Work continues on the Smokey Hollow Bridge Project with participation by the First Selectman in the bi-weekly Progress Meetings with the DOT, Project Engineers and Project Contractor. The main structure has been removed along with the center support and the east abutment. Concrete work has begun on the west abutment and we are awaiting the arrival of the company that will be doing the micropile installation for the east abutment. The project is currently on time and under budget with the anticipated opening date in April of 2020.

The drainage work on Slab Meadow Road by the Highway Department and Deacon Construction is nearing completion. Quotes are being requested for the reclaim and paving of the road. Paving of the road is expected to start in late September.

The Town of Morris has moved to a new website hosting company, CivicLift, resulting in a much more user friendly site not only for the people viewing it, but also for the town employees that help to maintain the site. The Town will realize an annual savings of approximately 600.00 less than the previous hosting company cost.

The Town Beach Pavilion exterior has been stained and painted and the two bathrooms have also been painted. The swim area has been hydro raked to help remove mud and weeds and allow for a more enjoyable swim experience. With the new parking pass system, the issues with garbage, litter and behavioral problems have all but disappeared.

The Local Horizontal Curve Project has been completed on several roads in Morris. There is new signage at certain curves on our Town roads along with new line striping. In some areas there were concerns with the amount and need for the signs. The First Selectman has worked with the DOT and the residents to help resolve those issues.

Participated in the Regional Emergency Planning Team meeting held in Watertown to discuss and act upon the CEO/EMD Handbook, Homeland Security Grant Spending Plans and GIS Region 5 Parcel Mapping for Emergency Response.

Participated in the Northwest Hills Council of Governments meeting with 20 other Towns to discuss and act upon the Overview of Pavement Management Guidebook for the Northwest Hills, the Regional Food Hub, and funding for the Regional Animal Control Facility.

Met with the Treasurer and Town Auditor to discuss the upcoming audit for Fiscal Year. The Audit should begin in late August.

Participated in a meeting with Mayor Carbone, First Selectmen Leo Paul and Bob Valentine, Torrington Police Chief William Baldwin and other members of the Torrington Police Department and Animal Control to discuss the Regional Animal Control Facility.

Received phone calls from residents regarding speed limits, no parking zones, passing zones and signage at intersections on State roads. Reached out to our DOT contact to have a traffic engineer review the areas of concern and to make recommendations for improvement. The concerns will also be brought to our Local Traffic Authority (Board of Selectmen) for their review.

The Senior Center Sidewalk Replacement Project has been completed and the repair of the remaining sidewalks will take place soon.

i2Systems Company located on Bantam Lake Road in Morris, recently held a company picnic at which they collected food items and monetary donations for the Morris Food Pantry located at our Community Hall. i2Systems is a worldwide leader in LED technology and a large employer here in Morris. Thank you to the owners, management and employees of this wonderful company for their generous donation and for being a part of our community.

Attended and participated in meetings with Inland Wetlands, Planning and Zoning, Equipment Committee, and the State Road Horizontal Curve Hearing.

Met with the Assessor, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Activities Director, Highway Foreman, Planning and Zoning ZEO, Wetlands Chairman, Activities Director, Fire Marshal, Building Inspector, Fire Chief, Torrington Area Health District Inspector, and Town Residents.