

First Selectman's Report

December 4, 2018

Bids for the Fire House Renovation were opened on November 7th and came in over the budget allotted for the project. The scope of the project will be reduced in an effort to bring the overall cost down. The purpose of the project is to bring the bathrooms up to code and to be handicap accessible. Currently there is about 133,000 available for construction with an additional 10,000 set aside for abatement.

Met with Eversource officials to discuss the relocation of the power lines for the Smokey Hollow Bridge Project that are located just before the bridge and will be in the way during construction. The engineering for the bridge is 100% complete and should go out to bid this winter with a start date in the spring of 2019.

Met with DOT to discuss the State DOT rural road horizontal curve signs on Looking Glass Hill Road. The program has been halted until after a meeting next week with DOT engineers and the Town. Residents expressed displeasure with the quantity and location of the signs on the road.

The Town is currently working with the Litchfield Ambulance Association (LVA) on an agreement to continue to provide EMS service to the Town of Morris. LVA and Bantam Fire Company have been providing EMS service to the Town since the former MVFD, Inc. discontinued doing so on May 2, 2017. The agreement also involves the Town of Litchfield and the Bantam Fire Company. The Morris Fire Company is working to restore EMS service to the Town of Morris as soon as possible and currently members of the Morris Fire Company are signing up for an EMS course to be held at LVA starting in January. If there are members of the public that would like to take the course and volunteer in Town, they should contact Michael Lauretano, President of Morris Fire Company.

The Morris Fire Company has responded to 59 incidents since July 1, including mutual aid.

The Highway Department is currently preparing for winter by calibrating the sanders, servicing the trucks and equipment, clearing drainage ditches, checking site lines and removing trees where needed. The Department will soon have their own system to treat the salt instead of hiring a company to do it. This system should pay for itself in one season. The new loader is expected to be delivered in December.

Steve Bury, a seven-year employee of the Highway Department has retired as of November 30th. Steve's extensive mechanical knowledge and work ethic will be missed. We wish him all the best in the future.

Participated in meetings with Superintendent of Schools Chris Leone, Goshen First Selectman Bob Valentine and Warren First Selectman Craig Nelson. Morris is working with Region 6 to put diesel and heating oil out to bid for the next fiscal year. Attended and participated in the Northwest Hills Council of Government meeting and a meeting with members of the CHORE program. Met with our Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Assessor, Fire Marshal, Fire Chief and Town Treasurer.