

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending January 31, 2014

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:

Finance—Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

Recent activities included:

- Budget revisions and revenue projections for FY '15. The proposed budget, which supports operating expenses, capital expenses, and debt service, results in a 2.90 percent tax increase.
- Monthly financial report summary: after six months, we are 3 percent under budget on expenses and 1 percent over budget on revenues.
- Worked with Colchester Police Department on Public Safety Dispatch service contracts with Milton and proposal to Winooski.
- Renegotiated lease for energy-saving streetlights, reducing interest cost by \$17,688 and allowing payoff of the lease in eight instead of ten years.

For more information about the Finance Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Finance/financeHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5650.

Clerk's Office—Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- The Vermont Tax Department is no longer supplying income tax return books that in the past were available in the lobby of the Town Offices. There are three ways to obtain income tax forms:
 1. Print forms from the Vermont Tax Department website: www.tax.vermont.gov
 2. Order forms by e-mail: taxforms@state.vt.us
 3. Order forms by phone: (802) 828-2515
- The town election is Tuesday, March 4. Voters in 9-1 will vote at the [Colchester Meeting House](#), and voters from 9-2 will vote at [Colchester High School](#). The informational meeting and community dinner will be held the night before the election, Monday, March 3, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Colchester High School. The ballots have been ordered and are expected in the office the week of February 10. After the ballots arrive, residents may stop by the office to vote early or request that an absentee ballot be mailed to them. Please call (802) 264-5520 to request a ballot. The last day to register to vote in the March election is Wednesday, February 26.
- Here is a friendly reminder that it is time to license your dogs. It is the law that your dog be licensed and that the rabies vaccination remain up to date. If your dog was licensed last year and the rabies certificate is current, you can mail the fee to the Town Clerk's Office, and we will send the tag to you. For more information, call (802) 264-5520.
- If you need a copy of your tax bill and a receipt for taxes paid in 2013 in order to file your taxes, please call and we can provide the information by phone, e-mail, or mail.

For more information about the Town Clerk's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5520.

Assessor's Department—Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Department will be conducting a field review of the entire town and checking on all permits from now until the end of April.

- The field review will consist of a "drive-by" inspection of all properties in Colchester to verify some of the Town's data that can be observed from the street.
- If you have been issued a permit(s) within the last year or were under construction as of April 1, 2013, a person from the Assessor's Department will be stopping at your property to verify any physical changes to your property as a result of the permit(s).
- If the permit(s) is for interior renovation, such as finishing a basement, the Assessor's Department will be attempting to contact you for an interior inspection to verify the renovations. If we are unable to contact you for an interior inspection of the property, the Certificate of Occupancy will be used to verify completion.
- The purpose of these inspections is to assess all properties in town to the Fair Market Value using the most up-to-date and accurate data possible; this will ensure that property owners do not pay more than their fair share of the tax burden.

If you would like to set up an appointment to have the assessor inspect your property, please call Donna at (802) 264-5670.

For more information about the Assessor's Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Assessor/assessorHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5670.