

For the Week of December 17, 2018

Manager's Message of the Week

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The Selectboard has warned the draft FY 20 budget for a public hearing Tuesday, January 8th at the Colchester Town offices. Following six meetings with the Selectboard, a draft of the FY 20 budget has been posted at <http://colchestervt.gov/349/Budget-Documents>

The proposed FY 20 budget maintains our current level of service and addresses changing service demands in emergency services and infrastructure maintenance caused by slow, steady growth over the past decade.

Operating Budget

The Operating Budget is comprised of twenty-five service categories. Seven of these service categories have been reduced and two have increases less than \$500. The operating budget increase is 2.4%. Changes include:

- 1.2% (\$153,402) to maintain current services
- 1.2% (\$159,691) for additional services including:
 - Fire services: increase in local match to a federal grant program to fund three full time firefighters to provide weekday daytime coverage \$36,750
 - Police: Essex Community Justice Center contribution of \$16,200
 - Police: Community Mental Health/Social Services by \$20,000
 - Transportation for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities \$10,000
 - Additional Public Works Highway and Path Maintenance Worker Wages benefits, liability insurance and employer paid taxes \$76,741

About Capital Funding

In FY 20 we expect \$1,062,331 in state and federal grants to supplement our local capital funding. **The property tax funded portion of the capital budget is \$1,084,451 and increased by \$13,455 or 1.3% from last year.**

Tax Rate

The municipal tax rate for FY 2020 is estimated at \$0.5423, *an increase of seven-tenths of one cent per \$100 of valuation, or a 1.34% increase over the prior year.*

Budget and Management Approach

- Minimize Expenses (1.2% increase for same level of services)
- Maximize Non-Property Tax Revenues
- Property Taxes are “last dollar in”

The Town Selectboard and staff are committed to holding expenses and property tax increases down while providing high quality services to our community.

On behalf of the employees of the Town, I wish warm, happy, and safe holidays to all in our community.

For more about the Town Manager's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

Economic Development Department
Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

Welcome to the newest member of our business community. Congratulations to *Easy as Cake* West Lakeshore Drive in Colchester. The home cooking of Jeff and Nicole Goller is now available in the former Malletts Bay Diner location. Stop in and sample their breakfast or lunch specialties! They have been a pleasure to work with and will bring a festive option to the town's selection of eateries.

Other department news:

- Met with St. Michaels' President Lorraine Sterritt and Patrick Gallivan, Vice President of Government & Community Affairs
- Assisting two Colchester businesses interested in expansion
- Working with local food manufacturer on future diversification
- Aiding local company to relocate in Colchester
- Met with developer regarding lot zoning / commercial options
- Kicked off year-long service learning project at Colchester Middle school
- Attended Annual Vermont Development Conference
- CCDC Meeting was held at VT Nut Free Chocolates where the members enjoyed a tour
- With Planning and Zoning, working on "Economy" chapter of Town Plan
- Presented Economic Development 2020 Budget to Selectboard
- 2018 Year in Review Video is in progress

For more visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/econdev> or call (802) 264-5508.

Planning and Zoning Department
Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Planning Commission wants to know what Colchester means to you! Do you have a picture of a special place, event, or everyday happenings? Create an original work of art showing us and we might just publish it in the 2019 Town Plan!

- Submissions accepted at <https://tinyurl.com/mycolchester> or at the Colchester Planning & Zoning Office, 781 Blakely Road.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

- A panel of judges will review all entries for originality, interpretation of the theme, and skill.
- Top artists in the 0-6, 7-12, and 13-18 categories will receive \$50 gift cards and a certificate of merit from the Colchester Planning Commission. Winning works will be published in the 2019 Town Plan.
- Questions? Email shadd@colchestervt.gov or call 264-5602

The Planning Commission meets again on January 2nd and continues to work on the 2019 Town Plan found online at tinyurl.com/2019TownPlan.

The Development Review Board met on December 12th.

- **Approved:** site plan of Scott and Diane Light for a seawall at 79 West Porters Point Road, tax map 45, parcel 5.
- **Denied:** a variance application of Joel Bradley at 1802 Marble Island Road, tax map 57, parcel 7, for construction of a 24' x 30' 2-story garage that encroaches the front and side yard setbacks and exceeds total lot coverage.
- **Recessed until February meeting:**
 - Preliminary plat application of Casa Del Air for a six lot subdivision at 35 West Red Rock Road, tax map 77, parcel 5-4
 - Site plan application of Mongeon Bay Properties, LLC for a seawall on East Lakeshore Drive, tax map 68, parcel 1

For more visit <http://colchestervt.gov/planningz> or call (802) 264-5600.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00PM: *Due to the holiday, the next meeting of the Planning Commission will be Wednesday, 1/2/19*
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00PM. Next meeting: 1/9/19
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00AM, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 1/9/19
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. **The December meeting has been canceled.** Next meeting: 1/21/19
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30PM. **The Selectboard meeting on December 25 has been canceled.** Next meeting: 1/8/19

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor unless otherwise noted.)

Upcoming events:

- **Colchester’s Got Talent! Auditions:** 1/17/2019 from 2:30 PM with auditions every four minutes. Fill out an Entry Form at: <http://bit.ly/ColchestersGotTalentEntry>
- **36th Annual Winter Carnival:** February 1, 2, & 3, 2019. Theme: “Myth & Magic” Entry bracelets are \$7 per person. A full schedule will be available in January

Notices:

- The Town Offices **will close at noon** on Monday, December 24 and Monday, December 31
- The Town Offices **will be closed** on Tuesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas and on Tuesday, January 1 in observance of New Year’s Day

 Remember to follow us on Facebook (@TownColchesterVT) to get the latest about **what’s happening in your community!**

 Share your photos of Colchester with us on Instagram (@colchestervt)

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