

For the Week of March 4, 2019

Manager's Message

Town Meeting is Monday, March 4th! The community dinner begins at 5:30 PM in the Colchester High School cafeteria. Please bring a dessert to share. Voter Check-In begins at 6:30 PM. The Town Annual Meeting starts at 7:00 PM in the Colchester High School Performing Arts Center.

Voting on ballot items may be done early by absentee ballots (available at the Town Clerk's Office) or at the polls on March 5th. The Colchester Selectboard has approved two items for public vote on Town Meeting Day:

Town Budget with a 2.4% increase

- 1.2% is 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
 - Police: Essex Community Justice Center contribution
 - Police: Community Mental Health/Social Services
 - Transportation for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
 - Additional Public Works Highway and Path Maintenance Worker

With an estimated 1.36% growth in the Grand List, the estimated municipal tax rate for FY 2020 is \$0.5423. The tax rate is estimated to increase by seven-tenths of one cent or a 1.34% increase over the current year. For more information visit: ColchesterVTt.gov/367/Proposed-Budget

Malletts Bay Sewer Project The project serves the entire community by removing human waste bacteria due to failing septic systems located along Malletts Bay; by ensuring the community's vision for Malletts Bay; and by preserving and protecting Malletts Bay for generations to come. The proposed sewer service area is West Lakeshore Drive from Prim Road to Bayside, East Lakeshore Drive, and Goodsell Point. The project follows an extensive four year study conducted by scientists and engineers. The proposed funding includes state and federal grants, low interest loans, user fees, and use of local option taxes. The project will not impact property taxes and the local option taxes will be paid back by user fees.

It is important to decide on the sewer project now. There are stormwater, intersection, and bike/pedestrian projects that will need to be built after and above the sewer in the public roadbeds.

For more information visit: tinyurl.com/MallettsBaySewer

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

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

Office of the Town Clerk | Treasurer
Julie Graeter

- **It's tax season!** A reminder to those who are eligible to file a Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes. Visit the state's website for more: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.
- **Property taxes are due March 15th** This is the last installment of the 2018/2019 Property Tax Year. Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/330/Payment-Options> for ways to pay.
- **Dog licenses are due by April 1st** Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> for fee details.

For more about the Town Clerk's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call 264-5520.

Assessor
Robert Vickery

- We are working on the 2019 Grand List changes.
- We will be contacting property owners that have taken out permits for interior renovation for building inspections.
- We are entering inventory forms and analyzing the data to better understand the current commercial real estate market. If you have received an inventory form please fill it out and return it to the Assessor's Office. It is important piece of data in keeping the taxes fair and equitable for all citizens of Colchester.
- You may view the online Web Map and Assessment Data by going to: <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

For more about the Assessor's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call 264-5671.

Finance Department
Lara Aley, Director

- **Local Option Tax Fund:** As of February 28, 2019 the balance of the Local Option Tax Fund (with use restricted to voter-approved capital projects) is \$2,749,490. In FY19, we have received \$1,204,264 in revenue and made \$522,883 in payments for such projects.

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

- **FY19 Budget Update:** Eight months through the fiscal year we are at a net positive of 2%. Revenues are currently trending under budget and being offset by lower-than-budgeted expenditures.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. **The March 5 meeting has been cancelled.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19.
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 3/13
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Next meeting: 3/13. Champlain Room, 2nd floor.
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 3/18
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4 PM, at the Burnham Library. March meeting: 3/21
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. March meetings: 3/12 & 3/26

(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:

- **Winter Concert: A Night with Satin & Steel:** Friday, March 8, 2019 at Colchester High School. Starts at 7:00pm, admission is FREE.



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

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