

**For the Week of:
October 16, 2017**

**Manager's Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

Winter Maintenance of Private Roads Press Release

At their October 10 meeting the Colchester Selectboard voted unanimously to discontinue winter maintenance on those private roads that are currently maintained by the Town to become effective in next year's winter season. The Selectboard decided to allow the winter maintenance of private roads currently plowed to continue through this upcoming winter season, to allow private road owners the time needed to contract for private plowing services by the Fall of 2018.

The decision was made after many months' study of the issue, comparison of the private road plowing policies of other communities in Chittenden County, consultation with the Town Manager, Colchester Department of Public Works, Governance Committee, the Town's attorney and insurance provider, as well as the review and consideration of over 120 pages of public comments and numerous public meetings. The Selectboard members agreed that it is their responsibility to represent the collective interest of the entire Town. Chair Nadine Scibek stated that: "The decision reached by the Board tonight was based on much thought, consideration, and deliberation after taking into account all of the comments and suggested alternatives proposed by citizens, staff, the Governance Committee, the Town's attorney, and many others. However, in the end after reviewing all the available information, the Board is tasked with making a decision that is in the best interest of the Town as a whole to ensure fairness and equity throughout the Town, as well as to address the Town's liability, risk and other concerns that were brought to the Board's attention that warranted the stopping of this practice."

The Selectboard has requested staff to draft a policy for Board review by the next Board meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 with approval of the policy to take place at a subsequent meeting.

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

**Office of the Assessor
Bob Vickery**

The Assessor's Office will be taking photos this month of properties that have had major capital improvements or any new construction. We will be inspecting new construction that was unfinished as of 4/1/2017.

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

The GIS Map and Assessment Data have been updated with property record cards. See the online map and assessment data at <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

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

Office of the Deputy Town Manager/CFO
Aaron Frank

FY 18 Budget Update: Two months through the fiscal year, expenses were \$62,325, or 1%, under budget.

Local Option Tax Fund: As of June 30, after having made the FY 17 debt service payments, the balance of the Local Option Tax Fund is \$1,069,223. This fund's use is restricted to voter approved capital projects.

Regional dispatch: With the goal of better coordination of emergency services among neighboring communities in Chittenden County, the leadership of Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski, with the support of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, embarked on a study in the fall of 2016 that would provide a road map to creating a regional dispatch center. Two prior studies in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile. The leadership then formed a Joint Survey Committee (JSC) to draft a Union Municipal District Agreement to create a Regional Dispatch Center.

The JSC has spent considerable time debating the value of consolidated dispatch and the best governance structure for it. During the process of reviewing the data and drafting the agreement the JSC determined that a regional dispatch center combine with a 911 call center is especially worthwhile because it avoids transferring calls to a local dispatch, thereby reducing response time by about 70 seconds for many 911 calls.

It can also:

- Improve mutual aid between towns, common for fire and rescue services
- Increase minimum staffing, allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dedicated oversight to more fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety.

The draft agreement is now being reviewed by the Vermont Attorney General's Office. Once the JSC receives comments, it will seek Selectboard and City Council Approval to put the agreement on the Town Meeting ballots of Burlington,

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Colchester, Essex, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski for voter approval. Should voter approval be gained, it will authorize the Union Municipal District (District) to form, but will not obligate towns to pay or receive services.

Following the formation of the District, additional details will be developed to support the consolidation and operation of services. Municipalities that join the District would then need an additional vote of their elected body to begin to pay for and receive services from the new entity. We anticipate that this will happen over 12-24 months after the District is formed.

To learn more: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>

For more about the Administration Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/> or call (802) 264-5500.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 PM
- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, October 23, 6:30 PM at the Kirker Room at the Colchester Police Department
- **Cemetery Advisory Board:** Wednesday, October 25, 8:00 AM

(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:

- **There will be a meeting regarding the Route 2/2A/7 construction** on Thursday, October 19 at 9:00 AM at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Champlain Room on the 2nd floor with Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director of Economic Development. We will be discussing the work completed to date, with an update on the remaining work that remains to be completed this year and next. Meeting is intended primarily for local business owners, but is also open to the general public.

Notices:

- **Colchester Conservation Commission is meeting on a new day of the month, time, and place!** The Commission will now meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Kirker Room at the Colchester Police Department, unless otherwise noted.

Traffic Notices:

- **I89 Colchester to St. Albans:** I-89 Construction is now completed!



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

- **Rt. 7/2, 2A and 127 Intersection:** Expect daily single lane closures and alternating one-way travel. Anticipate delays especially during peak AM and PM hours. Access to businesses will remain open at all times.

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