

For the Week of February 24, 2020

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The Proposed FY 2021 Budget

The FY2021 proposed budget has a 0% increase in operating expenses. Funding in eight service groups was decreased; this made room for an increase of \$207,428 to fund four career staff that will provide fire coverage during weekday daytime when we do not have an adequate number of volunteers to protect life and property.

Major changes include:

- **Fire services:** An increase of \$207,428 to fund four career staff who will provide fire coverage during weekday daytime when we do not have an adequate number of volunteers to protect life and property.
- **Rescue:** Creation of a Rescue enterprise fund that moves all expenses and non-tax revenues out of the property tax based General Fund
 - Recognizes that Rescue generates 74% of its own revenue and is a significant cost center with a total budget of \$760,645.
 - Allows Rescue to better respond to call demand by staffing up or down according to call volume.
- **Public Safety Dispatch:** Increases Colchester's contribution to its public safety dispatch service by \$89,064 to maintain staffing following the departure of a contracted community.

Estimated 21 Tax Rate

Considering prior voter approvals for capital items, the use of \$504,312 of the Local Option Tax revenues to pay for debt and an estimated 1.18% growth due to investments in Colchester properties, the estimated municipal tax rate for FY 2021 is \$0.5485. The tax rate is projected to increase by \$0.0056 (a little more than one half of one cent) or a 1.02% increase over the prior year.

Information on the budget is available at <http://colchestervt.gov/349/Proposed-Budget>

Don't forget that the **Annual Town Meeting** will be held on Monday, March 2, 2020 in the Colchester High School Performing Arts Center, starting at 7 PM. Voter check-in begins at 6:30 PM. Town and school officials will present their budgets and other ballot articles.

Voting for both districts will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 7 AM - 7 PM at Colchester High School gym. You may also:

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

- Vote by early/absentee ballot (available now at the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 781 Blakely Road, M-F 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM)
- Request a ballot from the Secretary of State's webpage online and vote by mail: Visit <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>
- Request a ballot be mailed to you by the Town Clerk's office and return your ballot by mail; call (802) 264-5520.
- If you choose to vote by mail be sure to allow time for mail delivery. The Town Clerks are not responsible for post office delays!
- **Ballots delivered by hand must be delivered to the Clerk's Office by March 2, 2020 by 4:30 PM. Otherwise, deliver to the polling place at Colchester High School on March 3, 2020, 7 AM to 7 PM**

Join your Town and School District officials for the free **Community Dinner** on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Colchester High School cafeteria. Your legislators will be there to discuss happenings in Montpelier and answer your questions. Please bring a dessert to share.

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

Parks and Recreation Department
Glen Cuttitta, Director

Job Openings at Colchester Recreation

- **After School Staff at the A.C.E After School Program:**
Please visit the Parks and Rec webpage or <http://bit.ly/2MOSkOX> for the full job listing and details on qualifications and how to apply.
- **Seasonal Park Laborer (14 weeks)**
- **Seasonal Parks Maintenance Technician (36 weeks).**
Visit the Human Resources page for qualifications and details on how to apply for these Seasonal positions: <https://colchestervt.gov/321/Human-Resources>

Recreation Department News

- **Upcoming Programs** that are still accepting registrations include:
 - Slime All About It (PPS Students): 3/6 - 3/27
 - Batik & Silk Painting (Ages 18+): 3/7
 - More than Music (UMS Students): 3/9 - 4/13
 - Magic: The Gathering w/ VT Gaming Academy (Gr. 6 - 12): 3/10 - 4/10
 - Preschool Prom (Ages 3 - 5): 3/13
- **Colchester Youth Lacrosse League** registration is currently open for Gr. 3 - 8. Early Bird Discount good until March 6. Season starts 3/30. Registration is

also open for Start Smart Lacrosse (Gr. K - 1) and Lacrosse Launch (Gr. 2) for those younger players looking to try the sport.

- **Summer Camp** registration has been open for a few weeks now, and some camps are beginning to fill! If you are interested in enrolling your child in summer camp in Colchester, be sure to check out our offerings and get signed up soon.

From the Parks Department:

- The Parks Crew continues to regularly groom trails at Airport Park for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Please note that Parks staff have snow removal responsibilities and need to clear parking lots at Town Buildings first before grooming the trails. Thank you for your patience.
- The ice rink at Airport Park is also open, but note that staff occasionally resurface and need to close it overnight. Please take note of the signs if the rink is closed; use will damage the ice and keep it closed longer. Please also refrain from shooting pucks at the shelter near the ice rink.

For more about Parks & Rec visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

Police Department
Douglas Allen, Police Chief

- For the culmination of their course of study, Officers Barriere and Smith traveled to Arizona for the field evaluation portion of their Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) class. At the county jail that covers Phoenix, DRE candidates from across the country have the ability to screen a wide array of persons under the influence of various drugs. These evaluations are critical to their understanding of how certain drugs affect the human body as well as the effects of combinations of drugs. Both officers, under the direction of course coordinator CPD Lt. Roy, were successful in completing the course.
- In other training news this month, Officer Recruits Alyson Dengler and Emily Fitzpatrick entered the Vermont Police Academy February 3rd for their 16-week basic training class.
- Sergeant Francis Gonyaw is about half way through his 10-week FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.
- Chief Allen attended a conference as the D.A.R.E. America Coordinator for Vermont.

- Since January 16th, CPD has responded to 1194 calls for service. These calls resulted in 45 arrests for criminal violations including Driving with a Suspended License, Possession of Cocaine, and Reckless Endangerment, among others.

For more about Colchester Police Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. Next Meeting: 3/3
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 3/11
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 am, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 3/11
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 3/16
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 3/19
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 3/10

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:

- **Annual Community Dinner** at Colchester High School cafeteria, Monday, March 2, 2020, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Please bring a dessert to share.
- **Annual Town Meeting:** Monday, March 2, 2020 7:00 PM. *Sign-in begins at 6:30 PM.*
- **Winter Concert** – A Night with In the Pocket: Friday, March 27, 2020 @ CHS Performing Arts Center. Starts at 7:00pm. Admission is FREE.
- **Registration** is open for the 8th Annual Causeway Race (6/6/20) and the 36th Annual Colchester Triathlon (7/26/2020) via Active.com. You can also find more details at: <https://colchestervt.gov/357/Events>

Notices:

- **Early/Absentee Voting** is now available at the Town Clerk's office and by mail. Visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/325/Elections> for information about voter registration and early/absentee voting.
- Due to work being done on the flooring at the Colchester Meeting House, **Colchester's regular Playgroup will be cancelled temporarily.** Playgroup



will not meet starting this Wednesday, February 5, until Wednesday, March 4. We will resume our regular schedule of Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30am at the Colchester Meeting House on Wednesday, March 4. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



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