

## For the Week of May 15, 2023

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



**At last week's meeting, the Selectboard** received an update that the Town would enter into contracts for \$97,998 for upgrades to energy efficient lighting to be funded with \$68,828.50 in pre-approved energy efficiency rebates and \$29,169.50 in Capital Budget Plan Funding.

The Town had budgeted \$40,100 for these improvements from years FY 22-26, of which \$23,500 was in the Capital Equipment and Facilities Plan and of which \$16,600 was in the Fire Capital Plan. Due to the rebates, the Town will now be spending about \$29,169.50 and saving about \$68,828.50. Of the \$29,169.50, about \$3,301.25 will come from the Fire Department Capital Plan and \$25,868.25 will come from the Capital Equipment and Facilities Plan.

In summary, this change saves the Town \$68,828, implements these changes sooner than planned, expands the project to include more than previously planned, reduces electricity consumption, and perhaps most importantly, eases the transition to comply with a [state restriction](#) on tube-based light bulbs containing mercury in 2024. Prior plans were to exchange fixtures for fluorescent lighting to LED lighting in just the library, police department, the Village and Bay Fire stations. This project expands the LED upgrades to: the Tech Rescue building, the Upper Bayside Park softball field, the Bayside Activity Center, a wastewater pump station on Rt. 15, the Town Garage, the Town Meeting House, and the Town offices.

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### National Police Week: May 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

This week is National Police Week and it is a time to honor the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy. There are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the 28 dedicated members of the Colchester Police Department.



Since the first recorded death in 1786, there are currently 23,785 law enforcement officers in the United States who have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty, including 28 Vermont officers. The names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, and 556 new names of fallen heroes are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, including 224 officers killed in 2022 and 332 officers killed in previous years. May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families, and U.S. flags should be

flown at half-staff. The Town publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation. Thank you all for everything you do!

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**Causeway Ownership Update:** We are very thankful to the State of VT Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for their partnership, which led to an agreement with the Town whereby the State of Vermont agreed to accept ownership of the Causeway as a recreational asset of statewide significance. The State and the Town will cooperate with maintenance responsibilities of the Causeway under an Agreement where the State will be responsible for all non-routine maintenance. The Town will perform basic maintenance, including regular mowing and routine maintenance, up to \$20,000 annually as set forth in the Agreement. In addition, the Town will assist the State in efforts to document State claims to FEMA or other parties to fund non-routine maintenance from significant storm events. The Selectboard requested this transfer after three severe storms damaged more than 10% of the uninsurable \$20M Causeway in a period of 20 years.



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### Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, May 18, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

**Agendas available:** <http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

**Note:** Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email

[townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)