

To our Washington neighbors:

October 2017

Vera Cormier has resigned from the Town's Board of Health after several years of service for which we thank her. Anyone interested in joining this vital Town Board please contact Jodi.

The 108th annual Sons & Daughters reunion was well-attended. Thanks to those who made it happen – great job on the catering – and especially to those who shared their memories of their past experiences in Town. We hope everyone makes it to this unique event next year!

We were fortunate to have crews from Precision Valley Communications gathering additional route and premises information for designing our optical fiber network in September – almost a month ahead of schedule. Because of the last-minute schedule acceleration, we used a reverse 911 call to let our residents know. Precision is a subcontractor to Westfield Gas and Electric with whom we have contracted for system design.

- Lieutenant Governor Polito held a Roundtable with residents on September 26 to hear first hand from Town residents what benefits they expect from our high-speed internet network.

Once again our Assessors and our whole financial team have done a great job getting the Department of Revenue to certify our books in a timely fashion. Our tax rate will increase due to several factors: the Town's overall Assessed Valuation went down; we collected \$10,000 less in motor vehicle taxes than expected; and new growth was less than expected – even though we put Bucksteep back on the tax rolls.

- The good news – at least for most residents – the increase will be smaller than originally projected.

Road & Bridge:

- One of the open issues with Washington Mountain Road – a misaligned culvert that created a new beaver pond – has been corrected, but we are still asking DOT to correct bad drainage at a resident's driveway and we will have to wait and see whether the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section that showed a "W" pattern will last the winter.
- The Town Common was restored and we have new post-and-chain thanks to our agreement with Baltazar that allowed them to use the Common for a staging area.
- Thanks to Tom Johnson, our Highway Superintendent, for securing a \$37,750 grant from the Division of Ecological Restoration to help pay to design a new culvert on upper Frost Road. The Board has requested grant funding from MEMA that will help create a hazard mitigation plan for the Town and allow us to ask for further funding.
- Our engineer is evaluating the abutments of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook. This has a direct bearing on the expected cost of its replacement next year.
- Work on Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks and the Frost Road culvert should both be completed this month.

In response to a number of residents' concerns about speeding on Washington Mountain Road, Chief Breen and the State Police have been doing additional patrols.

Find some time to enjoy the fall foliage while it lasts!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board