

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

March 14, 2022

First, a HUGE THANK YOU to the voters of Springfield for passing the FY23 Budget on Town Meeting Day. There is a significant increase in the amount budgeted, It's very rewarding to see that the Town continues to support the efforts that the Town is making to move Springfield forward.

Donna Hall retired last Friday, March 11th after nearly 10 years with the Town. Donna started as the Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager. Over the past few years, Donna also became Human Resources Director. She has been a very conscientious and dedicated employee. We're going to miss her greatly, but we wish her great things as she steps into retirement. The Town was very fortunate to hire Charley Shepherd as our new Human Resources Director. Charley started on March 7th and was able to work with Donna for a week to ease the transition. Welcome Charley!

Andy Bladyka will be retiring on March 31st after 25 years in the Parks and Recreation Department, with most of that time as Director. Andy's work in the department has impacted the lives of thousands of Springfield's young people. Despite Andy's leaving, the impact that he has made over the past 25 years will last for decades. As this position has such an impact, it was critical that the Town find an amazing person to become the new Parks and Recreation Director. After a process that included interviews with a hiring committee, I am happy to say that I believe that we have found the right person for Springfield. I have offered the position to Chris Merrill, who grew up in Springfield and is retired from the military. The hiring committee was very impressed with Chris's leadership and vision. I'm very excited to see where Chris take the department in the future.

Earlier, the Board made appointments to a number of board, committee, and commission positions. There remain a number of vacancies.

Development Review Board- 1 Position for 3 years

Airport Commission- 2 Positions for 3 years each

Sustainability Committee- multiple positions

Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for 1 year

Fence Viewer for 1 year

Tree Warden for 1 year

Weigher of Coal for 1 year

Inclusion Committee- multiple positions.

I will be reaching out to try and fill as many of these positions as possible before the next meeting.

Lastly, the Planning Commission met on March 2nd and has made its recommendations for eliminating the multiple Main Streets in Springfield. I will be asking the Board to act on their recommendations at the March 28th meeting. I also want to note that their recommendations also include the discontinuing of a few Town highways, mostly those that lead to one property. Given the importance of these decisions, I am publicizing this item in advance so that our citizens know and can attend the meeting.