

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

November 8, 2021

In my budget message, I noted that I had received letter of intent to retire from three long-term employees. They are Chief Russ Thompson, Chief Mark Fountain, and LT Patrick Call. All three will be retiring in the November-December 2022 time frame. Obviously, this means that the Town is looking at a large amount of transition next year. Fortunately, these three gentlemen have given the Town so much notice so that we have a year to find their replacements. I'm still processing, and will be for a while, but the loss of nearly 100 years of experience won't be replaced. These will be tremendous losses to the Town. At the same time, I respect these men for doing what they see as best for themselves and their families. They have all given a great deal to the Town of Springfield and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

I have been continuing to work with the ST&RE committee on four grant projects. Three are approved. The first is a small grant that will place 3 additional benches along the existing Toonerville Trail that will reduce the distance between stops along the trail. The second is from RiseVT and is for additional vegetation around the benches. The third grant is a VOREC grant that was approved last year and will enhance signage at and publicity of both the Toonerville Trail and the Hartness Park Trails. Lastly, the committee has been invited to apply for a \$25,000 grant to rehabilitate the trails in Hartness Park. The dedication of this committee to improving the town's trail system is amazing.

Thank you!

As I was driving to work on Friday, I saw the public works crew picking up the flower boxes along Main Street. This always signals the approach of winter for me. I'll miss the beautiful flowers that the Garden Club plants and takes care of each year. I want to take this

opportunity to thank the Garden Club for their ongoing efforts to beautify Springfield.

As ARPA funds and bond votes aren't part of the budget, I didn't mention them (or other possible infrastructure assistance in the federal pipeline) in my budget message. It remains my hope to ask the voters in March to approve bonding for water contracts H (Seaver's Brook to Bridge Street), I (Bridge Street to the Desert Storm Veterans Bridge), and J (Desert Storm Veterans Bridge to the VFW). I don't yet have a cost estimate for contract J. As soon as I do, I'll approach the Board about seeking bond authorization.