

## Eliot Town Manager Report

April 27, 2022

Submitted by

Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard

Please accept this abridge report of activities and projects I and the dedicated staff have been working on in Town Hall these past weeks.

**Maine's Safest Communities.** Please check-out the following link [Maine's 10 Safest Cities of 2022 | SafeWise](#) we should all be proud of the efforts the Eliot Police Departments on so many levels to be in the top ten of safest cities and towns in Maine.

Given the more than 480 incorporated municipalities in Maine, being a member in this elite club is impressive and a credit to Chief Moya and all the officers/staff of the Eliot PD for keeping the community safe. This coupled with some of the cutting-edge training and innovative services the department is engaged in promoting really highlights the town and the department efforts to make Eliot a great place to live, work or visit.

**Town Hall Repairs/Improvements.** Thank you to Public Works Director Steve Robinson and the Public



Works for removing and prepping for the sidewalk replacement on the side of Town Hall which was identified by our P&C insurance carrier as an eminent and serious hazard.

It was addressed quickly and our paving partner Libby Scott came in quickly as well and took care of the finish work. I appreciate the team approach to these seemingly minor issues, but anyone who has replaced a sidewalk or driveway knows a "minor" repair can quickly become a major issue.



Visitors attending meetings or coming to Town Hall may see some of the activity related to our King Information Systems project. This project will improve record retention and retrieval, incorporate safe practices for storage and have scheduled annual maintenance. Thank you for your patience with these interruptions.

**On-line Permitting.** We are pleased to announce the long-awaited permitting platform is now live. We are using a "soft opening" approach and ask for the user's patience and input in the formative period leading up to an official roll-out.

Code Enforcement Officer Shelley Bishop and Land Use Assistant Kearsten Metz have been instrumental in getting this new service up and running. Please go to <https://eliotmaine.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/eliotmaine> and check it out, we encourage "construction" feedback. See what I did there. 😊.

In almost every community that put in place Iworq type on-line platform, permit fees increased substantially, I am confident the same will be true for Eliot. It also brings a level of service and

convenience for contractors in particular, but also homeowners. Anyone will be able to see if a permit has been applied for, where a project is at in the inspection process and the extent of a project. There will be adjustments, but this will be another investment in better and more efficient service to the public.

**Route 236 Sewer Project.** The TIF funded sewer project which will eventually provide increased sewer service to a large part of 236, State and Beech and make system improvements throughout the existing Eliot system is scheduled to be discussed at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Select Board Meeting.

Presently the engineering firm is working with the lone bidder to clarify some of the technical aspects and strategies for approaching this significant endeavor. This also includes working with our MEDOT partners to make sure impacts on Beech and State in particular are coordinated in order to the greatest extent possible avoid conflicts with their paving and construction schedules.

Hopefully we will be able to discuss in more full and accurate detail the projects process now and in the future. It is always dangerous to not have the full picture on projects of this magnitude.

**Finance Director.** I am saddened to report Doreen Chester our very recent appointee as Treasurer/Finance Director has accepted a position with the New Hampshire Bond Bank. Although she was only here for a short period, she has provided us with a great deal of insight and we wish her well in her new position.

On Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will welcome a new Finance Director Kristin McNulty. She is a graduate of Merrimack University with a degree in accounting and will soon earn a Masters Degree in Accounting from USM. She has experience working in schools, corporations and non-profits all which will benefit her demands in Eliot.

One of my approaches will be to surround Ms. McNulty with support systems and assistance to help her with an extremely complex responsibility. We will continue to put in place policies to better protect the assets of Eliot.

**May 7<sup>th</sup> Clean-up.** Thank you to Kari Moore and the Eliot Conservation Commission for organizing an Earth Day Clean Up along 236. Anyone interested can find out more on the Town website or show up with work gloves, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes and good attitude at Eliot Commons (8:30 Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>).

We also encourage everyone in Eliot to consider pitching in by not littering and if you are able remove any roadside litter you may have in your neck of the woods. Thank you all for your efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Manager, Eliot