

## **Eliot Town Manager Report**

**July 20, 2023**

Submitted by

**Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard**

Honorable Select Board, this is an abridged accounting of some of the projects and issues I and the dedicated municipal staff have been working on lately for the benefit of the Town of Eliot and its citizens.

### **Website Refresh-CivicPlus.**

On Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> staff will be attended an on-line webinar specifically to learn more about the website rebuilding process through CivicPlus. This includes addressing improved features as well as ones which were not available to our old website.

The webinar is a two-hour training to address both back end and front-end features. There will be improved access to records, such as minutes, agendas and public hearing announcements. We are working towards a direct link from the website to live meetings and to the recordings to allow a “one click” connection.

One of the important upgrades will bring the website into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The feature is called AudioEye and will allow sight impaired individuals to have text read to them off of the site. There also will be a robust sign-up feature, polling component and notification system all to better communicate accurate information to the residents, visitors and employees.

The upgraded website will also allow us to present more portals to committees, policies, ordinances and other important communal information. The present site has served the Town well, but this investment will be money well spent.

### **Mainspring-GA.**

Next week the GA Administrator and I will tour the 22 Shapleigh Mainspring facility. As we have discussed several previous meetings, the intent is to establish a one stop General Assistance facility for the region. Allowing people to receive information about job training, housing, recovery options, assistance, medical care and a long list other service for the public in a comprehensive one stop setting.

Having all the service at one address will provide a client with an integrated plan for economic, social and physical challenges they may be facing. This wrap around approach to the human and social services makes sense, as rarely is the GA challenges singular in nature and almost always multi-faceted.

There is still work to be done on the modeling and we will continue to work with the Executive Director Emily Flinkstrom, as well as Eliot's own Megan Ross-Shapiro on the details and report back as we solidify the plans.

### **Route 236, beyond Water and Sewer.**

Planner Jeff Brubaker and I recently met with Stephanie Carver and Dean Williams from Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) and Stephen Cole from Maine DOT to discuss the future projects for Route 236.

The Depot Road/Harold L Dow intersection, the Goodwin/Dow/Dover Road intersections which were part of the discussion. SMPDC is collecting new data about these areas to inform any planning or strategies to be considered. It is required to look at all options, including the "roundabout" concept. While there is a fair amount of skepticism expressed by the public, I would encourage patience and when the new data is presented to explore the best options.

The Goodwin/Dow/Dover crossing is part of what referred to as the regional KACTS initiative. The Depot/Dow is part of a design project from the Kittery line to that intersection. We will include input to the greatest extent possible from residents, organizations like the Eliot Garden Club, as these unfold.

The larger Water and Sewer Extension Project along 236, Beech and State is continuing, they are week behind on the update and I will be meeting with all the parties later this afternoon to discuss that and other issues. As always thank you to the residents for their patience and sometimes good humor. We know this is not easy, but the results will be worth it.

### **Eliot PD Recruits.**

The next few months will be difficult as two Eliot cadet officers are training at the full-time academy in Vassalboro. Officers Robert Govani and Casey Cyr are known already to many in the Town of Eliot as each have been serving the community for quite some time now.



Once their training is completed at the academy, they will be back in Eliot serving the citizens of the town. We wish them every success in the preparation and appreciate their efforts in that regard.

We also welcome the latest addition to the PD fleet. Given the challenges to get properly equipped and suitable public safety vehicle, I must tip my hat to Chief Moya and his staff for

jumping on a local opportunity and wrangling this vehicle away from the departments which are ordering a dozen at a time. Looks great!  
Investing in Elliot!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town of Eliot, Manager