**Town Manager Update**

*February 26, 2024*

 I’m moving forward on an item I’ve mentioned before, a request for the purchase of an easement which was promised but never followed up with on Housatonic Street. The plan should be done around the first couple of weeks in March; it will then need to be appraised, for which I am getting a quote.

Other appraisals that will have to be done include a couple of pieces on Orchard Street needed for drainage. I am also getting quotes for those.

I am almost done with the Climate Action Plan Request for Proposals, though I’m still working with the Green Committee to try to refine it a bit more before sending it out.

The Board of Assessors has moved forward with their abatement process, and I’d like to commend them for working through some very complex issues as they cover the requests.

I put out the invitation for bids for the website upgrade. Bids are due Wednesday, March 15 at 2 p.m. If bids come in above what Town Meeting voted, depending on how much, we may be able to use the IT budget, we may request a small amount of ARPA funds, we may re-bid the project. We could also ask Town Meeting for additional funds.

The Department of Public Works has been awarded $100,000 through the small bridge program for the bridge on Grange Hall Road over Barton Brook.

Processing electronic grant paperwork for Cultural Council and Garage insulation has been a challenge, but both are finally done and both projects should be proceeding normally.

I’m developing the draft warrant. Much of it is pro forma, and of course the warrant does not have money figures. But there are some different items, including the easements mentioned earlier in the meeting, and also closing borrowing accounts for completed projects that have small amounts of unspent money, which would go to free cash.