First Selectman's Report for May 4, 2021

COVID-19 Update - Appointments Now Open to anyone 16 and older via the State of Connecticut COVID-19 appointment hotline: **#1-877-918-2224.**

Please encourage friends and family to get vaccinated.

Budget 2022

The Town Budget Hearing will be Thursday May 6, 7pm at the Warren Woods, with a Town Meeting and proposed vote on the budget set for May 20, 7:30 also to be held at the Warren Woods. With strong guidance and commitment from our Board of Finance members we have a strong budget to present. I had hoped to present a comprehensive Five-year Capital Plan for each department, and that will be partially presented with an eye on refining it throughout the year. Large equipment purchases continue to be the focus. Uncertainty in yearly rates of increase costs for large truck and equipment makes it challenging to estimate out a long-term plan.

Town Hall Opening

As of yesterday May 3^{rd,} the Town Hall doors will be open during normal business hours.

Meetings

After tonight I will be asking all commission and committee meetings be held in the Town Hall conference room. We will open the doors to the public but also continue the meetings via zoom. There may be limited participation via zoom as the focus will be in person, but we will still have public comment during the appropriate times.

Broadband

There is a movement within many of the small towns in Northwest Connecticut to collaborate in creating a network that will allow our small towns to take control of their internet, cable, and phone infrastructure. We can advocate for the technology we need in our community instead of waiting for Altice/Optimum to provide it, in which case we will have no say in cost or service. Check your bills in the past year, your service costs may have dramatically gone up and there is little we can do about it.

Parade

We are working with The Warren Veterans to coordinate the feasibility of a Memorial Day Parade. Within the next week we should have an announcement.

Please call me if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions for us this Spring. Thank you!

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