



Town of Glastonbury

2155 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 6523 • GLASTONBURY, CT 06033-6523 • (860) 652-7500
FAX (860) 652-7505

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

ITEM #7
05-08-2018 Meeting

May 4, 2018

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up-to-date on various topics.

1. School Air Conditioning

Contracts are awarded and work under way on the elementary school air conditioning project at Buttonball, Hebron Avenue, Hopewell and Naubuc Schools. A completion date of August 1st is projected. Project costs are estimated at \$2.16 Million to include design, electrical updates, purchase and installation [roof top compressors] digital controls, center of classroom ceiling air supply and other project components. The \$2.16 Million compares with initial estimates as shown on the attached page and totals below the \$2.6 Million allocated for this project.

2. Cedar Ridge – Well Water

Per discussions, Health Director Wendy Mis and I have met with property owners along Cedar Ridge Drive and a representative from Manchester Water. Town staff will provide technical assistance to assist with the project to extend Manchester Water Service to several properties.

3. Panhandling Ordinance

At the April 24th Public Comments Session, a speaker suggested Glastonbury enact an Ordinance prohibiting or regulating panhandling. I asked Chief Porter to review and he has summarized his thoughts on the attached page. Should Council wish to consider, a draft Ordinance can be prepared for review.

4. Amnesty Days

Amnesty Days for disposal of brush and tree limbs at the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste Facility are successful. There are two amnesty days each fall [October/November] and spring [April/May] when residents can dispose of brush and tree limbs at either facility at no cost. For the three amnesty days to date, starting fall 2017, 55.25± tons have been received. Per the Town fee structure, these materials would have generated \$8,292.88 in revenue. The revised fee structure has encouraged users to bring brush and tree limbs directly to the Bulky Waste Facility. In turn, this saves Town resources for labor, equipment, fuel, etc. for transporting such materials from the Transfer Station to Bulky Waste.

5. Route 17 NB over Route 17 SB Ramp 007

This is the project to decommission bridges along Route 17 to close the entrance to New London Turnpike near Williams Street and realign the entrance and exit from 17 near Douglas Road. A Public Information Hearing was originally planned for November 2017, but State DOT asked to reschedule to provide additional time for scope review. They are now seeking a Public Information Hearing in late May or early June. A thought is to schedule for the June 12th Council meeting. I will appreciate your thoughts in this regard.

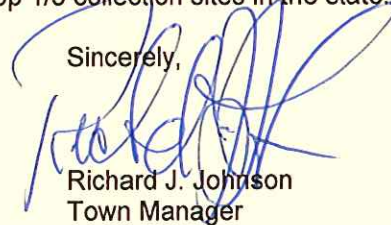
6. Roundabout

Town staff have received questions concerning truck traffic at the roundabout and rear wheels going over the curb at the outside of the intersection. A mesh reinforcing material is in place in these areas in anticipation of this situation. The goal is for grass to grow through the mesh thereby reinforcing the area in the event a rear wheel travels over the curb. If this solution does not prove effective, a hard paver surface will be considered.

7. Prescription Drug Collections

The prescription drug drop box located at the Police Department has collected 648 lbs over the past year. In addition the National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on April 28th collected an additional 160.6 lbs of medications. I am advised Glastonbury is among top 1/3 collection sites in the state.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AIR-CONDITIONING
PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SCENARIOS
OCTOBER 18, 2017

	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
Design and owner costs	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Purchase Units	440,000	440,000	440,000
Electric Upgrades	550,000	550,000	550,000
Install ¹	1,650,000	1,100,000	550,000
Total Order of Magnitude	\$2,740,000	\$2,190,000	\$1,640,000
Capital Reserve Transfer (design and electric)	600,000	600,000	600,000
Order of Magnitude less initial funding-\$600,000 ²	\$2,140,000	\$1,590,000	\$1,040,000
Deduct Purchase and In- house work by Education ³	TBD	TBD	TBD

¹ Assumes \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 per unit for installation

² "Pre-fund" through appropriation and transfer – General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance. Reimburse as applicable through 2018-2019 Capital Funding.

³ Potential purchase of units and in-house work by Education as applicable.

Panhandling

Since 2016, Glastonbury Police have responded to 15 incidents of panhandling. Eleven (11) were initiated through citizen complaints, 2 by officers, and 2 by businesses. Ten (10) panhandlers were on Glastonbury Boulevard (most at the 3N off ramp). The remainder were on Main, Welles, Hebron, and Putnam.

Glastonbury currently has no panhandler ordinance so officers rely on Connecticut General Statutes when taking enforcement action. Some communities *have* adopted panhandling ordinances. Because panhandling is constitutionally protected, these ordinances include language prohibiting certain types of behaviors or activities, collectively referred to as "aggressive panhandling". Some also prohibit panhandling in certain areas and at certain times due to the inherent danger caused by traffic, etc.

The question of whether to adopt an ordinance to regulate panhandling is complex. Studies have shown that enforcement is the least effective method of dealing with panhandlers. This is because most cannot pay the fines, and courts will not take action as it is not deemed a serious matter. This results in a never ending cycle of arrest and release, but the problem remains. Regulating panhandling in one area may only serve to move the problem to another area. Town ordinances may have even less effect than state statutes because the consequences for failing to pay ordinance fines are virtually nonexistent. In addition, the vast majority of panhandlers are engaging in "passive panhandling" which is not illegal.

There is mixed public opinion on panhandling. Some are sympathetic and offer support, others consider panhandling a blight and want police to take action. Police officers cannot take action on private property unless they have a prior arrangement with the property owner, they receive a complaint, or a crime is committed.

There are positive considerations to adopting a town ordinance. An ordinance would enable officers to cite panhandlers for behaviors that would normally not be violations under state statute such as: prohibiting panhandling on or along certain roadways deemed inherently dangerous for that type of activity (e.g., Glastonbury Boulevard, Main Street, Hebron Avenue, etc.); prohibiting panhandling at certain locations such as ATM's, bus stops, or other public areas; panhandling from dusk to dawn because it is inherently dangerous and tends to be intimidating; falsely representing the reasons for the need to panhandle; touching without consent; or repeatedly asking for money after being told no.

Should we decide to adopt an ordinance I would recommend we sign prohibited areas so panhandlers are aware of the prohibition, we discourage the public from giving panhandlers money through a public awareness campaign, and we train officers to consistently enforce the ordinance, while providing panhandlers information on available social services. I am happy to discuss in greater detail, and I have included several town ordinances for your review.

Sincerely,



Marshall S. Porter

TOWN MANAGER

2018 MAY - 2 PM 4:49

RECEIVED