

SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2017

The past year, 2017, has been one of continued progress on standard municipal priorities plus renewed interest in expanding the municipality's activities in certain areas. We closed the financial year in good stead which allows us to not only continue with our existing long range plans but also lay the groundwork for new projects.

Our municipal building now has a generator which will make the building useable as a command center and emergency shelter in case of loss of power in the community. The Town of Lyndon has also signed a purchase agreement for power from a local 400 kW solar installation. The savings from that agreement will reduce our electrical expenses on the municipal building, the public safety building, the new joint garage, and wastewater treatment operations. The town owned Fenton Chester Ice Arena has completed its first year under management by Lyndon Institute. Installation of artificial turf has dramatically increased useage in the spring and summer, while the traditional ice season remains strong.

Regarding new initiatives, our residents participated in the Community Visit process in February through April in which ideas for the community were discussed and priorities narrowed down to three areas: downtown revitalization, economic growth, and recreational opportunities. Task forces in all three areas have been planning and carrying out activities as evidenced by "pop-up" downtown events, development of a co-working space, and investigation of the feasibility of a town recreation and arts department. Our "Bike-Ped" committee has also been moving towards greater visibility and safety for residents and visitors.

Our police, fire, and rescue squad services remain an integral part of our community. We strive to have these departments provide the best services possible at a reasonable cost to our taxpayers. This year we have had to increase the support for Lyndon Rescue, but are confident that they will use our appropriation wisely for a long term benefit. Other town services such as our library, animal control, property assessment activities, public health, planning and zoning, and general administration are also functioning well.

A highlight related to our Highway Fund this year was the official opening of our new joint Town/Village Garage on Smith's Road. Both departments have adapted well to their new spaces. Now that all construction has been completed and all financial obligations paid, we are pleased to confirm that expenses stayed within the \$2.7 million bond issue authorized. On the Town side, we are recommending that some of the money that had been set aside in anticipatory savings be applied to pay down the Town's debt obligation. Future use of the former town garage site will be the subject of discussion in 2018.

Other highway work this year included resurfacing of the South Wheelock Road. We were also able to complete a few smaller projects on our long list of road segments that will need remediation to alleviate damage from future Stormwater events. An additional project was the installation of guardrails on the Brown Farm Road to improve safety. And, certainly, the standard work of plowing, sanding, salting, and grading went on all year as necessary.

Our town employees remain our best asset. They are loyal and dedicated to the needs of the citizens. Please offer a friendly "hello" and "thank you" when you see them about town.

Respectfully,

Marty Feltus, Kermit Fisher, Dan Daley