

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council  
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager  
DATE: August 11, 2020  
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report



The following information includes follow up from general items that were discussed at previous Council meetings as well as updates of a general nature from the departments. The items are organized by department and are intended to provide information on activities currently being undertaken by the Town's departments and those matters that are upcoming. Not all departments will be represented in each Report.

- Tropical Storm Isaias struck Town around 1:30 PM on Tuesday, August 4, with the major impact occurring between 2pm and 7pm that day . After the storm passed, Town staff had reported to Eversource approximately 90 locations with down wires and trees needing utility response as well as some houses that had been impacted. The Town's EOC was operational during the storm and the Emergency Management Director and the Town Manager coordinated the Town's response with Eversource. The peak outage for the town occurred Wednesday and constituted about 63% of the town or around 3900 customers. As of this writing, less than 20 locations remain without power. Most of these are single outage issues and probably involve service lines. Fortunately, only a handful of homes in Town sustained actual major damage from debris. The Building Department visited those locations during and immediately following the storm and is working with those property owners to resolve those issues. Some of those properties have had power restored already. As has been reported, the response was difficult. Unfortunately, it took until as late as Sunday to open some of our roads that were 100% blocked. We will continue to work with Eversource and other communities to improve this response with the utility. Most of the town's power restorations occurred between Friday and Monday with the last segments being completed today. Thursday evening, an Everbridge emergency notice was made to the community providing an update on the storm and indicating that a convenience station would be opened at the High School Friday morning to provide showers, device charging and potable water. A second notice was given Saturday reminding of the shower availability and providing notice that the transfer station was available. Over the time that the High School was available for showers, approximately 40 of our neighbors took advantage of those services with most coming over the weekend. Device charging was also available at the library. As noted, the transfer station was opened on Thursday to accept storm debris. It has remained open daily (except Sunday) and will remain open this week. Staff will reevaluate the need at the end of the week.

- During the storm, the Town's water and sanitary sewer utility systems functioned well although the staff did have to provide generator power to several of the lift stations during the storm and after until power was restored. Over time, many of our stations have permanent generators installed, which eases this issue significantly and improves reliability.
- The Department of Public Works continues to collect storm debris that is generated by Eversource's work or which was simply pushed to the roadside during the Town's initial response. This week, the Department staff will divide its priorities between storm cleanup and preparing roads for paving so that paving dates previously scheduled with our contractor may be kept.
- The Finance Department is preparing for a bond rating call scheduled for this week . As the Council will recall, the Town is selling bonds to permanently finance the Town Hall project and to provide funds for additional work at the High School.
- As of the end of July, the Collector's Office indicates that total tax collections are slightly higher than they were for the same period last year. Interestingly, significantly more of the Town's tax levy is being paid using ACH transfers or credit card transactions than have occurred in the past. The written version of this Report will include a brief chart prepared by the Finance Department showing details of this information.
- Regarding the in-lake treatments and aeration, as many know, the Town received a cease and desist order from the State regarding the use of BioBlast in the lake, which is the second part of the in-lake process being employed to improve water quality. Staff has been in contact with the representatives of DEEP, who have now provided information on the permit they desire. Working with the Town's contractor, the requested information will be provided and DEEP is committed to working as quickly as they can to approve the work. While it is not known when the permit will be received, it is anticipated that we will resume the treatment this summer.
- No new cases of COVID-19 this week. The community stands at 55 cases since tracking began.
- Jase Doane was appointed to the Economic Development Commission for a term ending December 31, 2023. Doane operates two businesses in the Village Center; APEX Educational Solutions and Patrice and Associates Recruiting.

# July 2019 & July 2020 Tax Collection Summary

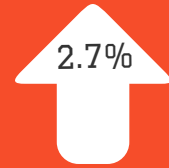
## TOTAL TAX COLLECTIONS



**\$17,795,615**

**July 2019**

**\$18,274,548**



**July 2020**

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## ACH TRANSACTIONS



**\$761,346**

**July 2019**

**\$1,484,439**



**July 2020**

## CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS



**\$265,405**

**July 2019**

**\$361,334**



**July 2020**