

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

For the next two weeks, garbage pickup will be pushed back one day due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. As a reminder, Town Hall will be closed on Friday, December 22nd and Monday, December 25th for Christmas, and on New Year's Day.

The Town of Colebrook, is seeking a qualified contractor to provide for the installation of a new heating system for the Colebrook Center Firehouse. The scope of this work includes removing the existing two oil-fired boilers and indirect water heater and replacing with two propane-fired boilers and an indirect water heater. Replacement of the current system will enable the Town to save on heating costs. Earlier this week, requests for proposal were sent to area contractors. Proposals are due by January 18th.

During January, we anticipate going out to bid for a new HVAC system for Colebrook Consolidated School, as agreed to earlier at Town Meeting. This project will be paid for on a shared basis employing a state grant. The Town will absorb approximately 53% of the cost. The majority of the work is expected to be completed this summer while the building is unoccupied.

Grants are an important source of funding for small towns. Pending approval from the Board of Selectmen at its January meeting, Amy Gardner, Karen Odell and I will be participating in an online grant workshop at the end of January. The session is sponsored by the University of Connecticut's Grant Training Center, whose mission is to help institutions like ours apply for, win and manage federal, foundation and corporate funding.

On a related note, this past week I met with State Senator Lisa Seminara and State Representative Jay Case to discuss opportunities to collaborate with the State. We discussed how Colebrook might benefit from the Community Investment Fund, a statewide program to fund shovel-ready infrastructure projects. This program awards \$175 million annually to local communities across Connecticut. As upcoming grant rounds emerge, we'll explore how we might benefit, and submit grant applications accordingly.

Effective December 31st, Jim Millar will leave the Colebrook Board of Finance (BOF), having served for 16 years, many of them as Chair. Jim's dedication and commitment to our community have been truly remarkable. Jim's successor as BOF Chair is Duncan Wilber, who will lead the Board as we develop the Town's 2024/25 budget, with Kate Adams serving as Vice Chair.

Following are upcoming municipal board meetings in Colebrook:

Colebrook Consolidated School (CCS) Building Committee—Wednesday, January 3rd at 6 p.m. at CCS

Board of Education—Wednesday, January 3rd at 7 p.m. at CCS

Capital Improvements Program Committee—Thursday, January 4th at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Board of Selectmen—Monday, January 8th at 7 p.m. at Town Hall

As you can see, January is shaping up to be a busy month for our Town Boards and Commissions. Thank you to all of the volunteers who help our Town run smoothly!

Our next Town Hall newsletter will be sent on Thursday, January 4th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org, or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202. Please send news items to Karen Odell at kodell@colebrooktownhall.org, by noon on Thursdays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Brad

Brad Bremer

Colebrook First Selectman

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