

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

Our Town budget hearing is tonight at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Colebrook Consolidated School Superintendent Bob Gilbert and I will discuss our proposed Board of Ed and Board of Selectmen budgets for fiscal year 2024-2025. Board of Finance Chair Duncan Wilber will present a proposed Mill rate exhibit.

For the Selectmen's budget (including Town Hall and the Department of Public Works), actual expenses for last fiscal year were \$2,120,421. This year, we budgeted \$2,392,810. Year-to-date, expenses are below projected spending by 8.1%, or approximately \$194,000. To help keep the Mill rate flat, the Board of Finance requested the Selectmen's budget to approximate actual expenses incurred in 2022/23. Our proposed Selectmen budget therefore shows a reduction of 5%. The Board of Ed budget for FY 2024/25 shows a reduction of 2.5%.

Representatives from the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen, along with the Town School Building Committee, are discussing next steps for the Colebrook Consolidated School HVAC project, to be funded in part through a State grant. At a Capital Improvement Committee meeting earlier this week, we voted to add \$80,000 to the Capital budget to help cover design and engineering costs incurred to date.

We met recently with representatives from Eversource regarding their tree removal plans for this Spring in Colebrook. They intend to remove approximately 75 dead or declining trees that have been deemed a hazard. A "hazard tree" is defined as one endangering utility infrastructure facilities and equipment. Eversource will be contacting homeowners for consent.

Tomorrow, the Board of Selectmen will meet with Earthlight Technologies to discuss a potential opportunity to have solar panels installed on municipal buildings in Colebrook. This would be at no cost to the Town and allow us to lower our electricity bills through a power purchase agreement. Last fiscal year, for example, the Town spent approximately \$45,000 on electricity, making potential savings quite attractive. This program was recommended to us by Town Building Inspector Bill Volovski, who is a Selectmen in Canton, where they have taken advantage of this opportunity—and achieved savings. Details to follow, as we learn more.

The 2024-2025 CCS Kindergarten registration will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Families should have received a packet in the mail to complete and bring on registration day. Please RSVP to [hmccaw@colebrookschool.org](mailto:hmccaw@colebrookschool.org).

#### **Upcoming Town events:**

The Colebrook Historical Society (CHS) will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 3 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Following a brief business meeting, historical consultant Anne Hall will give a special presentation previewing this year's CHS exhibit—"Rediscovering Colebrook River, the Town that Disappeared." Refreshments will be served following the presentation. [Learn more here.](#)

The Colebrook Conservation Commission will be hosting Colebrook Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Pick up large garbage bags at Colebrook Town Hall, second floor Meeting Room from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign up to clean a road that morning, or you can sign up in advance by emailing [kodell@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:kodell@colebrooktownhall.org), or by calling 860.379.3359, ext. 202. Filled garbage bags will be picked up along Town roads by our Department of Public Works on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers may pick up complementary sunflower seed packets in the Town Clerk's office.

#### **Upcoming municipal board meetings:**

Board of Selectmen – Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 11 a.m. (Land Use Office)

Inland Wetlands – Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. (Land Use Office)

Board of Finance – Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 6 p.m. (upstairs Meeting Room)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org), or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202.

Cordially,

**Brad**

Brad Bremer

Colebrook First Selectman

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