

Municipal Corner

Selectboard Proposed Budget and Voting: The Selectboard adopted a proposed FY'22 General Fund Operating Budget for voter consideration that represents a net increase of 1.37% and a slight decrease in the projected property tax rate. While the Selectboard recognizes there are a lot of needs and desires they felt it was prudent to hold the line during the pandemic due to the private fiscal stress many individuals and businesses are facing. If you have any questions about the proposed operating budget, you may contact Charles Safford, Stowe Town Manager, at csafford@stowevt.gov or 253-7350.

They also decided to only advance essential capital projects for consideration. These projects include the local match money to replace the failing Stagecoach Road Culverts with a new bridge (\$240,000), money to armor approximately 350 LF of streambank along Moscow Road which is being undermined (\$115,000), and for a Highway Garage Roof Assessment and Replacement Design (\$15,000). The roofing membrane on the southern side is severely UV deteriorated and functionally compromised. This is funding to retain a roofing consultant to assess existing conditions and prepare recommendations for the repairs and/or replacement of the roofing system. If you have any questions about the proposed capital projects, you may contact Harry Shepard, Stowe Public Works Director, at hshepard@stowevt.gov or 730-3773.

In addition to voting on the General Fund, you will be asked to vote to elect the Town Moderator, to elect two Selectboard members, and one Town Lister. In addition, you will be asked to approve all elected officials salaries for the upcoming year: \$3,000 for each Selectboard member, \$250 for each Lister, and \$100 for each annual or special town meeting over which the moderator presides.

Due to the pandemic, voting this year will be by Australian paper ballot which will be mailed to all registered voters. To cast your voted ballot you can mail them to Town of Stowe, PO Box 730, Stowe, VT 05672, drop them in the secure drop box that will be placed at the Akeley Memorial Building (Town Hall at 67 Main Street), or hand deliver them to the polls on March 2nd between 7 am and 7 pm at the Stowe Arena where in-person voting will take place. If you are not registered to vote you can do so by making an appointment with the Town Clerk's Office by calling (802) 253-6133 or (802) 730-0787 or emailing townclerk@stowevt.gov or visit <https://mvp.vermont.gov> to register online and track the status of your ballot. You can direct any questions pertaining to voting to the Town Clerk's Office as well.

Town Reports: The Town Report should be ready by February 22nd. The entire Town Report will be uploaded to the Town of Stowe's website at www.townofstowevt.org. In addition, hard copies can be picked up at local gas stations, grocery stores and at the polling place. You can also have one mailed to you by calling 253-7350 or email aearle@stowevt.gov to have one mailed to you.

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD): The Selectboard joined the Lamoille FiberNet Communication Union District. A communications union district (CUD) is an organization of two or more towns that join together as a municipal entity to build communication infrastructure together. The mission of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District is "to make locally-controlled, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet service available to every address in the member towns." For more information, you can visit LFCUD's website at <https://lamoillefiber.net/> or join one of their open meetings. The LFCUD's Governing Board meets every 4th Wednesday at 7 p.m. and the zoom link to those meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/95450634022?pwd=UU5LSWs2WFZTNE9jbE1sbncrcHV2UT09>. You may also

reach out to Stowe's Representatives: Stephen Friedman (sfriedman@lamoillefiber.net) Representative, Scott Weathers (sweathers@lamoillefiber.net) Alternate, Chris Foran (cforan@lamoillefiber.net) Alternate, and Larry Lackey (llackey@lamoillefiber.net) LFCUD Treasurer, or to Lea Kilvadyova, LFCUD Clerk, at info@lamoillefiber.net.

Selectboard Email Addresses: Members of the Stowe Selectboard have been provided governmental emails for municipally related communication. They are as follows: Lisa Hagerty - lhagerty@stowevt.gov, Billy Adams – badams@stowevt.gov, Wille Noyes – wnoyes@stowevt.gov, Morgan Nichols – mnichols@stowevt.gov, Nick Donza – ndonza@stowevt.gov.