

Municipal Corner – November

Municipal Bond Votes: Please remember that the Town has two municipal bond votes scheduled for November 6th. The first is to reconstruct 1.5 miles of sidewalks along our Class 1 highways and the second is to see if the voters want to use local option tax revenue to pay for burying the remaining overhead utility lines on Main Street in conjunction with the sidewalk project. Australian ballot voting will occur from 7am to 7pm in the Akeley Building (e.g. Town Hall). An informational meeting will be held at 5:30pm on November 1st in the Akeley Building at 67 Main Street.

Budget Development: Winter is when the Town works on developing the General Fund Budget and Capital Program for the voter's consideration at Annual Meeting. The Town Manager will present the draft budget to the Stowe Selectboard at their December 17th meeting. At their January 14th meeting, the Selectboard will hear from non-profits desiring a new or increased appropriation and deliberate on the budget. They will continue to deliberate on the budget at their January 28th meeting. At that meeting, the Selectboard will adopt the budget and warning for Annual Meeting. These meetings are open to the public and the draft budget once developed may be found online at the Town's website at www.townofstovevt.org.

Request from community non-profits for appropriations must be submitted to the Town Manager's Office on designated forms on or before November 16th. The forms may be obtained by contacting Abby Earle at 253-7350 or aearle@stovevt.gov or on our website under Town Departments, Administration To be eligible for consideration, you must be an IRS approved non-profit that provides a public benefit to the Stowe community.

The Town anticipates approximately a 1% growth rate in the Grand List. The Grand List is the total amount of taxable property in Stowe. It also anticipates continuing growth in its tax on rooms, meals and alcohol. If the voters approve the sidewalk project we need to incorporate the initial debt payments. It is also anticipated the Stowe Fire Department will request its first full-time fire chief. Major pay-as-you-go capital projects will include fixing the Recreation Path between Bridge 1 and 2 behind the Stowe Community Church. If you walk this stretch of the Path you can see where the river is eroding the banks on both sides. If the banks are not armored, it may join causing the Town to install another bridge, which is even more expensive.

Snow Tires: Snow is going to start to fly soon. Please do yourself and everyone else on the road a favor and buy snow tires. Do not rely on all-season tires. No matter how aggressive the road crew is in plowing roads, there are times when we can not keep up with Mother Nature and snow falls faster than we can clear it. Each year cars slip off the road, which is a particular issue on Harlow Hill where it can block other traffic, including emergency vehicles. Think of snow tires as part of the essential equipment necessary for your sport.

Needles: There have been needles found around town, particularly along the Stowe Recreation Path. If you happen to find one, please contact the Stowe Police Department non-emergency number at 253-7126 and they will safely dispose of them. Also, please teach your kids not to touch them if they find them.

Emergency Contact Information: You should call 911 when you have an emergency. The non-emergency phone number for the EMS is 253-9060, for Fire 253-4315, and Police it is 253-7126. The

Stowe Fire Department is a volunteer agency, so you will need to leave a phone message and someone will get back to you. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department dispatches for all emergency agencies, so don't be surprised when you hear them answer the phone. When in doubt, call 911 to ensure you receive a timely response to an emergency.

Building Maintenance: Within the last year the Town has undertaken important building maintenance to our public buildings. This included a historic restoration of the windows in the Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum and rebuilding the four chimneys on the Akeley Building. It is important that we take care of our assets. Not only to these buildings continue to serve useful functions in Stowe, they reflect the community's history and are irreplaceable.