

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

9/9/25

We have completed the first round of department head budget meetings. Tomorrow we will send out the expense, capital and designated fund worksheets to the department heads as well as the narrative questions that we ask them to respond to. We plan to meet with each department head again in late September. The budget books will be available to the Town Board on October 10th.

One small step to addressing our perennial parks staffing issue is that we are asking the Town Board to approve a new year-round job description for a parks/roads laborer. If approved this would enable us to get an early start in the spring on getting the parks ready. The 2026 budget will also include a proposal for more competitive wages for the remaining two parks positions.

The creation of a new position, Short-term Rental Administrator, has already surfaced problems with compliance, room accommodation tax non-payment and prohibited uses. The Short-term Rental Administrator and the Zoning Administrator are collaborating to address these issues.

We will have some disruption and noise on Sunny Slope Road when Xcel completes their drilling for another electrical cable to the Island. Xcel representatives have stated that this will double or triple the Islands electric power availability.

After the public hearing on the revised Zoning Code, the consensus seemed to be that the volume of information to be reviewed coupled with the long-term consequences of the ordinance required a more deliberate review process than a single public hearing. Perhaps, at least for the more sensitive aspects of the ordinance, working groups could be assigned to individual topics.

The application of zoning regulations probably ranks only behind levying property taxes as the one of the most impactful decisions that a town government makes. The impact of these decisions is not only felt by the property owner but also by her neighbors and everyone else in similar situations. The goal is consistency in decision-making across fact patterns that are close but rarely exactly the same as

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preceding cases. Given variations in fact patterns the best driver for achieving consistency is following prescribed processes to their logical conclusion.

Ultimately there needs to be a decision, one way or another, so finality is itself an important goal but consistency breeds respect for any outcome.