

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**To: Members of the South Windsor Town Council**

**From: Matthew B. Galligan, Town Manager**

**Subject: Town Manager's Report for 3/18/19 Town Council Meeting**

**Date: March 13, 2019**

### **Pleasant Valley Property Purchase**

The Council has approved the purchase of the church property next to Pleasant Valley School for future school development. We are still waiting for the appraisals on the adjacent properties to come in. An MOU has been sent to the Town for review and signature. The reason for the double appraisals is so that in the future if the school is built on that parcel, then we would be able to look for reimbursement from the State. The State requires two appraisals on each parcel, and a closing date within six months of the appraisal, so we will move this forward very quickly. We will keep the information available for when we look to renovate Pleasant Valley School.

### **Daycare Facility**

It is my understanding that there is some opposition to the daycare facility proposed for Pleasant Valley Road. The reason that the facility is proposed to be put there is because Pleasant Valley School has a number of children who do not have access to before and after school care. This childcare company has 21 facilities throughout Connecticut, and they run a very clean and pristine operation. The site was chosen because of its proximity to Pleasant Valley School, which would keep costs down for South Windsor taxpayers who would use that facility and not have to provide for additional transportation costs. It is now up to the Planning and Zoning Commission to determine the logistics of the operation. We will wait for their decision.

### **Budget Presentation FY 19-20**

The budget for Fiscal Year 19-20 will be presented at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. As this will be my last budget, I would like to thank the Council for the 23 years you have allowed me to be your manager, to take care of the financial condition of the

Town, and to present budgets that I felt have been strategically aligned with your objectives and the level of service and appropriate and efficient cost for the Town of South Windsor residents. I would also like to thank the community for allowing me to be their manager and leading the charge for the ambiance and quality of life that our residents have been looking for.

### **Special Education Task Force Update**

As you all know, I serve as the chairman of the Special Education Task Force. We had a meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, at which we made some edits and revisions to the draft report. The draft report has been released. When the final draft comes out it will be given to the State Legislature to see how we can predict the cost of special education, so that we do not have these ups and downs in our budgets in future years. I am hoping that the State Legislature will look at this as a positive, and be able to make sure that the children who need these services are provided for as appropriately and efficiently as possible.

### **School Districts**

There are certain legislative issues coming up concerning school districts, such as regionalizing and an item concerning allowing the Board of Education to raise their own taxes and be somewhat separated from the Town. On Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> I will testify with CCM on some of these proposals. Allowing the Board to raise their own taxes is something that is done in many states throughout the country. I do not think it adds any downside to either the Town or the Board. The separation of finances does make the cost of education more transparent. I have experience with auditing school districts, and allowing boards of education to raise their taxes was the system in New York, so it will be very interesting to see what our legislators will do on this issue. There are certain other items that I am not necessarily agreeing to, that I think at this point would be logistically impossible, but there are some regional approaches that could allow Boards of Education to work together on their healthcare costs or bussing, among other things. They could bid together regionally and get a better price to reduce costs. As these situations arise I will let the Council know as to the outcomes that may come from all this legislative wrangling that is going on at the State Capitol.