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OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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TO: SELECTBOARD  
FROM: PETE WEBSTER  
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT  
DATE: 9/18/2009

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Here's a quick summary of the past couple weeks. It will be quite abbreviated, as I was away at the annual ICMA conference, then the VTCMA conference which piggy-backed on the ICMA meeting.

- Since your last Board meeting, I have met with the outside auditors as they performed their annual review. I believe it went very well; Roberta worked hard to prepare for the annual review and to make it go as well as it did. The auditors seem to feel our Town is in remarkably strong shape compared to many other municipalities that they audit. You will be getting the detailed report in a couple months, but suffice it to say that the auditors have a lot of respect for this Town's financial health. Taxes collected from the first installment are just where they were a year ago—at the 55% mark (\$13,454,171.54 billed and \$7,480,664.16 collected to date). You might be interested to know that the Grand List has been reduced by almost half a million (\$493,900) through the BCA adjustments.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Norwich Business Council. A brief discussion of holiday lighting occurred, and I have made a suggestion for your Board concerning the recently dedicated bandstand and the business council's efforts to put a festive air on the Town during the holidays.
- I walked the Rt. 10A section with Bob Chamberlin of RSG, to further go over fine tuning of the lane configuration experiment. Sharon R. happened to be out walking and joined us for a portion of that meeting. We have requested a number of small improvements (in our eyes) that Kevin Marshia of VTrans may be able to accommodate. Even if we don't get these changes prior to paving and permanent striping, I think the community at large is well pleased at the outcome and where we find ourselves now compared to what we had prior to the experiment and the paving.
- I've had a number of email communications with concerned residents from Church Street about the width of the paving there, and continue to try and resolve that with the state. As I write this, River Road is being paved, and the schedule for the balance of the paving project is next week—Rt. 10A portion and Church Street should be paved by this time next week, with the recessed lane stripes going in very shortly thereafter. The sidewalks on both sides of Main Street coming into Town continue to be paved section by section, and when the dust has completely settled it should look beautiful. The residents have been very understanding of the traffic congestion and lane closures--we

are finally coming to the conclusion of a major project that presented significant delays this summer. I think it will have been well worthwhile when completed.

- I've met a second time with the resident from Bragg Hill who has done some planting within Town right-of-way to continue the dialogue and try to resolve the situation as amicably as possible. I will work with Andy on resolving that issue.
- Bandstand dedication Saturday went very well, with the weather even cooperating. It was a wonderful ceremony for those of you who were unable to attend, with some great speeches from Margaret Cheney, Peter Welch and Ed Childs. Quite a nice Olde Home Day crowd, and this followed a wonderfully moving ceremony held at 10 that morning to rededicate the Vietnam memorial. I complimented Scooter Hardy on his great involvement with the veterans to make that happen. The bandstand has received some great reviews from those who have used it—the band that played Saturday couldn't say enough nice things about it, and the Women's Club are to be complimented on their great efforts to decorate it for the occasion.
- I left for Montreal right after the bandstand dedication last Saturday, for the 95<sup>th</sup> annual ICMA conference, which went from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. I will have a detailed report on the educational sessions I sat in on, the keynote speakers and their messages, and just how that conference went overall. Following that was our fall meeting of the VTCMA (Vt. Town/City Managers' Assn) meeting, from the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> into the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>. I returned home late Thursday evening. I was able to resolve some issues for residents via email from Montreal, as they have a large bank of terminals at these conferences so we can stay connected with our offices and constituents while away. I will also have a summary of the Vermont manager's meeting as well for you early next week.

That's pretty much it for this period. I look forward to our meeting Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Pete