



Town Manager's Report

December 16, 2024



Municipal
Services
Director
Transition



Housing
Champion
Designation



Holiday Hours
and
Holiday Events

Learn more at www.salemnh.gov

To: Salem Town Council
From: Joseph Devine, Town Manager
Date: December 16, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report



MEMORANDUM



News and Noteworthy:

Municipal Services Director Transition

It is bittersweet to announce that Municipal Services Director Roy Sorenson will be leaving his position effective February 7, 2025, to take on an exciting new role as Town Administrator for the Town of Hudson. This is a proud moment for Salem as one of our own steps forward into this significant leadership opportunity.

Roy has been an integral part of our team for the past nine years, bringing remarkable passion, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to serving the Salem community. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing the mission and operations of the Municipal Services Department. From modernizing infrastructure to enhancing service delivery, Roy's contributions have left a lasting impact on Salem.

Roy is the kind of leader who puts the needs of the community and his team first, always striving to ensure the best outcomes for our residents and businesses. His focus on collaboration, innovation, and excellence has set a high standard for municipal services in Salem.



On a personal note, I have relied on Roy's expertise and steady leadership countless times, and his presence on the management team will be deeply missed. Over the next two months, we will celebrate his achievements and express our gratitude for his service. Roy has committed to finishing strong and connecting with as many of us as possible before his departure.

Please join me in congratulating Roy on this well-deserved opportunity. While we will greatly miss him, we are excited to see all that he will accomplish in Hudson. Thank you, Roy, for everything you have done for Salem.

Wreath Donation

I would like to thank Ford Flower for supplying our public buildings with beautiful holiday wreaths. This donation truly improves the experience for visitors and employees at the Town Building.

Housing Champion Designation

I am proud to share that the Town of Salem has been officially recognized as a New Hampshire Housing Champion by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. This prestigious designation, awarded to municipalities that demonstrate leadership and innovation in addressing housing challenges, is a testament to our community's dedication to fostering sustainable solutions for housing development.

Our Housing Champion application achieved an impressive score of 91 points, highlighting Salem's commitment to creating pathways for housing opportunities that benefit residents and support the state's broader housing needs.

To commemorate this achievement, Salem will be honored at a public ceremony on December 19th at 12:30 PM at The Atrium, 7 Eagle Square, Concord, NH. During this event, we will receive a formal certificate and a commemorative plaque recognizing our efforts.

This designation not only brings recognition to our work but also opens doors to significant funding opportunities, including:

- **Housing Production Municipal Grant Fund** – \$1.5 million in available funding.
- **Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant** – \$3.5 million in available funding.

These grants, available starting January 2025, provide further opportunities to enhance housing initiatives and infrastructure improvements in Salem.

The Housing Champion designation is valid for three years, with annual reporting required to maintain it. This honor reflects the collaborative efforts of our team and community in addressing housing needs, and I am excited to see how we can build on this momentum.

Congratulations to Planning Director Jacob LaFontaine and Community Development Program Manager Crayton Brubaker and everyone involved in achieving this milestone for Salem!

Menorah Lighting Ceremony on the Town Common

I am pleased to announce that a Menorah lighting ceremony will take place on the Town Common at 5:00 PM on the second evening of Hanukkah, December 26th. This event is organized by Rabbi Borenstein, who has reached out through Ross Moldoff to coordinate the details.

As in previous years, the Menorah will be brought to the Town Common specifically for the ceremony and will be removed immediately afterward. Rabbi Borenstein has chosen not to leave the Menorah on the Common for an extended period.

This event is a meaningful way to celebrate the holiday season and foster inclusivity within our community. We encourage all members of the community to join in this celebration of Hanukkah.

Town Hall and Senior Center Closure for Staff Holiday Party

Please be advised that both Town Hall and the Senior Center will be closed on Wednesday, December 18th, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM to allow staff to gather for our annual holiday party.

This event provides an opportunity to celebrate the season, recognize the hard work of our employees, and foster camaraderie among our team. We appreciate the community's understanding and support as we take this time to come together.

Regular operations will resume promptly at 2:00 PM. We encourage residents to plan accordingly for any Town Hall or Senior Center services needed that day.



Items Signed on Behalf of the Town Council Since Last Update:

- Payment Check Register (11-26-24) - \$3,060.00
- Payment Check Register (11-26-24) - \$190,223.24
- Payment Check Register (11-29-24) - \$6,282,073.75
- Payment Check Register (12-03-24) - \$9,214,910.45
- Payment Check Register (12-10-24) - \$297,174.02
- Payroll Register No. 48 (11-25-24) - \$385,827.29
- Payroll Register No. 49 (12-02-24) - \$364,120.65
- Payroll Register No. 50 (12-10-24) - \$360,346.31