

To: Salem Town Council
From: Joseph Devine, Town Manager
Date: February 10, 2025
Re: Town Manager's Report



MEMORANDUM



News and Noteworthy:

2025 Voter's Guide Available on the Website

The Town Election will take place on March 11, 2025 from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. The Voter's Guide is not available in print form yet but we do have it available on the website. If you are on the homepage of www.salemnh.gov and click the button that says "2025 Budget & Town Meeting" there is a link at the top of the page.

Salem Master Plan

There is a scheduled joint meeting with the Steering Committee and Planning Board for Wednesday February 19th at 6:00pm at the Salem High School Media Center.

Update on Fire Station #3 – Lawrence Road

As of February 4th, structural shoring has been completed, and the insurance adjuster and structural engineer have approved work to begin. DL King, the contractor for the project, is set to remove the I-beam and brick over the garage door while finalizing repair quotes and engineering drawings.

Superior Fire Protection is scheduled to temporarily remove the Inspectors' test piping from the sprinkler system by the end of this week or early next week. If all goes as planned, rebuilding should start in about two weeks.

I expect to receive the repair proposal from DL King this week. They are ready to begin preparing the site on Tuesday, including setting up staging and removing the existing steel and brick. They will also start constructing a temporary wall. Once we have finalized the structural design, full rebuilding can commence. Weather permitting work should begin by the end of next week or the beginning of the following week.

A special thank you to James Pacheco for his invaluable assistance throughout this process.

The Federal Funding Freeze and Its Effects on New Hampshire

On January 27, 2025, the Trump Administration issued a memorandum directing federal agencies to temporarily pause all activities related to the obligation and disbursement of federal financial assistance. This included funding for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI initiatives, gender-related programs, and environmental policies. The order created uncertainty for

municipalities and nonprofits across the country, with conflicting messages on which programs were affected.

Currently, the freeze is suspended. Just before the directive was set to take effect, a federal judge issued a temporary stay, ruling that more time is needed to evaluate the broader implications of the order. The judge's decision prevents the administration from pausing congressionally appropriated funds originally until February 3rd, but that has since been continued.

Salem will continue monitoring this situation and any potential impacts on our town.

Credentialed Manager Designation from ICMA

I am pleased to inform you that I have earned the prestigious Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). This accomplishment reflects a continued commitment to professional development and the highest standards in local government management.

The ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program recognizes local government management professionals who demonstrate significant senior management experience, hold an advanced degree (preferably in public administration or a related field), and maintain a commitment to lifelong learning and ethical leadership. I am proud to join over 1,300 professionals who have received this designation.

Throughout my 20+ years in public administration, I have sought to implement effective strategies and policies that enhance services and improve the quality of life for our residents. As Town Manager of Salem, I have worked closely with staff, our departments, and the community to drive positive change and operational efficiency. This designation further reflects my dedication to the continued development of our town's government and services.

I remain fully committed to fostering progress, innovation, and collaboration for Salem and am thankful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community.

Thank you for your continued support.