

**To:** Salem Town Council  
**From:** Joseph Devine, Town Manager  
**Date:** April 21, 2025  
**Re:** Town Manager's Report



## MEMORANDUM



### **News and Noteworthy:**

#### **Salem Community Power – Plan Submission & Public Comment Period**

The Town of Salem has officially submitted its *Salem Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan* to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for review. This marks a significant milestone in advancing the Town's efforts to provide more affordable and sustainable energy options for residents and businesses.

In accordance with RSA 53-E:7, II, the PUC will accept public comments on the proposed plan for 21 days following submission. The comment period will remain open through **April 22, 2025**. It's important to note that the Commission's review process will not involve a contested case hearing.

Residents and interested stakeholders are encouraged to review the plan and submit their feedback directly to the PUC during this period. This community input is a valuable part of shaping Salem's energy future.

#### **Recognition – National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**

April 13–19 was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, a time dedicated to recognizing the incredible work of our dispatch professionals. In Salem, both our Police and Fire Communications Specialists were celebrated for the critical role they play as our first-first responders.

These dedicated individuals are the calm voices on the other end of every 911 call — gathering information, coordinating responses, and ensuring that our police officers, firefighters, and EMTs have what they need to respond quickly and safely. Their professionalism, steady presence, and dedication to public service make them an essential part of our public safety team.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our dispatchers for their outstanding service to the Salem community.

#### **Recognition – National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week**

April 13–19 was National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, an opportunity to recognize the important work done by animal control professionals across the country. Here in Salem, we are proud to recognize **Animal Control Officer O'Brien** for her impressive work, commitment to public safety, and ongoing volunteerism throughout the year.

Officer O'Brien consistently goes above and beyond in her role, responding to calls with compassion and professionalism while also contributing her time and energy to support animal welfare efforts in the community. Thank you to Officer O'Brien for her outstanding service to Salem.

## **Town Clerk – 2025–2026 Dog License Renewals**

The 2025–2026 dog license renewal season is now open. In accordance with NH RSA 466:1, all dogs must be licensed by **April 30, 2025**. A current rabies vaccination must be on file in order to complete registration. Renewals can be completed online or in person at the Town Clerk's Office.

Late fees have been applied to overdue renewals and will continue to accrue on a monthly basis. Additionally, **civil forfeiture fees of \$25 per year** are assessed for unlicensed dogs and cannot be waived.

Our Animal Control Officer and staff are actively reaching out to dog owners regarding outstanding licenses and to ensure compliance. If your dog has moved, been rehomed, or is deceased, please notify the Town Clerk's Office so we can update our records accordingly.

For more details or to renew online, please visit the Dog Licenses page on the Town's website.

## **Drought Conditions**

Drought conditions in New Hampshire have shown improvement for the first time in several months, thanks in part to the arrival of spring rains and the thawing of frozen ground. While this is a positive trend, much of the state, including Salem, remains affected.

As of this update, Salem and surrounding areas continue to be categorized as experiencing Moderate Drought, and nearly all of New Hampshire is classified as either Abnormally Dry or in Moderate Drought. Statewide drought coverage has decreased from 66% to approximately 39% over the past week.

Historically, we begin to see private wells impacted when conditions reach **Severe Drought**, but given the extended dry period, there is still potential for issues even at current levels. Residents are encouraged to conserve water whenever possible to help reduce strain on our local water source

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

- Payroll Register No. 15 (04-07-25) - \$340,968.34
- Payment Check Register (04-08-25) - \$991,997.60
- Payment Check Register (04-11-25) - \$1,365.27
- Void Payment Check Register (04-11-25) - \$1,365.27
- Payroll Register No. 16 (4-15-25) - \$349,016.76
- Payment Check Register (04-15-25) - \$3,526,573.08

