

Mayor Report #5

I like to begin each meeting by restating my three goals as mayor. I will do that in a minute.

Before I do, there have been incidents recently where residents have been less than civil to our police and staff. *That is unacceptable.* If you find fault with the policies or the service that the town provides, please talk with me, Chief Kerr or Administrator Lucas. Our police and staff are employees, not servants. Please treat them with respect.

Since taking office, I've stated that my three goals as mayor are...

One, and most important, is to protect JIC, especially on the legal front. Second, is to **secure town finances**, to reconcile the close of FY23, help create a viable budget for FY24 and to protect our operating reserve. Third, is to **leave the town government in the best condition possible for the next commissioners.**

In the last month, we have made significant progress in these areas.

- Michelle Berger, our operational auditor, completed her audit and submitted a report which is now posted on the town website. She made several recommendations to adhere to best practices, which we will implement. The Commission authorized

\$15,000 for the audit. I'm pleased that the actual cost was less -
- \$10,500. It was well worth it, as you will see when you read it.

- We are defending several legal procedures. All are in process, and we are prepared to litigate on firm ground, with the advice of two excellent legal teams.

- The Police Department has been reorganized under the very able leadership of Chief Kerr. The Chief is a most welcome addition to the Town. I am personally very appreciative of his service. Judging by the reaction of many residents who have met him, you share in my gratitude.

- The Building Committee is finalizing their work on our permit fee schedule. Thank you Earl Fischer and committee.

- The stub audit is underway. I hope to have results for the December meeting.

- Preliminary results are in for FY23. The highlights:

Operating reserve is \$1,189,000

Operating net is \$208K vs.\$327K budgeted.

Major variances:

Revenue +\$54K

Expenses -\$174K

Legal-\$93K

Police salaries and benefits-\$88K

Park and landscape-\$77K

- We applied \$235K ARPA funds or we would have been \$344K worse than budget.

This is the result of extreme overspending, mostly in the last 9 months of the fiscal year.

- **November 14-28 is the filing period for election as commissioner.** We will have two vacancies due to retirement by the end of the year. We will have at least four seats up for election in March. I urge anyone who is interested in becoming a commissioner to speak with me before the end of the filing period.

I continue to work to protect our North County neighborhood. I have been meeting with Jupiter Council members, the Inlet Foundation and the owner of the Suni Sands property to preserve that land across the Inlet.

We all love our community, and we need people to step up to help guide us in the future. I have served 12 years and Dick Busto for 13 years. It is time, especially for those of you who have shown an interest in town affairs, to provide that leadership.

Again, I thank those of you who have expressed support for our efforts on behalf of the town. I am very appreciative.

