

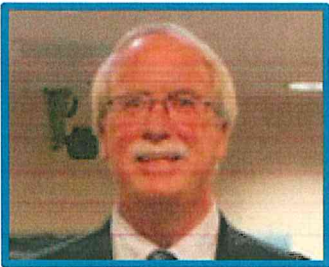


# FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

January 2018

## WELCOME TAD NUNEZ

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Tad Nunez assumed the reins as Fairlee's Town Administrator. For 30 years, Nunez served as Director of Parks and Recreation in Hartford, during an era in which the Town opened the Maxfield Sports



Complex on Route 5, renovated the Barwood Ice Arena, oversaw maintenance issues at the West Hartford Library, and managed 18 parks and recreational facilities. He has been awarded Citizen

of the Year, the Hartford Leadership Award, and the Vermont Stewardship in Forestry Award. Tad's wife, Bette, is a kindergarten teacher in Thetford.

Acknowledging that he "still has many good years" and not wanting to spend the rest of his working career in the parks and recreation field, Nunez served as Executive Director of Center City Ballet in Lebanon before agreeing to come northward to Fairlee. Please join us in welcoming Tad Nunez.

## WATER STORAGE TANK

More than two dozen residents met on November 29<sup>th</sup> with Attorney Bill Meub (Meub, Gallivan, and Larson) and Eric Law (USDA Rural Development) to **discuss issues related to the Town's defective water storage tank.**

Meub, who has more than 40 years experience in construction law, explained the legal process which included the December 2017 filing of Fairlee's suit against defendants responsible for the problems with the water storage tank. Meub indicated that **Fairlee must**

**repair or replace its defective tank before the end of 2018.** Additionally, Meub informed the Town that it **must ensure, as much as reasonably possible, that the failing tank does not collapse** through the coming winter months. A roof failure would cause even greater damages than have already been identified and would create additional legal issues for the Town.

The current proposed repair will have a poured concrete roof on the tank rather than concrete planks. To protect the defective tank prior to the repair, the Selectboard approved a temporary truss roof at an estimated cost of \$64,500 to prevent additional loads that could lead to an untimely collapse of the concrete roof. (The Town will find uses for the trusses at the Transfer Station after completion of the tank repair.)

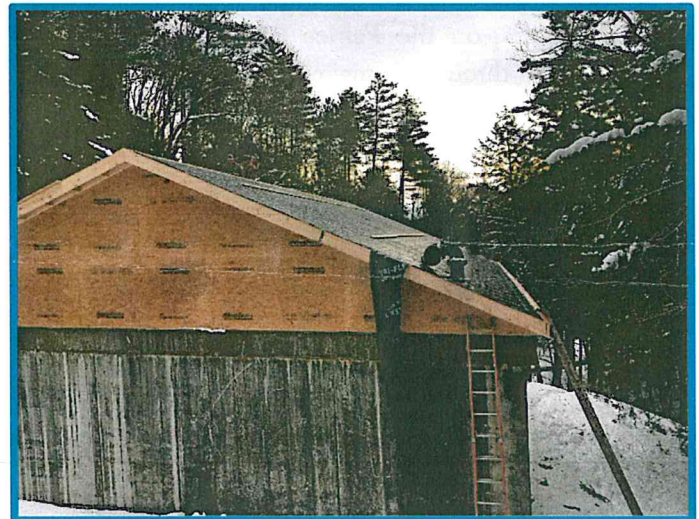


Photo by Peter Lange

The legal process in Vermont requires mediation, which Meub suggests will not occur before the repair work is completed or the end of 2018. If mediation fails, the case is unlikely to go to trial before the end of 2019.

## COMMUNITY DECISIONS

The Town must repair the defective water tank which will require a bond vote to pay for the repairs. In addition to the water tank repairs, the Town should consider completing the following water system projects:

- Installing water meters
- Replacing a water line on Route 5
- Constructing a water filtration system

To become eligible for USDA Rural Development funding, a bond vote is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be two public information meetings to discuss the water tank repair, consider other water system projects, and evaluate funding opportunities and constraints. Information meetings are scheduled for:

**Thursday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Town Hall Grange Room  
6:30-8:00 PM**

Water experts, including Water Operators Lance Colby and Barry Larson, staff from the Vermont Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, Tata & Howard consulting engineers, and representatives from our potential funder, USDA-Rural Development, will be available for questions. Information will also be shared on the website, on the Fairlee listserv, in a meeting handout, and through a mailed brochure. If you are unable to participate in the information meetings and have questions, please feel free to contact a Selectboard member or the Town Administrator.



### WATER BOND INFORMATION MEETINGS

Town Hall Grange Room  
6:30-8:00 PM

Thursday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>

### WATER BOND VOTE

Wednesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

## IN APPRECIATION

As Assistant Town Clerk and Town Clerk, Georgette Wolf-Ludwig has been a welcoming face in the Town Hall for nearly 28 years. Georgette recently completed requirements for the VMCTA's Certified Vermont Clerk continuing education program, earning a Magna Cum Laude for her work. Congratulations!



While the children in Fairlee were thrilled with a white Christmas, the storm forced Road Contractor Mike Wright to spend much of the day plowing Fairlee's roads, away from his family. Thank you, Mike.

Despite the frigid temperatures, the Transfer Station has been open each Saturday and construction of the water tank's truss roof has continued. Thank you to Robert Edmands, Kevin Cummings, Quinttown Container, and Brian Newcity's team, all who layered up and just kept working.



#### Comments or questions?

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