

KINDNESS

By Donna Deos

I know it's been a long, hard year and we're only to September. There's still $\frac{1}{3}$ of the year left!

I know that I am tired. My zip and my zest seem to have checked out somewhere along the line. I hope it is just me and not the majority. It reminds me of how I felt after my Mother passed. I had spent 10 years working full time, helping her take care of my Dad and then taking care of her in her final



years and I was spent. I didn't know how spent I was until my duties as caregiver were done. She was the same way when my Dad passed. Until you stop, you do not know how tired you are.

It is the old saying, "You can't pour from an empty vessel," and yet we all do. When you do that long enough you completely drain yourself and the resources (mental, physical and emotional) that you have stored up prior to this. You really do have nothing left to give and you don't even care because you are just done and ready for someone to do it all for you. You do not even care if it gets done.

So, what does this have to do with kindness? Everything.

When we are tired, spent, and worn out we can be crabby. We can seem uncaring or mean or just not our normal selves, which will put others into a spin because they rely on us to be who we normally are. They do not understand and it makes them uncomfortable. Then, both sides may say things they don't really mean and the situation gets worse. Kindness is the cure.

Each of us has our moments when we are done. We want the world to stop so we can get off but we keep going.

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When you feel like this, or when someone you know is crabby and tired, please show them kindness. Please don't make them feel worse for being out of sorts. It is 2020 – they have earned it! Let them have their moments and give them the time and space and kind words to let them know you care and understand. Help them to do things if they are open to that.

We all need to be loved, nurtured and cared for – sometimes much more than at other times. So simply show them kindness.

When they come back out of it, and they will in time, welcome them back. Tell them you have missed them and you are glad they made it through.

We all walk through storms in our lives. We all need the time and space – and loving kindness – from those around us to help us find our way out the other side.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!"

With loving kindness, Donna



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FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORTS ON FISCAL YEAR END FINANCES

by Geoff Ruggles

Overall, the town ended the year in good fiscal shape as of June 30, 2020. Operating revenues finished slightly over estimates while operating expenditures were well below budget resulting in a net surplus of roughly \$275,000.

REVENUES

- The town has received nearly \$84,000 in COVID-19 grants from the State to cover costs through June. We have applied for an additional \$12,000 from the State and are in the process of filling out the FEMA application for another \$50,000.
- Motor Vehicle revenue rebounded in June finishing just \$3,500 shy of the estimate.
- Department revenues continued to improve but fell short of estimates by about \$63,000 due primarily to the shortfall in Solid Waste fees.
- The shortfall in Transfers from Capital Reserve Funds, just over \$488,000, is due primarily to postponement of the municipal building drainage/paving project and construction of the new fire truck not being completed by the end of the fiscal year.

EXPENDITURES

- The over expenditures in Police, Fire, Emergency Management, and Facilities are all COVID-19 related and will be reimbursed by grant funds.
- The largest areas of cost savings were Assessing at \$64,000 due to a reduction in the need to defend utility assessments, Highway at \$72,000 due to a mild winter, and Parks & Recreation at \$67,000 due to a reorganization.
- The under expenditure in Capital Improvements is due to delayed and ongoing projects as stated in the revenue section.

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