**Town Manager’s Report**

December 12, 2016

Tonight marks the convening of the 50th Cape Elizabeth Town Council since the adoption of the council manager charter in November of 2017. Since the council was formed, 59 citizens have served on the council. 21 of the 59 or 36% have been women. We have had a father and a daughter, two brothers and a brother and a sister but none of these persons served concurrently with their other family member.

18 or 30% have served for one term or a partial term.

Six individuals have served on the council for a term, have taken a break and have then returned to the council. Three council members have served for parts of four decades. The longest serving councilor was William H. Jordan Sr. who served for 23 years plus six as a selectman. Next longest serving was Penny Carson who served for 16 years Seven council members have gone on to serve in the Maine Legislature after their service on the town council. They are Steve Simonds, Mary Webster, Jane Amero, Nancy Masterton, Janet McLaughlin, Jean Ginn Marvin and Cynthia Dill. The most common last name on the council has been Jordan with Bill Jordan, Dick Jordan, Lester Jordan, Penny Jordan and Caitlin Jordan.

There have been five town managers since 1968 and a number of acting managers. During my tenure as an intern, assistant and as manager, I have had the privilege of knowing 58 of the 59 individuals who have served on the town council and served with 56 of the 59. I also knew nine selectmen who served prior to the council being formed. 11 of the 59 council members have passed on since their service.

In 2008, the International City and County Management Association prepared a brochure commenting on the advantages of having elected officials working together with a professional manager in a local government. On this , the start of the 50th year of council manager government in Cape Elizabeth, and tonight, at my last council meeting , it a good time to take stock to see if we are honoring the principles of good local government management in the council manager form of government.

Paraphrasing from the brochure:

*Professional managers work in partnership with elected officials to develop sound approaches to community challenges by bringing together resources to make the right things happen and produce results that matter.*

*Managers bring a community-wide perspective to policy discussions and strive to connect the past and future while focusing on the present.*

*They help the governing body develop the long-term vision for the community that provides a framework for policy development and goal setting*

*They promote ethical government through commitment to a set of ethical standards that goes beyond those required by law*

*They encourage inclusion and build consensus among diverse interests (including those of elected officials, the business community, and citizens) by focusing on the entire community rather than the centralized interests of one or two individuals*

*They promote equity and fairness by ensuring that services are fairly distributed and that administrative decisions (such as hiring and contracting) are based on merit rather than favoritism*

*They develop and sustain organizational excellence and promote innovation.*

*Professional managers focus relentlessly on efficient and equitable service delivery, policy implementation, and evaluation. They align the local government’s administrative systems with the values, mission, and policy goals defined by the community and elected officials.*

While this brochure was written from the perspective of a manager what struck me as I recently read it is that the responsibilities in Cape Elizabeth which are ascribed to a professional manager are not singular to the town manager but are shared in Cape Elizabeth among the elected officials, citizens and all staff. Cape Elizabeth succeeds as we all work together advancing these values . And as we recognize that policy formulation and adoption always rests in our represented democracy with the citizen’s elected representatives.

As you move forward in your search for a new manager and as you deal with all the other issues that will inevitably come along, the culture of local government that has developed over the last 50 years will help to continue to make Cape Elizabeth one of the finer communities to live in anywhere.

Thank you for listening tonight , for giving me the privilege of working with so many wonderful elected councilors and appointed staff members here and in the region and for all the kind words that have been said and written over the last few months. Thank you.