

It is now 2020, we hope that everyone had a great holiday.

#### This week's Council Meeting:

- ❖ Kareen Thomas has now officially retired and Janae Cooper took the clerk role at the meeting. While we will greatly miss Kareen, we look forward to have Janae on board and the transition has worked out very well.
- ❖ Gregg Moore, our Fire Chief, is retiring at the end of this week. Gregg has had dedication to our City and his passion for safety and support to Belding has been his calling. Gregg will continue to be part of our Belding family, and we wish him the best in his much deserved retirement.
- ❖ The City Council approved the appointment of Timothy Lubitz as our new Fire Chief. Tim will assume the role of Fire Chief starting January 11<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have Tim on board. Tim also has the passion for the role and we anticipate that this will be a seamless transition.
- ❖ We voted 3/2 as a council approving the amendments to the Medical Marijuana Ordinances. The original ordinance was voted in, in April of 2018. The amendments allow for an increased amount of plants (1500) to be grown at the facility as well as a duplicate temporary license (1500) to be obtained in the future as they transition their grow location from the front of their current property to a new building behind their current location in the next couple of years.
- ❖ The council approved 5/0, a contractor and funding for replacement of an expansion joint on the Ashfield Bridge. The expansion joint has started to fail and could pose a safety concern in the future. DPW has been providing temporary solutions to the issue while our engineering firm looked for a more permanent structural fix. Although approved, this will not be started until we have better weather (Spring).

#### City thoughts:

- ❖ We have some inclement weather predicted over the next week and potentially the rest of this winter. This is a good time to remember to look out for our neighbors. It is important to make sure our sidewalks are cleared and that we check on the elderly or those that may need a hand during this season.
- ❖ We, as a City Council, want to thank everyone for their support in 2019 and look forward to 2020. We have a lot going on and we look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming City Council meetings.