Dear Montville Community,

It is early March, as this letter is being completed. We have already experienced one early mud season in February and are now waiting for the anticipated spring seasonal thaw to arrive after roads have frozen once again. The winter has had mild temperatures overall, forcing sap to run early this year. Only a few substantial snow storms have occurred with more snow/ice combinations prevailing, with a few subzero record-breaking days in January. All starting with a significant rain storm causing extensive road damage in late December. Details on this event to follow. The arrival of spring is a welcome reminder of longer lighter days ahead, as well as an annual reminder that it is time to gather for Montville’s historical Town meeting.

It is comforting and noteworthy that as the peak of the Covid pandemic continues to fade, Montville’s Town Meeting will once again return to the Town House this year on March 25th. After a three-year interruption, postponing the meeting in 2020, and having the meeting at Mt View High School in 2021

and 2022, we can finally rejoin and come together, as other Montvillians have in the past for 216 years, to discuss and vote on matters for the Town. Welcome back!

It has been a busy year for the Select Board, as we have had many “marathon” Monday night meetings that have resulted in progress towards initiating new policies, continuing to define department needs, expectations and priorities, exploring new procedures and strategies for improving operations, investigating and applying for grants, reviewing future budgetary commitments with the Budget Committee, and staying in close contact with our State Representatives, MDOT and RSU3 on a variety of topics that directly impact the Town. Our work is far from being completed. We have only just begun to scratch the surface, as we dive deeper to find solutions to many of these ongoing challenging issues.

Similar to last year, our discussions and efforts have continued to lead us to asking more questions about the future and the need to develop a vision to help guide the Town on how best to move forward with clarity, intention and commitment. The Select Board, Budget Committee, Planning Board and appointed and elected officials will continue to work collaboratively in assessing needs and providing potential strategies for future planning. We wholeheartedly invite residents and businesses to participate in this process and voice your opinions in upcoming meetings, public hearings, presentations, and surveys. Our hope and expectations are that we all can work together to be a thriving and resilient community into the future.

On behalf of the Select Board, I would like extend our appreciation to Montville’s Team; our Treasurer, Town Clerk, Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, EMD, Road Commissioner, Planning Board, Deputies, transfer station attendants, appointees, employees, subcontractors, and volunteers for their exceptional service to the Town.

To the Select Board’s Administrative Assistant, Hannah Hatfield, we thank you for your sincere support and unequivocal effort to the Board.

Warm regards,

Cathy Roberts, 1st Selectperson