



## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 7, 2020**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- After working with the Superintendent and his staff, it has been approved to have Election Day as a remote learning day for students. This will allow us to create a one-way polling place with the main entrance being the point of entry and the side door the point of exit.
- Absentee ballot requests received, as of 10/7/20: 513 (226D, 137R, 28G, 122U).
- I applied for a grant to support election expenses. It was announced yesterday that we will be receiving \$5,000 from the Center for Tech & Civic Life to offset election expenses. As of right now, we will be paying for postage, labor/hazard pay (as recommended by the grant), PPE, and miscellaneous supplies.
- We were able to secure pricing for the season's fuel. #2 is at \$1.511 (\$2.249 PY), propane is \$1.109 (\$1.299 PY), and diesel is \$1.439 (\$2.149). If consumption were to remain flat, this will represent a savings of over \$9,000 (38%).
- An expanded newsletter will be mailed to every box in the zip code with educational information and local articles. The newsletter was designed in-house and paid for entirely with the Keep Maine Healthy Grant. The newsletter should be delivered early next week.

### **AIRPORT**

- We had a meeting with FAA and DOT regarding the proposed recreation facility. There wasn't strong support for the project from the agencies, but all were willing to help us explore options. There are a few items that will need to be researched, which may cause the project to be moot. Ultimately, there must be an analysis of fair market value and the airport has a responsibility to get that market price and must reconsider on a regular basis should a more lucrative lease be proposed. There are many moving parts and pieces; I am going to continue to work with FAA to iron some details out.
- The taxilane project is proceeding ahead of schedule. We have had very little feedback from pilots, which is positive.

### **ASSESSING**

- We received our proposed 2021 State Valuation of \$233,250,000, up from \$222,450,000 last year (+4.9% over PY). This is compared to +5.2% county-wide.
- Next Assessor meeting is scheduled for October 29.

## **CEMETERIES**

- I am working to revise our Property Maintenance Request for Proposals and will request your consideration at the next meeting to put those services out to bid this year.
- Public Works took down two trees last week in Sunset View Cemetery around the flagpole. The flag was brushing on the trees and it needed to be opened up. We will cost out the price of stump removal at a future date.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT/PLANNING**

- The Planning Board did not move on a property maintenance ordinance at their last meeting. The item was tabled indefinitely until more research could be done regarding such a proposal. If the item is not addressed at tomorrow's meeting, it is likely that the duty for ordinance development would revert to the Board of Selectmen, if it wishes.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- I have approved designs for the new webpage, including the homepage and a sample department page. Within 4-6 weeks, we should have a more complex site available for review.
- I contacted Spectrum again to discuss re-surveying Beech Hill Road for revised density and to include an option of George Street and Independence Drive for inclusion. They have not gotten back to me, but are working on the survey, a construction estimate, as well as exploring grant options that may be available. They are also exploring the possibility of residents contracting for the extension. No timeline has been established.
- The TIF Committee will be touring the wreath building on Depot Street next week (tentatively). They will also be considering a façade application for Quimby Child Care at 29 Waterville Road and may reconsider an application from Lambert's Auto Body, which was tabled to allow the applicant to submit more detailed cost estimates.

## **FINANCE/COLLECTIONS**

- 2020 Tax Collection: 84.5% on Real Estate (up from 51% at last meeting), 98.0% on Personal Property (up from 43%). Taxes were due September 22.

## **FIRE/EMA**

- We have made two conditional offers for full-time firefighters. These appointments are conditioned upon background/driver's license checks, as well as a fit for duty exam and clean pre-employment drug screen. The first work day is planned for October 19, when orientation will begin.
- Due to COVID-19, the fire department will not be participating in trick-or-treating this year.
- I am working to pull together a draft cost recovery ordinance for consideration in March.

## **LIBRARIES**

- The library reopened at Mercer Road this Tuesday. So far, it has been well received by patrons, even considering the relatively strict guidelines. We also purchased roadside signs to place around town making people aware that they can now

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Sheriff Lancaster continues to be committed to assisting the Town with engine brakes and driver education. He has assisted us in making contact with Maine State Police Commercial Truck Details, which will present an opportunity to conduct safety checks. This update has been communicated to Waterville Road residents.
- A notice of violation was issued to a Depot Street property owner as a result of violating the Town of Norridgewock Nuisance Dog Ordinance.
- I was able to secure a pallet of water for the school, requested by teachers in assisting students (in the absence of water fountains). The donation is being made by Poland Spring and Public Works will be taking care of the pickup next week.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- We are continuing to try and close up the Ward Hill Road project where recent construction caused water to be redirected and erode a large swath of property at 820 Ward Hill Road. Engineering plans should be finalized before the end of the week, there will be an on-site meeting next week with prospective contractors, and ideally, lump sum proposals can be presented at your next meeting. This may be a two-stage project, depending on fall weather and pricing.
- Stockpiling of salt and sand is being done this week; it was completed today.

## **SEWER**

- We are continuing to haul sludge to Anson-Madison, in lieu of summer spreading at the airport. This arrangement seems to be going well.
- The purchase of a Ford F-150 should be completed next week; we are in possession of the new truck.

| Sun | Mon | Tues               | Weds                | Thurs                       | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| 4   | 5   | 6                  | 7<br>6PM Selectmen  | 8<br>6PM Planning Board Mtg | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13<br>4PM- TIF Mtg | 14                  | 15                          | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20                 | 21<br>6PM Selectmen | 22                          | 23  | 24  |