



## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **APRIL 7, 2021**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

- All of the heat pump units were installed last week over the course of two days. The vendor provided the Town with an additional \$100 per unit discount for a bulk purchase and not paying with a credit card. This reduces our net price \$8,050 for 7 units.
- There were six tax-acquired properties as a result of the 2018 lien foreclosures in February. I have sent redemption notices and given a deadline of payment as May 7. After that date, the Board will consider the disposal of the remaining properties. Prior to April 1, there were three parties that redeemed their properties.
- We've got a contractor lined up to repair the front posts outside the Town Office door. The total price is \$1,500.

#### **AIRPORT**

- I've signed the agreement to proceed with upgrading the AWOS system. The total cost to the airport is \$3,450.
- The contractor has continued to make good progress on the mulching project at the airport. On tonight's warrant, there is a progress payment request for a little over 9 acres mulched on the end of Runway 33. I will also be drafting an amendment to the agreement to remove the approximate 3.5-acre piece on Runway 3 from the contract. The Town will select cut in that area.

#### **ASSESSING**

- Preliminary county tax \$529,911.71 represents an increase of \$5,246 over last year.
- We are nearly to the point of releasing the online tax mapping system, which will make property information (maps, building photos and sketches, values, etc.) easily accessible.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING**

- There are two applications that will be heard by the Planning Board tomorrow. The first is BD Solar Norridgewock (Upper Main St./Winding Hill Rd.) that received conditional approval at the March meeting, with several conditions. One condition was that no adverse comment be received by abutters. There were several inquiries from the water district, so those concerns will be heard at this meeting. There is also an application for Martin Stream Solar, which was approved last April. In accordance with the Site Plan Review Ordinance, the permit expires after one year. The applicant is seeking another permit with no modifications to the proposal versus last year.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- We have finally been able to make progress in partnering with Charter/Spectrum in developing a grant application. I have sent a request to businesses and property owners on Beech Hill and Martin Stream Roads to solicit letters of support for the grant application. If successful, the proposal would not require any local money and would provide broadband access to the neighborhoods of Beech Hill and Martin Stream. The application will be submitted next week. If approved, the project would likely be fully built out within 18 months.
- At the next meeting, we've had a request from Somerset Economic Development (SEDC) to make a presentation regarding broadband in the County and the potential for joint efforts in applying for future grants.
- Senator Farrin has drafted legislation regarding the proposed amendments to the Kennebec River Management Plan. It is likely that the leadership will allow the bill to proceed even though it is after the deadline. He is also meeting with the Governor's Office on April 13.
- I attended a meeting of the Kennebec River Alliance, which is a group of interested parties regarding the Kennebec River and, presently, the management plan amendment. It was very informative and included parties from the private and public sectors.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- The issue with the fire station facia continues to be a concern. Dirigo submitted a letter to Blane Casey, on behalf of the Town. Blane Casey denied any liability and said that they would be willing to replace the facia, but would require reasonable compensation. I have reached out to Blane Casey to inquire as to what this "reasonable" rate would be, but have still not heard back. This project will be costly.
- I have received several inquiries/concerns from New Balance regarding traffic and pedestrian safety on Depot Street. We have been working with them to provide interim accommodations; however, they are seeking a long-term solution.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- We are in the process of gathering prices for striping consideration. In addition to the regular downtown striping, we are also due to stripe Ward Hill Road for the first time since its initial painting.
- I met with DEP last week to review locations on Father Rasle and Sandy River Roads where rivers have caused damage to the shoulder of the road. The area on Father Rasle is a more immediate concern, where we have partially closed one lane for safety. We are waiting on a meeting with an engineer from DOT so we can determine how to proceed and what outside money is available to support correction.
- I am working with Waste Management to roll out a four-day roadside trash cleanup program, intended to encourage residents to be proactive where they are most

comfortable. Ultimately, it will get done, but we wanted to encourage the public involvement. We've developed marketing materials and Waste Management is providing free trash bags. April 22-25, we will have crews picking up trash on the shoulders and will also have a dumpster at the Town Office where people can throw their roadside trash.

- The new dock at Oosoola Park was put in yesterday and has already received a lot of positive feedback.

## RECREATION

- Signups for baseball/softball/teeball are underway; they can be done online or hardcopy at the Town Office. Deadline for signup is April 11. As of today, numbers are down over previous years.

## SEWER

- Bids were due on the sewer stretch projects; only one was received. The construction of a maintenance garage was \$458,425 and the main building roof was \$153,740. These proposals were declined and we will be reissuing the request.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7 6PM Selectmen	8 6PM Planning Board Mtg	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 6PM Selectmen	22 4PM TIF Mtg	23	24
				ROADSIDE CLEANUP (4/22-25)		