



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT MAY 19, 2021

ADMINISTRATION

- We received April's host fees totaling \$84,689.13, which is more than any month in 2020 and 27% more than April 2020.

AIRPORT

- I was finally able to finalize the grant request for CRRSA funding and submit a closeout request. We received the \$13,000 in Federal funding last week, which helped to offset operational expenses.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING

- On May 11, Waste Management received their approved permit from Maine DEP. The appeal window is 30 days. If there are no appeals filed in this window, we will see the next increase in host fees (from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per ton).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The delivery of the replacement lamps for the municipal parking lot has been delayed again. As of now, they are not expected to arrive until late July.
- Norridgewock Water District has formally responded to the request to repaint fire hydrants. Ideally, the Town would be able to support the project with labor assistance. This could be accomplished through Public Works and Fire personnel, but that has yet to be finalized.
- We have been made aware of a petition "to remove or shutdown electronic billboard at Rt2/Rt8/139 Intersection," that is circulating. To be considered for formal acceptance and process, there would have to be a minimum of 146 certified signatures.

FINANCE & COLLECTIONS

- I am in the process of drafting an investment services request for proposals. If staying within the confines of State Law, we have an opportunity to make additional gains on reserves, as opposed to low interest rates offered at the bank. This conservative method may prove profitable, but all decisions will be reviewed by the Board prior to implementation.
- Courtesy notices for unpaid 2020 taxes will be mailed next week. This provides notice to taxpayers that they'll have 30 days to pay 2020 taxes in full without incurring additional charges (30-day notice, lien fees, etc.). 30-day notices are scheduled to be mailed on July 1.

LIBRARY

- I had a meeting yesterday with a representative from Project Connect to identify locations where current interior internet service is available and exterior service could be an economic boost. My initial application covered Sophie May Library, Mercer Road Library, and the Town Office. If successful, there is no additional cost to the Town.

PARKS

- Oosoola Days planning has begun; the plan is to have a two-day event. We are seeking volunteers, live music, sponsors, etc. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- I intend to align Town policy with the updated State policy regarding face coverings and social distancing. I also will be issuing a memo that opens the Town Office back up during the 1:00 hour. This change was made to allow for meal breaks, as well as enhanced sanitization. The change will take effect next Monday, May 24.
- We were able to secure a meeting at the fire station with Blane Casey. He agreed to provide us an estimate for replacing the fascia on the north side of the building. I also asked that he provide us with a second estimate for the entire building, as our long-term planning may need to be adjusted. As of this afternoon, we still had not received an estimate.

PUBLIC WORKS

- The issue with the backhoe bucket has been resolved. The dealer provided modifications and the Department is pleased with the resolution.
- The speed hump was installed on Depot Street last week. Initial feedback was positive from New Balance, but there were several drivers navigating around. New Balance does have a camera directly in the vicinity of the speed hump, which provides good coverage. They also placed barricades to prevent drivers from going around.
- The shim and overlay project on Martin Stream Road is complete; only shoulder gravel remains. There was a concern at the intersection with Route 8, which will be fixed before anything is paid. Weather-permitting, work will begin on Frederick Corner Road next week.
- I've signed the task order for Father Rasle Road embankment stabilization analysis with Haley Ward (formerly, CES). This phase will include a survey, creation of three stabilization techniques or products that could be used to resolve the issue, conceptual layouts of those solutions, cost estimates, and a summary report. The total price is \$8,500.

RECREATION

- Once again, we were unsuccessful in soliciting ballfield drainage bids. The additional two weeks and direct solicitation did not generate any interest in the current market. I have been contacted by Ed Manter who bid last year and would like to provide an alternate proposal and price. Rick Labbe has also contacted me to say that he would be interested in the project and believes he may be able to complete the project for the price submitted last year. I don't have anything formal from either contractor.

SEWER

- Proposals for the garage are due next Thursday. Direct solicitation, combined with a reduced bid package will ideally be successful in executing the project within the budget.

Maine Christmas Tree Association (MCTA) owns a 4.28-acre parcel abutting the airport to the north. The parcel is actually a balsam fir seed orchard. The activity on the parcel of land is to maintain the orchard trees and harvest seed every 2-3 years. This is a part of a scientific research project that started 50-plus years ago by collecting balsam fir scions across northern New England and the Maritimes to graft onto 4-year-old transplants to form a seed orchard. Seed was collected and planted into evaluation plots where each parent tree was graded. What has resulted from this research is that MCTA has narrowed down the seed sources from some 60-plus trees to 21 that exhibit superior characteristics for growing Christmas trees.

MCTA is regenerating the next generation of seed producing trees by grafting scions from the 21 selected trees onto 5-year-old transplants, to be planted in the available space in the Norridgewock orchard. The orchard is one of the only scientific research sites for balsam fir that exists today. MCTA conducting needle retention with the University of Oregon, another three-year project.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
16	17 Airport Genertr Proposals Due Ballfield Draing Proposals Due	18	19 6PM Selectmen	20	21	22
23	24	25 4PM TIF Mtg	26	27 10AM Library Trustee Mtg	28	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed	1	2 6PM Selectmen	3	4	5