



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT FEBRUARY 15, 2023

ADMINISTRATION

- *The Bridge/Meet the Candidates* was put out last week. It is available online (linked on website and Facebook), and available hardcopy at the Town Office, Skowhegan Savings, and the library.
- The Town Report at the printers and we should have them available next week.
- Applications for the Planning Board vacancy are still being accepted.
- Absentee ballots for Town Meeting are now available (through March 1).
- All non-emergency departments will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents' Day.

AIRPORT

- A communication was sent out to all hangar owners in December asking for hangar contact information, as well as aircraft information. Most of the owners responded, but there were still over a dozen that have not. We will be sending a second round of mailing to those that haven't responded, noting that a failure to respond may result in defaulting on their lease. The goal is voluntary compliance—and we need to make sure that we have an accurate accounting of aircraft on our airfield, while also ensuring that hangars are used for aeronautical uses (in compliance with FAA regulations). This course of action has been supported by the Airport Advisory Committee, noting that such disclosures support the airport and hold everyone accountable.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- I have a visit planned with Maine Laboratories (new PFAS testing facility on Main Street) tomorrow to see the improvements they have made to the facility as they ramp up to open. A representative from the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce is also planned to join. This will be the first PFAS testing facility in the State of Maine.

FINANCE & COLLECTIONS

- The on-site audit is complete and the short report was finalized this morning, for inclusion in the Town Report.
- We received \$20,738.63 in franchise fees from Charter Communications. This is a decrease of \$1,089.62 versus last year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for SCBA equipment has been submitted and we await response from FEMA. The anticipated funding selection date is no later than April 30.

PUBLIC WORKS

- I testified in favor of LD 354, which is *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Use of Engineers on Public Works Projects over \$100,000*. Senator Farrin sponsored the bill and it remains a work in progress; however, it appears as though the project cost threshold will at least be increased, if not eliminated. At the request of the State and Local Government Committee, I may need to attend the work session on the bill, which has not yet been scheduled.
- We are working to gather information on new trucks, to replace current Truck 12. That information should be ready for review on March 15.

SEWER

- The newly increased rates took effect February 1 and will start to be incorporated into bills beginning in March.