



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 4, 2023

ADMINISTRATION

- Absentee ballots for the November referendum should be available beginning next week. You can request at the office, online, or by phone.
- The Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 9, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

ASSESSING

- We have received notice of our proposed 2024 State valuation. Our value is up \$48,350,000 over last year, but our overall share relative to the county is down. This valuation also appears favorable to our school assessment.
- With the issuance of tax bills, a series of supplements and abatements must be processed. The **Board of Assessors Meeting is Thursday, October 12, 9:00 AM.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING

- DEP has implemented new subsurface wastewater rules; one rule restricts portable toilets on site for more than 7 days, exempting construction sites. The Plumbing Inspector has issued a letter granting an exception to the three Town-owned locations (ballfields, Oosoola Park, and Ashley Wing Park).
- Waste Management has notified us that the Maine DEP has accepted its application under Chapter 409 (Solid Waste) to modify the permit to account for the proposed biosolids processing facility. Waste Management is also working to issue a proposal to the Board for an Operating Agreement associated with the proposed facility.
- **Planning Board Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 6:00 PM**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- MaineDOT has sent notice that the street lamps originally requested to be included in the sidewalk upgrade project do not comply with the new State Law for lighting standards. They have identified a similar light from the same manufacturer that is very similar and compliant.
- **TIF Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 5:00 PM**

FINANCE & COLLECTIONS

- 2023 taxes were due September 19. We've collected 86.4% of commitment; this is slightly behind last year's trend.

LIBRARIES

- The library continues to see growth in patron counts. While the growth is modest, it seems the varying types of programming, as well as new outreach, are benefitting the organization. The story time program format has also proven successful. A special thanks to our librarian, Kelli, for her speedy acclimation to the position.
- The trustee meeting was canceled for September. The next regularly scheduled **Library Trustee Meeting is Thursday, October 26, 3:30 PM**
- **Chewonki's Owls of Maine will be hosted on October 21, 11:00 AM, at the Grange**

PARKS

- **Community Mural Unveiling: Saturday, October 14, 10:00 AM, Emery Town Square**

PUBLIC SAFETY

- I met with representatives from FEMA regarding the May rainstorm. I have another meeting scheduled at the office next week to continue the expense recovery.
- Thanks to the Hight Family of Dealerships and Skowhegan Savings Bank for hosting the annual First Responder Barbeque last week.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Preliminary intersection work is scheduled to take place at Routes 2 and 201-A, by the Post Office/Bank was scheduled to take place this week; however, crews are running behind. Right now, we're looking at another 2-3 weeks.
- I met with our primary engineer, who also serves as the consultant managing the congressionally directed spending allocation. The process of grant administration continues to move along, and we're hopeful to have the funds freed up for next year's construction season.
- Last week, we took delivery of the new Public Works truck.