



## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT DECEMBER 6, 2023**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- I attended the Maine/New Hampshire Manager Exchange last week, which was very informative and focused on employee recruitment/retention, workforce trends, and more.
- I also attended the first meeting of the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission last week, which is tasked with guiding the State's celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Appointed by the Governor, my seat represents all municipalities. It will hopefully create unique opportunities for our community given our historic connection to Revolutionary-era history, such as the Arnold Expedition.
- Please be thinking about nominees for town report dedication, as well as the Spirit of America Award recognition. Nominees can be submitted to me from Board members and/or members of the public. The decision will be made by electronic polling, as was the case last year.
- You can now request absentee ballots for both Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary, although ballots won't be available until early February.
- I've completed the welcome pack and have included that for your review. We can update the information in-house and, ideally, update and print a batch annually.
- Nomination papers are now available and are due back by January 3.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING**

- **Planning Board Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 6:00 PM**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Work on the trail maintenance building began, as committed. I authorized issuing an early check to take care of a down payment on the electrical work, as well as the cost of materials stored (trusses).
- I filed for the last round of reimbursement under the ATV grant program; this will make us whole for Town expenses, including my time at 90%.
- **TIF Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 5:00 PM**

### **FINANCE & COLLECTIONS**

- The automatic foreclosure process on unpaid 2021 real estate taxes is nearing. 30/45 day notices will be sent later this month with a foreclosure date of February 4 (22 accounts), while the next round of sewer foreclosures is slated for December 16 (2 accounts).

- Liens on unpaid sewer use charges for Oct/Nov/Dec 2022 will be filed on December 21 (16 accounts).
- I moved \$1 million into Franklin Savings at a 6-month CD rate of 5.5%. This was an increase from 2.74% in our regular accounts, which nets an additional \$13,800 in the six-month window.
- Skowhegan Savings has made an adjustment to all of our accounts, increasing our rate across all regular accounts from 2.5% to 3.5%.

## **PARKS**

- **Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting: Saturday, December 9, 1:30 PM. The lighted tractor parade will begin at 4:00.**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of the responding agencies who came to town today to track down the suspects involved in this morning's break-in. We are appreciative of the rapid response. Thanks to Sheriff Lancaster and his Department, the Maine State Police, the Forest Service, and their partner agencies.
- The FEMA claim on the May rainstorm has been finalized and awaits funding obligation; we should complete it within 2-3 weeks. There is a separate project for the floating docks that will cover any out-of-pocket expense incurred by the Town.