



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT FEBRUARY 21, 2024

ADMINISTRATION

- Town Reports are now available and will be distributed to stores around town tomorrow.
- The Department of Labor responded to our Penalty Discussion; they declined to reduce any of the assessments despite full and timely compliance and additional measures taken proactively. It was wholly discouraging given the Department's "sale" of the discussion as an opportunity to demonstrate full compliance and additional measures taken with the goal of reducing penalties. I have requested that SafetyWorks come after Town Meeting to consider all Town departments for the SHAPE Award, which will help reduce insurance costs.
- Absentee ballots are now available for March 4-5 elections and will be available until February 29.
- Town Meeting is on March 4, polling place hours: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with open town meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The Presidential Primary is on March 5, polling place hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The Town Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, March 4-5, to staff elections.

AIRPORT

- We received notification that we were unsuccessful in the last round of terminal grant awards. If there is another round open, we will continue to improve the application and resubmit.
- The FAA has appointed a new person to oversee the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program development for airports. Unfortunately, this has led to a number of delays in approval. Also, as a result, we will be holding a virtual public meeting on February 28, 2024, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. Those interested in joining should email jcm@gainc.com or call (603) 471-1887.
- I had another scoping meeting with DOT and FAA to discuss the acquisition of a new snowblower. It looks like we will be on track to acquire the equipment before the 2024-25 winter season.

CEMETERIES

- There were no respondents to the RFP for Riverview Gravestone Repair and Reconstruction. I have notified the Cemetery Committee, and they will determine how they'd like to proceed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING

- Norridgewock resident Matt Dubay will start as the new Code Enforcement Officer tomorrow. Over the course of the next 12 months, he'll need to obtain his required certifications
- **Planning Board Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 6:00 PM**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The TIF Committee will continue considering opportunities surrounding a revolving loan fund. Somerset Economic Development Corp has provided some good information and also a variety of guidelines for the committee to consider.
- **TIF Committee Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 5:00 PM**

FINANCE & COLLECTIONS

- A \$1 million CD at Skowhegan Savings matured on February 19. I have reinvested the \$1,022,249.17 at 5.0% for an additional 6 months. We also negotiated to keep the 3.5% rate across all other accounts; a rate review will be completed on April 15.
- We received the 2023 Franchise Fee payment from Charter Communications. The amount was \$20,471.33, which is nearly identical to the previous year.
- Our revenue sharing projection for the next year is down approximately \$5,000 over last year.

LIBRARIES

- The library will host a **coding event tomorrow, February 21, at 10:30 a.m.** The program is a STEM activity and good for children of all ages.
- **Library Trustee Meeting: Thursday, March 28, 3:30 PM**

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The mass communication system (CivicReady) went live last Friday, and we are campaigning to get people signed up. We've enrolled over 100 people in just two days of advertising. You can select the types of notifications you receive so you avoid things that aren't of interest. So far, here's what people are selecting for categories by popularity:
 1. Emergency Alerts
 2. Roadwork/Traffic Alerts
 3. Town Events
 4. River Information
 5. General Notifications
 6. Fire Department Alerts
 7. Trail Updates
 8. Elections
 9. Fire Department- Mercer
 10. Recreation Updates
 11. Library
 12. Library- Youth

- We posted on Facebook about the FEMA service center in Skowhegan. To help increase public awareness, a \$75 Facebook ad was taken out, targeting users within 25 miles of Norridgewock. As of this morning, the ad had reached over 13,000 people and we engaged over 2,500.
- I'm working on developing a safety grant application to support the purchase of hazard and detour signs, barricades, cones, stop/slow paddles, etc., that can be used to support Emergency Management, Public Works, Fire, etc. If successful, two-thirds would be paid for by the grant.
- As you are likely aware, the Sheriff's Office executed two search warrants over the last two weeks on marijuana growing operations (Riverside Drive and Betterment Road). Both of these incidents involved restricting the structures from occupancy due to various code and health violations. The Betterment Road incident also resulted in the Town taking responsibility for two dogs, which were sent to the Waterville Humane Society (Skowhegan was full). Our Animal Control Officer was out of town, so thanks to Don Decker for helping me out.
- Meetings with FEMA continue to take place every two weeks to follow through on our claim for the April/May storm. I have also filed our request for public assistance related to the December storm. That is still in its initial stages.

SEWER

- Tim has been working with Stanley's to set up a new agreement for portable toilets. We're pleased to report that projected costs should be far less than anticipated. For a standard toilet cleaned twice per month, we're going from \$260 to \$200; for handicapped, we're going from \$350 to \$250 per month.