



## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 20, 2021**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- Our primary operating software, TRIO, was upgraded last week to its new platform. As the result of the upgrade, our server (a stand-alone computer) was deemed inadequate, so now all of our data is hosted remotely by TRIO/Harris. This will come at an incremental cost, but one that is reasonable, given that we would have to purchase a new server, the associated install, software, and ongoing maintenance. This also saved us from having to purchase a new computer for Assessing, as we were able to shift the existing device.
- Absentee ballots for the November 2 election are now available.
- The Town Office will be closed on Election Day in order to staff the election.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING**

- The Planning Board met last week and finalized the approval of the Red Barn Road Subdivision.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- I received an update on broadband expansion into the Beech Hill neighborhoods. Pole permits have been applied for and the utilities have 180 days to complete their make-ready work. This is the longest part of the process, but with the volume of work, timing is uncertain. We'll have another update from Spectrum/Charter within two months.
- I've received a copy of the Somerset County Broadband Planning Report. SEDC has met with most providers and had a good meeting with Spectrum. Cost estimates have placed the price of extending/improving current cable service in Norridgewock at \$2.4 million, while running a new fiber network is estimated at \$4.7 million. SEDC is seeking fixed price offers from providers and then will decide which path/provider is most likely to be successful with being awarded state and federal grants. I have agreed to serve on the Broadband Committee to help coordinate efforts in the southern part of Somerset County.
- I have also received the latest batch of photos taken by Jonathan Wheaton as a part of our four-season contract.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- The MEMA training with regards to emergency sheltering was very beneficial and they also provided quality materials for future use.
- The flu and COVID vaccine clinic will run in conjunction with the election. Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

- There has been a shift in Federal policy surrounding FEMA reimbursements related to COVID, which may allow for the reimbursement of some expenses that were previously ineligible. I am working on reviewing our submissions to determine what may be eligible.

## **FINANCE & COLLECTIONS**

- Taxes were due September 21; interest is now accruing. Collection Rate: Real Estate 87.67%; Personal Property 99.58%.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Fire officers submitted the grant application to the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation for extraction equipment. The total request was \$39,491.50.
- The fire department will be providing a Fire Safety Month mini-course with kids at Mill Stream, grades Pre-K through 2 next Tuesday.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- The speed tables have been repaired, at no additional cost to the Town. Fine Line was extremely responsive to our concerns about height. They have also agreed to cover the additional cost of striping because of the height issues. Final striping is expected any day.
- I am working with engineering firm St. Germain to develop grant applications for stream crossing culvert replacements. The grants are offered through the State, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. Each grant has the potential award of up to \$125,000. There is no cost to the engineering services (application, surveys, etc.) unless the grant(s) are awarded. The two culvert projects for consideration are Bombazee Brook under Winding Hill Road and Turner Brook under Red Barn Road.

## **RECREATION**

- The ballfield drainage project is coming to a close. There are some depressions that resulted as the result of a modified material that was approved (due to supply problems). The sandy material seemingly has crept down into the voids in the stone. Additional top dressing will be added to the infield to level the playing surface in the spring, as well as another round of reseeding. All of the work was done in accordance with the plans and the engineer is confident in the work product. I have authorized an additional \$2,500 to be added to the contract in order to fully repair the settling in the spring. This will be lumped with retainage so that we ensure ideal playing conditions in the spring.
- We have an initial indication that the school will be permitting us to hold open gym, as well as rec basketball. We are working on finalizing details and expectations, but hoping that we will be able to have a season this year.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20 6PM SelectBoard	21	22	23
24	25	26 4:30P- TIF Commitee Mtg	27 9A- Airport Advisory Mtg	28 9A Assessor 4:30P Library	29	30
31	1	2 <b>Election</b> 8A-8P Office Closed	3 6PM SelectBoard	4 12nn Water District Mtg	5	6