

Town Manager's Report  
Tuesday  
August 13, 2013

**Staff Annual Training:** We have scheduled the annual training to take place on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-11:00 AM at the town office. The Select Board members are invited to attend. As we have done in the past, we will post the closing of the offices at the front door and on our website. Once the training is completed we will open for business.

**Recycling News:** The Recycling Committee completed the August 10<sup>th</sup> Single Sort Celebration at the Transfer Station. Informational magnets were distributed to over 150 people identifying what items can be included in the single sort efforts. We also sold over three dozen recycling bins which are still available at the town office.

The Collection of specific Electronic Waste is proposed for Saturday, October 26 from 9-2 PM at the Depot Street Parking lot. We are asking the Select Board to invite the surrounding towns to participate in this effort as well. Mr. Fitzcharles arranged for this at no cost to the Town with the understanding that surrounding communities would also be participating. The Committee will send out the invitations to these communities in the coming weeks. We will also have an article in our local paper identifying what items are acceptable.

**Electrical Supply Contracts:** The Town has three medium sized electrical supply contracts that are due to expire in December of 2013. Working with the Maine Power Option group it appears that we can seek new contracts for these accounts by using a "fixed" price which means any increase in the capacity charges will not exceed the contract price. We are looking at a 23 month term but ask the Select Board to provide the Manger with the authorization to execute a contract which does not exceed 36 months at a fixed price greater than \$0.0715 per Kwh.

**Sewer Construction and Remediation Contract:** The Town through several departments wants to move forward with the remediation of the current system and to further reduce inflow and infiltration of water that goes into our sewer fields and therefore limits the capacity of the system on certain days. The bids for this work were opened on Friday, August 9. Out of the four companies attending the mandatory pre-bid meeting only one firm, Dearborn Brothers Construction, Inc. out of Buxton Maine, submitted a bid. We are reviewing this with the engineer and are asking the Select Board to provide the Manager with the authorization to proceed with this work and to execute all of the contract documents if we find that their pricing is acceptable and meets the CDBG minimums. The funding is also coming from our own wastewater reserve account. Granting this conditional approval will allow the project to get underway with the expectation of completion by the end of October, 2013.

**Cable Service and Your TV:** Some cable customers have asked why they must obtain a conversion box in order to receive the local access channel, LRTV. This comes from the nationwide change of from the

**Over Please**

Analog format to a Digital format by Congressional order. Simply, the older televisions require the conversion box since their "tuner" does not work with digital format. Most cable subscribers who have a cable box now should not be affected. It would only affect those subscribers of the basic channel service that are likely to have the problem. The fix is to ask your cable provider for a box for each television that you use. At this point there is no monthly charge for the conversion box. However, by January 1, 2015 the monthly fee for the conversion box with taxes will be about \$1.10. The alternative is to buy a new television since these are now manufactured with the correct tuner. You should ask your sales representative if the television you intend to purchase has the QAM tuner which is what you want. As a matter of history, the cable companies have been converting digital programs to analog for several years and are now transitioning to strictly digital format.

According to John Likshis, LRTV Manager, folks can access the Bridgton Select Board meetings by going to the LRTV website and clicking on the tab for Select Board meetings. Remember, you need internet access and a computer if you choose this approach.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mitchell Berkowitz  
Town Manager