

Town Manager's Report
Tuesday
August 23, 2011

Acquisitions: Jim was successful in locating a used 2009 jeep to replace the current unit which was no longer inspectable. McDonald Motors offered about \$1800 in trade in with a cost of about \$18,700. We had appropriated \$20,000 and will use the balance of funds to cover the preparation work for the new vehicle including lettering.

Donation to Recreation: Tom Tash, Recreation Director has received a generous donation from the Tai Chi group in the amount of \$650. Tom has proposed splitting that equally between the heating oil at the Old Town Hall and assistance for lower income families participating in the year round recreation programs.

Dispatch Transition: After several months of preparations the change over occurred on Monday morning around 7:00 AM. Our phone system received an upgrade to include voice mail and mail boxes for all personnel in the town offices as well as the police and fire departments. In the process we also changed telephone service providers and are now using Time Warner Cable which provides for unlimited long distance calls and a slightly reduced monthly charge. Chief Schofield has worked closely with Chief Garland, our IT consultant Chris Sanborn, the County Regional Dispatch team led by Bill Holmes, RCM and Maine Radio services, Georgiann Fleck and Laurie Chadbourne, and our own Dispatchers, two of whom will continue to work with the County, as we move ahead to assure that our citizens continue to receive the quality of dispatching that had been established in Bridgton. I would also thank our staff throughout the town government for their patience as this move has been a time consumer. We do expect that there may be small glitches which we will address moving ahead. Our community should witness very little has changed if they are in need of emergency services. As always call 911 if you have an emergency.

We know that there will be small problems which will be addressed. We have set up a complaint system and form that we will use to address any problems that arise and track the resolution and report back to the citizen accordingly. If citizens go to the Town's website they may obtain the complaint form which is also available at the Town Offices or by calling the Police Department's non-emergency line at 647-8814.

Copiers Installed: The two replacement copiers that were part of the approved budget have now been installed. These are on a five year lease and came just in time as our old units were at the end of their useful life.

Appointment: With the approval the Select Board, I was appointed as a Trustee to the Cumberland County Civic Center. My first meeting was last Wednesday, August 17th. Over the next few weeks I will send out an introductory letter to the many communities that I will be representing and though I am new at this, questions that come to me will be

addressed since I have full access to the rest of the Trustees. I would also like to thank the Select Board for their support in this appointment.

Senior College and the Crooked River Adult and Community Education Center Programs Announced: The fall schedules have been distributed and there are many opportunities for citizens in this region to continue their education and interests through these fine institutions. Contact the Senior College at 647-9599 or the Education Center at 888-825-4291 for more information.

New Legislation: I am still reviewing the last legislative session results and will report more later in Sept. However, there are two items the Select Board and/or Planning Board may want to begin discussing. The first is the “opt in” for the continuation of the Informed Growth Act requiring development of large scale projects to complete an impact study. If we chose not to amend our site plan review ordinance, this may not be a requirement placed upon a large scale development application. The second item is the issue of approved fireworks. Chief Garland is already monitoring some other larger community approaches and will provide his recommendations at your Sept. 13 meeting.

Annual Staff Training Date: Due to conflicting schedules and the later than expected tax collections we have moved the annual staff training to Tuesday, October 4 from 8-11 AM. The offices will be closed that morning but will promptly re-open at 11 AM to serve the public.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell A. Berkowitz
Town Manager