

Town Manager's Report

Tuesday

June 24, 2014

Fiscal Matters:

As of June, 2014 the Town sent out 781 30 day tax lien notices compared with 756 last year and 646 the year before. This is a legal requirement when any amount remains outstanding from the tax commitment on a specific parcel. While this number is trending up we have also seen a decline in the number of parcels that would actually go to foreclosure. The 2009 tax year had 11 foreclosures, 2010 had 31 and 12 in 2012.

We are awaiting the final payment of the state's revenue sharing due the Town. At this point we are expecting at least \$20,000.

Conflicting General Assistance Advisories:

Like most of Maine's communities, we have received conflicting advice regarding the eligibility of illegal aliens to obtain general assistance. DHHS and the Governor are now threatening municipalities that provide that assistance while the State's Attorney General and the Maine Municipal Association has taken a different view that such denial might create a violation of the rights of individuals. Either way this will continue to play out, likely through a law suit. In the meantime, the Town will continue to request documentation to validate legal status. Our own assessment indicates that the number of illegal aliens that we may serve is very small. Hence we do not have a large exposure by assuring legal status and any suit is more likely to occur in one of the larger communities where there may be a greater percentage of illegal aliens seeking such assistance.

Town Office Repairs:

Under the direction of the Deputy Town Manager, work has commenced on the repainting of the lower level room and its bathrooms and the main level bathrooms. This work was completed last week and the new flooring is being installed in the lower level room. Additional work also includes a vestibule to retain heat in the lower level room, chair rails and column corners. We will also be painting and replacing the main entrance lobby area. Earlier this spring we completed the work with the court area, who participated in the cost sharing of the court related work.

Year End Fiscal Work:

Linda Nilsen, Finance Officer will be closing the books as of June 30, 2014 and will continue to provide the auditors with information for their annual audit during the first week of August.

HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY TO ALL !

Respectfully Submitted,
Mitchell A. Berkowitz, Town Manager