

Town Manager's Report

Tuesday

August 28, 2012

Award of PWD Truck Body Bid: As a result of further review we have awarded the dump body to Biking Cives (USA) of Sidney Maine due to the specifications for stainless steel and the added internal supports for strength and durability of the box.

Lease Agreement for Radio Tower: We have successfully executed a long term lease agreement for the placement of our radio equipment and transmission units atop Shawnee Peak. The annual lease fee will be \$2,400 and will increase to \$3,000 in the last five years going thru 2020.

Informational Meetings and Workshop Reminders:

August 30th - Fire Suppression Draft Ordinance Reviews

September 4-Salmon Point Workshop with CDC

September 18th - Anne facilitated workshop on maintenance code

Update Regarding County Dispatch Systems: At the time we transitioned to the County for dispatching, the County had agreed to provide support for both types of Computer Aided Dispatching or CAD systems IMC and Spillman. The County asked the Kimball group to further review their operations and make recommendations to further improve their services and one of the key points was to go to a single CAD system to avoid duplications and confusion. Over the past several months the County along with the communities that receive the dispatch services had periodically met to review this type of change. While most agencies use Spillman, five communities use IMC; we are one of them. Though we may be partial to IMC, we continue to work with the other communities and the County towards a reasonable resolution to achieve a one CAD system. We have also stated that since we have made the investment, any change to a Spillman platform would require the county to cover all training costs and acquisition of the CAD for the County though we would pay the annual licensing fees. We will keep you informed.

Changes in Maine Care: There is a growing concern by towns and cities that the proposed changes to the Maine Care program will mean a shift of costs to our local taxpayers. Augusta has applied to the Federal Health and Humans Services agency for a waiver that would remove about #20,000 Maine people from the Maine Care Medicaid program and lowers the income eligibility levels for prescripion drugs in the Maine Elderly program. In addition there would be an accumulative cap of 60 months for those on the program known as TANF though there may be an ineligibility status for those specific folks

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who do receive TANF. The overall effect would force folks who are still in need to go to their local general assistance programs for help or go without if they have no employment. In addition, the percentage that Maine towns and cities get as a reimbursement would also be lowered. The overall effect leaves our local taxpayers to pick up those costs. Bridgton is likely to face this as well and we will monitor this more closely on a monthly basis since it is likely to mean that we will exceed the funding approved by the Town Meeting in June.

Maine Freedom of Access Law Updated: This law continued to receive changes including the requirement that a “public access officer” be appointed who will coordinate all FOA requests and responses. In discussing this with Georgiann, we believe the Town Manager should be the FOA officer with Georgiann being the back up to assure timely responses to requests. The amended law also increases the cost of preparations in response to requests to be charged \$15 after the first hour. We are further researching aspects of the new requirements and will report on these to all Boards and Committees in the near future.

Much of this information was reported during the Manager’s Institute which I attended last week.

State Funds for Roads Assistance: We have received our first quarterly payment from the State for the road maintenance we do on those roads that would normally be done by the State. The amount of \$27,293 was deposited today. At this rate we are on track for the \$109,172 we had budgeted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell A. Berkowitz

Town Manager