

Town Manager's Report  
Tuesday- October 8, 2013

Sewer Project Continues: The project to correct the water infiltration into our wastewater system continues. Dearborn Construction has remedied several pipes and structures and continues to work on the side streets . The team will do a review of expenses to date against the budget numbers to determine what additional work can be accomplished.

The work is intended to re-capture field capacity by eliminating ground water from entering the system allowing the Town to assist in downtown development which must have an approved method of handling wastewater. The system was constructed in the mid 1980's and over time structures and pipes have weakened allowing for water infiltration.

Maine Municipal Association Annual Conference and Workshop: I had the opportunity to attend this annual event which focused on municipal issues including policy making and "Moral Leadership", Elements of Dynamic Downtowns, hidden costs of budget cuts, those "zombie foreclosures" and the disconnect with the town's foreclosure process as well as updates from the legislature including the Right to Know Law , updates on the Affordable Care Act and its impacts to municipalities. I was also able to discuss our upcoming Depot Street project with several engineering firms in an effort to get them to attend the walk thru and bid on the process. I appreciate the Board's support for my attendance to these important municipal events and opportunities.

Cable Contract Negotiations: Several Lakes Region communities are again working as one to prepare for the needed negotiations with Time Warner Cable. Their current contract has expired and a new contract should be executed. However, there are several points involved in the negotiations that communities would like to incorporate into a newer contract. Though we are working together, each community has its own choice as to whether a new contract would be executed. I will keep the Board informed of the progress. As an aside, this past Sunday's newspaper had a good article regarding Time Warner Cable and customer service. It appears that most of the criticism was toward' s the Company's policies regarding programming and packages and costs rather than their field services.

Monthly Fiscal Report: As of the end of September we were 25% into this fiscal year. Our expenses came in at 23.2% while our revenues came in at 24.2%.

Washington Shutdown and Our Local Government Operations: Several questions have been raised in light of the recent shutdown of our Federal Government. It is important to note that for the most part none of this has had any direct impact to your local government operations. As for our day to day operations, again we are reliant upon local property taxes which continue to be received. The Town does not have any employment positions that are dependent upon federal dollars and therefore we will continue to operate without interruption.

We also recognize that many of our tax payers do rely upon federal related programs such as social security or that their employment may be dependent upon federal funding. While this has an important impact to their individual lives, at this point we hope that the shutdown will end shortly and the inconveniences and problems it may be causing folks will be remedied. If the shutdown were prolonged it could impact some of our tax collections due November 15, 2013 as well as isolated operations in town government. Let us all hope this gets resolved soon.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mitchell A. Berkowitz  
Town Manager