

Town Manager's Report
Tuesday
January 14, 2014

Fiscal Report: As of December 31, 2013, we were 50% into the fiscal year. Using this benchmark we had collected about 48.5% of our revenues and had expended about 50.5%. From a revenue point, we know that the excise tax collection is slightly ahead but the state revenue sharing is slightly behind. The colder than normal December also contributed to more Public Works overtime and winter snow event related costs. We will also drawdown the two trust fund amounts and direct them according to the Town meeting approvals.

Dog Licensing: Besides the reminder in the Bridgton News and on our website, we are reminding dog owners to register their dogs before January 30th at 4:00 PM to avoid any late fee. If you register after that date you will be subject to the increase penalty fee depending on the number of dogs you are registering.

Ecomaine Report: At their last Board meeting the Directors of Ecomaine voted to eliminate the annual assessment charges for all member communities. This means we can reduce the proposed FY 2015 budget by \$108,788. Ecomaine is the regional solid waste disposal entity that Bridgton uses and is one of the charter members. At the direction of the Select Board the Committee is reviewing alternatives to being a member. As part of the Committees information gathering they met with the General Manager and Chair of the Board and it was through their dialogue that Ecomaine's Chair Michael McGovern determined that the assessment charges were making Ecomaine less competitive. His recommendation to the Eco Board led to the change effective July 1, 2014.

Town's General Assistance in Compliance: The Town just received notice that its general assistance program is in compliance with the statutes and the Department of Health and Human Services General Assistance Policy. Congratulations go to John Anderson for another year of compliance.

Tax Lien Notices: The Town has notified those tax payers who still have outstanding balances due from their 2011 taxes regarding the liens that were placed on their properties in August of 2012. The liens will automatically foreclose on February 17, 2014 unless they are paid in full including all charges and interest. We encourage those who are affected to make their full payments before February 17th. Please note that we no longer offer a land installment payment program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell A. Berkowitz
Town Manager