

Town Manager's Report
Tuesday
February 12, 2013

Archiving of Town Documents: Ned Allen, Director of the Historical Society is in the process of formalizing with the State to become the alternative archive for the Town's documents. Once they have received that approval, the Select Board will be asked to enter into a model agreement with the society. As always, these documents will remain public and available and there would not be any charges for this service.

Time Warner Cable Announcement of the New Fee Schedule: Effective March 1, 2013, the new rates for specific services will take effect. On average all services will increase about 2.6% except those who are currently on a discounted promotional rate. Questions about your rates should be directed to Ms. Shelley Winchenbach at 594-2249.

CMP Notice of Work: CMP is planning work along their pole routes during the summer of 2013. This means crews may be cutting and pruning trees as well as using in selective areas herbicides. If you have any questions about the upcoming work you are invited to contact CMP's representative Mr. Nicholas Hahn at 621-3942 or their Arborist Rob Cotiaux at 647-1018.

Economic Development Efforts: I am pleased to report that the Town and the Economic Development Corporation had the opportunity to closely work together on a very recent business relocation and expansion to a larger facility. The Stone Mason has completed a long term lease with the Sclar family for the use of the building at 247 Main Street also known as the old IGA building. At the last minute a possible glitch arose and with the efforts of this team, we were able to resolve the issue at the Fire Marshall's office to everyone's satisfaction. This effort is reflective of the commitment by both the Town and the Development Corporation to promote economic development and the redevelopment of our downtown.

Personnel Matters: Assistant fire Chief Tim Cook notified the Town that he has decided to retire. The Town Manager and the Fire Chief accepted Mr. Cook's decision effective February 1, 2013.

Monthly Financial Report: As we just completed the seventh month of this fiscal year there are several pieces of information the Select Board should be aware of. The first is our year to date financial status. Using 58.3% as the seventh month benchmark, our revenues came in about \$10,000 short of projections or 57.9% while our expenditures are at 57.3%. In past years this would not be of concern however with the state legislature debating the Governor's recent proposal my level of concern rises should this current fiscal year revenues be reduced. The problem is one that if we initiate some expenditure cut backs now and there is no revenue fluctuations; the appearance is that we have inconvenienced people.

Over Please

If we stay the course for services now, we really would not be able to absorb large revenue fluctuations in what would likely be the remaining two months of this fiscal year and might face a year end deficit in the range up to \$75,000. The weather will play a part in that it has been a light winter thus far.....

The other contributor to this is the general state of the economy. While the financial markets are showing positive signs we went from 18-31 foreclosed properties in just one year and we are seeing the potential for at least two more poverty abatements of the 2010 tax year. Most people are trying to address their foreclosure situation but it is a sign of a weak economy in the Bridgton area.

Absent of major weather events, we will stay the course through February and seek to control overtime and extra help where possible.

Taxes Due: The third quarter tax payment is due on or before February 15, 2013. We encourage tax payers to make their payments to avoid interest and potential long term problems should they become delinquent at the end of this fiscal year.

CDBG Grant Program: Anne Kreig is reminding our community that her office is accepting applications for the FY 2014 round of CDBG funds for specific project categories. These are Public Service, Public Infrastructure, housing, downtown revitalization or economic development. Applications are available at the town website: www.bridgtonmaine.org or by contacting Anne Kreig at 647-8786.

Notices of Nomination Papers: Nomination papers will be made available on March 18th for: 1 Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor; 2 Planning Board Members; 1 Planning Board Alternate Member; 2 MSAD #61 Directors; 1 Water District Trustee – all are 3 year terms. The deadline for filing nomination papers is April 29th.

Holiday Reminder: The Town Office will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 19th at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell A. Berkowitz

Town Manager