

## Town Manager's Report

Tuesday

September 11, 2012

**Annual MMA Conference:** The annual conference will be held in Augusta on Oct. 3-4. I am planning on attending and once again ask that you designate me as the voting delegate for the business portion. Generally this deals with changes recommended to the MMA By-laws and you have allowed me to use discretion if it is a controversial issue. I ask that you affirm your designation by an official vote so we can inform MMA accordingly.

If any of the Board members would like to attend please let me know so that we can complete the registration forms and if you want that person to be your delegate, please make this distinction.

**Fiscal Report:** The year to date revenues are at 25% while expenses are just under 16%. The benchmark for the first two months of this fiscal year is 16.67%.

We have also had our first quarterly tax collection and at the 25% benchmark we have collected 27.1%. Part of this includes payments made for more than one quarter. We have also reviewed our cash flows through November 15, 2012 and we anticipate sufficient cash to meet all regular expenses.

**Energy Efficiency PACE Loans:** When the voters approved the Energy Efficiency Ordinance last June, Bridgton became eligible for several programs including the PACE loan program. The loans are made available for residential as well as commercial energy efficiency improvements such as weatherization, efficient heating installations, lighting and appliances and solar, thermal or photovoltaic systems. As an example all loans are issued at 4.99% and a \$5000 loan would have a monthly payment of \$95 for 60 months. For more information please contact Efficiency Maine at 1.866.376.2463 or visit their website at [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com).

**Committee Volunteers are still needed:** Recycling, Fireworks, Property Maintenance and Pondicherry Park Committees are looking for civic minded citizens willing to meet and discuss relevant policy issues that can be advise the Select Board. Please visit the Town website at [bridgtronomie.org](http://bridgtronomie.org) and go to the boards and committees drop down where you will find a standard committee application. Send the application to the Town Offices at 3 Chase Street suite #1, Bridgton Maine 04009 and we will schedule an interview with the Select Board. It's that simple and your time and efforts are an important investment in the Bridgton Community.

**Cell Phone Cost Reduction:** Thanks to the efforts of the Chief Schofield and Linda Nilsen, we have been able to reduce our monthly cell phone expenses. Linda and I noticed that our plan was not accommodating our actual usage and Chief Schofield had made contact with Verizon Wireless and

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through their representative were able to establish a new plan that meets our actual needs. The results are that we are now paying about \$575 per month for 20 cell phones and we were paying in excess of \$950 for 18 phones. The new plan increases the pooled minutes thereby avoiding the \$.25 per minute charge above the pool amount monthly.

Our thanks go out to these staff members for a job well done.

**Reminder:** The Annual Staff Training will be on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 8-11 AM at the town offices. During this time we will not be open for regular business but will open by 11 AM upon completion of the training session.

Observation by Jim Kidder: Rt. 302 pavement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell A. Berkowitz,

Town Manager