

Town Manager's Report
Tuesday
November 27, 2012

Recycling Celebration: The Committee was at the Transfer Station on November 17th to promote recycling. Bob had spruced up the station and we have over 120 people stop by to get information about Single Sort as well as sign up for the raffle. Our sponsors are to be thanked for their support and generosity. They include the Camp Fire Grill, Food City, Hannaford Supermarket, Johnson's Electrical Maintenance Services, Hayes True Value Hardware, Hancock Lumber, Lake Region House of Pizza, Macdonald's Motors, NAPA Auto Parts, Portland Street Auto Body, Reny's Department Store, Paris Farmers Union, Paw Prints and Ricky's Diner. The Committee also appreciated the many comments our citizens offered about recycling. We also invite interested citizens to apply for appointment to the Recycling Committee.

MMA Health Insurance Rates: The town has been notified of the impending increase in rates for our health and dental insurances. When we put together the FY 2013 budget, we estimated an increase of about 7%. The actual health insurance increase was 7.5% and we will back those numbers into our current year budget as well as the proposed budget that is being developed. The dental insurance increased by 6%.

In January of 2012 the town moved to a POS 200 plan which increased the amount of out of pocket expenses that would be incurred by an employee or their dependents. This move did save the town and the FY 2013 budget was developed with the lower numbers including the projected January 1, 2013 increase. MMA Health Trust has also revamped its benefits to what is called a tiered program. They are now offering reduced out of pockets expenses when our employees used the "preferred" providers including hospitals. Included in the hospital listing are Bridgton Hospital, Maine Medical Center and Central Maine Medical Center. When these services are provided, our employees will have the hospital facility deductible waived. The same holds true when our employees use a Preferred Primary Care Physician.

Information about this program is in the process of being distributed to our employees.

MMA Worker's Compensation Fund Report: We received the annual report from MMA. In calendar year 2012 we received a dividend check for \$4,971, a safety grant for \$910 and a loss control inspection valued at \$95 for a total benefit to the Town of \$5,974.

Fiscal Reports: The Town's tax collection rate as of November 20th was about 48.3% out of a benchmark of 50%. Our cash flows continue to be healthy as we project a balance on hand of over \$1M by the next tax collection date of February 15, 2013. This supports the decision to go to a quarterly collection since we have not borrowed any tax anticipation notes since July 1, 2006.

Over Please

Status of the New Sites at Salmon Point: The six sites have had the brush cleared along with trees that would interfere with the semi-circular road. A culvert was installed with some gravel. If winter snows hold off, Public Works may do some additional site work this winter with the balance occurring next spring.

Surplus Vehicle and Equipment: The Select Board is being asked to authorize the bidding process of the two remaining surplus items, a GMC pick up truck and the 1997 Case 580B back hoe. We know what we can achieve for each at today's salvage scrap iron prices but also want to see if we can maximize our values through the re-bid process. I am recommending a minimum bid of \$350 for the pickup and \$1000 for the back hoe. We would get the notice out next week and seek a closing date of Dec. 13th at 10:00 AM. At that time we will recheck the scrap market price against the bid prices and take the best deal for the town.

MDOT Revenue: We just received the MDOT Road Assistance monthly payment which brings our total to \$54,587 against the budgeted amount of \$105,000 or 52%. If the State holds steady on its commitment, we should receive what was budgeted through June 30, 2013.

Emergency Operations: In talking with Todd Perrault, the Town's Emergency Management Director, we are on the path towards meeting several key elements to better position the Town for future emergency responses. The first area is that of our communications infrastructure. Besides having our primary antennae on Shawnee Peak, they will also be installing three smaller roof ridge antennae on the Town Office Complex. This will allow for improved communications at the emergency operations center which is the Select Board Room. We are also taking the final steps to assure we comply with the narrow banding requirements as of January 1, 2013. Todd will be calling a meeting of the key responder groups and LRTV to design the Select Board room for improved layout and efficiency. This may include wall mount audio-visual systems that integrate with the LRTV Systems. Lastly, there will be additional staff training and we hope to have a late fall 2013 desk top exercise to initially test the result of the work.

Public Meeting Notice for Rt. 302 Reconstruction: The MDOT will be in Bridgton on Wednesday December 12th from 6-8 PM to review preliminary information about the reconstruction of the Rt. 302 section from about 0.11 miles west of Stanley Hill Road extending easterly 5.14 miles to a point just past Stack' Em Inn Road. Public Comments are requested.

The Second Meeting, to take place in Fryeburg has yet to be scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mitchell Berkowitz
Town Manager