

Town Manager's Report
Tuesday-June 11, 2013

Elections and Town Meeting: Today was the municipal elections and the polls close at 8:00 PM. This is part of the annual meeting and therefore as the polls closed the Moderator recessed the meeting until tomorrow evening, Wednesday June 12 at 7:00 PM at which time he will reconvene the town meeting. We remind our citizens that you must be a registered voter to vote at the town meeting but may attend to observe. The Town Meeting will take place at the Town Hall at 26 North High Street.

Highland Lake Lowering: Starting October 1 we will drop the level of the Lake allowing for residents to complete any repair work at their waterfronts subject to the permits they must get from Robbie, the Code Enforcement Officer. This is a procedure we follow every five years and it works well for residents who need to have work done on their waterfront properties. We will then set the gates to fill the lake sometime in early November subject to the rain conditions in the fall.

Public Works Report: Pondicherry Square tree removal and sidewalk restoration and Traffic lights will be reported by Jim.

Energy Markets: I am reviewing the electricity and heating oil markets to gauge whether the Town should enter a bid process now or hold off for a while. Further, I may decide to waive the formal bid process if I can lock our heating oil in at close to the past year's price. There are three major oil vendors that consistently respond to our bid process and have contacted all three thus far. We certainly would respond to any other vendors who can provide a competitive bid as well. I will keep the Board informed of this effort.

Personnel Update: Jim and I are reviewing applicants for the vacant position at Public Works. I will also be meeting with a newly formed interview committee to review the Recreation Director applications we are receiving. Besides Georgiann Fleck and Kathryn Ross, I will be asking a citizen to sit in along with Paul and myself.

Salmon Point Campground Update: We still have 3-4 sites that may be available for season rental though we are also experiencing inquiries which mean the sites will not be available for long. If you are interested in a site please contact the Campground Manager at 647-5229 to get more information.

Financial Report: With less than a month remaining in this fiscal year our benchmark for expenses and revenues is just shy of 92%. Our expenditures to date are 84.23% while revenues are 87.6%. The revenues are down slightly but when reviewed with total expenditures the Town should have ended the year in the black before any carry forward requests. Even then there should be surplus funds that will go to the undesignated fund balance.

Our tax collections percentage is projected to be down meaning more taxes remain unpaid, about 7%.

OVER PLEASE

Unless paid off, this could mean more properties may be tax acquired in another 18 months. We will also be providing a complete report of the properties which will include our recommendations to again sell the tax acquired properties which were liened back in FY 2011.

Salmon Point News: The Town is in the process of relocating the spigot that allows for the public to fill their containers with the tested drinking water from Salmon Point. The location of the past spigot has created a pumping system problem and we hope to have the new spigot set up at the Campground entrance shortly.

We have also received a permit by rule to remove the growing sand bar at the mouth of the lagoon. This work was completed last weekend under the direction of Ted Sawyer, campground manager. We also are going to have 2-4 seasonal sites available on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested please contact Ted Sawyer at 647-5229. The availability of sites is not guaranteed since they usually are leased very quickly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mitchell A. Berkowitz
Town Manager