

Town Manager's Report  
Tuesday  
November 8, 2011

**Financial Report:** As of the close of the business day on October 31, 2011 the Town had received 40% of its projected revenues excluding taxes and had expended about 37% of its budget. This is against the benchmark of 33%. The key elements contributing to the expenditures to date included the County Tax paid at 100%, Long term debt payment at 50%, Insurances at 57%, outside agency payouts at 79% and the capital account expenditures at 46%. If we continue to have freak early winter storms this could affect the November expenditures to date report otherwise I expect we will be closer to the benchmark as of December 1, 2011.

**Personnel Changes:** As of October 29, 2011, the Town of Bridgton Public Works Department hired Mr. Everett McAbe for the position vacancy in the Parks Department. Everett is a Bridgton resident with his Class B license as well as the state arborist license. Those licenses coupled with his equipment operations experience will be an added value to the Department and the services they continually provide.

**Fuel Assistance:** It was reported late last week that the Federal Fuel Assistance provided to the State of Maine would likely be cut by as much as 50%. If this occurs there are several possible consequences that we expect.

- Fewer people will actually be served exposing them to a greater General Assistance need.
- We expect a greater number of people will still need fuel assistance due to unemployment in this area.
- The current budget under GA for fuel assistance, \$6,700 is likely to quadruple to as much as \$25,000 if the is not congressional intervention.
- We expect a similar impact to our GA Utility line item which is currently \$2,100.
- Some people will go without exposing them to severe winter conditions that may also impact their health and well being.

**Status of the North High Street Property:** The key parties have yet to resolve the issues by the deadline of October 31 and we have now turned this over to the Town's Attorney who will advise us how to proceed with the notifications to demolish the structure and the placement of liens. Rob has also notified the owner's legal representative to inform him of that. Perhaps this may motivate the Bank to move forward.

**CDBG Amended MOU:** We have been successful in our discussions with the County regarding the annual CDBG set aside that Bridgton has been receiving. The Municipal Oversight Committee is prepared to amend our MOU at their next meeting, November 16, to continue this provision for another five years and again re-evaluate how Bridgton

has utilized these funds before extending it again in 2017. We are asking that you authorize the Town Manager to execute the amended MOU on behalf of the Town once the vote is taken.

**Inflow and Infiltration Sewer Work:** The I & I work on the downtown sewer connections is now underway. As part of the recommendations, the Town is now inspecting each property connection to assure only effluent is entering the system. We are pumping each site and making the inspections both in the structures as well as the septic tanks. Any remediation work will be part of the 30 day notice to the respective property owner to complete per the Sewer Ordinance. We expect to reduce the amount of non-effluent water from entering the system dramatically leaving a greater amount of capacity to support future downtown development. The inspection work is intended to be completed in the next two weeks. All property owners have been notified and have been extremely cooperative.

**Election Signage:** As we did in the last election, we again faced the tough question of when should political signage be at least 250' from the election polls. We conferred with MMA and asked they do further research and found conflicting information that they have clarified. Up to now on the day of elections we have asked that such signs across the street from the Old Town Hall be removed. However MMA has given us a verbal response which indicates that "public property does not include a private property that has a public easement over it. Therefore the signage can remain on the private property even though it is within the prescribed set back of 250' ". We are going to review the most recent sign ordinance to determine if our language complies with this understanding and report this to the Select Board.

**Veteran's Day Ceremonies:** The annual Veteran's Day ceremonies will take place this Friday, November 11 at 11 AM at the Veteran's Monument near the Magic Lantern Theater. Depot Street will be blocked off from Main Street for about 45 minutes though people may access all of the businesses and parking area from the other end of Depot Street at Pondicherry Square.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell Berkowitz  
Town Manager