



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:
Michael W. Heavener
March 2, 2010

Town of Winslow - In the heart of Central Maine representing People, Pride and Progress.

TOWN ASSESSOR APPOINTED

In your packet is Resolution No. 5-2010 that if accepted would confirm my appointment of Judy Mathiau as Town Assessor.

We received approximately 13 applications for the position and 6 of the 13 had their Certified Maine Assessor (CMA) certificate.

An interview committee was formed consisting of Paul Castonguay the City of Waterville Assessor, Town Councilor Gerald Saint Amand, CEO Frank Stankevitz and myself.

On February 9th, five of the applicants who possessed their CMA certificate were interviewed. Judy Mathiau was chosen by the committee as the candidate most qualified for the position (see attached resume).

During my pre-employment background check I received nothing but praise for Judy's performance as an assessor. If Judy's appointment is confirmed she will begin work here on Monday, March 15th.

WINSLOW CONNECTOR TRAIL

In your packet is Resolution No. 4-2010 that if accepted would authorize me to accept a bid proposal from Nitram, Inc. to complete the Winslow Connector Trail.

You will need to decide if lighting will or will not be included in the project. It should be noted that the City of Waterville is planning to light the walking path on their side of the Two-Cent Bridge.

Public Works Director John Giroux will be at Monday night's meeting to answer any questions you may have about the bid proposal and the connector trail.

ENERGY GRANT AWARDED

Last Fall you authorized me to jointly submit an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant with the City of Waterville. The development of the grant was a collaboration between the two communities and the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition. A special thank you goes to John Joseph and the Energy Committee of the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition for writing the grant.

As a result of the grant submission we have collectively received a grant award of \$170,000. The award will help fund three projects: 1) Residential Energy Efficiency; 2) Residential Renewable Energy; and 3) Community District Energy.

The residential energy efficiency project will involve improving the energy efficiency of 50 homes in Winslow and 50 homes in Waterville.

The residential renewable energy project will involve the installation of 20 residential solar hot water systems.

The community district energy project will consist of a feasibility study for a renewable energy combined-heat and power facility. The facility could provide low cost electricity, steam and hot water that could attract businesses to the area.

NO RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURES

I am pleased to report that we did not have to foreclose on any homes for unpaid property taxes this year.

We did, however, foreclose on a 0.150 acre parcel valued at \$2,500. The parcel is lot 37 on tax map 16 (see attached) and is managed by Deila Vigue. Ms. Vigue said the parcel was of no value to her and she preferred the town foreclose on it. We will need to decide what to do with this parcel.

PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES FOR KWD

Attached to this report is a letter from the Kennebec Water District (KWD) and LD 1783, which contains proposed charter changes for KWD.

If you have any comments you would like me to pass on to KWD before the March 11th hearing, please let me know at our meeting on the 8th.

KSTD RATE WILL DECREASE

At a time of dwindling revenues and rising costs it pleases me to report that our Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District fees for the coming fiscal year will actually decrease by \$115,490.

This decrease is likely the result of a decline in our flow rates and KSTD using a more consistent method of measuring the presence of solids in our waste processed at the plant.

DALLAIRE STREET UP-DATE

As you know, we had initially planned to demolish the six homes by burning them as part of a Fire Fighting training exercise. However, during a pre-burn inspection by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) it was discovered that some houses had siding placed over old, lead-based paint siding. As a result, MDEP concluded the ash resulting from the burn could

contain unacceptable levels of lead concentrations. If this were the case, the ash would have to be treated as hazardous waste and be disposed of at a potential, additional cost of between \$100,000 to \$200,000.

In order to avoid the excessive cost associated with treating the ash as hazardous waste we are planning to mechanically demolish the six homes and haul the majority of the debris to a local land fill. Some of the debris will be buried in the cellar holes of the homes. This change will increase the total cost of the project by \$46,571.00 to \$725,396.00. I am waiting for final approval from FEMA before we proceed.

The additional cost to the town for this change will be \$11,643.00, however, due to our In-Kind contributions our actual cash match will increase by only \$2,193.00.

JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS LEASE

Johnny's Selected Seeds lease will expire this June. They have contacted me and have expressed an interest in renewing the lease for another three (3) years. I am scheduled to meet with Gary Zemrak on Thursday, March 4th to discuss their lease payments over the next three years.

TOWN FOREST UP-DATE

I have spoken with Joseph Stevenson of Sappi who has indicated his company continues to have a strong interest in managing our Town Forest. He said they will continue to offer the town forest management plans, forest inventory/timber cruising, coordinating timber harvests and wildlife management. He said they will even help manage the forest to encourage recreational use.

Mr. Stevenson said when the forest is harvested they will put measures in place to insure the town receives full compensation for the timber that is harvested.

CHROMIUM NOT A HEALTH CONCERN ON THE SEBASTICOOK

As you know I asked the State Toxicologist's Office to review the Unity College Study conducted last Fall on the Sebasticook River sediments and to determine if the levels of Chromium detected pose a human health risk.

Dr. Silverman reviewed the analysis prepared by Student Kelly Barber and concluded the levels of CrIII and CrVI detected do not pose a human health risk (see attached letter).

It should be noted that CrVI was not detected in the Winslow samples. CrVI is the more harmful form of Chromium.