



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 21, 2020

ADMINISTRATION

- Absentee ballot requests received, as of 10/21/20: 758 (301 D, 227 R, 43 G, 187 U).
- In order to accommodate election needs, the Town Office will close at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, and will be closed all day Tuesday, November 3.
- I have received a request from AFSCME Council 93 requesting dates in November when the Board would be ready to begin negotiations. If you would like to propose additional dates outside of the regular schedule, I would recommend taking it up under Other Business.

AIRPORT

- The taxilane project was delayed due to wet weather, but we are still on track to have the project completed within the approved window. This week's construction meeting was postponed due to a lack of progress.
- I had a meeting with FAA and DOT regarding the proposed recreation facility. At this time, it must be determined whether or not there is popular, serious consideration for the development and investment in this project. There is a comprehensive project proposal that FAA would like the Town to compile before considering anything further.

ASSESSING

- Next Assessor meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/PLANNING

- The Planning Board reviewed the Board of Selectmen's request to consider and develop a property maintenance ordinance, primarily for the downtown area. The reconsidered discussion resulted in a *unanimous* vote not to develop such an ordinance; the consensus was that if the Board of Selectmen wanted to propose such an ordinance that the Selectboard should move forward with it, independent of the Planning Board.
- A public hearing will be held on November 12, to consider the site plan review application for 547 Waterville Rd., for an interior development for growing medical marijuana. The permit was previously approved, but it was conditioned on receiving no adverse written comment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- I have been in discussion with the State regarding the acquisition of the railroad property for future development of trail connector system. At present time, the State is hoping to close on the property in early 2021.
- Becky Ketchum was recognized last Thursday with national first place for the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award. She has been recognized with a plaque, the Town will receive a grant of \$10,000, and I am working on negotiating the cost of our new webpage from the vendor (which was in addition to the grant award).
- I have the preliminary design and costing out of downtown street lights, as proposed by the TIF Committee. Before gaining final approval, I need to get a price on sidewalk rehabilitation (hopefully, in cooperation with DOT) and the cost of installation locally.
- Hardy's Motorsports has completed one phase of their façade project (back building) and the reimbursement request is on tonight's warrant.
- I have finalized the arrangement with Jonathan Wheaton. We will continue to explore videography options, but he was able to provide drone services in addition to traditional photography.

FINANCE/COLLECTIONS

- 2020 Tax Collection: 85.4% on Real Estate (up from 84.5% at last meeting), 99.1% on Personal Property (up from 98.0%). Taxes were due September 22.

FIRE/EMA

- Our two new full-time firefighters began on Monday. Andrew Dexter and Josh Corson have been taking part in classroom-style orientation, as well as touring various facilities (public and private).
- I signed the order to put a new aluminum body on Unit 24. An attempt to negotiate pricing was made, but a price increase put into effect between our original quote date and signing date removed any chance at further adjustment.

LIBRARIES

- The Library Trustees would like the support of the Board of Selectmen to launch a photo contest, highlighting photographs of the Town. Ideally, the winner of this promotion would be featured on next year's town report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The County is working to prepare a contract for our review and consideration throughout the budget and town meeting processes. It will have to go before the Commissioners, which is expected in early November.
- Another notice of violation is drafted to be issued to a Depot Street property owner as a result of violating the Town of Norridgewock Nuisance Dog Ordinance.

PUBLIC WORKS

- We've recently received news of the intended retirement of our shared public works/sewer employee. The needs of the sewer department have been reduced to coverage and about 30 days of sludge hauling (which is reduced from spreading). We need to discuss the addition of a full, full-time employee to public works to backfill that pending vacancy.
- Fall roadside mowing was delayed, but is now taking place. If there are any concerns, please let me know and we can ask them to go back out. So far, things are looking good.
- We've received notice from MaineDOT that they are intending to replace several sections of wire guardrail with standard steel guardrail along sections of River Road. I have also sent an inquiry to DOT regarding guardrails downtown.

SEWER

- The purchase of a Ford F-150 has been completed and the generator has been received. We are working on getting the hookups at each pump station for power generation.
- The contractor is slowly knocking away at the punch list; our consultant has been closely monitoring progress, or lack thereof.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
18	19	20 4PM Sewer Mtg	21 6PM Selectmen	22 4PM Library Mtg	23	24
25	26	27 4PM- TIF Mtg	28	29 9AM Assessor Mtg 2PM Marijuana webinar	30	31
1	2 TOWN OFFICE CLOSING @ 1	3 ELECTION DAY TOWN OFFICE CLOSED	4 6PM Selectmen	5	6	7