



**Town Manager's Report
March 20, 2019**

Increase in state valuation—at the last meeting, I shared that our valuation increased 10.5%; this is the result of the revaluation and the State's lack of concrete valuation data. Prior to the revaluation, the State had us reporting at a 70% ratio, whereas valuations were actually lower than that. This is the first year where the new values are computed in the State's valuation.

Schools and the valuation—With our recent increase in valuations and the announcement of a preliminary school budget, I requested an estimate of our assessment. With the shift in valuation and a proposed budget with a net increase in local appropriations of \$31,683, Norridgewock is forecasted to experience an increase of over \$70,000.

USDA/Wastewater Funding—I signed the paperwork for the sewer funding extension. Preliminary grant paperwork indicates that we will receive \$85,000 in grant, as opposed to the planned \$81,250 (approximate 4.6% savings). This awaits finalization and congressional announcement.

Investments—We worked to negotiate favorable rates with Skowhegan Savings Bank to open a 12 month CD at 2.25%. A total of \$2,000,000 was invested in this account and we will continue to monitor rates. This money is expected to earn over \$45,000 in interest over the next 12 months, which is an increase of over \$13,000 under our regular rates.

Road conditions—I have submitted a request to Senator Farrin regarding the conditions of rail crossings throughout town. As a result, Maine DOT has contacted the Chief Engineer at Pan Am to discuss the maintenance/repairs at crossings. There are several possible options that are being considered, but nothing has been finalized. This could include the railroad allowing for the State or local maintenance of crossings in order to improve road conditions.

Approximately 120 yards of reclaim has been purchased from B.R. Obert & Sons to support spring road maintenance. This quality material was some of the only available and should stand up well against traffic and continued muddy conditions.

Airport Update—We had planned to complete a taxiway construction project this summer; however, there have been modifications in the planning that have forced us to get DEP permitting for the work to be completed. Because of these adjustments, we are lined up to miss filing deadlines, which in turn causes us to forfeit entitlement funds. If this happens, we lose over \$50,000 in funding. In addition, costs for the total project came in higher than expected, so it was planned to be divided into two projects. As an alternative, I have directed our consultant to secure the permits necessary and hold until the 2020

construction season. I intend to sign an agreement with the City of Old Town to loan \$150,000 of our entitlement money to them with a payback date of 2020. This will allow us to exceed the allowable accumulation of entitlement funds and likely afford the total project in one year. Unfortunately, there will be no major construction project planned for this summer, but this seems the most efficient and reasonable course forward.

The Planning Board is proceeding with planning on the expected Waste Management expansion application. They have explored consultant options and are planning to meet with Robert Grillo of CMA Engineers (Portland, ME) on April 11 at 5PM. Pending no objection from Waste Management, it is likely that the Planning Board would look to contract with Mr. Grillo’s firm to guide them through the application process. This will require Selectmen endorsement.

I have proceeded with contracting with Verizon Connect for fleet monitoring services on Public Works and Sewer vehicles. The total per vehicle cost is \$19 per month, but should enhance accountability and safety for drivers. The program will allow for real-time monitoring of speed, location, maintenance/recalls, excessive braking/acceleration, etc. This should create safer driving experiences and ultimately reduce costs.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20 6PM Selectmen	21	22	23
24	25	26 5PM TIF Mtg	27 4:30 Sewer Mtg 6:30 Chamber Mtg	28 5PM FirstPark Budget Meeting	29	30
31	1	2	3 6PM Selectmen	4 3PM Historic Panel Mtg	5	6