

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 08/17/2010:**

**1. The FYI Folder:** FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: READ List

**2. 2010 Tax Bills Issued:** Read Notice. The Town has been taking more funds out of Unappropriated Surplus each year to offset the repercussions of the County Tax since the new Jail Debt service needed to be paid and other increases in assessments. We were unable to do this year as we discussed during the last budget session in Fall, 2009. There are not enough funds going into the account as the revenue collections for all levels of government are so low. As the State of Maine lowered the Homestead Exemption for properties, \$53.70 of the increase is due to the loss of the Homestead. Therefore, if the average tax bill is \$1200.00 in 2009. The Tax for 2010 would be \$1,317.79. The total tax increase for 2010 over 2009 would be \$117.79 of which \$53.70 is due to the State Legislature's revision to the Homestead law. The remainder or \$64.09 is due to the budgetary changes from county, school and town.

**3. Re-financing of Bonded Debt for Water & Sewer Enterprise Accounts:** The Auditor recommended that the Town re-finance the Large 1999 water infrastructure loan that the Town carries as we could have a much lower interest rate. After several contacts with the MMBB, I have learned that the low interest rate of 1-1.5% would only be eligible for the last sewer bond that the Town took out. The large Water loan is not eligible. This sewer bond be re-financed now or any time that we want to go through the process. The cost to re-finance is about \$2000 in legal fees plus my time, which would not be an additional cost. I will calculate the savings to determine if we should proceed. I believe there will be savings from this move. The first MMBB issuance that the large Water loan would be eligible for re-financing would be Spring, 2011. At that time, we could also re-finance the Water-Sewer Loan for the meter upgrade and the Summer Street Separation project. I will calculate out projected savings to make sure that the savings are higher than the costs, which I believe, will be the case.

**4. Safety Enhancement Grant Program:** The Town received notification of an award of \$2,000.00 for the Safety Enhancement Grant application submitted to the Maine Municipal Association. The funds will be used to purchase 200 traffic cones and 6 signs. Donnie Chute wrote the grant application. The last Highway-type safety grant that we received was back in 2003 and we are in the need of replenishing our outside safety equipment.

**5. Water/Sewer Services:** With over 60 miles of water and sewer pipes and approximately 700 gate boxes, 1400 service boxes, 500 manholes and 10 sewer cleanouts, the Water and Sewer Department can be kept quite busy. If anyone notices a manhole or box sunken or heaved in the roadway, please call Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Noble at the Water/Sewer Garage at 487-5203 listing the road and approximate location. With literally hundreds of these items in the roadway and the difficult winters we are having now, a few of them are going to shift out of place.

**6. The Welcome Table:** The Welcome Table is open from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Friday at the First Universalist Church in the Community Hall at 6 Easy Street. This is a local program staffed and funded by volunteers whose mission is to provide a warm place to gather, socialize and share a hot meal. Games, puzzles and cards are always available. All are invited to attend. For further information, please call Trudy Ferland at 487-6523.

**7. KVCOG 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Announcement:** Read Notice

**8. North Main Street intersection at the bottom of Grove Hill:** We have been getting calls about the accidents taking place at the bottom of North Main Street in which now two homes have been hit by vehicles. People have asked for a road change. North Main Street is a State road and appears to be properly signed. If people have suggestions, we will forward them to the State of Maine. The Police Chief was asked to look at the intersection as well as the PW Foreman and could not find any revisions to make. Both accidents were caused by inattention or sleeping. The traffic count for Main Street is over 10,000 per day so the traffic count for that area is probably a little less.

**9. MMA:** The Maine Municipal Association is looking for ideas for their Legislative Agenda. If you have ideas for legislation or law changes, let me know on or by this Friday, August 20, 2010.

**10. 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II:** Read Notice

