

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 09/21/2010:

1. The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: None for this meeting.

2. Home Foreclosure Assistance: Consumers can now get aid to avoid home mortgage foreclosure.

3. Town Workers' Compensation Rate: At the last Council Meeting, it was announced that the Town's Workers' Compensation Experience Rating has been decreased to .84, which is a risk that is below normal. This good rate should help with workers' compensation costs for the next year. Each year, due to the overall fiscal condition of the MMA Workers Compensation Trust and the Town's experience rating, we generally receive a rebate. We are happy to announce that we received a rebate of \$2,118 in Workers' Compensation.

4. Recent Safety Committee Meeting: The Town Departments had an excellent Safety Committee Meeting last Thursday, 09/16/2010. The topics of discussion were the next round of Safety Grants and what the Town will be applying for; a review of departmental compliance for 2010 training which overall has been excellent; the need for training for the replacement part-time hires; training schedule ideas for 2011; and the future inclusion of a brief safety meeting at the beginning of the day for some of the departments.

5. New Seabasticook Valley Hospital Service: We would like to congratulate SVH on their newest project of offering a convenient healthcare choice for busy working families. The Clinic at Wal-mart operated by Seabasticook Valley Health opened earlier this month. It is located next to the pharmacy in the Palmyra Wal-mart. It will be open seven (7) days a week. The purpose of the clinic is to see patients with minor illnesses and injuries. The clinic will also serve those with one-time medical needs such as flu vaccines and school sports physicals. This is not intended to replace either one's personal healthcare provider or the Emergency Department. Information about this new service is online at www.seabasticookvalleyhealth.org

6. 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.

7. 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.

Foreclosures in Maine have risen: The State's Bureau of Financial Institutions has just released information that the number of foreclosures in Maine is up. According to data from 32 state-chartered banks and credit unions, the number of houses in the process of foreclosure in the last quarter of 2009 was 305, compared with 271 in the third quarter. Foreclosures had continued to increase from year to year as well with 175 completed foreclosures in 2009 compared with 159 completed foreclosures in 2008. This does not include federally chartered banks, credit unions or mortgage companies. The Bureau noted that the increase was probably due to the economic times and not the result of predatory lending by Maine banks.

The reason this is mentioned is that often people get behind on their taxes, the bank then comes in and pays off the taxes and then adds the amount to the monthly payment. Then the payments are higher and people have trouble making them. For those people who do not have their taxes escrowed, we would encourage you to join the Pittsfield Tax Club. READ Tax Club Requirements. If you do not want to join the tax club, have back taxes due, do not have the same amount of money coming in each week, get paid by jobs or some other reason, that is fine. The Town encourages people to just put down \$10, \$25, \$50 or whatever amount you can when you can. This will reduce the amount of taxes that you have left. We have town employees who have payroll deductions of their own request, to pay down on their taxes. It does not have to be the tax club payment. This way, people can work on paying their taxes when they can.

