

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 11/06/2013:**

**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. Burns W. Knowlton Jr. Post 32:** The American Legion will hold a Veterans' Day Service at Veterans' Park in the downtown on Monday, 11/11/2013 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. All veterans are invited to attend the ceremony which will begin with a prayer and have a speaker. Afterwards, veterans can socialize with their friends and network with new acquaintances.

**3. Somerset Avenue Mill and Fill Project:** The Town has received an official public notice that MDOT is planning to design and advertise the Somerset Avenue project in the Winter-Spring of 2013-2014 with construction scheduled for Spring-Summer of 2014. This notice has been distributed to all departments, the Heart of Pittsfield and other interested groups. The notice will be provided to the Planning Board at their next meeting.

**4. Sebasticook Regional Land Trust Farm & Habit Ride:** The Town has been contacted by representatives of the Land Trust to start the collection of information for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Farm & Habitat Ride. This year, the group is going to check all schedules to try to plan the ride on a day that another significant bike ride is taking place. This will lead to more participants as many of the regular bicyclists were at a large biking event. As soon as the date is chosen, we will start to promote and publicize the bike ride and padding event.

**5. Somerset County Budget Committee Meeting:** The County Commissioners have requested that all Municipal Officers and Municipal Officials meet at the Town of Palmyra Office at 768 Main Street in Palmyra for Towns in County District 3 to caucus and select members to fill a vacant position on the Budget committee. District 3 is comprised of Canaan, Detroit, Hartland, Palmyra and Pittsfield. This is a vacant seat term to expire December 2014. There is interest in having one of the Palmyra Selectmen appointed to the Budget Committee.

**6. Tax Liens for 2011 Matured next month:** The automatic foreclosure notices went out last week. As of 11/05/2013, the Town had 40 properties for which taxes for 2011 were not paid. These liens will mature next month which means that the Town will own the properties. Looking at the list, I see a number of properties for which the property owner waits until that time to pay off the taxes. I also noted that of the 40 properties listed that 1 person owns 5 properties and another person owns 6 properties. So basically 11 of the properties are owned by 2 people.

**7. 2013 Taxes outstanding as of 10/31/2013:** The collection rate for the 2013 real estate taxes has increased over the 2012 collections as of 10/31/2013 by \$17,525.00. Last year at this time, \$543,236 was outstanding and this year \$525,711 was outstanding. This is very good news. The Town continues to receive payments for the taxes so this is also very good as people will not have to pay so much in interest.

**8. Playground Equipment Installation:** The playground equipment for Harthorn Park has arrived and will be put together by the Public Works Department and interested volunteers next Wednesday, 11/13 or Thursday, 11/14 starting early in the morning. At this time, the playground equipment company owner and the town staff are working out the details. I will advertise this as soon as I know the specifics to generate some volunteers.

