

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 11/19/2013:

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 held a benefit dinner on Sunday, 10/27/2013 with one-half of the proceeds dedicated to the Historic Depot Restoration/Preservation. The Legion then donated \$75.00 to the depot project which was greatly appreciated.

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.

4. Seabasticook 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 2nd 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. Tax Liens for 2011 Mature next month: The automatic foreclosure will take place in December, 2013. As of 11/19/2013, the Town had 29 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 29 properties listed that 1 person owns 5 properties.

6. 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.

7. Playground Equipment Installation: The playground equipment for Hathorn Park was installed on Friday, 11/15/2013 and installation was finished today. The certified wood chips required to be placed in the safe zone for the playground equipment are expected to arrive by the end of the week.

8. The Best Towns in Maine for Young Families: The Mayor found a listing on the Internet of the "Best Towns in Maine for Young Families". Of the 15 towns identified in the State of Maine, Pittsfield was ranked 13th. The list is based upon:

Does the Town have good public schools?

Can you afford to live there?

Is the Town growing and prospering?

9. Grant Funding Programs and Projects: The Grant Summary Report for 2003-2013 has been updated as of 10/31/2013. To date, the Town has received \$10,631,054 in grant funding through 113 grants. We have some pending activity and other projects on-going so the Town has a total of nearly \$12 million in grant activity since 2003.

