

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 09/18/2007:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: Read List

2. 2007 Tax Bills: The 2007 tax bills have been sent out in the mail. Taxes are due on Friday, October 19, 2007 and cover the period of January – December, 2007. The mil rate is \$21.80 which is a decrease of .70 of a mil or 3.1%.

The Town lost \$8,007,520 in personal property tax value
We gained \$5,344,952 in real estate from new buildings and additions
Net loss in valuation of \$2,662,568.

We were very fortunate that the School received additional funding through the property tax law LD #1 and passed this along to the communities through a lowered assessment. In addition, we were fortunate that the Town received \$110,892 more in State Revenue Sharing and appropriated this toward the 2007 Commitment.

The State Law provides Homestead Exemptions for individuals who reside in their homes. As our community's values are at 72.6% of market value, the Homestead exemption is at \$9,438.

Therefore, the property tax on residences which have Homestead Exemptions in most cases will have increased a few dollars because the certified ratio dropped quite a bit.

The property tax on residences where people did not have a homestead exemption, businesses, apartment buildings, second homes, parcels that are just land, parcels with buildings that are not residences, camps that are second homes, new homebuyers, people who have not applied for their exemption despite notifications, etc. which do not have a Homestead Exemption are a straight multiplication of the rate times the value. As the mil rate went down, these tax bills will go down a little bit unless work was done to the property.

Which considering losing \$8 million in personal property and having a 31.4% increase in the County Tax, this is good.

As an interesting fact, because our valuations are now at 72.6% of full market value, this means that our mil rate which is \$21.80/\$1,000 would actually be \$15.83/\$1,000 if it was at 100% and values were at 100%.

3. Nomination Papers: Nomination papers are available for 2 positions on the Town Council (District 3 and At Large) and 3 SAD #53 Board members. All terms are three years. Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 24, 2007 for the three-year terms.

4. Board Vacancies: We have three vacancies on town boards as follows: 2 on the Board of Appeals and 1 on the Recycling Committee. Anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk Nicole Nickolan at the Town Office.

5. Sewer Project: We have a major sewer project and stormwater separation project coming up on Summer Street and Summer Court. The Town was fortunate to receive such good bids,

considering the fact that we had to extend the length of the sewer system from the original Summer Court (dead-end section of Summer Street) which was 686' to 1100' and adding stormwater separation for the entire 1100' of the project. The budget for the original small project was \$150,000. We had to add \$21,557 to the 2007 Highway Paving that we had for Summer Street of \$4,018. So the entire project will be under \$180,000. We ended up with a 37% increase in sewer length and 100% increase in stormwater separation and a 20% increase in cost over the original budget. These were very good prices. The meeting with the contractor is this week so we will have the schedule to publicize. Notification to Summer Street and Court residents will be a door-to-door notice. We will notify the media, emergency services, website, Public Access bulletin board, and post the notice and so forth to get the word out that the area will be under construction. The Water and Sewer Department thanks everyone for their patience as they embark on this project.

6. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal: Our Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Saturday, October 6, 2007. We will be teaming up with KVCOG and the Town of Skowhegan again this year. Pre-registration will be required to participate with calls made to the Transfer Station/Recycling Center to sign up for a specific time. Brochures are available at the Town Office and have been distributed around Town. (Some are on the table this evening).

7. Maine Senior Farm Share Program: This program still has over 2,000 free produce shares available for income eligible seniors. The free produce shares are worth \$50 each and are a great way to support income eligible seniors with fresh local produce. The shares are available at 80 Maine Farms. We have handouts available at the Town Office and will drop some by the multi-unit housing projects in Town where there are seniors living.

8. Neighborhood Watch Program: The Town is still looking for volunteers for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Sign up today to help protect our community. Volunteers will work with the Police to help keep our community safe. Sign up at the Town Office or Police Station. The Police Chief would like to announce that the introductory Neighborhood Watch Program meeting will be held on Tuesday, 09/25/2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

The police officers are continuing to have radar details. An emphasis has been placed on enforcing/monitoring school zones. As scheduling permits, the Police Department has scheduled special foot patrol details in the downtown area, including the parks. To date, no violations were observed.

The Police Department also has free bookmarks for driving safety called "Think About It Crashes are no accident: Fatigued Drivers; Share the Road with a Truck; Share the Road with Trains; Wildlife/Vehicle Crashes; Share the Road with Bicycles; and Aggressive Drivers. On the back is a second bookmark with other categories. These can be picked up at the Town Office/Police Station.

9. Community Forum: In conjunction with Maine Recycles Week and our Project Canopy Grant, the Town will hold a community forum on Tuesday, 11/13/2007 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Vickery School Gym. Community groups, board/committee members, and the public are invited to learn about recycling, composting, re-use, planting trees, and gardening. This environmental forum will host speakers, a door prize, information/handouts, and lots of conversation and seeing your neighbors. The event is in the process of being planned. Invitations and notices will be going out shortly.

10. Recycling & Environmental Dates:

Saturday, 10/27/2007*	Trash to Treasure Day	Established locally to Match Make A Difference Day Activities, dawn to dusk
Saturday, 10/27/2007	Make A Difference Day	4th Saturday in October Set Nationally each year, 4th Saturday at 9:30 am at Hathorn Park for beautification and clean-up activities
Wednesday, 11/08/2007 - 11/15/2007	Maine Recycles Week Week''	Set each year

*Trash to Treasure Days: In case of inclement weather on the scheduled date, the day long event will be held the following Saturday (11/03/2007 for the Fall date).

Saved for future Town Manager Reports:

1. Moses Martin Re-dedication of the First Homestead: The re-dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, 08/04/2007 by the Pittsfield Historical Society and the Maine State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution. This was a very nice event and well attended. We received a beautiful bronze plaque to place at the Homestead. The homestead site has been cleaned up and there is a path to it now as part of the preservation efforts. The Town is fortunate to own the Peltoma property where the Town Farm and the first Homestead are located. This property also houses the Police Shooting range on the opposite side of the property. For everyone's protection, the site will remain gated. The Historical Society will coordinate with the Town and Police Department to schedule tours of the first Homestead, most likely during the Spring and late Summer/early Fall prior to Hunting Season.

2. Town Maps: The new In-Town and Rural Routes E-911 Road maps are now on the Town's website on the front page under News. They can be downloaded and will print on 8 ½ X 11 paper so they can be printed out at peoples' homes or businesses now.

3. Historical Society Project: The Pittsfield Historical Society is looking for volunteers and donations to assist them with rebuilding the cupola at the caboose and painting the caboose. The caboose needs to be re-painted after the vandalism. In order to paint the caboose, the wooden cupola needs to be rebuilt. Anyone who has carpentry skill would be welcome at the Pittsfield Historical Society to assist them with this very important project which will then allow the painting to take place. They have one volunteer at this time. More are welcome. Anyone who would like to donate or would like more information, please contact Tom Brown at 487-4926 or Clem Spencer at 487-2408.

4. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: Rain or shine all Summer and Fall, the Pittsfield Farmers' Market will be in Hathorn Park until November 1 every Monday & Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. We have new brochures at the Town Office for anyone who is interested.

5. E-911 Implementation: E-911 matches a physical address with a telephone number and this information is displayed on a computer screen to dispatchers. With each letter, the Town opted to purchase and enclose numbers to be placed on everyone's houses and businesses. All numbers are supposed to be up on 05/01/2007, on homes or mailboxes if your house is away from the road. We need your new numbers up so that Public Safety can find you as well as to help the post office, delivery companies and visitors. Remember, the Post Office will deliver your mail up to 1 year from the date of your notification, so you have time to use up your checks, letterhead, etc. With your next order, just order the items with your new address. Copies of the new two-sided map with an urban in-town map and a country roads map is available at the Town Office and Library. More and more people have their numbers up. If your numbers are not up, please put them up. If you have lost your numbers, we have extras available at the Town Office until they run out.

6. Reminder for police issues: If there is an emergency, call 911. If you are calling in a police complaint, please call the regular police number of 487-3101 and relay the issue. The Police voice mails should not be used for filing police complaints. With a rotating schedule and days off, it may be 2 or more days for a police officer to check their voice mail. Complaints need to be answered right off so they can not be left on the officers' voice mail.

7. 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.