



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

Town Manager's Report – 5.12.22

CDBG / Veterans Park:

- On Friday May 6th we held the Pre-Construction meeting for this project. In attendance were Jared Merry from Haley Ward, Terry Kiser from Underwood Electric, our CID Amber Wheaton, and TerryAnn Holden from ME DECD & CDBG.
- The project is set to kick off later this month on the 23rd and be wrapped up by June 20th.
- One variable is the lead time on the new electrical panel to be installed. We are unsure if that part will be here in time to complete within the schedule. If that is the case, Underwood is planning to have a temporary panel installed for use during our 4th of July celebrations that will be changed out with the permanent panel shortly after.
- Underwood Electric will have a trailer, some equipment, and materials parked and stored on the Katahdin Ave side of the gazebo parking lot toward the grass for the duration of the project.
- This is an exciting opportunity to bolster our community events with better access to more electricity and overhead lighting, as well as a providing up lighting on the memorial honoring our Veterans.

KATV:

- I spoke with Joe Cyr from the KATV Board of Directors regarding their situation. They are at a point where they have received no funding from Beeline for quite some time and have been at a standstill in terms of operations and programming.
- I have agreed to work with them to communicate the need for their payments and for additional funding. With the current financial agreement, if paid, they can operate bare bones for 10 out of 12 months. I am awaiting more information from Mr. Cyr to move this along.
- Mr. Cyr shared with me that they need new board members to help direct the organization. They have the desire but not the energy or availability. They will also need some updated equipment to provide the service.
- I hope to have more information and updates soon as we move through the process of bringing the KATV channel back to life.



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Iron Bridge Road – Culvert/Bridge Project:

- We have received updated cost estimates on this work from Mandy Olver at Olver Associates. As you can imagine, the total cost has risen from the original November 2020 estimate of \$275K
- The estimate is now \$345K. There is \$25K of contingency and a stream grant from the State of Maine for \$125k. The Town's contribution is now \$220K
- As we discussed in the ARPA funding workshops, this is a dire need for the Town to repair and is stated very clearly as an appropriate use of these funds.
- My suggestion is to commit the allocation of \$150K of our local ARPA funding to this project, leaving just \$70K to be included in the FY23 municipal budget needs.
- This is included in tonight's agenda as we need to commit to this project as soon as possible. Once we have committed our funding plan, Olver & Associates can move forward with proper surveying and get the ball rolling.

Public Works Tour:

- Continuing my deeper dives into Town departments and operations, I spent 2 hours on May 10th with Ralph, our Public Works Director.
- Ralph introduced me to the rest of the team if I had not met them already. He gave me a very detailed tour of our Public Works garage and property, speaking about the facility and all the equipment as well as expected future needs.
- We drove through Town and Ralph pointed out many of the various projects and work he and his crew do throughout the year, from plowing 41 miles of roads, to mowing, to flushing sewer lines, paving, painting, mechanical work, etc.
- I now have a better understanding of the operation and a real admiration for the small crew of people who perform the work. For such a small group of guys, they do an incredible amount of good quality work. Ralph shared multiple times about how great his crew is and excellent work they do that is above and beyond.

Potluck/BBQ with Councilors:

- At the request of the Events Committee, I am seeking discussion on interest in pursuing a potluck or BBQ as an informal way for community members to interact with Councilors.
- In that committee meeting there was discussion of hosting outside in the GNP park between the Municipal Building and the Boreal Theater, as well as within the halls of the municipal building.
- I do think this could be a great atmosphere to mingle and hear from community members without the staunch, formal, and often intimidating atmosphere of a Council Meeting.



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Reminder:

- All meetings of the Town Council, boards, and committees are available on our YouTube Channel for full transparency and convenience. The School Department has also begun submitting the recordings of their School Board and committee meetings.
- The best way to reach me as Town Manager is to call the town office (207-723-7000) or email me (manager@millinocket.org). Social media is not an appropriate form of communication to me or the council. It does not guarantee a response or even that the comment would be seen.
- I hope that any member of our community feels comfortable reaching out to me with any questions or concerns they have. All are welcome!

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Jamieson, Town Manager.