



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

Town Manager's Report – 2.9.23

Congressionally Directed Spending:

- Applications are expected to be available in March for the next round CDS funding.
- At the encouragement of representatives from the offices of the Maine Delegation, we plan to resubmit our previous applications for the Airport Terminal Project and the Downtown Sidewalks and Lighting Project.
- I am confident the applications will be stronger, especially for the Airport Terminal Project given the extensive work that Arcadia Designworks and Haley Ward have put into advancing the design and engineering.
- Unless there is any disapproval, we will be submitting the Airport Terminal Project application to both Senators King and Collins. The Downtown Sidewalks and Lighting Project application will be submitted to Congressman Golden.
- The original applications were seeking \$4.5M for the Airport Terminal and \$1.5M for the Downtown Sidewalks and Lights. We will reevaluate, investigate more current numbers, and tweak as needed before submitting.

Communications:

- Keeping with my mission for open, clear, and consistent communication, I have started a weekly informational video series in partnership with Designlab called MUD/WTR with Pete.
- This is a “Coffee with the Manager” kind of series, where I will be discussing Millinocket related topics, debunking rumors, explaining “how things work”, and inviting our community members to participate in the municipal process.
- The overall goal for the MUD/WTR with Pete series is to “Education, Encourage, and Engage!”
- New episodes will air every Friday at 10:00am on Facebook and Instagram. I will also be reaching out to KATV to begin sharing the videos in their rotation on the public access channel.
- At the suggestion of the Council, I have reached out to the local newspaper with interest in contributing a monthly column with updates directly from the Town of Millinocket. My goal is to have the first one published by the end of February. I am awaiting a bit more detail and direction from the newspaper staff to begin.

FY24 Budget:

- We are just a couple of weeks away from the beginning of our FY24 Municipal Budget process.
- I am eager to get the ball rolling. With the help of our Treasurer and department heads, I feel as though I learned a great deal from my first run last year and will be entering the process with a much better understanding.



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- If all goes according to schedule of deadlines I have set, we should be wrapping up the process with our special hearings on April 20th and 27th and should be voting on adoption of the budget on the April 27th.
- This will put us in compliance with our Charter, having completed the budget no less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Airport Position Vacancy:

- We have a vacant, part time position at the airport that we will need to address as soon as possible, however, we are having a dilemma in the job description and qualifications vs. payrate.
- The position requires a Class B driver's license, as well as specialized training on fueling aircrafts with both aviation gas and jet fuel. The hours are minimal, and the pay is currently minimum wage. The town has been lucky over the years to have filled these positions with qualified retirees.
- Given the increase in administrative duties and workload for the Airport Manager, it would be beneficial to increase hours and payrate for this position. That would increase efficiency in the department by allowing this person to lean more into the operation and take some of the exorbitant weight off the airport manager's load.
- If the council is open to hear a proposal, we will come back on the 23rd prepared to present it.

Current Part-time Airport Position Summary:

Schedule:

Every other weekend May 1st through Nov 30th (16 hrs./wk. 240 hrs. annually)
Covers Airport managers Vacation days off. (Approximately 100 hrs. annually).
Winter call-in for snow removal (Averages 60 hrs. seasonally).
Annual average of 400 hrs.

Requirements:

Clean driving record. (Class B)
Aircraft Fueling (both Avgas and Jet A)
Aircraft Handling (Hangar Keeping)
Grass Cutting/Trimming
Snow Removal

House Keeping
Retail Sales
Customer Service
Other Duties directed by the Airport Manager

PAY: \$13.80 hr.



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Skating Rink:

- The public skating rink is open!
- The rink is always open to public.
- The hut will be open and staffed:
 - Fridays 4:00-8:00
 - Saturday 1:00-8:00
 - Sunday 1:00-8:00
- There will be more open hours during February. We will be sure to post that exact schedule for the public as soon as we have solid information.
- We did receive grant funding for the purchase of 40 pairs of skates in various sizes. They will be available to be lent out by those who may not have a pair of their own. These are available when the hut is open and staffed. There is no cost to borrow these skates. The borrow is required to leave their boots with the hut staff in trade for the skates.

Winterfest and Snowdown:

- Both the Winterfest and Snowdown events are coming right up!
- Friday the 17th:
 - Snowmobile Parade 6:00
- Saturday the 18th:
 - Timber Cruisers Breakfast and lunch starting at 7:00am
 - Timber Cruisers Antique & Vintage Snowmobile Show 10:00-2:00
 - Kid's Ice Fishing Day at Jerry Pond 9:00-2:00
 - Abigale K. Fiske Memorial Scholarship Ride – Registration at 8:00 at Timber Cruisers Clubhouse
- Sunday the 19th:
 - Katahdin Snowdown at the skating rink 1:00-4:00
- Saturday the 25th:
 - Kids Day at the East Branch Sno Rovers 10:30-3:00
- Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jamieson, Town Manager