



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

Town Manager's Report – 3.9.23

FY24 Budget:

- The Municipal Budget for fiscal year 2024 is in full swing. We are receiving worksheets from individual departments this week and will begin compiling and adjusting next week.
- Stay tuned, plenty more to come!

Elks Land Purchase:

- I received an update this week from the Elks, saying that all paperwork has been received and handed over to Tanous & Snow to prepare for closing
- The check for this purchase was approved on a December 2022 warrant, allowing us the ability to take a closing appointment at any time.
- We are eager to dive into deeper planning around the development of this sight. As we've discussed publicly at great length, the main goal is to provide a location for our future Fire Station and Public Safety building. This location allows us direct access from the fire station to the airport, meeting FAA/TSA requirements for future growth and flight service offerings at our Airport.
- Other plans and goals for this land include solar leasing, the revenue from which will offset the debt on the purchase, and housing. We should be able to strategically offer buildable lots in this area to help with the long-term housing crunch.

EV Chargers:

- Following up on our application for Electric Vehicle charging stations with Efficiency Maine
- Millinocket's application was approved for 80% funding on 4 charging stations. Millinocket's share will be \$5,330.40 per charger for a total of \$21,321.60.
- After work was completed for our Veterans Park electrical upgrade project, we were left with a remaining balance of roughly \$50,000 in that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. If we don't allocate that money for use by June, we lose it.
- I'm suggesting we use that pot of funds to cover Millinocket's portion toward these chargers. This takes any risk or burden off of the tax-payers and allows the project to move forward.
- I certainly don't see Millinocket getting rich off of these chargers, but they will provide some revenue and offer much more convenience to community and visitors alike as we see more and more electric vehicles on the road.



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Outdoor Gym:

- We have been looking at 2 different options for outdoor gym installations in our community.
- So far, the leader is National Fitness Campaign, who also offers funding toward the project through support in Maine from Community Health Options. After the support funds from MCH, the local contribution would be in the ballpark of \$105k-\$130k. We can seek and use other grant funding toward this.
 - The closest NFC outdoor exercise lot is located in Hampden.
- The other option we are looking at is offered by Fitlot. It's a slightly different style of exercise lot with a smaller footprint.
 - The total cost for this option is comparable, at about \$178k. Grant funding options are out there.
 - The closest Fitlot installation is in Bangor in Broadway Park and was a project supported by AARP.
- To me, they both appear to be great options. We have identified the Rec. Complex as a potential location for either. The guidelines for each and size of the lots necessary for installation will likely be the determining factors on which direction we go.

Security Cameras for Town Parks/Compost/Cemetery:

- It is unlikely that North Maine Woods Surveillance will have the capacity to help us with the package and the installation.
- Being referred to SCS Communications to discuss and get a quote.
- Possibly will need to be put out to bid.
- Meeting with Steve Baily and their team at SCS communications Monday afternoon to discuss the possibilities.

Recycling:

- Stopped in this past weekend with my recyclable materials
- Had a great conversation with Gene Barr at the facility
- He informed me that the traffic and amount of materials in that building has increased exponentially and he is very pleased with the growing participation.
- Still not making money... but we're getting there.
- Have yet to purchase larger signage discussed recently but it's on the list.