



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

Town Manager's Report – 5.25.23

Outer Reach Broadband – Free Wi-Fi:

- I met recently with Outer Reach Broadband President, Tom Kirby, and two local team members about providing additional free Wi-Fi access in public spaces.
- ORB has agreed to provide free WIFI networks in the following locations:
 - Veterans Memorial Park
 - Katahdin Pride Park & Recreation Complex
 - Millinocket Little League Field
- We will have some discussion on planning around possible limitations either time frame or connection speed related to alleviate much of the possibility of abuse of the system. I will extend an invite to councilors if a couple are interested in attending. We could also invite Mr. Kirby to speak with us at an upcoming council meeting.
- We had discussed several other locations. All were deemed “no-go’s” due to lack of utilities needed to make it possible.
- The free Axiom Wi-Fi connection along the downtown corridor of Penobscot Ave will remain as is. These additional hotspots will not interfere with Axioms offerings in our community.

Digital Sign:

- With some new guidance on our remaining Community Development Block Grant funds, We have pivoted and adapted our planning for spending.
- We've learned that these funds need to be *SPENT by June 19th*, not just allocated.
- We had other projects being considered that were deemed impossible due to the time restraint, including security cameras and solar work.
- Happy to say we are finally able to have the digital sign installed in the front of our Town Office that has been a goal of this council for several years!
- This will eliminate clutter of paper signage in the front of our property, and allow for better communication to community members regarding activities, updates, and important information from the Town, with high visibility!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jamieson, Town Manager



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Public Works:

- The crew has completed the initial townwide street sweeping. We will be back to hit any spots left behind or washed out into the street from rain storms.
- We are working to have the town mowed and trimmed ahead of the Memorial Day Holiday.
- We have received our new pavement roller and are anxiously awaiting the chance to utilize this new piece of equipment.
- Spring painting of crosswalks is beginning this week. Please stay alert behind the wheel as we have to work in the roadway to accomplish this.
- We are currently replacing the dump body on our 2009 GMC with one built in house that was last used on our 2000 Chevrolet that has now been retired.

Transfer Station:

- This is a reminder that the Millinocket Transfer Site is for waste generated within the town, and those approved unorganized Territories only. Surrounding communities have their own Transfer sites for residents in those towns.
- The brush and compost area is left open during times the transfer site is closed as a convenience to the public. Please do not abuse it. We recently pulled a complete pellet stove, as well as a pickup load of concrete and bricks from the brush pile.
- Everyone should have their transfer site usage stickers by now, if not, they need to be purchased ASAP
- Recycling is being accepted and we are looking for all the cardboard, plastic jugs and tin cans that we can get.
- Wood ash was hauled to the Dolby landfill during the week of May15th.

Cemetery:

- Spring burials are happening at a rapid pace right now keeping the crew busy.
- We are asking that any grave with loose rocks or pebbles have them removed before June 1st. These decorative stones pose a danger when the mower sends them flying. We will remove them following June 1st.
- The cemetery has rules on what decorations are allowed around headstones. They can be viewed on the Town's website. They are in place for the safety and convenience of the maintenance crew as well as the public.

Bryan Duprey, Director of Public Works



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Town Treasurer:

- A Clean Water SRF application was submitted to the Maine Municipal Bond bank for the Wastewater Department to borrow \$1.665 Million for the Main Pump Station Upgrade, which is estimated to cost \$3.1 Million. Other sources of project funding are a \$1 Million ARPA grant and some unspent bond funds.
- On April 24, 30-day demand notices were sent for unpaid sewer fees dated April 29, 2022 through July 27, 2022.
 - Notices were sent to about 153 accounts.
- FY22 audit reports were received and distributed to the Council.

Mary Alice Cullen, Town Treasurer.

Wastewater Operations:

- * We have been busy over here at the wastewater treatment plant. New season, new way of treating. From May 15th to the end of September, we treat the effluent stream with chlorine. This kills the e-coli bacteria which may loom in the next few months. Everett worked on a new chlorination system which will improve the way we chlorinate. Throughout the season, we test a track how much chlorine is being used. It is logged and reported to the State Department of Environmental Protection.
- The two new Smith and Loveless pumps for the Stearns High School pump station are in the building stages in Kansas City. We expect a 10–12-week delivery. EJ Prescott out of Bangor will be installing the pumps when the time comes, hopefully by mid-summer. This is a much-needed upgrade, replacing two 1978 pumps.
- Things are running well overall. We had a great spring with low flow levels which is a great start to the summer season!

Jason Ingalls, Superintendent

Airport:

- Spring Maintenance has begun.
- Snow removal equipment is awaiting service.
- Flying has picked up when the wind isn't blowing.
- Skydiving is set to start soon for the season!
- Awaiting warranted mechanical service to tractor to begin seasonal mowing.

Jeff Campbell, Airport Manager



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Community Initiatives Director

- Worked on the community newsletter “Magic City Monthly” along with the manager and the department heads!
- Worked alongside DesignLab on the following projects:
 - Website updates
 - Community Calendar
 - Social Media
- Researched grant opportunities for various community/department needs.
- Facilitated bi-weekly Events Committee Meetings. We are working on the following events:
 - Bike Rodeo for the spring/summer
 - Movie nights
 - 4th of July Celebration
 - Summer Music Series/Movie Series
 - Hosted numerous movie nights.
 - Designed a vendor application for Event’s Committee Events – submitted to Council for Approval
 - Selected two Seniors to receive the Millinocket Events Committee Scholarship Fund
- Filed quarterly reports and reimbursement requests (if applicable) for the following grants:
 - ARPA Funds
 - NBRC Funds
 - Community Resiliency Partnership
- Submitted a grant application in partnership with Thrive Penobscot (Jane Danforth and Brittany Grutter) for a Community Health Options/NFC Grant Award for a FitCourt.
 - Received news the Town was awarded funding of \$50,000.00.
- Submitted a pre-application for the Maine LWCF Pre-Application Site Inspection 2024 Grant Cycle
 - If accepted into the next Phase, the Town will receive a site inspection for the FitCourt by a Grants and Community Recreation Program staff member.
 - If determined eligible the Town can apply for the next round of funding
- Attended the 2023 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference in Augusta
- Attended the Maine Community Resiliency Partnership 2023 Conference in Orono
- Leaned into the Team here at the Town Office and completed two payrolls without assistance – validated my knowledge and cross training! Thank you to Lori Santerre for developing this new skill in me and vesting into my future with the Town.
- Planning the grand opening of the Millinocket Dog Park alongside Town Clerk, Diana Lakeman
- Attended the Eastern Maine Development Grants Conference in Orono



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Amber Wheaton, Community Initiatives Director

Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office:

- FY22/23
 - Tax paid summary as of 05222023 *Reports Attached
 - RE accounts (*remaining balances total: \$282,662.86*)
 - PP accounts (*remaining balances total:1,823.94*)
- Motor Vehicle reports reconciled and is up to date; submitted to BMV weekly.
- April month end reports were reconciled and collected monies were submitted to all State agencies accordingly.
- Processing Absentee ballots. The Election is 05/23/2023 at Stearns High School from 8:00-8:00.
- Preparing for 30-day notices which will be mailed out in June. 213 accounts remain unpaid currently.
- Working on council meeting minutes.
- Fulfilling requests of tax information, providing normal daily requests of motor vehicle and wastewater and tax account balances via e-mail, fax, and phone calls.
- Processing daily mail, online, phone, and drop box payments.
- Creating Agendas, posting advertisements of public hearings, notifications, and local paper advertisements, Email correspondence, returning phone messages and inquiries.

Other

- 2023 Boat Registrations – Available
- 2023 Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Licenses Available
- 2023 ATV Registrations Available.
- Continued restoration efforts of vital records by filing, indexing, and storage.

Respectfully, Diana Lakeman Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector & Sharon Cyr Tax Collector/Deputy Clerk



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Fire, Ambulance, Public Health & Safety:

- Attended various committee meetings.
- Attended Maine Ambulance Association meeting via ZOOM.
- Met with inspector from Maine Solid Fuels concerning an issue in Millinocket.
- Asst. Chief Cote continues with Basic Fire School Trainings.
- EMS training held.
- Received MMA Safety Grant to purchase a Mega lifter that will help crew to get patients up from floor to standing position or onto cot. Hopefully saving on back issues.
- All Turnout Gear obtained from Stephen King Grant is in and all members now have updated Turnout Gear.

Tom Malcolm – Fire Chief, Public Health & Safety Officer

East Millinocket Police Department:

- We have responded to over 3350 calls for service in 2023. This is over a 900-call increase from last month's edition.
- We have arrested / summonsed over 190 individuals in 2023.
- Ofc Clayton has successfully completed her Drug Recognition Expert training and is now certified to perform DRE exams. Ofc Clayton has already performed one drug exam on an impaired driver in one of her first shifts back after completing training. Her training program was paid for from grant funding by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety and is a huge asset to only to our department but the region as certified DRE's are few and far between in Northern Penobscot County. Having a certified DRE on our department while making investigating drug related OUI's much more effective.
- Ofc Sallies has graduated the 43rd Maine Criminal Justice Academy Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. We are very excited to have her back to work!
- With summer season rapidly approaching we want to remind everyone our region will see an influx of tourists and summer visitors. Our officers will be aggressively enforcing distracted driving, speeding and impaired driving laws. Our goal is to keep our roadways safe for everyone.
- Lastly, as High School graduation approaches we want to congratulate all of our area graduates and we them the best on a bright future. Please remember to celebrate responsibly!

Millinocket Memorial Library:

SEE ATTACHED REPORT