



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

Town Manager's Report – 6.13.24

Town Property Maintenance:

- We've heard quite a bit about the condition of several the Town properties.
- It's a long and involved backstory related mostly to staffing to lack of equipment, however, things are finally looking up! Most positions have been filled and if the recreation budget amendment order passes later in this week's agenda, the final piece of equipment needed to make the work more efficient will be ordered.
- We appreciate the concern from the community regarding the appearance of our public spaces and promise to continue doing the best we can to keep up with maintenance and make improvements!

Downtown Beautification & Jerry Pond:

- Using some unspent funds in the budget, we've been able to work toward more beautification in our downtown. We are ordering 20 large planters to be placed along Penobscot Ave and will be filling them with beautiful flowers to spruce things up a bit! These planters are self-watering and require less maintenance than regular options. The shells of the bowls are hollow, and they have a water fill hole on the side. We expect they'll need refilling once a week and are finalizing the plan to make this possible.
- Special thank you to Karen O'Loughlin for volunteering to help with the upkeep of these planters on top of what she is already volunteering to do with the flowers around our Veterans Memorial.
- Our gorgeous new pole banners have been ordered and we are hopeful they will be here before the 4th of July weekend! These new banners show depictions of a mix of our area's incredible outdoor recreation experiences as well as some of our history in papermaking.
- Using some other unspent funds, we've been able to order a new dock for Jerry Pond as well as a few security cameras to be placed around the property. We've also ordered some new signs and will continue efforts to maintain and improve that great community recourse.

Fire Station Update:

- Thanks to Senator King, our Congressionally Directed Spending request has been moved into round 2! This does not guarantee funding; however, it will now be included in the discussion of the appropriations committee for a decision on whether it will be included in the FY25 appropriations bill. We all remain excited and hopeful!
- I have met with a logging outfit about clearing the acreage for the new fire station and public safety building, as well as the opportunity for the initial clearing of the access road to the airport. They are excited to get started as soon as possible and have explained to me that given the acreage, the Town may very well see some revenue returned from wood cleared on top of what is used to offset the work!



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- Just one answer regarding that work and whether it would affect our CDS application remains to be confirmed before that work is started.

Financial Update:

- Overall – Our budget totals look great.
- **Expenses** – Year-to-date, we've spent \$6.7M to date out of the \$8.9M expected, according to the attached expense report.
- There are a few reasons why you see some negative expended balances.
 - Grant funding not entered
 - Updates to contracts throughout the fiscal year
 - Computer support
 - Insurances
 - Unexpected overages
 - Most of which fall within total department budget and OK
 - Fringe Benefits – Payments while mustering out retirees.
- Keep in mind we still have the remainder of June and commonly continue to pay FY24 bills past June 30th. These will not be the final numbers included in the FY24 audit, however, there is no concern on FY24 spending.
- **Revenues** – Year-to-date, we've received \$3.4M over our expectation of \$6.6M, according to the attached revenue report.
- Reasons why you'll see higher revenues than expected:
 - Maine Revenue Sharing – We budget budgeted about 80% percent of the projected amount and offset it with higher use of the fund balance. This is tracking nicely to date with \$236,000.00 coming in over what we included in the budget and another payment or two expected into that line.
 - Grants not included at budget adoption
 - Other fees collected beyond expectation
 - Clerk's office
 - Code permits
 - Maine Tax Stabilization reimbursements
 - Tax Commitment included in attached report, not included at budget adoption.
- Keep in mind we will continue to receive revenues toward the FY24 budget. Right now, things are tracking well with no concern.
- **ESSER** – Reimbursements continue to come in as expected. \$874,730.69 collected YTD.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jamieson, Town Manager.