



# Town Manager's Report

Submitted by:  
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Town of Winslow - In the heart of Central Maine representing People, Pride and Progress.

April 9, 2008

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## My Scheduled Events:

- 4/01 @ 2:00 pm—  
Labor Negotiations
- 4/01 @ 6:30 pm—  
Comprehensive  
Plan Mtg
- 4/03 to 4/04—  
Vacation
- 4/07 @ 7:00 pm—  
Budget Workshop
- 4/09 @ 2:00 pm—  
Department Head  
Mtg
- 4/10 @ 2:00 pm—  
Labor Negotiations
- 4/11 @ 8:00 am—  
United Way Mtg.
- 4/14 @ 7:30 pm—  
Town Council Mtg
- 4/15 @ 7:30 am—  
Chamber Public  
Central Maine  
Growth Council
- 4/16 @ 7:30 am—  
United Way Board  
Mtg
- 4/17 to 4/25—  
Vacation
- 4/28 @ 7:00 pm—  
Budget Workshop

## Current Fiscal-Year-To-Date Budget Status

In your packet is a Year-To-Date Budget Report. The good news is our revenues have exceeded our projections to date by 7%. On the flip side, however, our expenditures have exceeded our budgeted amounts to date by 5%. There are two major factors contributing to the excess in spending.

The first factor is the unusual storm patterns of this past Winter, which resulted in near record snow falls. The Public Work's Operating Expense Budget has been exceeded by 104% or more than \$15,000 with 2 1/2 months still remaining in this fiscal year.

The second factor has been FPL Energy's dam removal project. Over the past few months our unbudgeted expenses related to the project have exceeded \$30,000 (*see Planning Board's Decision to the right*). With an appeal likely by SOS our unbudgeted expenses related to this project could exceed \$50,000 in this fiscal year.

Prior to the Council meeting on April 14th, I will be meeting with all of the Department Heads to discuss our budget issues so that I can develop a strategy to address any projected budget shortfalls.

## Planning Board's Decision Regarding FPLE's Application

Attached to this report is the Planning Board's decision regarding FLP Energy's dam removal application. As you will see, the Planning Board conducted a comprehensive review of the application, which they approved on March 17, 2008.

FPLE's application was actually submitted to the Planning Board in 2003 but because of court appeals by SOS the application was tabled until November 13, 2007. Since this past November the Planning Board has met approximately 10 times and have heard hours of testimony and have reviewed mounds of documents.

In their decision the Planning Board has placed numerous conditions on FPLE's dam removal permit. For example, on the Dallaire Street Slope Stability issue alone the Planning Board imposed 12 separate conditions.

In their original application FPLE proposed to remove only a small portion of the dam. The Planning Board, however, after careful review determined the remaining structure would be unsafe and as a condition is requiring FPLE to completely remove the dam.

Please join me in thanking the Planning Board for dedicating their time and for conducting such a thorough review of FPLE's application.

Unfortunately FPLE's application has been very costly to the Town and all of the costs have been unbudgeted. Legal fees alone have cost the Town **\$22,593**. In addition we have paid expert witness fees in the amount of **\$7,686.27**. Both of these costs combined equal **\$30,279.27**, which does not include staff time to attend the Planning Board meetings. Keep in mind the Planning Board conducted special meetings for this process so that they could continue to meet at their regularly scheduled times in order to conduct normal Planning Board business.

SOS will likely appeal the Planning Board's decision to the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals, which could cost the Town tens of thousands of dollars in addition to what we have already spent. With an appeal, total costs could escalate beyond \$50,000 of unbudgeted expenses this fiscal year alone.

### **Police Labor Negotiations**

In your packet is order #3-2008, which reflects the results of my completed negotiations with the Winslow Police Association. Attached to the order is the proposed agreement for your review and consideration. I will answer any questions you may have at your Council meeting on April 14th.

### **ORION RopeWorks Expresses a Concern About The Lighting**

Bob Lucey has contacted me regarding the lighting at the facility he is leasing from the Town. There is every indication at this point that the lighting may not meet OSHA standards. He will be providing me with additional information about the issue and the approximate costs to rectify the problem.