



# Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

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

## STATE BUDGET UP-DATE

As you know, the State's biennial budget for FY 2010 and 2011 has been adopted. Because municipal revenue sharing will be reduced 15% and not the 10% I was projecting, we will have approximately \$49,000 less in municipal revenue sharing revenue. We do not need to respond to the loss revenue at this time, however, I will need to monitor the budget closely during the coming fiscal year to determine when and if budgeted expenditures will need to be adjusted.

I have attached an email from Geoff Herman of the Maine Municipal Association that more fully describes the State Budget and the potential impact on municipalities and property tax payers.

## TOWN OFFICE ROOF

Every Winter we experience significant sagging in the Town Office roof as a result of the snow load, which is noticeably visible inside the building. As a result, we have to have the roof shoveled several times through the course of a Winter. The excessive roof sagging has also caused tears in the rubber membrane, which has caused leaks that have had to be repaired.

A.E. Hodsdon has examined the Town Office roof and has determined the existing design does not meet current building code (see attached report).

The cost to solve this problem is approximately \$26,500.00. I will discuss this matter with you further at the June 8th Council meeting.

## ORDER #9-2009

In 2005 the Town sold sections of a small strip of land in the Sunset Heights Subdivision to abutting property owners. Two abutting properties did not acquire the land at the time, however, the property owners are now requesting to purchase the abutting portion of land owned by the Town.

## AUDIO & VIDEO OPTION FOR THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

We currently have \$10,000 in Cable Franchise grant funds that can be used for Audio and Video projects that have a cable TV component.

I have received estimates to install an audio and video recording system in the Council Chambers at an approximate cost of \$4,839.00. I have also received an estimate to install two (2) 46" flat screen TVs in the Council Chambers at a cost of \$3,798.00.

The addition of these items will allow us to record the Council meetings and to make portions of the recordings available on the Web. In addition the flat screen TVs will allow for presentations to be viewable by both the audience and the Council at the same time.

This system will be connected to cable TV and can also be used for staff meetings and trainings.

I will be discussing this option with you further at the Town Council meeting.

## COUNCIL CHAMBER'S AIR CONDITIONER

We need to consider replacing the air conditioner at the rear of the Council Chambers. An outside mounted unit would be better suited than the current setup. I will be discussing this further with you at the Council meeting.

## **CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS**

The Maine Legislature has adopted a bill that authorizes municipalities to accept credit card payments while passing the credit card transaction fee on to the card user.

I strongly recommend that we pursue an arrangement that will allow our citizens to pay their taxes and other municipal fees through the use of a credit or debit card.

I will be discussing this matter with you further at the Monday Council meeting.

## **LIBRARY ENERGY AUDIT**

In your packet is a copy of an energy audit for the Library that was conducted by Efficiency Maine. I am scheduled to meet with our Sustainability Committee on Thursday June 11th at 3:30 PM to review the report and to make recommendations to improve the Library's energy efficiency.

## **LOHMANN ANIMAL HEALTH**

I have met with Lohmann Animal Health's (LAH) Chief Executive Officer, David Zacek, and Noreen Norton of Eaton Peabody Consulting Group. We discussed LAH's planned expansion of their facility on the China Road, which they project will cost \$4.9 million.

Mr. Zacek expressed LAH's intentions of pursuing a TIF

arrangement with the Town. LAH will be providing me with a formal TIF request, which I will present to the TIF Advisory Committee. At some point I will then be presenting the Advisory Committee's recommendation to the Town Council.

## **AN APPEAL OF A DECISION BY THE CEO**

Dan Bernier has expressed his intentions of appealing a decision made by Code Enforcement Officer Frank Stankevitz.

The new plumbing code we recently adopted requires that the first step in the appeal process be made to the municipal officers. Subsequent steps in the appeal process are conducted at the State level.

Once Mr. Bernier or his attorney provide us with adequate notification a decision will need to be made on when the appeal will be heard. The hearing itself will likely be conducted much like a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing.

## **JUNE 9TH ELECTION REMINDER**

There will be two (2) ballot questions on the June 9th election. Both of which are related to the School and AOS budget. The election will be held at the VFW here in Winslow.