



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

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

Submitted by:
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September 8, 2009

FEMA GRANT APPROVED

Our FEMA grant for the Dallaire Street Acquisition & Demolition Project has been approved. A meeting with the Dallaire Street residents is being scheduled for Thursday 9/17 at 6:30 PM at the Town Office.

The total project cost is \$678,825. We have a local cash match of \$130,508 and an in-kind match of \$39,198 for a total local match of \$169,706.

The meeting on September 17th will be the beginning of the process to acquire the homes which could take one to two months to complete.

At the conclusion of the project the Dallaire Street slope will be restored to "Green Space" and will remain forever Green.

LD 974—MV EXCISE TAX INITIATIVE

In November we will see the following citizen's initiative ballot question:

"Do you want to cut the rate of the municipal excise tax by an average of 55% on motor vehicles less than six years old and exempt hybrid and other alternative-energy and highly fuel-efficient motor vehicles from sales tax and three years of excise tax?"

If the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Initiative is approved by the voters then the fiscal impact for the Town of Winslow will be an annual reduction in MV excise tax of between \$460,000 and \$496,000. This of course will either result in a reduction of services or an increase in property taxes. Since some who pay MV excise taxes do not pay property taxes there could be an unfair tax shift to the local property tax payer.

We may want to consider passing a Council Resolution in opposition to this initiative at the next Council meeting.

LD 976—TABOR II

In November we will see the following citizen's initiative ballot question:

"Do you want to change the existing formulas that limit state and local government spending and require voter approval by referendum for spending over those limits and for increases in state taxes?"

This citizen's initiative compels municipalities to submit certain budget and tax decisions to a local referendum. In addition, the initiative requires a statewide referendum on state level tax decisions that cause an increase as little as \$300,000. The cost to the state to present such an increase to the citizens could be as high as 1.8 million.

We may want to consider passing a Council Resolution in opposition to this initiative at the next Council meeting.

ORDER # 13-2009

In your packet is Order # 13-2009, which if approved will authorize the ALCOM TIF District in our Industrial Park. The tax shift associated with this TIF over the 15 year period is \$408,382.00.

MMA VOTING DELAGATE

The Council will need to select their voting delegate for the MMA Annual Business meeting on October 7, 2009 (see attached)

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

We will need to schedule a special council meeting to conduct the second reading on the Charter Amendment Order. We should have the meeting before October so that we have enough time to prepare the ballots.