



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.

PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED

We were planning to conduct the public hearing and second reading for Ordinance No. 6-2009 at our Council meeting on January 11th. The ordinance determines which matters will be approved by order and which by resolution. Unfortunately we did not meet the deadline for posting a notice in the newspaper on the ordinance so we will have to conduct the public hearing and second reading at our February Council meeting.

ANTICIPATED REVENUE SHORTFALL

As you know, in December Governor Baldacci proposed state budget cuts to help address a projected \$400 million revenue shortfall. Some of the proposed cuts will have an impact on our current municipal and school budgets.

For example, the Governor is proposing a \$12 million cut in municipal revenue sharing, this fiscal year, which equates to a loss of revenue for us of **\$228,671**. I have begun working with the department heads to identify budget cuts to address a projected revenue shortfall. I hope to have a proposed budget reduction plan for the February Town Council meeting.

The School Department has lost \$186,858 so far this year in State Aid, however, they have been able to absorb this loss with the use of stimulus money. It is unclear at this point how much additional revenue they will lose as a result of the Governor's most recent announcement.

ASSESSOR RESIGNING

As you know, our Assessor Kelly Karter is resigning her position here. Her last day of work will be January 12th. Kelly has been

our Assessor for the past 5 1/2 years and she will be missed.

I have begun discussions with Waterville City Manager Mike Roy regarding sharing assessing services. I hope to have further information by this month's Council meeting.

LETTER TO RIVER LAND ABUTTERS

Attached to this report is a draft of a letter I am proposing we send to each of the River Land Abutters if the Council approves of conveying the abutting land to them.

As you will see, I am proposing that if an abutter does not want to acquire the land then we would offer it to the abutters on either side.

I am also proposing that all land transactions occur before March 30, 2010. To accomplish this there will need to be a special Town Council meeting in January to conduct the second reading of Order #20-2009.

Also attached to this report are revised fee options and a river land balance sheet depicting the projected total costs.

We can discuss the letter further at the Council meeting on 1/11/2010.

ORDER No. 19-2009

We are scheduled to have the second reading of Order #19-2009 at our Monday Council meeting. This order is for the installation of a streetlight on Timber Oaks Drive.

The neighborhood association is asking that we table the second reading until February because the association would like to meet to discuss the proposed location of the streetlight.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

If there are no objections by the Council, MDOT will authorize us to lower the speed limit on Quimby Lane from 45 MPH to 35 MPH.

The Public Works Director is recommending that the speed limit be lowered due to the character of the road and the additional homes that have been built in that area.

FORT HALIFAX RESTORATION & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

As you probably know, for many years the Friends of Fort Halifax have been working towards improvements at the Fort Halifax Park.

A collaborative effort has recently begun involving the Friends of Fort Halifax, the 4th of July Committee and the Winslow Parks & Rec. Department. The group has been working towards restoring portions of the old fort and developing the park into a popular destination point.

One goal of the group is to complete the restoration and development project without the use of local property tax dollars.

In order to pursue other funding sources and to develop the park approval is needed from the Town Council. Therefore, I have put this project on this month's agenda as a discussion item.

SUSTAIN MID-MAINE

Last year at around this time Councilor Cathy Nadeau and I attended a Catalyst event in Waterville designed to develop strategies on sustainability for this area. As a result of the event the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition was formed and progress is being made towards sustainability.

A follow-up to last year's event is being scheduled for Saturday, January 16th, from 9 to 12 noon in the Waterville City Council Chambers.

If any of the Town Councilors would like to attend this event then please let me know. This would be a good opportunity to learn about what is being done in this region towards sustainability.

BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The schedule for our upcoming budget workshops is as follows:

Monday, March 15th @ 7:00 pm
Departments

Monday, March 22nd @ 7:00 pm
Agencies

Monday, March 29th @ 7:00 pm
Schools

Monday, April 12th @ 7:00 pm
First reading

Monday, May 10th @ 7:00 pm
Second reading