



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

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

Submitted by:
Michael W. Heavener
February 2, 2010

PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS

In your packet is Order No. 4-2010 which if approved will authorize me to reduce the current fiscal year budget by \$228,669. This budget amendment order is the result of the projected reduction of Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) revenue we receive each year from the State. Our current year budget prediction for the MRS revenue could fall short by as much as \$228,669.

I worked closely with the Department Heads in identifying line items in the budget that could be reduced. Attached to this report is a detailed description of where the proposed reductions should come from. As you will see, I am proposing to reduce the Operating Budget by **\$96,443.00** and the Capital Budget by **\$132,226.00**.

At this point in our fiscal year our overall revenues are down by approximately **\$114,620.00**. Some of this shortfall is related to the timing of when we receive payments but the biggest portion is related to a shortfall of MRS revenue.

FORECLOSURE DEADLINE APPROACHING

Each year at this time we have a handful of residents who do not pay their property taxes until a day or two before the automatic foreclosure is scheduled to occur on their properties. Fortunately we have not had to foreclose on anyone for the past few years.

This year we have approximately 40 foreclosures that are scheduled to occur on Monday, February 21st unless their FY 2008 property taxes are paid in full.

We are working with the property owners and are hopeful that most, if not all, will make their payment before the deadline.

RESOLUTION No. 2-2010

Attached to this report is a letter from Superintendent of Schools Eric Haley in support of accepting \$72,000 in Federal funds to be used to improve the sidewalks in the vicinity of the elementary school and the junior high school.

If you vote in favor of Resolution No. 2-2010 I will be authorized to accept the grant funds and unlike other Federally funded projects this project does not require a local match.

ORDER No. 19-2009

Order No. 19-2009 provides for the installation of a street light at the Timber Oaks Drive cul-de-sac. The local residents had initially requested the street light but have since asked that the Order be defeated because one of their neighbors could be adversely affected by the proposed street light.

Therefore, I recommend that you reject Order No. 19-2009.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee met on January 27th and had a brief discussion regarding the Jr. High School. School Committee Member John Ferry reported some costly repairs are needed at the Jr. High and the School Department is considering applying for State funding to address the needs of the Jr. High.

The Capital Planning Committee will begin their work by reviewing the needs of the Jr. High, which is where the May 11th committee meeting will be held.

ORDER No. 1-2010

At the January Council meeting you conducted the first reading of Order No. 1-2010, which authorizes me to sign an option to convey town owned property to CMP. In exchange CMP will be conveying development rights to the town for their property on Bay Street.

During the discussions the Town Attorney raised a concern about CMP requesting an abatement for their property since they were conveying development rights to us.

Attached to this report is an amended Schedule B and C of the Option Agreement, which CMP has proposed to address the abatement concern. The Town Attorney reviewed the amended schedule and has indicated it sufficiently addresses his concern.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UP-DATE

The Sustainability Committee met on January 20, 2010 and reviewed and discussed a lighting proposal prepared by Committee Member Jim Veilleux that would place 36 of the library lighting fixtures on occupancy sensors. Jim explained that the return on investment would be about 2 ½ years. He added that the actual savings will be dictated by the amount of activity in the library.

The committee agreed to support the project that is expected to help reduce the Library's energy costs. Library Director Judy Larson is planning to present the lighting proposal to the Library Trustees on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm.

The committee then decided to focus their attention on two new assignments.

1. The committee will pursue identifying and recommending affordable projects that will improve the energy efficiency of the Town Office Building.
2. The committee formed a sub-committee to explore the possibility of conducting a feasibility study on reintroducing the production of hydro power at the former Fort Halifax Dam site.

The next scheduled meeting of the Sustainability Committee is February 24th at 12:30 pm.