

Manager's Report –January 12, 2015

This will be a fairly short report as I was on vacation from the day after Holiday on the Harbor until just after the holidays.

Fortunately it was fairly quiet and not a lot happened out of the ordinary while I was gone. There were no major storms; no crisis's and I want to thank all the Department Heads and employees for holding things together while I was gone.

As we all know the Holiday on the Harbor was a HUGE success this year due to the work and dedication of a number of employees and volunteers. All the events were very well attended; the fireworks were amazing again this year and went off with only one minor hitch. A big thank you for the fireworks needs to go out to the donors that made it all happen (Charlton).

We are nearly complete on preparing an RFQ for several items.

- Engineering services to help prepare bid spec's for the many infrastructure projects that voters passed a bond for in November. This RFQ is being written broad enough to allow us to use the selected firm to help us with engineering services for other projects going forward as well. This could be very helpful in dealing with yet to be discovered issues.
- Engineering services to help evaluate the current condition of the Rockport Public Library, it's compliance with code, with an evaluation of all health and safety needs including evaluation of the possibility of the existence of any mold and if found remediation options, and finally they would be asked to evaluate the existing lot in accordance with the revised zoning. Bottom line is that once we select a firm that is best qualified to do the work, they will be instrumental in helping to define how best that work should be done and in what timeframe.
- Finally an RFQ for engineering services to assist the planning board for plan review, site plan review and drainage review is being considered. This is work that would be paid for by the developer as a fee. This is a much lower priority at this point but one that we are considering.

Just as I went on vacation I received notification that our long term attorney Bill Plouffe is retiring on April 1st 2015. While we have had a very good relationship with Drummond Woodsum in the past and I would expect the same in the future, this is a good time to look at several legal service providers to ensure that we are getting the best services for Rockport.

They have been our law firm for approximately 14 years. When all is said and done, it could very well be that Drummond Woodsum is the firm we end up with again, but at least we can say that we looked to see what was out there.

The Harbor Lights are finally all working correctly. There were a couple of issues but those have been corrected.

The piling bids should be going out soon, there has been an issue with MDOT and we have asked Rodney come in to assist with this as he was the one that has followed this since the beginning and so there is consistency with MDOT.

Our old copier was donated to the Town of Cushing and we got a very nice thank you note from them.

We received a number of complaints about snow removal on the sidewalks in town and Mike has been working with the contractor. He says that the foreman is trying a couple of different things and the storm of today (Friday) saw a much better job being done with the sidewalks, and complied with how the sidewalks are supposed to be maintained during the storm per the contract

We received a letter from the law firm of Crandall, Hanscom and Collins who represent Joyce and Maynard Ingraham requesting that the town consider revising the language of the easement that allows the driveway on Town land to run with the land rather than be extinguished in the event that they sell to someone other than children or grandchildren.

This has been forwarded to Town Council and is being looked at in house before bringing it to the Select Board at a later date.

We all know, and have grown to expect, that the fire guys will turn out to fires and accidents, because that is what they do. What we do not often think of is how they go above and beyond, without question, complaint or concern for your own comfort. This was the case on Monday.

The call on Monday was exceedingly long and made much worse by the cold and the oppressive wind. While we were all inconvenienced a little by the traffic issues, we weren't stuck standing outside doing traffic control for 10 hours. Not exactly the "glamorous" stuff they signed on for, but every bit as appreciated. Not many of us would do what they did in such cold and done with a smile on our faces.