

Manager's Report – Monday February 9, 2015 - Select Board Meeting

First and foremost I want to say thank you to the highway crew who have worked above and beyond the call of duty over the past month trying to keep up with the seemingly never ending series of storms that have come through the mid-coast over the past month. Last week alone, all of the highway crew was in excess of 90 hours of time in one week. Put that on top of the last week and the week before and they are getting pretty tired. I am sure it gets old spending so much time in the seat of the truck and in the shop. Jason has been helping by keeping the Town Office and Public Safety Building plowed out as well as helping with intersections in the village. Additionally I would like to thank the crew of Farley and Son Landscaping who we have contracted to clean our sidewalks who have been making a valiant effort to keep up.

Unfortunately, when we have had any sort of a break in the action, the guys spent much of their time making room for the next storm and fixing things that have broken. We have extended the comp time hours that they can accumulate to 140 hours which is good and bad. It saves us money because we are not paying out over time; however, it leaves us shorthanded in the summer months. Meaning that if every person had 140 hours of comp time on the books, that would equal 980 hours of time or one person out on comp time, every day, for six months. The value of this time is (depending on rate of pay) upwards of \$17,000.

We have gone through much of our stockpile of spare parts as breakdowns are happening a lot, as there is just so much snow and this puts more strain on the equipment.

The revaluation, which was supposed to start today, was postponed due to the storm; they will actually be starting on the ground here on Thursday morning.

The RFQ was sent out for general engineering services to help with infrastructure projects and another RFQ was sent out to evaluate the status of the library building as far as how well it meets code and other maintenance and safety concerns. Additionally this study will look at the potential for the maximum lot coverage on the lot. This work will be done in parallel with the work being done by Steve Podgajny, Executive Director of the Portland Public Library, who started last week.

The bids for the pilings for the harbor finally went out and were due on Friday so we should be ready to start driving pilings first thing in the spring. Two Harbors Marine of Lincolnville (Brad and Adam Scott) was the successful bidder pending DOT approval.

We are working on the dock bids as they have been sitting so long that DOT now wants us to check with bidders to be sure that the price they bid still holds.

I have been working with the other managers on the new ambulance contract. We had a meeting with the review team and we are very close to being able to bring a contract forward and while the overall contract is going up somewhat, Rockport's share is likely going down a little at least for this year.

I met with representatives from Tidewater Communications about their using our network and have not heard back from them. They offer a bundle that includes TV as part of their package.

I have been part of several conference calls with Next Century Cities over the past months having to do with the FCC hearings that are going on. I was supposed to testify at a legislative committee hearing this past month but that was cancelled due to the weather and not rescheduled as of yet.

We hired a new Police Officer, James Moore who comes to us from the Sherriff's office with 16 years of experience. He is doing his field training now and should be ready to step into a car as soon as he gets his uniforms and gear.