

Manager's Report – 4-13-15 - Select Board Meeting

Engineering Request for Qualifications – We interviewed four out of the nine firms who replied to our RFQ and selected Gartley and Dorsky (G & D) to be our consulting engineers. They have already started to work on our projects with priority being given to the Mill Street Bridge project and the Opera House project.

While a top priority, the Mill Street Bridge project will not be accomplished until next year as there is a lengthy permitting process and construction in the stream can only be done during the summer months. This makes it impossible to pull together for this season. As this is the biggest project, we need to come up with design parameters for this work so that we have a better handle on the overall costs. Once we have this, we will know the funds available for other projects. G&D will complete all the design and permitting ASAP to get us a better cost estimate. Once this is done we can start permitting and will be able to go out to bid next late winter/early spring for construction to begin July/August of 2016.

They will also begin the surveying of all our project areas as a baseline for the construction as well as some geotechnical analysis on School Street, Summer Street and Mt. Pleasant Street. One of the most challenging projects is the High Sidewalk and G&D will begin looking at that project as well. The West Rockport Fire Station project and the PWD roof will move forward independently.

On the advice of G&D, we have opted to have the Opera House project bid out as a total project with a general contractor (GC) in charge. After conversations with Will it seems like the better course of action would be to bid out the roofing, painting, and storm windows in one package, leaving the GC free to arrange staging that would work best. G&D will help develop tight bid specifications and help to supervise the project. It is expected that we will have spec's ready and out to bid fairly soon and this will be completed sometime this summer.

Library Request for Qualifications – We interviewed three of the five firms interested in doing an analysis of the Library building and selected CES, Inc. out of Brewer Maine. We made that selection based on several factors, price being one. The other factors included the number of subcontractors needed to accomplish the job, their understanding of the work to be completed, and experience. Ultimately, we selected CES from a field of very qualified firms. They specialize in this type of work and ultimately would NOT likely be presenting a proposal for construction or renovations of a new or existing Library. We are working on a cost now and at this point, this work will not be completed until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Library – Steve Podgajny will be doing a follow up meeting to what he heard as a result of all of the interviews he did recently at 5:30 pm on April 29th in the Richardson Room of the Rockport Town Office. It is hoped that he will be able to offer a time to check in on what he heard BEFORE submitting his draft report. We hope to get a good turnout for that event.

Street Light Survey – The Police Department undertook a survey of all of the streetlights presented on the list we received from CMP and it appears that we are paying for lights that do

not exist or are actually in another town. We are in the process of comparing the lists and will be following up on this with CMP.

Police Cruiser - Instead of taking the PD Cruiser to auction this year, we put it out to bid, which was very successful. A person from Illinois was the winning bidder and they hired a transport truck to come pick it up last Friday. This worked out very well for us this year as we made \$2,200 more than our projected revenue. We plan to do the same thing for the harbormaster's boat engine.

Legacy Rockport – That group is up and running now and looking at a lot of different opportunities now that the 501(c)(3) status has finally been approved.

Public Works – We ended the year with about five loads of salt in the shed now and a substantial pile of sand. The last storm put a dent in that pile but we are still in good shape. There has been a lot of illness running its course through the highway crew over the past few weeks. Thankfully, they all remained healthy throughout the winter or we would have been in trouble. We really count on them.

The big truck is finally expected to be completed very soon. Jamie went up to inspect the cab configuration last week to be sure that the controls and new installations are in the best locations.

The crew has started working on the new floats for the harbor, which will be ready over the next month.

Fire Department –The Chief attended the Maine Fire Chief's conference and will be attending the National Fire Convention in Indianapolis next week.

Finance – Ginny did an Excel training for employees last week. We are working on the Wastewater budget right now. Our cash flow has remained very good this quarter and a full quarterly report will be available very soon.

Assessing – The revaluation is going very well and right on schedule with no surprises. Land is almost finished; many of the neighborhoods are finished. We are still gathering income/expense data for the commercial property analysis, but are nearing the end of the residential real estate portion. In addition, we are delaying the completion date by a few weeks to allow all sales to be included (we will not have April 1 sales in hand until late May).

Fiber Optic Project – I have spent a lot of my time on this including speaking at the Action Committee of 50 in Bangor next week and the Maine Technology Conference May 7th with Chris Mitchel the policy director from NCC. He will be visiting Rockport on his way to the conference on Wednesday afternoon. I will also be speaking at a broadband workshop in Portland on June 7th and at an annual telecom meeting on June 25th at the Samoset. Additionally, I will be testifying in Augusta in support of LD 1063, which is a bill to expand broadband funding and support planning efforts on April 21st.

Geoff and I met with Tilson last week and we will be covering that later in the agenda. I have been very involved in the new Broadband Coalition, which is a new group in Maine, made up of public policy professionals, towns and cities, educational institutions, businesses and non-profits who all care about our technology infrastructure. Currently the membership is up to 42 members but is growing every day.

I have also been participating in the monthly Next Century Cities calls and have learned a lot from that interaction. Last month's call was excellent and led me to believe more than ever that we are on the right track with our approach of building dark fiber. All three cities have the same problem of building the network fast enough to keep up with demand and what to do with the revenue. When I asked about ordinances to deal with the utility no one thus far has said that they have one.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes – We have received the following payment in lieu of taxes so far this fiscal year:

Coastal Mountains Land Trust	\$ 700.00
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$5,200.00
Maine Media Workshops	\$9,898.36
Coastal Opportunities	\$ 300.00