

## *Manager's Report – Monday June 22, 2015 - Select Board Meeting*

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The Rockport Fire Department received a grant from Home Depot to do additional renovations to the kitchen in the station for \$3,200.00, which will include new cabinetry, appliances and other improvements. Additionally they received grants for two AED's from Maine Cardiovascular Health Council, \$1,300 from Wal-Mart for two I-Pads for the two first response vehicles and \$550 from FM Global for cases and cell services startup costs. And finally, they are receiving a Safety Enhancement Grant in the amount of up to \$770 for safety vests and signs for the department.

The new fire truck is due to arrive tonight at about 8:30 pm. It will be about a month before it is put into service as all the equipment needs to be installed and the fire crew trained on operations.

The Rockport Police Department received grants for our annual Seat Belt and OUI details that are ongoing.

Mike Young completed the second phase of his supervisory training through the Maine Chapter of Public Works Association. This training takes place over two years and is 2.5 days of training each year.

Kerry Leichtman was honored with an award from the Northeastern Regional Assessors Association of Assessing Officers in recognition of his hard work and outstanding service to the assessing profession on May 18, 2015 at an event in Portsmouth NH.

The Public Works Department was honored with an award from the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association for their work on the harbor lighting and power project at their annual meeting in Skowhegan on June 4.

The Maine Welfare Directors Association recognized Stacey Parra for 5 years of devoted and exemplary service as President to the Association at their Annual meeting in April.

The outboard motor from the Harbormaster's boat was recently sold by bid for \$3,601.51 and the Fire Department sold the fire truck by bid for \$3001.99.

The Keep Rockport Beautiful event will be taking place on Friday and Saturday and nearly 100 volunteers will be cleaning up litter on 11 streets around Rockport. This group is amazingly well organized and dedicated. There is a Facebook page - Keep Rockport Beautiful - that is getting many friends.

Mike and I have a meeting on Wednesday of this week with Will Gartley and Bill Lane to look at the construction schedule, which is being finalized now.

Opera House Improvements are out to bid and a preconstruction bid conference was held on Friday. All of the potential bidders expressed concern about accomplishing the work in the timeframe described and requested a 30-day addition to submit bids and a 30-day addition to complete the project. G&D is doing up amendments to the document now and will have them ready by the end of the week.

The Mill Street Bridge project will not be done this year there is too much permitting and engineering to accomplish, plus there is a limited construction window, but it will be ready to go next season. We have looked into the possibility of the new State grant that is available for culvert work. We will likely apply but it is unlikely that we will qualify as a high priority is given to projects that improve fish habitat but our project does not because of the upstream culvert.

The School Street and Summer Street projects have been surveyed, core sampling completed are being engineered now. We are in conversations with Maine water not to get their cooperation in ensuring that if we have the road dug up that they make any repairs and upgrades to the water system at the same time. That could delay the start of work on School Street and even possibly Summer if they feel they need to do upgrades.

Mt. Pleasant Street will be completed this season.

The toughest challenge will likely be what to do with the high sidewalk.

The West Rockport Fire Station and Public Works Department roof are pretty straightforward projects that can begin any time.

The Internet survey should arrive in residents and business mailboxes by mid-week this week. This is the first phase of the 400 people who were selected at random to participate. Once that has been out for a week we will announce an online survey that will be available to any resident or business that wants to take part in it.

Remember the Employee BBQ will be taking place on Thursday from 11:30 until 1 pm and the SB is invited to attend. All Town Offices will be closed so employees can attend this event.

As I mentioned previously Rockport will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday in February of next year and the board needs to really step up and invite people to volunteer. These things are usually big deals that would require a steering committee with various subcommittees in support of the event(s). Given the timing of the actual day (February 2016) it would make sense to have some event to commemorate the actual day with

many more events taking place in better weather (summer) when more people are in town.

I would recommend that the SB instruct me to send out a press release announcing that the SB is looking for volunteers to serve on the steering committee and various other committees that may need to be formed. We have a lot of people in Town with this type of experience who have already stepped forward.

I attended the Maine International Trade Day at the Samoset.

I attended the Mid-coast Magnet event at Union Hall, which was the Top Gun regional pitch.

Met with Representative Welch about upcoming legislation in particular legislation regarding broadband.

I have participated in most conference calls of the Maine Broadband Coalition.

I attended the Business after Hours at Rockport Automotive.

I welcomed the USDA Rural Development Regional Director's meeting and spoke on "Why Broadband Matters."

I also welcomed the Friends of Mid-coast Maine "Building Stronger Communities" event here in Rockport, which we were in part sponsors of. I also spoke at that event on "Why Broadband Matters."