

Manager's Report – Monday July 13, 2015 - Select Board Meeting

Keep Rockport Beautiful

First I want to recognize the efforts of a small group of very dedicated volunteers who are a "force" to be reckoned with. Maggie Christy came into my office with a complaint about how dirty our streets are. I immediately disagreed with her saying that we had very clean streets relatively speaking and she said that I was wrong that she picks up three bags of trash a week on her road.

Once she had our attention, she convinced us that we had a serious problem on our cross streets and the rest is history.

Maggie Christie who put together a team of core members that organized the event, gathered volunteers, identified roads and led the charge that ultimately collected 528 pounds of litter on the selected roads. Some of the businesses and organizations that helped out included:

- Pen Bay Hospital – 30 plus volunteers that cleaned Old County and part of South St.
- VStv – cleaned left side of Meadow from route 90 to Park St.
- Maine Stone Landscaping – cleaned right side of Meadow from route 90 to Park St.
- Coastal Mountains Land Trust – cleaned South St. from Beech Hill to Meadow; cleaning all of Beech Hill Rd Harley Company – cleaned half of Porter St.
- Farley & Son – cleaned all of Russell Ave.
- Adventure Advertising – designed and donated 10 t-shirts to volunteer sign up effort, produced road crew signs and general support
- Home Depot – discount on supplies
- EBS – Cleaned roads around their Rockport location
- Camden Hannaford – cleaned up road across from store

And MANY other individual volunteers who showed up on their own to help

We have a Certificate for them to thank them for their hard work.

I know that they have other ideas and I think that they want to take a minute and talk about.

Library Book Sale

I wanted to extend a thank you for the hard work on the Friends Book sale last weekend.

The Friends Of RPL had over 25,000 books that went on sale at the Midcoast Recreation Center. As usual the books were sorted and boxed by the friends, sorted at a location over the past year

in a building provided by Rockport Steel and all 25,000 books were loaded on trucks and moved to MRC by the public works crew. No word on the result of the sale.

Opera House

The Opera House bid came in at under what we budgeted and was awarded to McCormick & Associates, Inc. for the following work:

Base Bid in the lump sum amount of \$ 217,110.00,

Bid Alternate 2 in the amount of \$ 5.00 per square foot, replace roof sheathing

Bid Alternate 3 in the amount of \$ \$ 9.00 per lineal foot, replace siding

Bid Alternate 4 in the Amount of \$ 59.00 per lineal foot, replace gutters

Bid Alternate 5 in the lump sum amount of \$ 9,125.00, replace storm windows

Bid Alternate 6 in the lump sum amount of \$ 1,542.00. replace arch top window

It is expected that the total cost for this part of the work would be \$269,088 leaving us in good shape for a contingency and for the HVAC system.

We started removing bushes already and will be removing trees that are too close to the building and are causing problems.

Other Projects

Mill Street Bridge is underway. Preliminary engineering has started with GeoTech completed last month. A survey of the area will be completed by August 1 and final design by October 1. Bids are expected to be done by March 1st with construction in the summer of 2016.

School Street is also underway the GeoTech and survey have been completed, final design will be ready by August 21st with bids out August 25th for construction to begin September 21st

Summer Street is also underway the GeoTech and survey have been completed as well. We have had contact with Maine Water about upgrades to the water system while we are working there, but have not finalized dates at this point. If they can pull things together that would be a fall completion date as well.

High Sidewalk - the survey has been completed and they have started design which will be in preliminary form by August 28th, but we are targeting this project for a next spring construction. This project is a huge unknown and where it is going to be a very visible project, it will need some public input into the final appearance of it so final design is scheduled for late fall after public input.

Mt. Pleasant Street – Mike and Bill Lane are working on the areas of the road that are the most in need and that project is expected to be completed this year as well.

West Rockport Fire Station – the preliminary design has been completed, but final design and construction is held up by land acquisition questions that are being worked out.

Public Works Roof – this is down the list of priorities of projects and it will likely be at the end of the schedule to be sure that we have the funds to get those projects done. There are several alternative roofing systems that vary in price dramatically and until all of the projects are designed and bid out we will like wait on this until the end.

Fiber Optic -Tilson Survey

Last week 400 randomly selected residents in each community were asked to take part in a survey to evaluate resident satisfaction and interest in supporting a municipally owned network or another alternative.

If you were not one of the people selected for the random survey, you can still take part in the online survey which is available through the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Mid-CoastOnline>

Go to the Town's website to find the link. I will be sending out a blanket e-mail to residents and businesses tomorrow encouraging them to go online and take part in the survey and if they have their "geek" on Do a speed test and send us the results and we will develop a map that we can show internet speeds around town.

I met with Tilson last week and the planning work is going very well.

Revaluation

The Revaluation is complete, overall, we lost \$41,003,224 in real estate value. Much of it was in oceanfront land values and in upper end housing.

We can expect a \$.83 rise in the mil rate to \$13.82. This is a conservative number. The actual mil rate adjustment may be less.

We have 6212 real estate accounts. 82% of them will see a decrease in their property valuation, 1% will see no change, and 17% will see a valuation increase.

Using a mil rate of \$13.82, 4472 taxpayers (72%) will pay less in property taxes in 2016; 9 will see no change. Of the remaining 1731, 495 taxpayers (8%) will see an increase of less than \$100, and 367 (6%) will see an increase greater than \$100 but less than \$200. 877 taxpayers (14%) will see increases of \$200 or more.

KRT will start sending Impact Notices to taxpayers on Wednesday. People will be given a phone number and email address to respond to. Hearings will be held in the Richardson Room the last week of July. The date will extend into August if necessary. KRT will schedule the appointments and meet with the taxpayers. I am also permitting KRT to offer email "hearings." This may reduce the number of days we need to hold hearings here, and may offer Rockport taxpayers a preferable alternative to coming in and meeting us live.

Other

- Hired two Marine Park Attendants at the Harbor, Eliza Massey and Lucas Boetsch.
- Hired a temporary laborer at Public Works, Kenneth Wright
- The new fire truck was put into service last night
- The piling project in the harbor is completed, but not without a variety of problems.
- I spoke at the Telecom Association of Maine and the Maine Broadband Workshop in Portland.