

Manager's Report – Monday, September 11, 2015

Infrastructure Projects

Opera House – The opera house project is going better than expected. There were really two major and potentially costly unknowns in this project, the amount of rot we might discover in the fascia boards and soffits that might lead to rot in the rafter tails. Next, other areas in the roof decking and potential rot in the roof structure, once the shingles were removed.

In a testament to the construction methods of the past, to date we have not found much at all wrong. From the beginning we had decided that we would replace the old wooden gutters and fascia board with an engineered product that would not require much in the way of maintenance as it is 40 feet in the air and very difficult to get to. When we removed the fascia boards we found the rafter tails and soffits in great shape and in no need of repair.

The shingling has been completed for the most part and we are waiting for the membrane roof to arrive for installation.

The painting and staining has begun and is proceeding nicely with the new color “Rockport Gray” which is different enough to be noticed as new but keeps it gray... who knew there were 138 colors of gray? The hope is that we will be done and the staging will be down in time for the PBRCC Business After Hours at the Opera House on October 14th.

Other Infrastructure projects - Many of the infrastructure projects have been put off until next year to complete. The one exception is Mt. Pleasant Street, which is sort of a stand-alone project and will be reconstructed until the budgeted money runs out. The biggest unknowns at this point are the Mill Street bridge project, which cannot be bid until next year, but hopefully will come under budget, and the High Sidewalk, which is a big unknown and could run over. The other projects are pretty straightforward and would benefit by waiting for two reasons: 1. we could bid over the winter more interest and get a better result and, 2. it allow some options for improvements through alternative bids, if we know the whole picture at once.

Glen Cove Memorial - The PWD will begin construction of the foundation in the coming weeks in preparation for the move sometime next month with a rededication on Veterans Day.

Paving – The Paving bid was awarded to Performance Paving of Owl's Head at \$74.90/ton...considerably less than the \$90/ton we had budgeted, due to the drop in fuel prices. We will be paving about 8,450 feet of Rockville Street; 810 feet of Beal Street and another 200 feet for the turnaround and depending on numbers will move over and run the balance out on Park Street. While they were not the low bidder, they

were the bidder that met or exceeded the requirements of the spec sheet for the asphalt mix. They also were the ones that won the bid last year.

End of the year report – I really like making this report. Keeping in mind this is an unaudited number, in spite of the bad winter (we do remember that) and some known over expenditures; we ended the year \$138,000 in the black. Therefore, when all is said and done we should be adding about \$90K to the UFB. There could be additional funds going back into the UFB after considering the additional supplemental taxes, minus the tax abatements given, and considering the overlay that was added to the tax commitment. The total increase to the UFB could go as high as \$149,000. This is good news in a bad year. A special thanks to department heads and Ginny for the excellent work.

Other

The Wi-Fi was finally hooked up in the harbor and we have good coverage at the docks and in the park and it even reaches all the way over to the Boat Club! We also have free Wi-Fi at the Opera House, Mary Lea Park, Library and the Town Office. The Wi-Fi reaches outside into the parking lots and has better speeds than most home connections. It is entirely separate from the town's system and is TOR Public no password required.

The Department Heads and Town Office will have AED Training provided by North East Mobile Health Services on Tuesday, September 22nd.

Penquis is currently using the Town Office for LIHeap (heat assistance) appointments and this is very beneficial to the residents of Knox County.

The auditors are starting their work this week on last year's financials. Ginny has provided them lots of material ahead of time.

As I'm sure you are aware Kerry committed the taxes and our 2015 mil rate is \$14.05 (per thousand of assessed value). This was a great deal of work for Kerry on top of everything he was doing on the revaluation.

During the month of September, Rockport Fire Department through the American Red Cross is offering free Smoke Alarms and other valuable Fire Prevention & Education. Please call Jason at 236-4437.

I recently awarded a bid for the 2016 Dodge Charger to Shepard Chevrolet for the Police Department.

The bid was just sent out for the 2016 F550 for the Public Works Department.

Five bids were received for the Bond Anticipation note last Wednesday. Using the draw down method of borrowing, Camden National Bank comes in with the best interest rate of 0.82%. I will notify the winning bidder after this meeting.

I will be gone for ICMA annual convention in Seattle on September 24th-October 2nd.