

Town Manager Report

March 7, 2016

As so many in our community have done already, I want to express my condolences for the loss of Stefan Pakulski. Over the past few days I've read scores of glowing comments from the friends and professionals he worked with locally and from across the state. His positive impact on the Town of Readfield is present everywhere in our government. I see it every day.

Budget:

- Monday and Tuesday of last week were heavy on budget and meeting prep work. Thanks to the Budget Committee and Select Board for your thoughtful input and support at the budget meeting. I've tried to reflect the work in the updated budget information in tonight's board packet.
- We have two items to discuss tonight that pertain to our lakes. Their budget implications are the primary consideration, but they serve to connect many other issues from water quality to recreational opportunities. I am pleased to have these items on the agenda together and hope to work toward more grouping of related issues at future meetings.

Roads & Maintenance:

- All Town roads are posted to restrict heavy loads. Any individual or contractor requesting permission to travel on a posted road needs to contact me before they travel.
- We've had a series of maintenance issues with the Holder sidewalk machine and it is in for repairs once again. The machine came to us in used condition and needs some more work to get it set for next winter.
- Bruce and I attended a two-hour training for the new Road (RSMS) program. I'm impressed with its capabilities and look forward to the integration with a town GIS system. We will be able to better track our roads, signage, and even culverts.
- I've started with bid specifications and work planning for various road related projects and look forward to discussing them with the Road Committee at their meeting and budget workshop on March 15.

Administration & Personnel:

- Please remember that the Town Office hours have changed. The first week of the new schedule went well, with lots of opportunity to do undisturbed work. Robin got into the vault and made good headway with organizing the files.
- The inspection report from the Department of Labor arrived the week before last. We're continuing to work away at the problems identified in their report. We're down to about a quarter of the originally cited violations. Bruce has pushed to get the Maintenance building in order, which has addressed a number of problems and sets the stage for more efficient operations.
- I am still struggling with the best way to fill Karen Peterson's position, but in the meantime I will be advertising for the full position with the caveat that the exact job requirements and responsibilities are in flux.
- Kristin, Bruce, and Robin attended training this past week.
- Allen met with me to go over the basic elements of a technology plan. Thanks Allen!