

Town Manager Report

April 4, 2016

Budget & Finance:

- Teresa and I met with the Auditor and are reviewing the final changes to the draft audit. We should be receiving a final audit within the next two weeks.
- I've had mostly positive feedback about the public meeting and am starting to direct my attention more fully to the warrant and also to any areas where we can save money. I keep coming back to the problem that we're dealing with past actions and beyond-our-control issues, even outside of the school funding issue. The new fire truck, the use of fund balance and tax cut last year, the dam project, and the homestead exemption are all substantial items that this Select Board and Budget Committee have little to no control over.
- It is worth noting that even with this year's proposed increase in taxes, the benefit from the homestead exemption change will still allow many resident property owners with modest housing values to save money on their bill this year.

Solid Waste and Recycling:

- The SWRC met and unanimously approved the revised "option 3" for Fayette, included in your packets. Some wordsmithing and final review of the numbers is ongoing but I believe we have come to an excellent solution that allows for Readfield to save money this year and in the future while stabilizing and improving operations.
- Repair work to the concrete at the TS is ongoing. We already have jersey barriers and repaired curbing installed and the railing work should be completed this week.
- We've had a few reports of folks dumping at the TS who shouldn't. We are working to minimize this through new stickers and enforcement.
- I plan on spending a full week at the TS in May if at all possible.

Maintenance & Infrastructure:

- I am proposing a change in location for the returnable bottles, etc. at the maintenance building. They are taking up an entire usable equipment bay and may be moved to one of the underutilized trailers on site.
- I am continuing to develop RFPs for various projects.
- Bruce and I are attending Roadway Fundamentals training tomorrow with three members of the Road Committee
- We will likely be lifting road weight restrictions following the freeze and thaw this week.

Administration & Personnel:

- The Department of Labor issues are being knocked off quickly. Karen is working out well in her consulting capacity and documenting the work to date as well as addressing unresolved policy issues. We are on track to meet our April 24th corrective action deadline.
- We received several applications for the Sexton / ACO / Maintenance Support / Fire Administrative Support position(s). I haven't had the opportunity to go through them fully but will this week. From what I've seen we have some good prospects and options.
- The Town Offices have been significantly reconfigured. The downstairs meeting room is much more comfortable and functional, and I am now in Robin's old office.
- I am requesting April 21st, 22nd, and 25th as vacation time. I will be available to attend the workshop on the evening of the 25th.