



TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

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Town Manager Report

September 19, 2022

Administration and Personnel:

- The Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 10th for Indigenous Peoples Day.
- On the agenda for the Select Board is a request to close the Office on Wednesday and Thursday, October 5th and 6th so staff can attend the Maine Municipal Association Annual Convention in Bangor.
- The Select Board planning and goal setting retreat is scheduled for this coming Monday, September 26th. Facilitator Bruce Bourgoine will be submitting some pre-retreat “homework” for Board members this week.
- Absentee ballots can now be requested from the Town Clerk for the November State of Maine General Election. Absentee ballots will be available in early October. There is no local election or town vote in November.

Roads, Traffic, Parking and Safety:

- The Road Striping contract has been finalized with Steve Lucas and striping work is ongoing.
- The paving contract has been signed with Pike Industries. They will work on the ditching and culvert items this fall and paving will happen in the spring. Pike is going to work on finding a sub to perform the tree and brush removal.
- The selection of a preferred provider for planning and design services for the Church Rd. Sidewalk is on the Select Board agenda.
- RFPs will be issued in late September for special paving projects at Readfield Corner and Nickerson Hill / P Ridge. We have \$50,000 available for both projects, so we may need to prioritize work.
- A town-wide culvert repair and replacement RFP is also anticipated for the end of the month.
- Contract discussions are ongoing with Scott Horne and we are on track to meet our October 15 target for truck inspections and full readiness for winter road maintenance. The only outstanding item is vehicle monitoring equipment / software.
- Fall roadside mowing will take place in October.

Special Project Updates:

- With respect to broadband internet, I’ve reached out to Matrix to work on scheduling a meeting with the Select Board in October or November. They have votes in surrounding towns that will affect if and how they approach Readfield. Charter / Spectrum has been in intermittent communication with us and so I have also asked them to fill in the gaps in our unserved areas and have met with town attorney, Kristin Collins, on pursuing line extensions under our current franchise agreement or a new one. A revision to our “Cable Television

Franchise Ordinance” is needed in either case. The Broadband Committee may be a good resource in assisting with “gap-filling” efforts by the Town if the committee was re-formed.

- The Comprehensive Plan Committee is scheduled to meet this week and is working diligently to stay on schedule with the support of KVCOG staff. I met with representatives from the Winthrop Comprehensive Plan Committee to discuss the challenges and future opportunities for affordable senior and workforce housing. We identified a regional approach as the most likely path forward. I am looking for a few community volunteers to carry the torch on this issue as it is more of a broader action item than the narrow plan development scope of the existing committee.
- Fire Station sprinkler system work and Library renovation projects remain on hold. Those are looking like good candidates for renewed attention in October / November.
- The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget development process will begin in October.