



## TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

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### Town Manager Report

January 8, 2024

#### Administration and Personnel:

- The Town Office and Library will be closed Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Day.
- Work is progressing with the Land Use Ordinance revisions required under LD 2003 with draft revisions being considered by the Planning Board in January.
- The Revaluation process is slowing for the next few months as field work is not advisable or practical. Results from the sample group show that we are seeing about 25% of homes with a decrease in value, about 25% staying neutral in value, and about 50% seeing an increase for a net positive. This is consistent with the overall improvement of home quality in Readfield and will not result in more taxes, but in the people who have relatively higher property values paying a larger share.
- The December 18-19 storm was disruptive to municipal operations, delaying some work.
- Our December 21<sup>st</sup> Staff Meeting was a success and I want to thank Kathryn for attending and the Board for contributing to the gift baskets.
- Annual employee evaluations will take place in January.

#### Roads, Traffic, Parking and Safety:

- Winter conditions came late and have yielded mixed precipitation that is challenging to address but we have the capacity to manage most any winter storm.
- Debris from the December storm has been cleared as much as possible, likely until the spring. As a reminder to residents the Town crews and contractors cannot do work outside of the ROW and prioritize work in the ROW that affects road maintenance and safety.
- The official Church Rd. Sidewalk hearing will now be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We are awaiting review of the 50% plans and materials submitted by Gorrill-Palmer to Maine DOT last week. Active public notice will proceed when we have MDOT approval confirmed.

#### Maintenance:

- Town maintenance staff and volunteers made some progress at the Library but the storm and holidays have effectively pushed the project timeframe back 2-3 weeks. We expect to have work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor mostly complete in February.
- We had a fuel oil leak and a furnace leak within two weeks at the Town Office. The issues were addressed but highlight the need to consider new or alternative heating systems.

#### Transfer Station:

- We have a quarterly Solid Waste and Recycling meeting scheduled for January 10 at 5:30pm.
- Operations have been relatively smooth and we are pleased to officially announce a new recycling program. The TS can now accept all rechargeable batteries, including power tools.