



TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

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Town Manager Report

August 21, 2023

Administration and Personnel:

- Tax bills have been printed and mailed. An insert was included to help residents understand where and how to get tax assistance. Valuations increased, the mil rate decreased, and net taxes went up.
- We had our annual General Assistance Review by the state and passed their site-visit. We've had fewer GA requests than in past years and the requests have been primarily for utility assistance (CMP bills...) as opposed to more general needs and housing.
- The new Fire Truck contract has been signed and the equipment is on order. I completed and submitted our application to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank as well.
- I spoke with Chief Mank and we are in agreement that the issue of the vaccine policy is squarely in his jurisdiction, is not a current operational concern, and will likely be reviewed this winter. The current policy is that members be vaccinated with boosters recommended.
- We've seen an increase in overtime for the maintenance Staff and CEO. I'm working to curtail that without impacting municipal services.
- We are now using both the old and the new accounts in TRIO. This is a bit more work but a necessary part of the transition. When we begin the budget process this fall / winter we will also show old and new accounts, but the final budget will reflect the new accounts only.
- Thanks to Kathryn and Dave for attending the Summer Residents Meeting was on August 4 and discussing community issues, water quality, erosion, land use, and other topics.
- I attended the annual Manager's conference and received important training and networking.

Roads, Traffic, Parking and Safety:

- We are working with C.H. Stevenson on a slimmed down road realignment proposal for the Intersection of Nickerson Hill and P Ridge.
- Chip and I met with the owners of the Weathervane Restaurant to discuss the parking situation on RT. 17. We presented a draft Memorandum outlining the acceptable use of the Readfield Beach parking area by their customers. The MOU is on the Select Board agenda.
- Washouts have taken a great deal of time this summer and slowed other work, compounded by the wet conditions. If fair weather persists we will be focusing more on roadside brush.

Maintenance and Transfer Station:

- Water testing at the Beach is ongoing. Test results have shown increasing bacteria levels but still well under State of Maine recommended thresholds. We are reducing staffing at the beach as attendance drops off.
- We should be pretty well caught up with Cemetery maintenance this week.
- Sunday September 27th is the last day of Summer Hours at the Transfer Station.