



TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

8 OLD KENTS HILL ROAD, READFIELD, MAINE 04355

Office (207) 685-4939 • Cell (207) 931-7680

Email: manager@readfieldmaine.org

Town Manager Report

February 12, 2023

Administration and Personnel:

- Most of my time over the past month has been dedicated to budget work and meeting prep.
- The joint Select Board and Budget Committee meeting on January 31 was productive and I expect we'll continue with thoughtful policy discussions over the next several weeks.
- A lot of my time and staff time was directed to preparing and releasing multiple public communications relating to current events over the past few weeks, including multiple mailings and publications.
- I put together a few spreadsheets to help flesh out the Community Program Coordinator position and spur discussion around time demands and schedule. I expect to have a full position summary and job description by the end of February. Thanks to Sean and Dave for helping to move this along.
- We are prepared for the Public Hearing on the 13th. I spoke with both applicants and the Planning Board Chair to ensure everyone was prepared and had an understanding of the process. I am curious to see what the turnout will be!
- I am incredibly excited to announce that we received FCC approval today to operate a Low Power FM (LPFM) station on the 94.5 frequency! I'll be looking at preliminary cost estimates and working with a few community members to parse out the overall operation. The station license is free and we have up to three years to begin broadcasting which gives us time to consider this carefully and do it properly. That said I would like to see what we can get done in FY25 given the need for reliable town-wide communication.
- We had a few meetings recently related to the Fairgrounds, one with the LWCF program (federal grant funds) and one with the project engineer to review and tighten up cost estimates. Great progress!
- We are having some trouble with sending email, so please be aware of this - we are working on the issue with Consolidated and our IT team.

Roads, Traffic, Parking and Safety:

- I ordered two more truckloads of salt for Horne to mix with sand as we're getting low on materials in the shed. He did well with the ice storm last month.
- Thankfully the recent weather has not been overly impactful, but that can change quickly so we continue to monitor any weather events carefully.
- We will likely need to post roads sooner than in previous years if trends continue. Many nearby towns have already posted their roads.

Maintenance:

- Maintenance Staff continued their work at the Library and have moved back into the west room. This should move quickly and then we can finish up with light work in the middle room. Thanks to the work of many volunteers and Town staff we have a planned “opening” tentatively set for April 6th.

Transfer Station:

- The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee meeting went smoothly with positive operations and financial reports for the 2nd quarter. We also held a budget discussion. Our partner towns are accepting of the needed cost increases next year and satisfied with our overall operation.
- We had a hydraulic fluid issue with the MSW compactor at the Transfer Station and needed to install a warmer. The alternative was to replace the hydraulic fluid with a lower viscosity higher cost product. The machine is working properly again.