



## **TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager**

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### **Town Manager Report**

March 11, 2024

#### **Administration and Personnel:**

- The Public Hearing for the Special Town Meeting was lightly attended but worthwhile. It was recorded and is available on the website for anyone interested. The Special Town Meeting went smoothly other than the KHS folks double-booking us with a HS playoff hockey game which overflowed the parking lot. The meeting took about half an hour and both articles passed by solid margins by voice vote (I'm guessing about 80% in favor) with about 40-50 participants. The Planning Board will now take on the review process. In general it's good to go through the exercise of an on-floor Town Meeting but it is not something I would recommend or expect we do often.
- The Primaries went well thanks to the Town Staff.
- The Budget Committee has discussed the overall budget picture and negative impact of reductions is State Revenue Sharing. They are generally comfortable with the budget.
- The warrant draft is in good shape thanks to Teresa.

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

- The third Church Road Sidewalk Public Hearing was well advertised and well attended. I've submitted the 2nd quarter reimbursement for the Church Rd. sidewalk project. I also spoke with the engineers about the raised speed tables and we are looking at options. Having just the raised sidewalk is a possibility but there would of course be tradeoffs with safety and traffic speed.
- We have initiated the Request for Public Assistance (RPA) process with FEMA for the December storm following their official announcement of our eligibility earlier this week. I've also passed information along to the general public and specifically to folks on Touisset Point Rd. We have had a few residents take advantage of this opportunity already.
- The roads are suffering quite a bit from the early thaw and heavy rains - we had some fairly serious washouts and pavement damage and the need for gravel on a few of the dirt roads.
- I've had to turn down a few special requests for over-weight truck traffic because things are so sloppy. We may need to pull back on plowing if things don't firm up.

#### **Maintenance:**

- We have a proposal from Androscoggin Bank that meets the direction of the Select Board to borrow for the new F550 and make a principal payment when we sell the old truck, which will lower the interest paid without leaving money on the table. I plan on proceeding with a five year lease-purchase where we will own the vehicle at the end of the

term. I do not plan on financing the attachments (plow and sander) as we do have the funds to pay for those outright which will save on costs.

- The Library project is nearing completion for the remodel. We are now working on the middle room, which is smaller and in better condition than everything else on the 2nd floor. Electrical work should be complete this week. We have decent shelving for the newly renovated back rooms.

Transfer Station:

- Karen was a big help with the second draft of the Waste Disposal and Recycling Ordinance.
- The brush area is quite muddy so please try to bring material in when the ground is frozen.