



# Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:  
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*Town of Winslow - In the heart of Central Maine representing People, Pride and Progress.*

## **FY2015 PROPOSED BUDGET**

In the Council packet is Budget Order No. 2-2014 for the adoption of the Town's FY 2015 Budget. The proposed budget maintains the current property tax rate of \$15.50 per \$1,000 in valuation. The property tax rate in Winslow has not changed over the past six (6) fiscal years and this coming fiscal year will be the seventh year with no change. Town surplus funds of \$1,184,000 are being used to maintain the tax rate.

Total expenditures (school & municipal) have increased by \$516,857 to \$21,284,338. Municipal expenditures (less education) have increased by \$147,438 or 2.1%. Education expenditures have increased by \$369,419 or 2.7%. The local share of the Education expenditures has increased by \$212,184 or 3.5%. The overall municipal budget (with the local share of education) has increased by \$359,622 or 2.7% to 13,574,222.

Municipal revenues (less taxes & surplus) are projected to increase by \$81,762 or 2.64% to \$3,177,475. The taxable valuation is projected to increase by \$5,884,533 or 1.0% to over \$594 million. This increase in valuation will generate \$91,210 in additional property tax revenue.

## **POLICE RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE**

Since converting to a narrow band frequency our police officers have been experiencing spotty radio coverage. At times they receive incomplete radio messages or their communications are not received by the dispatch center. This has become an officer safety concern.

To address the problem the radios in the police vehicles will need to be upgraded from 50 watts to 110 watts and radio repeaters will need to be installed in each of the four police vehicles. In addition, 10 portable radios, com-

patible with the new system, will need to be purchased. The total cost for this upgrade is \$26,292.

Another concern is that the portable radios have spotty coverage when the officers are in the police department. To address this problem a radio repeater needs to be installed in the police department at a cost of \$2,461.

In the Council Packet is Resolution No. 9-2014 which if approved will authorize the purchase of the necessary equipment to address the radio communication problems.

## **TERRI CLARK ANIMAL ABUSE CASE**

Over a year ago the Town's Animal Control Officer seized several farm animals from Terri Clark and charged Ms. Clark with cruelty to animals. Ms. Clark recently plead guilty to the offense.

When we seized the animal we asked Martin Lane, Jan Marconi and Julie Kenney to care for some of the seized animals. At the time we indicated they could receive restitution of \$10 a day per animal.

In the Council Packet is Resolution No 11-2014, which authorizes me to sign a Settlement Agreement and Release with Martin Lane at a cost to the town of \$17,500.

We have paid Julie Kenney \$2,600 for her services and we have paid Jan Marconi \$2,460 for her services. It is likely we will be paying Jan Marconi an additional \$5,040.

The total cost for the seizure of these animals to the town will likely be \$27,600. The Judge in this case did not order Terri Clark to pay restitution so it is unlikely we will recoup our costs.

### **EFFECIENCY MAINE TRUST GRANT**

I currently serve as the President of the Sustain Mid Maine Coalition and Mike Roy serves as the Vice-President. A few years ago the Coalition partnered with the City of Waterville and the Town of Winslow and obtained a grant from Efficiency Maine to fund a home energy improvement project in both communities. At the time the City of Waterville served as fiscal agent for the grant.

Waterville, Winslow, Fairfield and the Sustain Mid Maine Coalition recently submitted a grant request to Efficiency Maine to deliver coordinated home energy retrofit education and outreach efforts to home owners in our communities. These education efforts may include, but are not limited to, educating homeowners about building science and home energy principles, home energy retrofit projects, and home energy retrofit incentives from Efficiency Maine.

We have since learned that we have been awarded an \$80,000 grant and I have agreed for Winslow to be the fiscal agent for the grant. There will be no cost to the town and will only involve my time.

### **SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING REPORT**

Attached to this report is the City of Waterville's Solid Waste—Recycling Committee report. I have also attached an editorial from the Bangor Daily News regarding the possible benefits of the expiring contract with PERC.

### **MANAGER'S VACATION**

I am planning to take a vacation from April 16th to the 25th. If there are no objections from the Town Council I will designate Public Works Director Paul Fongemie as Administrative Officer with the powers and duties of manager during my temporary absence.