



# 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 SCHOOL BUDGET AMENDMENT**

After the first reading of the FY2015 Municipal Budget Order (No. 2-2014) the School Department was informed that they would be receiving \$11,315 less in State Aid to Education. In response, the School Department amended their budget and are now intending to use their surplus to cover the \$11,315 revenue shortfall.

In the Council packet is an amended School Budget that reflects the intended use of surplus to cover the revenue shortfall. The FY2015 Budget Order remains unchanged.

## **ELECTRICITY RATES EXPECTED TO INCREASE**

As you know, we have an Electricity Supply agreement with Maine Power Options. Attached to this report is information I have received from Maine Power Options regarding expected increases in electricity prices of approximately 44%. The primary cause of the price increase can be attributed to increases in the capacity costs for transport of natural gas to our region.

Our agreement with Maine Power Options expires on June 30th and they plan to provide us with some renewal options very soon. If we experience a 44% increase in electricity costs then our proposed FY2015 budget could have a deficit of approximately \$12,000 in budgeted electricity costs.

## **EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION ORDINANCE**

In the Council packet is Ordinance No. 6-2014, which if approved would exempt qualifying Winslow residents serving in the military from paying their vehicle excise tax. The state law authorizing this exemption took effect on January 1, 2012

## **PSAP CALL HANDLING AGREEMENT**

Our PSAP call handling agreement with the Somerset County Communication Center will expire on June 30th. In the Council packet is Order No. 5-2014, which if approved will authorize me to renew the agreement for two more years. For the first year of the agreement our costs will remain the same. Our costs will increase by 5% or \$467.64 in the second year of the agreement.

## **COMCAST TO ACQUIRE TIME WARNER**

As you may already know, Comcast is acquiring Time Warner Cable. In the Council packet is Resolution No. 13-2014, which if approved will give our consent to the transaction as a Franchise Authority.

## **PROPOSED NG PIPELINE TIF PROJECTS**

Attached to this report is a list of possible TIF projects associated with the proposed NG Pipeline TIF District. I am planning to work on the development of this proposed TIF district so that the Town Council may begin acting on the district at the June 9th Town Council meeting.

If anyone has some additional suggestions for TIF projects please let me know so I can incorporate them into the TIF application to be reviewed and approved by the Town Council.

## **PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS**

I am working with CGI Communications, Fairfield and Oakland to produce brief promotional videos of our region. The videos will be incorporated into our websites and funded through business sponsorships. There is no cost to us for this project.