



# Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:  
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November 4, 2014

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

## **PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR**

I am pleased to report that I have appointed Jim Bourgoin to the position of Parks and Recreation Director. Ten applicants applied for the position, which is part-time, and four of the applicants were interviewed. The Selection/Interview Committee chose Mr. Bourgoin as the most qualified candidate. In the Council packet is Resolution No. 25-2014, which if approved will confirm Mr. Bourgoin's appointment.

## **FY2014 FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Hank Farrah from the auditing firm of Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette will be at our November Council meeting to give a presentation on our FY 2014 financial audit. A copy of the presentation is in the Council packet along with a copy of the completed audit.

## **FORMER PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE**

I contracted with the Maine Valuation Company to provide us with a commercial appraisal for our former Public Works Garage located at 120 Halifax Street. The Appraiser, John Wales, concluded the Market Value of the property is **\$115,000**. He determined that the Highest and Best Use of the property was its current use as a maintenance garage. I have put this topic on our agenda as a discussion item so we can discuss what we would like to do with this property.

## **COMPANION ANIMAL ORDINANCE**

The Companion Animal Ordinance No. 7-2014 has been tabled while the Planning Board (PB) addressed several concerns posed by the Town Council. Attached to this report are the minutes of the PB meeting in which the PB addressed the Council's concerns.

I recommend that the Council remove Ordinance No. 7-2014 from the table so you can discuss the PB's recommendations. Since we have not advertised for the final reading of the ordinance it will need to be tabled again after any amendments. The final reading can take place in December.

## **TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PROJECT**

On October 27, 2014, I attended a meeting regarding MDOT's plan to upgrade 5 signalized intersections in Winslow (see attached minutes). The proposed upgrade could occur in 2016 and would give us better control over the traffic flow between certain intersections.

## **Old Brick Schoolhouse Update**

At last month's Council meeting I reported that the heirs of Francis Giddings who live in Maine are willing to convey the Old Brick Schoolhouse to the town. In addition, Thomas Caron assessed the condition of the schoolhouse and I attached his report to my report last month.

Now, this month, I have attached a cost estimate, prepared by Restoration Mason Richard Irons, to make the repairs identified by Thomas Caron. His \$13,500 estimate to do the masonry work involves matching the repairs to the 1804 period. If we are not concerned about making the repairs consistent with the period then the cost would be less. We can discuss this further at our Council meeting on November 10th.

## **Central Maine Growth Council Update**

At an earlier Council meeting I reported that the Growth Council's Executive Director had resigned. *(Continued on next page)*

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Since then the Growth Council has been re-evaluating how it delivers services. As a result the Growth Council is exploring a closer relationship with the Chamber to take advantage of the Chamber's resources. It is believed this will help the Growth Council to better serve the economic development needs of Fairfield, Oakland, Waterville and Winslow. I will keep you informed of the Growth Council's continuing efforts to better serve our communities.

### **Summit Natural Gas**

Michael Duguay from Summit will be at our meeting on November 10th to provide us with an update on Summit's planned expansion of Natural Gas into Winslow for 2015.

### **Fireworks Referendum Results**

On the November 4th elections we presented a Non-Binding Referendum Question that included the following three options:

**OPTION 1:** Should the Town of Winslow exercise the local authority to prohibit the use of fireworks within the town?

**OPTION 2:** Should the Town of Winslow limit the use of fireworks to certain days of the year?

**OPTION 3:** Should the Town of Winslow continue to allow the use of fireworks within the town as permitted by state law?

Three thousand seven hundred fifty seven Winslow voters cast their votes as follows:

Option 1 = 755 (20%)

Option 2 = 991 (26%)

Option 3 = 1,532 (41%)

Blank = 479 (13%)

I have added the Fireworks Referendum Question to the November Council agenda as a discussion item.