



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

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

Submitted by:
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FY 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

In the Council Packet is Order No. 5-2015, which is for the adoption of our FY 2016 Budget and reflects the amendments made at the April 13th Council meeting. As you know, our Assessor recently alerted me to the fact that we will be losing 7 million in business personal property tax valuation due to enrollment into the BETE program. As a result, if the Town Council adopts the budget as amended on April 13th, the tax rate will increase from \$15.50 to \$15.69 per \$1,000 in valuation. For the average home owner this equates to an increase of \$27.19 in property taxes.

If, on the other hand, the Town Council wishes to maintain a tax rate of \$15.50 then we will need to cut the proposed budget by \$116,000, increase projected revenues by \$116,000 or a combination of the two.

PROJECTED PAYROLL SHORTAGE

This year we will have 27 payroll periods and we only budgeted for 26 periods. Each year there is some overlap with payroll periods from one fiscal year to the next. In each instance the Auditors make adjustments by dividing the overlapping payroll among the two fiscal years. This year, however, the final payroll in June will occur entirely in June but will be paid in July. Therefore, I am assuming the Auditors will apply the first payroll payment in July to our existing fiscal year. If that happens then I anticipate a shortage of approximately \$44,723 in our payroll accounts.

I will discuss this with the Auditors and if necessary I will request to transfer funds from our contingency account to the appropriate payroll accounts at the June Town Council meeting.

FT. HALIFAX FUNDRAISING EVENT

As you may recall, the Ft. Halifax Committee is planning a reenactment event for June 12th, 13th, and 14th. This event is being planned in cooperation with Ft. Western in Augusta. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the history of both Forts and to help us raise money for our Ft.

Halifax Improvement Project. To help kick-off the three day event we are planning a ground breaking ceremony at noontime on Wednesday, June 10th.

We are expecting reenactors from the following groups:

James Howard's Company: This Company garrisoned Fort Western and guarded the head of navigation on the Kennebec in the 1750s and 60s.

Samuel Goodwin's Company: This Company is comprised of a group of living historians who live in central Maine and strive to accurately recreate the lives and adventures of the men who secured the Kennebec frontier during the years 1745-1763.

The Pequawket Alliance: This is a group of progressive historians, re-enactors, that portray life as it was in early to mid 18th century New France (Canada). The men portray Canadian Milice (militia) of New France. In battle they had no use for European style tactics. They preferred bush fighting and surprising the enemy.

Settlers: There will be a small group of settlers who will be portraying what life was like in the 18th century.

Music: Castlebay is a musical duo who will be performing on June 13th. They will treat the audience to a musical journey through the 18th century.

We are also planning to reenact a skirmish that occurred around 1753 on the Kennebec River near the site of Fort Halifax. A Colony militia were in a 30' Batteau and were headed to the future site of Ft. Halifax to cut wood to build the fort. With orders from the King of France, the wood cutting party was attacked just a short distance from the mouth of the Sebec River by a group of Canadian Indians (St. Francis Abanaki). The Canadian Indians were accompanied by French Officers who did not participate in the attack. Although no one was killed, the Royal Government of MASS Bay quickly declared war on all Abanaki (excepting the Penobscot) a full year before the official start of the French & Indian War in 1754.

The Reenactors will setup their campsites on June 12th and will arrange their sites as a display. They will conduct their activities as though they were living in the 18th century.