

We started off the month by attending the annual Highway Congress in Skowhegan put on by the Maine chapter of the American Public Works Association. It allows the crew an opportunity to try out new equipment and learn about new products on the market. At the event, both Jean Pierre and I were awarded our Roads Scholar certificates from MDOT. This award signifies that we have attended a minimum of ten classes given by the Maine Local Roads, a division of MDOT tasked with providing assistance to municipalities. The classes range from tort liability laws to drainage and pavement maintenance.

Our sewer replacement project on the Augusta Road should be completed in 2-3 weeks. We have had a few change orders for items that were unforeseen when the project was designed. The majority of the added expense in the change orders has been the decision to upgrade some of the sidewalks from Clifford Avenue to Matheson. Hopefully after MDOT repaves this area and with our new sidewalks, this area should look good for a few years.

Except for centerline striping, we have completed most of our annual striping. We have installed new school zone signage in the area of St. John School and have begun to install crosswalk signs. I am trying to limit the number of crosswalks that are not at an intersection and to have signs for these crossings. It is recommended that busy streets such as Halifax have only a few well marked crossings instead of the half dozen ones we had previously that had no signage.

I have sent out bid requests for this year's paving including the special projects in the bond package. I have included my proposed paving list in my report. You will notice that again this year I am staying away from the areas proposed by Summit Natural Gas as it appears likely that they will be in Winslow in the near future. They are presently installing sleeves across Bay Street and the Augusta Road ahead of the MDOT paving project.

We have had a crew out cleaning catch basins around town until last week. We had to suspend operations after we lost the large blower on the vacuum part of the sewer cleaner. The unit is a 1999 and the blower has never been replaced. We ordered a remanufactured unit from the factory at a cost of approximately \$16,500.00. The Town of Fairfield will be paying for half of this expense. The service rep told us we had done very well to get so many years out of the original unit.

Finally, I have enclosed a tabulation of the results of our equipment bids for the items in our bond package. You will notice that with municipal pricing and good trade-in values, we have managed to save considerable money. The largest savings was with the street sweeper. After we tried out an updated unit similar to our present unit from HP Fairfield, the salesman offered us a deal. The unit we had tried out was actually a 2012 unit they had been using as a demonstrator and had 48 hours on it. A 2016 model would cost us \$190,000.00. He offered this unit to us for \$143,973.00 with a full 12 month warranty, same as a new unit. After consultation with the Town Manager, I was given permission to make a commitment for this unit with the understanding that they would only get paid when the bond money is released at the end of August. We will not take delivery until then. With a savings of \$56,000 from our budget amount, it was difficult to pass on this offer. The savings on the plow truck and the

wheel loader are the results of good trade-in values. The loader plow equipment savings are a combination of good municipal pricing and our decision to assemble this unit in-house. Our new mechanic, Dylan, previously worked for Viking Cives, the vendor that has been assembling our plows for the past few years. He and Ryan, our senior mechanic, feel comfortable in doing this project in-house. This will result in a \$4000.00 savings in installation costs.

The cost savings on our bond package brings me to my next topic. I would like to request utilizing a portion of these savings to upgrade our roadside mowing unit. Our present unit that attaches to our sidewalk tractor is undersized and worn out. Last year I rented a boom mounted unit that is installed on a mid-sized farm tractor. We had it for a week at a cost of \$2500 per week. We were able to do approximately one third of our roads. This year I have rented it for three weeks. It will cost us \$7500 plus some overtime for the operators. The reason for the overtime is that the rental is for 40 hours per week and overtime is usually required to get the maximum hours on the machine. The cost to purchase a unit similar to the one we are renting is approximately \$110,000. The drawback is that it is a farm tractor with no other uses when we are done mowing. Replacing our present sidewalk tractor with a new mower is \$140,000. The third option which Mike and I recommend is a self-contained boom mower that attaches to our new loader with the quick coupler. This unit is \$82,000 and can be removed and stored when not needed, allowing the loader to be used elsewhere. This unit is comparable in size to the tractor mounted unit we are renting. Properly maintained a unit like this should last 15+ years. All these units are expensive, but without proper roadside brush cutting, eventually we will have to clear the right of ways manually with chainsaws. This becomes a dangerous and time consuming task. I will be at the council meeting to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Public Works Director