



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:
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April 6, 2016

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

FY2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

In the Council Packet is Order No. 4-2016, which is for the adoption of our FY2017 Budget. This Order is based on the Town Council's final budget discussion on April 4th with the School Department.

The proposed budget calls for a mill rate (tax rate) increase of \$0.42 per \$1000 in valuation to \$15.92. The average home owner will see a tax increase of \$58.71 or 2.7%. However, with the recent adjustment in the Homestead Exemption the average homeowner will actually see a slight net decrease in their property tax bill.

When compared to the prior FY this proposed budget includes an overall increase in municipal and school expenditures of 1.5% to \$21,685,465. When compared to our FY2010 budget this budget represents a decrease in expenditures of \$580,156.

When compared to the prior FY the municipal portion of the budget has increased to \$7,307,345 or 2% and the education portion has increased to \$14,378,120 or 1.23%. The total local share of the budget (municipal & school less school revenues) has increased to \$13,734,961 or 1.1%.

This proposed budget also calls for a Sewer rate increase of \$0.40 to \$3.00 per 100 cubic ft. The average sewer user will see a quarterly increase of \$8.01.

MRC/FIBERIGHT RECOMMENDATION

In the Council packet is Resolution No. 12-2016 which is a recommendation by our MSW Committee to NOT join the MRC/Fiberight project at this time. The resolution lists six reasons why we should not join the project at this time.

As a current charter member of the MRC

we would be required to allow the MRC to use ~500,000 of Winslow funds, that are managed by the MRC, for the development of the Fiberight project. And, if the Fiberight project fails, then our funds would be used to buy the Fiberight building for \$6 million. Keep in mind the building would be 62 miles away and would likely become a transfer station to the Hampden area communities. Non-MRC members who elect to join the project at this time are not subject to the same financial risk.

Attached to this report is a document showing our current budgeted disposal cost per ton for MSW (\$78.98). In a second document I have attached you will see the projected disposal cost for MSW with Fiberight could be \$86.54 per ton as apposed to the Cross Roads Landfill cost of \$65 a ton. If we join Fiberight at a later date our disposal cost per ton would jump to \$88.75 but we could then use the ~\$500,000 to reduce our per ton cost to \$80. We can discuss this further at our meeting on April 11th.

White Fish Road Parcel

In 2015 we tax foreclosed on a 0.09 acre parcel of land on White Fish Road. In Fact, White Fish Road runs through the parcel of land (see attached documents). Larry Hurd, an abutting property owner, would like to acquire the parcel from the town. We will discuss this further at our meeting on the 11th.

Designation of Administrative Officer

In the Council packet is a memo from me designating PW Director Paul Fongemie as Administrative Officer during my planned, temporary, absence. If there are no objections from the Council, then Mr. Fongemie will fulfill that role during the designated time period.

