



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

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

Submitted by:
Michael W. Heavener
November 8, 2011

FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Hank Farrah from our auditing firm, Runyon, Kersteen & Ouellette, will be at our Town Council meeting on Monday, November 14, 2011 to give a presentation on our financial audit for FY 2011 (*see presentation in the Council packet*). Mr. Farrah will also answer any questions you may have about the audit. Please bring your audit reports, which were provided to you before the last Town Council meeting.

ORION ROPEWORKS POSSIBLE EXPANSION

Over the past two months I have had some discussions with Bob Lucey, the President of Orion Ropeworks, regarding a possible expansion at the Winslow Facility. Orion Ropeworks is planning to purchase equipment from outside the United States and then relocate the equipment to the Winslow facility, which could result in 25 to 50 new jobs (*see attached letter dated October 17, 2011*).

Darryl Sterling of the Central Maine Growth Council has been working with Mr. Lucey to help identify available resources to assist Orion Ropeworks with their expansion plans. Mr. Sterling was instrumental in organizing a meeting at the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) in Augusta on behalf of Orion Ropeworks that included DECD, FAME, KVCOG and the Small Business Administration.

During the meeting DECD pointed out that some funding may be available from an Economic Development Grant through their office. The grant would start out as a loan and would convert to a grant once Orion Ropeworks meets the grant obligation. Funding through this program could be as high as \$500,000. To access the funding the Town of Winslow would need to apply for the funding

on behalf of Orion Ropeworks.

I will discuss this further at the Council meeting on November 14th.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDITION UPDATE

I have been working with Glenn Dumont of Peachey Builders on moving forward with the Design/Build concept for the Police Department addition. Mr. Dumont has pointed out that it could be challenging to bid such a process. He suggested we consider a Construction Management method, which would allow us to more easily bid the project and still save money when compared to hiring an engineer to develop the plans.

Mr. Dumont will be attending our November 14th Town Council meeting to explain the Construction Management method as an option for us to consider (*see attached document*). He will also bring a set of floor plans that we have been working on for the Town Council's review.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE RESIGNATION

George Lessard will be resigning his position on the Cemetery Committee effective November 15, 2011 after 39 years of serving on that committee (*see attached resignation*). Mr. Lessard has done an outstanding job over the years of organizing the cleanup and maintenance of the town owned cemeteries.

Currently there are no burial plots available for sale in any of the town owned cemeteries. Therefore, I will be exploring the possibility of the Parks & Rec Department maintaining the town cemeteries after November 15th. and to see if there are any cost savings in doing so.

OVER

COMMUNITY TRACK GRANT

In the Council packet is Resolution No. 27-2011 which if approved will authorize the Parks & Rec Director to apply for up to \$75,000 in Land & Water Conservation grant funds to reconstruct the Community Track. There is a 1:1 match requirement so the town (*and School Department*) will need to provide \$75,000 in cash and/or in-kind services. In addition, if Resolution No. 27-2011 is adopted then the Town Council will need to sign the Certification Letter attached to the resolution.

The cost to reconstruct the Community Track is estimated to be \$150,000. Until the track is reconstructed it cannot be used by the School Department for Track Team events. High School Athletic Director Carrie Larrabee has agreed to work with the Parks & Rec Director to conduct a fundraising campaign to raise the funds needed to meet the match requirement of the Land & Water Conservation grant.

If we are awarded the grant we will have two years to raise the required matching funds and to begin the project.

Parks & Recreation Director Dennis Dacus will be at the Town Council meeting on November 14th to answer any questions the Council may have.

FIREWORKS!!

Beginning January 1, 2012, the sale, possession and use of consumer fireworks will be legal under Maine law. Under the new law municipalities may prohibit or restrict the sale and use of consumer fireworks within their jurisdiction (*see attached "Legal Notes" from the Maine Townsman*).

Some municipalities have already decided to enact ordinances to prohibit the use and sale of consumer fireworks while other municipalities are taking a wait and see approach.

I have added this topic to the Nov. 14th

agenda as a discussion item for consideration by the Council.

MRC BALLOT

In the Council packet is a Municipal Review Committee (MRC) Board of Directors Election Ballot. You will need to cast a vote for only one individual on the ballot. This will be a discussion item on the Nov. 14th agenda.

MINOR CHANGES TO THE POLICE CONTRACT

Since the first reading of Order No. 8-2011 there have been a few minor changes to the Police Contract. In the Council Packet is a memo from me explaining the changes. Attached to the memo is the revised contract with the minor changes added. At the Nov. 14th meeting the Council will be taking the second and final reading of Order No. 8-2011 and if adopted will authorize me to sign the Police Contract.

FT. HALIFAX PARK IMPLEMENTATION

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Implementation Committee was charged by the Town Council with creating a detailed, phased, development plan with cost estimates for the Fort Halifax Park based on the adopted concept master plan for the park.

The Committee has met five times since September 8, 2011 and estimates the cost to develop a detailed development plan to be approximately \$18,500. Such a plan will include **BOUNDARY SURVEY/TOPO** and designs for **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, PARKING LOT, CURBING, WALKWAYS, RELOCATION OF UTILITIES, SLOPE STABILIZATION, DESIGN PLAN AND DETAILED COST ESTIMATES.**

The Committee has contracted with Stone Fort Consulting for \$3,120 to identify available grants that may cover the cost of plan development and construction.