

MANAGER'S REPORT
12-10-15

Audit – The auditors will back on Monday or Tuesday of next week to complete the 14/15 audit. Once that is done we can get the Town Report completed as well.

Ad-Hoc Committee – Thank you to all of those who participated in the Ad Hoc Committee to look at ways to help create an economic strategy plan for the Town. The draft report has been issued and is now being reviewed by the Economic Development Committee. It will be presented to the Town Council at the first meeting in January and will include the comments of those that have reviewed it in the process. Chair Paul Rabs has done an excellent job of leading this process and in following through with the final report.

Heart & Soul – The Heart and Soul program is getting started this weekend! There will be volunteers out on Main Street with cameras and whiteboards asking people to write down what they like best about Bucksport and then having their photo taken with the sign. These photos will become part of the data collected during this 18-24 month program that is really built on finding out what people in Bucksport are positive about – what is important to them in the community – and creating ways to preserve what works well and improve what does not!

Decorating Committee – A big thank you to the Decorating Committee and all of those who helped to create such a beautiful downtown with the trees and decorations.

Next Council Meeting – The next council meeting would be New Year's Eve. What is the pleasure of the Council in this regard? Do we just have one meeting in December? Or is there another date that you would like to schedule one?

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve – It is my intention to close the Town Office at noon on Christmas Eve and at 2 on New Year's Eve unless there is some serious objection from the Town Council.

Demo Complaints – CEO Jeff Hammond has received some complaints of the AIM demo project being done on weekends and is following up with the Company to insure that the permit is followed.

Sudden & Severe Application – Assessor Jef Fitzgerald has emailed State Revenue Services again in regard to our application for a valuation change. The Department had indicated that we would have information at the beginning of December and we have not yet heard from them.

Homestead Exemption Changes – Assessor Jef Fitzgerald has notified me that changes in the State's Homestead Exemption program will require additional local funding in the 16/17 budget. The exemption goes from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the Town has to fund half of it. At current participation that would require the Town to raise an additional \$48,000. On the bright side – it will mean an increase in the amount of the exemption for property owners who are year round residents.