

## MANAGER'S REPORT

October 8, 2015

The following items are in process or have been completed since the last Council meeting:

Next Steps – Broadband Discussion – With the Council's blessing it is my intention to move forward with an application to EMDC for a planning grant for the purpose of obtaining more information related to the options for 'lighting' fiber in Bucksport that would provide a much more robust internet presence for business and residential development. A great deal of work has already been done locally with the former economic development director in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and area business people. That would should provide a good foundation for use in a planning grant. There is also the possibility of a second grant application process through ConnectME that the Town should apply to if they are successful in obtaining the initial grant through EMDC.

Solid Waste Committee Meeting – The Town has been notified by its metal hauler that depressed prices for metal are coming to the point where it may no longer be able for the cost of metal removal to be offset by the sale of the material. Changes in the world economy in terms of construction as well as changes in ownership/operation of metal recyclers in Maine have made this a real possibility. At the present time the Town does not charge for the disposal of metal. However, should the need arise to pay for its removal from the site, there should be a fee system in place that would offset that cost. I would like to schedule a Solid Waste Committee meeting to discuss this issue and make recommendations regarding fees if necessary.

Hancock County Planning Commission Grant – I spoke with Tom Martin from the Hancock County Planning Commission this morning and he will be polling the members of the Brownfields Steering Committee that approves grant funding for the environmental testing that has been discussed for the former mil site to see if they will approve funding. AIM's willingness to provide a copy of the Phase I assessment done in 2011 should prove very helpful to the review. Some questions have been raised as to what the timing should be for the grant – whether post demolition is better than during demolition. I will keep the Council informed as to progress.

Storm Damage – The Town was fortunate that damage done during the rain event of last week to locally maintained roads was minimal in comparison to damage to State maintained roads – in particular Route 46. A minimal amount of overtime was needed by the crew, gravel for shoulder repairs, etc. was immediately available due to a stockpile for a project to be done later in the year, and the Town has to replace 2, 18" culverts that were primarily damaged by the re-routing of heavy truck traffic from Route 46 which is built for such vehicle weights onto smaller local roads that are not constructed for it. Approximately 20 tons of asphalt will be required to repair the pavement damages and there was substantial work done. Duane Nadeau, Public Works Director has maintained cost figures for these repairs in the event that a disaster declaration is made at some point.

Update – Question Regarding Bond Amount for AIM Demolition Permit – In response to a question raised last night regarding the ability of the Town to request pricing for the mill demolition project apart from the contract number provided by AIM in order to determine if the bond requirement was adequate, although I responded to the question that I did not believe that the Town would have the authority to take such action, I reached out to the Town Attorney this morning on the subject. His response was that the only protection that the Ordinance allows against an inadequate contract amount is the 10% built into the bond. He also noted however that the bond amount remains the same during the life of the project and that the measure of protection effectively increases as the remaining work decreases.