

MANAGER'S REPORT
January 26, 2017

French Property – Mr. French has been in contact to notify the Town that he has filed his income taxes and anticipates a refund well in time to meet the March 31st deadline for paying the 2014 and 2015 taxes.

Permit to Haul over Weight Limited Roads – I have had a request from a timber harvester that is working on a lot on a road that has a lower weight limit. The Town Code allows for exceptions to this regulation. Does the Council have any objection to me working with the harvester on a permit that would allow hauling outside of times when buses would be running?

School St. /McDonald Street Intersection – The Police Chief has provided accident statistics on the location that was discussed in the Streets and Roads Committee. There has been one accident there in the past five years and that was due to road conditions and actually happened not in the intersection itself but just before it. I have not yet contacted the property owner who owns the land that protrudes a little there because I wanted feedback over the Council as to whether a change in signage is really necessary before doing so.

Dog License Deadline! – The last day to register dogs without a state-mandated \$25 fine is Tuesday, January 31st!

EPA Grant to Eastern Maine Development Corp for Bucksport – We are seeking information on whether or not the \$200,000 grant that EPA awarded to EMDC for work in Bucksport at the former mill site will be moving forward. There has been some action at the federal level to freeze awards and it is not yet clear if this will be one of them. EMDC has a meeting with the EPA on January 31st and we hope to have this clarified.

Sand Use – In response to complaints of people abusing the sand pile set aside for residents by loading picking up trucks and sanders at the pile and leaving none for residents, the Town Crew has installed rocks and snow to make that more difficult and there also are two cameras at the site. It is not possible to have someone sitting at the pile all the time so these adjustments have been made as a way of dealing with those who would abuse the system without penalizing the remainder of residents who need the sand. This set aside is not for the commercial use of those who plow/sand driveways. There is a two bucket limit for residents who can get it for personal use in their yards.

RSU #25 Strategic Plan Update – RSU 25 is in the process of updating their strategic plan. I attended a meeting on this topic on January 18th and it was a wonderful opportunity to talk with elected officials from the district communities, school board members, and others about what the RSU is doing to improve educational quality and opportunities for the children of the district as well as how the district has been working

to collaborate with as many partners as possible. This is an ongoing process and I would encourage anyone who is interested to contact the Superintendent's office to get a copy of the Strategic Plan Update. I have copied it and am posting it on the Town's website.

Website Redesign – A Committee of staff, some residents and an elected official have started meeting to discuss a re-design of the Town's website to make it more user friendly and more useful. We put a lot of information on the website but feedback says that it is not always easy to find. We listened and are in the process of remedying that situation.

Budget Meeting Schedule – It is that time of year again. Budget. Attached is a draft schedule for Budget review this year. Please look it over and let me know if it will work for the majority of you. I will put it on the next agenda for approval.