

MANAGER'S REPORT
March 30, 2017

Tax Due Date – March 31st – Tax due date is Friday, March 31st for the second half of 2016/17 property taxes. Through March 29, 2017 we have collected 84.7% of total taxes assessed. 2016/17 property taxes unpaid by June 21, 2017 will have a lien placed on the property.

Comprehensive Plan – I am pleased to report that we have been notified by the State of Maine that the comprehensive plan that the committee has been working on for several years is considered complete and consistent with State requirements. We will be advertising this for a public hearing for adoption by the Town Council at their April 13th meeting. Many thanks to Jef Fitzgerald for all his work in shepherding this process through its various iterations. Thanks also to the many volunteers who have given their time, effort, and energy to this process.

Manager Evaluation – The Manager Evaluation for my first year of employment as a town employee will be at the next Council meeting (April 13th) since April 1st is my employment anniversary. I will be distributing evaluation forms for you to complete and return to the Mayor by April 7th so that he can compile results prior to the meeting on the 13th.

League of Women Voters – I attended a meeting of the League of Women Voters in Ellsworth on March 22nd as a speaker. I was asked to join an economics professor from UMaine and a Town Councilor from Bar Harbor to talk about the subject of 'two Maines'. The topics – and audience questions directed to me were primarily about what Bucksport was doing to rebound from the loss of the mill. It was a positive meeting and I have had good feedback from it.

Sewer Lien Practice – It has been the policy of the Town for many years to place sewer liens on any principal balance over \$2 remaining at the time that liens are due to be placed. Unlike property tax bills that are sent only once a year – sewer bills go out four times a year. I am requesting that we increase that lien 'threshold' from \$2 to \$15 before placing a sewer lien. The placement of a lien adds over \$60 to the cost of an outstanding bill. There have been two instances recently where a lien has been placed on principal amounts of \$11 or less. We always catch up on these because payments are always applied to the oldest bill first. It would save on staff time and customer aggravation and the Town would still get the money which is owed to it.