

MANAGER'S REPORT
May 25, 2017

EPA Grant Update – Interviews for consultants for the EPA grant will be done the week of June 12th. The interview panel includes a representative from EMDC, one from Hancock County Planning, and me.

Camden National – Roxanne and I met with the head of the municipal group at Camden National as well as the customer relationship officer for the group to talk about additional services that they have available for our accounts with the bank.

Bucksport Day In Augusta – Many thanks to Rep. Campbell and Senator Rosen for hosting Bucksport Day at the Capital Building on May 16th. It was heartwarming to see the robotics team and the unified basketball team and the state swimming champion and the state champion wrestler and the jazz ensemble all recognized for their efforts along with legislative sentiments for our Police Chief and Fire Chief for their achievements. In addition, Representative Campbell put together a handout – a copy of which is in this week's council packet highlighting community efforts since the closure of the mill. This community has so very much of which to be proud.

Downtown Beautification – Thank you to Main Street Bucksport and Heart & Soul for coordinating the downtown cleanup efforts on May 23rd and thank you also to all the participants who helped. The flower baskets have been put up by the Town now and the planters have been filled – things are looking great!

Marina – The Marina is open for business. Seasonal slips are filling up and we look forward to a busy summer on the waterfront at both the marina and the town dock.

MDOT – Verona Bridge Project – I attended an informational meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd regarding the repair project that is going to be done on the Bucksport/Verona Bridge in the summer of 2018. According to DOT personnel, continuous two way traffic will be maintained during the entire project with the exception of some late night lane closures between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., which will be staffed by flaggers. The repairs include a new waterproof liner, new drains, a new bridge connection at the Verona side, concrete repairs to both bridge and sidewalk as well as a new pavement surface. The bridge is inspected every two years, but the MDOT spokesman said that this round of maintenance repairs should keep the bridge in good condition for another 30 years.

Mil Rate – I am pleased to let you all know that I have received information from the Assessor on the Town Valuation for this year and it will be possible to lower the mil rate another ten cents this year to \$16.40. The homestead property tax exemption also goes up this year from \$15,000 to \$20,000. As a result of these two events, a property owner with a \$100,000 valuation will see an additional reduction in their tax bill of \$90.50. to \$1,312. In 2015/16 the property tax bill on a \$100,000 home would have been \$1,539, in 2016/17 it would have been \$1,402.50, and this year at the present budget would be \$1,312.00. The Town's valuation has increased by

Hillside Cemetery – Request for Funding – Attached to this report is a request from the Hillside Cemetery Association for a donation from the Town to fund the expenses of maintenance and mowing for the 2017 year.