

## MANAGER'S REPORT

PAY IT FORWARD – Thus far the Pay if Forward program has awarded 62 business grants, 55 food gift cards, distributed funds to HOME, Inc. and Bucksport Community Concerns, and the meal delivery program delivered 115 meals on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and 107 on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have received and deposited the Silvernail' generous donation. We have received many calls thanking the Town for taking these actions. A freelance writer for the Maine Municipal Association publication, the Maine Townsman, interviewed me on Tuesday about our program because she is doing an article on what communities are doing to help their residents and small businesses. I also received a call from Senator Angus King on Monday congratulating the Town for being out front in developing programs to help residents, businesses, the food pantries and seniors. Thanks to Rich Rotella for all his work on the business grant program and outreach to our local businesses as well as to the staff at the Senior Center making the meals and the volunteers taking the orders and doing deliveries.

REVENUE IMPACTS – At the present time, the Town of Bucksport has not seen a significant decline in property tax collections compared to last year, even though the tax due date was extended to the end of April and we are not there yet. The same is true of sewer billing payments. In addition, although the requirement to re-register vehicles for those that would have expired in March or April has been extended to 30 days after the end of the state of emergency (which is currently May 15<sup>th</sup> so the registration deadline would be June 15<sup>th</sup>, our excise tax collection is not far behind where it was last year at this time, and that revenue is not lost – it will be collected before fiscal year end. A spreadsheet is attached to this report that shows the amounts budgeted and the amounts collected to date. Sewer billing entirely supports the sewer treatment plan. And motor vehicle excise tax and property taxes are the two largest items that support municipal operations. It is also interesting to note that we have had a significant number of calls from people who have purchased new vehicles during this current shutdown.

Planning – I had hoped that by the time of this meeting that we would have more information from the state on the plan for re-opening the state, whether or not the stay-at-home order is continuing and if so, for how long, what the state's plans are related to school funding, etc. But as of today that has not been released. The four steps needed to reopen the state were outlined in a press release but there is no information as to how that relates to things such as holding mass gathering events, etc.. I am also meeting with School Superintendent Jim Boothby early next week to discuss school and town budgets. He is facing the same difficulty that I am in that without some clearer definition from the state in terms of funding for schools, revenue sharing, and what the schedule is for re-opening things – it is difficult to build a realistic budget. At this point he is working on an extension of the existing budget.

4-Point Loop – Attached to this report is a copy of a letter from Dick Campbell about the conversion of the '4 point Loop' to a stay-in-your-car phone video app event that will still draw large numbers of people to Bucksport. I have not seen details of how the stay-in-your-cars would be enforced, and with no knowledge of what the State is going to do in regard to such events for the summer and whether the promised fireworks etc would also be an in vehicle promoted event. There is the possibility of significant public safety issues depending on the number of vehicles and people who arrive in this community for such an event.