

MANAGER'S REPORT
April 2, 2020

Road Proposal Information – Contained with this report is additional information on what the costs would be to do the same roads identified in the original Road Bond proposal that was voted on in November 2019 as reclaim/grade/binder/surface and as rebuild with excavation and 2 feet of road base. The original proposal estimated cost is \$2,585,486, the reclaim/grade/binder/surface cost is estimated at \$5,361,266, and the rebuild cost is estimated at \$9,161,370. This does not include all of the roads in Bucksport – just those identified in the original proposal. This topic will be discussed again when we receive paving bids to see just what the reality of some of these options would look like.

Quarantine Option for Public Safety Personnel – Public Safety Director Geagan has made arrangements along with Ellsworth Police and Hancock County Sheriff's department for a location for any public safety personnel to quarantine if desired resulting from COVID-19 exposure to prevent exposure for their families.

Local Businesses – Thank you to all our local businesses who are able to still keep operating in some fashion to meet the essential needs of our community members. You are all doing an awesome job on the front lines of this pandemic and it is greatly appreciated.

Public Safety – When it comes to thank yous – we all owe big ones to Bucksport Public Safety – Police/Fire/EMS & Dispatch. They are doing a tremendous job in an increasingly risky environment for them personally. It is critical that we keep them safe and healthy so that they can continue to respond to calls for help.

Budget – You have approved an updated budget schedule and will be receiving an updated budget within the next few weeks. It will contain a number of options but keeps intact our service delivery system. There is a future beyond this pandemic and it is important that Bucksport continues to move forward in a positive way toward that future.

Staffing – There will continue to be someone at the other end of the phone for all departments during this pandemic. Our current staffing model is consistent with the standards set by the Governor's order and we will continue to operate in that fashion. In the past two weeks the town office has fielded 402 calls as of 4:30 today. I am pleased to report that we have been able to help all 402 in some fashion – many of which were just wanting information on what the current reality means in terms of their lives. So many people have just been grateful that someone answered the phone.

Volunteers – I have already had some people reach out who are willing to help with the meal delivery program if it is approved by the Town Council. I am touched – as always – by the giving community spirit of the people in Bucksport.

Donations – We have been blessed with donations of PPE from Keith Bires, Chris Jerome and Dr. Donald Ahearn a local dentist. It is imperative that we keep our Public Safety personnel safe so that they can continue to do their work to protect the lives and safety of the people of our community. The State of Maine has received its last shipment from the Strategic National Stockpile and state emergency management is no longer ordering so it is up to local providers to secure their own. Public Safety leadership is working tirelessly to secure additional PPE as are other people on their behalf.

Reminder – If you are just returning to Bucksport from another state where you have wintered or visited – please self-quarantine for 14 days before interacting with people and businesses in Bucksport. If you have friends and family here- have them drop off needed supplies without face-to-face contact. Toziers is offering delivery on Fridays from its Searsport grocery store as well. For visitors to the area, please follow those same guidelines. If you do not have friends or family to drop off supplies – call Toziers for delivery or call us at the Town Office Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and I will help you figure something out. People here are not mean and negative – but many are concerned - about their health and the health of their loved ones. If you are here to visit and you are following the 14 day quarantine protocols – people will respect your efforts.

Also – a reminder to our residents. There are many people in Maine from out of state as visiting nurses and medical personnel who have come to help. Many rental cars have out of state plates but are being operated by Maine residents – your friends and neighbors. I have my son's Connecticut car in my garage because he borrowed my husband's truck over a month ago and still has it. He is not here – his car is. Do NOT jump to conclusions. Please continue to be the same caring, kind Bucksport residents that I have always known you to be. This community is characterized by kindness. We should not let anything – even a pandemic – change the character of who we are.