

MANAGER'S REPORT
August 13, 2020

Paving – Our paving project is underway! You will have a Resolve on the next agenda to award the loan bid for Phase 1 of the project. Bids are due back on August 19th. We had discussed the idea of a line of credit that would cover three years, but the wording of the referendum requires a 7 year repayment. If we borrow each Phase separately, the repayment 7 years for each will be staggered and result in less impact to the budget overall.

Whole Oceans – Whole Oceans has closed its Portland Office and will be utilizing Bucksport as its headquarters. It has leased the building next to the Town Office and is finalizing construction plans so that site work can begin. Rich Rotella and I were invited to their office this past Friday and participated in a photo shoot that was used in the press release announcing the opening of the new office.

HOME Board of Directors – I have been invited to be a member of the H.O.M.E Board of Directors. This organization does important work in this region and I think it would be valuable for me to be on their board, but wanted to check in with the Town Council if there are any objections to my accepting this offer. Work on the Board would be outside of my normal work schedule.

Audit – We have been working on the 19/20 audit for the past week. This portion of it is being conducted from a distance and we have spent a good deal of time scanning and emailing documents to them for review. All is going well, but it is a good deal more work here than when they are able to be here in person and review information.

Census – The response rate for Bucksport as of this morning is 54.6% - which is ten percent less than it was in the 2010 Census. You can still do it online or by phone, and Census workers are also in the area knocking on doors. Everyone counts so please make an effort to participate and encourage your friends and family who live in Bucksport to participate as well.

Property Taxes – The first half of property taxes are due to avoid interest by August 31st. We have collected 12.6 % of the commitment since tax bills went out the second week in July. We have also collected 39.9% of the 19-20 tax liens that were placed on June 30th of this year. Thank you to all the residents who are doing such a great job. We have had some positive comments about tax bills going down – which is the combined impact of the 5 cent mil rate reduction and the increased Homestead Exemption.

COVID-19 Testing Available Locally – The Bucksport Regional Health Center is now doing COVID-19 Testing for both patients and non-patients and including both symptomatic and non-symptomatic persons. Testing times are Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 469-7371 and pressing option 6.

VISTA Volunteer- BBHCC – I participated in a zoom interview with a candidate for the VISTA volunteer position that the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition applied for some time ago. She is bright and energetic and I think would be an excellent fit for the organization and the community. The BBHCC has made an offer and is in the i-dotting, t-crossing stage of the process.

Silver Lake Courtesy Boat Inspections – A representative from the Hancock County Lake Association contacted me with an offer to do some courtesy boat inspections at the Silver Lake Boat launch. I asked her to contact our local Silver Lake Association to see what their thoughts were and she did so. I have attached emails that she sent in regard to this. The group has received some grant funding to do a pilot project with some boat inspections. Participation in this would be entirely voluntary on the part of any boater. There would only be a few days of inspections in this season, volunteer inspectors would be identifiable in bright yellow shirts and would practice safe COVID practices. Is there any objection to allowing such inspections?