



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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Monthly Report to the Town Council – July 2022 - Presented August 15, 2022

Esteemed Councilors,

July was an exciting month for us. We've been busy filling positions, launching new software solutions, procuring grants and beautifying the Town!

On July 14 we received the incredibly exciting news that Winslow is being awarded \$2.73 million under the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Plan funding. The Town has only a 9% match, so this is one of the best funding opportunities we've had in recent years. This money will be utilized to address the stormwater drainage issues on Cushman Road and Robert Street and will mitigate the flooding issues around McDonalds and Cumberland Farms. This project is a subset of the Sunset Heights Sewer Project and goes a long way towards addressing funding for that much larger project. It also allows us to begin work sooner than anticipated. Of the \$20 million awarded under this funding source across the state our award is the second largest! This was written up in the July 25 edition of the Morning Sentinel.

The Winslow Garden Club has continued to be busy making improvements around town. In addition to the plantings in Fort Halifax Park they have added planters to the two Welcome to Winslow Signs and will be working on the areas around the Town Office next. The bridge planters over the Sebasticook did not survive, but CMP volunteered to install six of our new banners in their place. The Garden Club has been doing great work and it has been noticed. They were the subject of a Morning Sentinel article by Amy Calder that ran on July 22.

I'm very excited to announce that the Executive Assistant position has finally been filled. Kaitlyn (Kaity) Philbrick started on July 18 and has been coming up to speed quickly. She is rapidly becoming a great asset to the Town.

We conducted the selection process for the Deputy Fire Chief authorized by the Council in the FY2023 Budget with a 5-person panel including Chief Bickford from Fairfield and Chief Howard from Skowhegan. Every effort was made to have a completely transparent process and I believe we accomplished that goal. I am pleased to announce that of the four candidates who applied and were interviewed (one from as far away as California) our own Scott Bolduc emerged as the top candidate. Scott will start in his new role on August 1. Please congratulate him on this career milestone!

We also welcomed Officers William Crawford and Ben Loubier to the Police Department, and firefighters Shawn Stetson, Michael (Misha) Littlefield and True Lynn Preble. Shawn and Misha actually started in late June. It's great to have all of them on board.

In July we also said goodbye to our Reserve Police Officers. The addition of one new full-time position in the FY2023 Budget negated the need for the part-time staff. I thank them for their years of service to the Town and wish them all the best. We also lost two of our most junior police officers, Bryce Scott and Marc Rousseau, to the Maine State Police. This is a big accomplishment for them, and I wish them all the best. Ben Loubier's transfer to the Police Department also left a new vacancy in the Fire Department. When all is

said and done, we have 1 vacancy in Police and 3 vacancies in Fire as of July 31.

On July 25 we finally launched the new Town Website. I must give credit to Kaity for making this happen. She jumped in with no training and figured out what needed to be done to fix the remaining issues so the site would be ready to go. She managed in two days what I have been trying to do since April! There are still pieces of the site that are under construction, but it is 90% complete and it is beautiful! Notable improvements in addition to the look are:

- Quick Links to the most common visitor needs
- Two front page alert areas to communicate time-sensitive, critical or emergency information
- The ability to report issues directly through the Town Website via the Citizen Portal (part of the Dude Solutions Asset Management System)
- The ability to sign up for alerts and news announcements from the Town
- An expanded News and Announcements section
- An easy to navigate front-page events and meetings calendar
- The ability to request a meeting with the Town Manager directly through the website

As you may have gathered from the website information, we have also completed implementation of the Dude Solutions Asset Management System. Each department will implement at their own pace. Parks and Public Works are the priorities, along with getting the Citizen Portal up and running. This system will give us the ability to not only track maintenance issues and our fleet but will also allow us to do less obvious tracking like how much time we spend on citizen complaints, when employee trainings and certifications are due, how much money and staff hours we spend on various work categories and when preventive maintenance needs to be performed. This is an immensely powerful tool that will add value the more data we enter. Amanda McCaslin has been a true champion for this system and the early adopter. She has already got Parks up and running and is working with her staff to fully implement in the field. Public Works is progressing with Sherie Fisher working with the mechanics and other staff to fully implement the program there.

The July Coffee with the Manager meeting was held on July 13 at Smiley's. We had our largest group attend so far, including many members of the Garden Club, Senate Candidate Dave LaFountain and State Treasurer Henry Beck. This is probably because everyone loves ice cream, but the word is getting out! People are becoming part of the discussion. The August meeting will again be at Smiley's, taking advantage of the summer weather while we can, on August 17 at 4 p.m.

Project Updates:

Comprehensive Plan. The Committee has completed the Land Use chapter which is the largest portion of the project remaining. The Committee will reconvene on August 24.

Dude Solutions. Implementation completed and working on pushing out to the field.

Junior High Environmental Study. Craig Wilson conducted the study with Shelley Phillips on May 19. We are awaiting the report.

Looking forward to August!

Respectfully submitted by,
Erica LaCroix
Town Manager