



TOWN OF WINSLOW

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(207) 872-1972 Phone
(207) 872-1997 Fax
www.winslow-me.gov

114 Benton Avenue
Winslow, ME 04901

Monthly Report to the Town Manager and Town Council December 2020

December was fairly quiet weather wise. The week of Christmas was the most active. We have not had any major equipment or personnel issues to date. The crew is still separated into two crews with two separate break and lunch areas. We have had a couple of employees quarantine due to second- hand exposure but all have tested negative. Hopefully, we can continue this trend through the winter. All four municipalities that were part of the proposed mutual aid agreement have signed on and are ready to help if needed. I have noticed recently that other areas of the state are initiating similar agreements, validating what we have done.

During some of the slower periods, we have kept the crew busy cutting trees at the Chaffee Brook Pump Station. When the station was built, they had planted a bunch of pine trees around the station. These have since grown very large and were causing issues with the roof and moisture in the brick. The trees were cut but the stumps remain so as to not disturb the archaeologically significant areas. We also had the crew cover a wall and install shelving in our storage building, allowing us to remove seasonal equipment from the main building. This removes some of the clutter in the bays and makes it easier for the drivers to maintain their equipment.

Last year, the Town was awarded a \$20,000 grant through DEP to study the effects of Climate Change on our sewer system. The study has been completed, and we have approximately \$5000.00 remaining on the grant. The DEP is allowing us to expend the remaining grant money to start addressing some of the deficiencies identified in the study. I am presently obtaining quotes to purchase transfer switches for the pump stations to allow us to connect our stand-by generator to these stations. Also, as part of these upgrades, I have been communicating with CMP to upgrade the 3-phase service to the affected stations. Presently, we own the transformers and we are not equipped to service these if necessary. It is preferred to have CMP own everything up to the meter.

Also, in December, we had a follow-up meeting with MDOT concerning pedestrian safety. The initial meeting was a year ago and their final recommendations were presented at this meeting. Many of the short term recommendations from last year have been initiated and others will take more time and effort to implement.

Finally, on December 18, we opened bids for the Benton Avenue Sewer Project. We had seven bids and the low bidder was Ranger Contracting at \$1.36 million. Our engineer's estimate was

\$1.60 million, so I believe we have a competitive price. With some due diligence and luck, we will have funds remaining on our USDA loan. Hopefully, we can utilize these funds for sewer work in the Sunset Heights Development. I am in the process of putting out an RFQ for engineering in this development.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paul E. Fongemie
Public Works Director