



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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Monthly Report to the Town Council –June 2022 - Presented July 11, 2022

Esteemed Councilors,

As June comes to a close Tanya and I are hard at working closing out the fiscal year and setting up our financials for FY2023. We won't know where we ended up for FY2022 until all June invoices and payments come in. This could take a month or more, but we should have a final balance and a budget balancing resolution to Council in August.

The June Coffee with the Manager meeting was held on June 1 at Northeast Labs. This was exciting because it's the first time the event has been held at a business that is not in the food service industry. It was great to involve the folks there and get some fresh insight into growth and development in Winslow. In July we are changing the event up a bit. With the first week of July being a short week we are moving it to Wednesday July 13, and instead of Coffee we'll be having a Cone with the Manager at Smiley's. Fingers crossed for good weather!

On June 11 we had a hugely successful Fort Halifax Days event. I want to thank Mike Heavener and Ray Caron for stepping up and making sure we had food when the Fire Association was unable to attend. They pulled this off with only two days' notice. This year's event was again heavily attended, perhaps even more than last year's 250th anniversary event. We had wonderful new vendors along with the living history reenactors that make the event so special. A huge pat on the back to Amanda McCaslin for pulling this event off and having it be such a success while she's also juggling the balls of summer youth sports, Summer Fun Camp and filling the seasonal parks maintenance positions! We're already looking ahead to next year and have some great ideas to keep growing this event.

On June 20 I had the immense pleasure of speaking at the Dirigo State event at Thomas College with Assistant Waterville City Manager Bill Post. We were tasked with talking to a group of high school Juniors about the differences in the various governing structures of municipalities in Maine. But the real meat of the talk came during the question-and-answer session. These kids had some great questions and insights on everything from careers in local government to the conflict between the Atlantic Salmon and the dams on the lower Kennebec. It was exciting to see that many of them were involved in their local governments and abreast of issues around the state already. One of the young men was already working for his local Public Works Department. We filled our allotted hour and easily could have continued on much longer. I thank Matthew LeClair for inviting us to speak.

We had some movement on the staffing front in June. The two vacant Firefighter positions were offered and filled, and we have three additional successful candidates to fill the new positions created in the FY2023 budget. This is surprising and encouraging as we thought we would struggle to find staff. We also have some great applicants for Deputy Fire Chief and will be holding those interviews later this month. The Executive Assistant interviews were completed, and an offer has been made. She has not yet accepted the position, but fingers crossed we will have someone in place by late July.

Project Updates:

The new Town Website. No update.

Dude Solutions. Training will be conducted July 11 and 12 and will be a 'train the trainer' format. The key departments are Public Works, Parks & Rec, Police and Fire, with Code Enforcement also having a significant involvement from the standpoint of inspections.

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

In June we were able to negotiate several procurements. These include the Asphalt bid, the Cemetery Contract, Pre-Audit and Audit services, and a renewal of the Town Attorney contract. These are critical services that must be maintained to ensure Town operations. Next up will be the refuse contract which expires next June.

July promises to be another full month as we work with the Auditors to finalize the books for FY2022 and set up all the new files and pay rates for FY2023. We also need to work on some new policies and ordinances. Never a dull moment!

Respectfully submitted by,
Erica LaCroix
Town Manager