

March has come and gone and hopefully winter as well. We have started our street and sidewalk sweeping. This will keep the crew busy for the better part of a month. We are still patching potholes. This should slow down now that the freeze thaw cycles are coming to an end. We have used a lot more cold patch this winter than normal. Hopefully spring will be kinder than the past winter was.

On March 18, 2014, Summit Gas held a training session in Fairfield for the area Public Works personnel. This was coordinated by Kennebec Water District. Our personnel now have some knowledge about working around gas lines and how to respond if an accident occurs. My crew is also going to Augusta on April 16, 2014 for a class on Dig Safe.

Our heavy truck issues are continuing. Our 2008 Sterling wheeler dump truck has been in Bangor the whole month of March with engine problems. I have been told that the repairs should be covered by the warranty. The warranty does not replace a main plow during snow storms. We were fortunate to be able to borrow Waterville's spare truck for most of March. Our other problem unit is our trash truck. We had a new OEM radiator installed by O'Connor Motors on February 27, 2014. This past Monday, April 7, 2014, we developed another leak. We had to dump the load on the ground and haul it to Oakland with dump trucks. We also had to complete Monday's trash run with loaders and dump trucks. We had the truck towed back to O'Connors and they are presently trying to find the leak. At present we are using a hired truck from CMD to complete the rest of this week's trash pickup. More info on both units to follow next month.

Since January I have been attending meetings in Vassalboro with the Sanitary District. As you are probably aware, they are exploring various options to upgrade their sewer treatment system. One of the options is to pump their sewage to KSTD in Waterville. To accomplish this, they would have to go through Winslow. This is why I was asked to sit in on these meetings and to give my opinion on the various proposals. At some point if the decision is made to pump to KSTD, the Vassalboro Sanitary District board members will have to meet with the Winslow Council to come to a formal agreement.

Finally, I would like to wish Frank Stankevitz well in his upcoming retirement. It has been a pleasure working with Frank. His vast knowledge of Winslow has been very helpful and useful. May your retirement be long and healthy.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Paul E. Fongemie
Public Works Director