



Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:
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Town of Winslow - In the heart of Central Maine representing People, Pride and Progress.

MSW COMMITTEE UPDATE

On December 30th the Municipal Solid Waste Committee met with representatives from WasteZero and EcoMaine. WasteZero helps communities administer a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program and EcoMaine operates a recycling facility in Portland, Maine and they help communities develop a recycling program.

It was pointed out during the meeting that communities who institute a PAYT program along with curbside recycling have the best success of reducing their MSW tonnage while increasing their recycling rates. Attached to this report is a table comparing recycling percentages of communities that have instituted one or more of the following: Mandatory Recycling, Curbside Recycling or PAYT.

WasteZero estimates that if we instituted a PAYT and Curbside Recycling program our annual MSW tonnage could be reduced by 1,272 tons with a savings in tipping fees of \$85,000. In addition, our annual recycling tonnage would go from an estimated 156 tons to 509 tons.

At the next MSW Committee meeting the Committee is planning to meet with select commercial trash haulers to discuss their services.

Also at the meeting on the 30th, Town Councilor and Committee member Ken Fletcher provided the Committee with a report of the MRC's annual meeting. As you may recall Councilor Fletcher was recently elected to the MRC Board. I have attached his report to this report as well.

CENTRAL MAINE GROWTH COUNCIL UPDATE

This past summer I reported that the Executive Director of the Central Maine Growth

Council (CMGC) had resigned and that the CMGC was planning to reorganize to improve its delivery of economic development services to the communities of Fairfield, Waterville and Winslow. Attached to this report are the proposed changes the CMGC is planning to make.

Winslow has been a member of the CMGC since 2001. The CMGC was instrumental in helping ALCOM with its most recent expansion. It was also instrumental in helping Orion RopeWorks expand its business here in Winslow.

The organization is somewhat unique because it involves a partnership between local government and private businesses. For example, the Board Chair is John Dalton, the CEO of Inland Hospital, and I am the Vice-Chair. Private businesses contribute approximately \$67,000 to the organization annually and the three municipalities contribute a total of \$59,950 annually. Winslow's annual contribution is \$16,656.

I support the changes being proposed to the CMGC because I believe a regional approach to economic development is the best approach. I also believe the private/public partnership has given the organization a unique perspective when planning and developing economic development strategies.

On Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00 PM the Waterville City Council will be holding a workshop to discuss their continued support of the CMGC. Winslow's Town Council and Fairfield's Town Council are welcome to attend the workshop.

REVISED BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Attached to this report is a revised budget workshop schedule. I moved the March 23rd date to March 30th and I have added April 1st to finalize the budget.