



# Town Manager's Report to the Town Council

Submitted by:  
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July 5, 2011

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

## FY 2011 PRELIMINARY BUDGET NUMBERS

June 30th was the last day of our 2011 fiscal year and the preliminary numbers are encouraging. We exceeded our revenue projections (*excluding property taxes*) by approximately \$242,700. Included in this amount is a \$22,835.97 payment from FirstPark that we did not anticipate. We have not yet received our final revenue sharing payment from the State, which is estimated to be \$31,394 and we still have \$618,971 in property taxes to collect for FY 2011.

On the expenditure side of the budget we spent \$261,108 less than budgeted. The department heads did a great job of managing their budgets.

These numbers are not final, however, they are an indication of our financial status at the end of the fiscal year. The auditors will be here in August and we will have final budget numbers in September.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HIRED

On Monday, June 27, Paul Fongemie of Old Town, Maine accepted the Public Works Director position. Paul is currently employed by the Town of Milford as the Public Works Director and he has a B.S degree in Civil Engineering. He is scheduled to begin here on July 25, 2011.

Paul was among five (5) candidates interviewed by the Interviewing Committee consisting of Gerald Saint Amand, Catherine Nadeau, Judy Mathiau, Bruce Williams and myself. The committee was unanimous in selecting Paul as the top candidate.

In your packet is Resolution No. 14-2011, which if approved will confirm the hiring of Paul Fongemie.

## FT. HALIFAX PARK CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

In your packet is Resolution No. 15-2011, which if approved will adopted the Fort Halifax Park Concept Master Plan prepared by the Fort Halifax Park Planning Committee as the Town's official park plan.

Since the 1970's, and perhaps earlier, this community has had a vision for development in the park but the town has never adopted an official development plan. We will be taking the first steps towards mapping out possible future development at the park if the concept master plan is adopted by the town.

If the plan is adopted then I recommend we form a Fort Halifax Park Implementation Committee and we charge the committee with creating a detailed, phased, development plan with cost estimates based on the concept master plan.

I also recommend that we partner with the Friends of Fort Halifax to develop and implement a fundraising strategy to provide funding for the phased development projects approved by the Town Council.

It is important to note that it could take many years to fully implement a phased plan, which is why having a plan is so important.

## PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE UPDATE

As you know, the Town Council approved the transfer of funds to purchase a new PW truck with plow gear and a new truck body. The cost was estimated to be \$160,000.

The Bid Committee accepted bids totaling \$174,020. We have \$170,000 in the PW capital line item. At some point in the future I will be recommending the transfer of funds to address the \$4,020 deficit.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT UPDATE**

As you know, we collaborated with the City of Waterville and the Sustain Mid Maine Coalition in obtaining an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant from the Efficiency Maine Trust in the amount of \$170,000. The grant funds are helping us fund two projects: 1) Residential Energy Efficiency and 2) Community District Energy.

The original goal of the residential energy efficiency project was to improve the energy efficiency of 50 homes in Winslow and 50 homes in Waterville. That goal has been expanded to include multifamily structures. To date we have completed 98 Consultations, 43 Energy Audits, and 24 Weatherization's.

The community district energy project has not begun yet but will likely consist of a feasibility study for a renewable energy combined-heat and power facility. The facility could provide low cost electricity, steam and hot water that could attract businesses to the area.

## **FT. HILL CEMETERY SLOPE**

Peter Newkirk has provided me with a plan to cut down 15 trees on the Ft. Hill Cemetery slope to help reduce the risk of additional slope failures at that location. He is recommending that trees greater than 6" in diameter be limbed out and all

felled trees are to remain on the slope.

I will be working with a contractor to have the trees cut.

## **PROPERTY RIGHTS ACQUISITION**

The Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to acquire property rights from the town by filing a Notice of Layout and Taking at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds. The property rights acquisition is due to the Mile Brook Bridge reconstruction project and includes the following:

1. The fee acquisition of 869 Sq. Feet.
2. A drainage easement.
3. Two temporary construction right-of-ways involving 1,166 Sq. Feet.

MDOT is planning to pay the town \$620 for the property rights.

In your packet is Resolution No. 16-2011 that if approved will authorize me to sign a Property Rights Acquisition Agreement with the MDOT.