

Manager's Report for June 2020

We're still working on getting finalizations for Fernald Ave and paving projects. I have received the plans for Fernald Avenue road reconstruction. This will go out to bid ASAP. Once we receive the bids back for that, we will put paving out to bid. Public Works is replacing culverts on the roads that are being planned for paving. Public Works is also screening gravel for future projects.

I have received two requests to use town facilities. The first request came from State Motor Vehicle division – they are not using their own facilities for training and are asking for off-site locations. I offered either the auditorium or the gymnasium. They will get back to me if they want to use it. I have scheduled Tuesday, June 30th, with Andre Cushing, a Penobscot County Commissioner, to hold a public hearing for the \$6,000,000 bond they are requesting to update and modernize their radio towers.

We sent out our 30-day tax lien notices in May and will be applying the 2019 Tax liens, June 25, 2020. It's later in the year than I would like, but we wanted to give people some extra time because of the COVID-19.

The preliminary school budget, if it passes, will decrease approximately \$22,500 over last year's budget. This is great news for our mil rate! The school budget passed at the June 23rd vote, but we are required to hold the validation vote in all towns. This will happen with the primary voting on July 14th. We will be voting at the school/community center this year, due to COVID-19 and the requirements for social distancing.

I received an email from the Town Manager of Orono, offering UMaine civil engineering students to work on town projects for their graduation capstone projects. This is a free service, because these students need to complete a project to graduate. I contacted the professor at the University regarding the two projects we have in limbo right now – the school and the proposed fire station. I'll know more in late July when I speak directly with the professor.

The DECD has given an extension for the contract for the water system repairs – the one we have a grant for. They are extending the deadline for completion due to COVID-19.

I have set a date with MMA representative, Lance Lemieux, to review our safety policies and procedures – working toward being in compliance with MMA's suggestions will give us those reduced W/C rates. This review will be done in July, and we must submit everything by Sept 1 (I think they extended the deadline on that due date due to COVID-19).

Finally, I have received a 5-year amortization schedule for the new public works truck, just in case we postpone purchasing in full this year.