



## Town of Rockport, Maine

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### Town Manager's Report & Update January 7, 2021

#### **Payment In Lieu of Taxes**

Maine Media College and Workshops provided a payment of \$2,500 in lieu of taxes to recognize services provided by the Town especially in fire safety.

Center for Furniture Craftmanship provided a payment of \$3,000 in lieu of taxes to recognize services provided by the Town.

Thank you, letters were sent to both non-profit organizations for their donations.

#### **Workers' Compensation Insurance**

Our experience modification has decreased from 0.79 to 0.77 resulting in a decrease in our workers' compensation insurance premium of \$8,247.60 for 2021. Thanks to our Safety Coordinator, Safety Committee, and employees for keeping our workplace safe!

#### **COVID-19 Update on Staff and Town Office**

Due to the increasing number of active COVID-19 cases in the state and Knox County in particular, effective December 28<sup>th</sup>, I split the Town's non-emergency staff into two "Teams" with one team working in municipal buildings and one team working remotely, where possible. These teams will alternate between working in municipal buildings and working remotely every other day. While not ideal, this will ensure that no single department would be entirely infected from a COVID-19 exposure and we would not have to close the Town Office to the public.

Because of this, there are days that the Clerk's Office and front counter are closed for transactions during the lunch period. These closures are noted at the Town Office, on the website and the Town's Facebook page.

I originally had hoped that this would be only for three weeks, through January 15<sup>th</sup>, but at this point, it appears that it will need to be extended as active COVID-19 cases continue to increase.

### **Town of Rockport Website Update**

Town staff are currently reviewing, testing and adding new material to the Town's new website. We do expect to launch the new website by the end of January. The address will remain the same: [www.rockportmaine.gov](http://www.rockportmaine.gov)

### **Wastewater Update – Camden Treatment Plant Upgrade**

We are working with the Town of Camden officials on what Rockport's share of the Camden Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades will be. Woodard & Curran is assisting the Town with this and working with the Camden Treatment Plant operator. I will provide updates as we progress.

### **Tax Acquired Property**

Since the Town did not receive any bids for the tax acquired property at 280 Rockland Street with the first advertisement, the Town will be advertising the property again with the same minimum bid of \$30,000. In addition, we have received calls after the first bid date closed from interested individuals. We will be sending a bid package to those that expressed interest.

### **Budget Committee Vacancy**

We intended to have an agenda item to fill the Budget Committee vacancy at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, the Town is waiting for the completed committee application forms from those that are interested in the position. This will be on the Board's January 25<sup>th</sup> agenda for consideration of an appointment.