



Town of Rockport, Maine

Town Manager's Office

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Town Manager's Report & Update February 2, 2021

Officer Celjeta Bixahu

On January 29, 2021, Officer Celjeta Bixahu became a citizen of the United States, along with her mother and sister. Congratulations to all!

Town of Rockport Website

I am very pleased to announce that the Town's new website was launched on Monday, February 1st. After many months of work by Executive Assistant Diane Hamilton, the new website is a major upgrade that is more user-friendly and easier for staff to add and edit material. The site is also mobile-friendly and can easily be viewed by any mobile device such as tablets and smart phones without losing functionality. I ask everyone that uses the website to be patient as material will continue to be added and edited over the next several months now that the site is live.

Tax Acquired Property Bids

Bids for the tax acquired property located at 280 Rockland Street are due on Thursday, February 4th at 2:00 p.m. and will be opened at that time. As of this writing (February 2nd) we have received one bid. The bids will be reviewed, and I expect to ask the Select Board to accept a bid during your February 22nd meeting.

MDOT 3-year Workplan

The MDOT's 3-year workplan was released and includes seven projects in Rockport for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 construction years.

In 2021, the sidewalk project from approximately Maritime Farms in Rockport to Quarry Hill Road in Camden will be constructed. This is a shared project with Camden and MDOT with funding from all three. I am still determining what Rockport's share is of this project and will include that amount in the FY22 budget. We do have approximately \$17,000 currently designated for this project. Also, in 2021, drainage improvements will be completed on Route 90 in Warren, Rockland and Rockport, Route 1 will have a thin layer of pavement for the section that will not be impacted by the Wastewater Project and preliminary design and engineering for the Pascal Avenue Bridge Replacement will be completed. The plan for the Pascal Avenue bridge includes an initial public meeting in the fall or winter, with the proposed preliminary bridge plan to be done by September 2022, followed by a formal public meeting with

construction to begin in Spring 2024. Of course, this is all subject to change. I have contacted the MDOT Regional Planner and project manager to let them know that the Town wants to be involved in this project as much as possible, including with aesthetic decisions of the new bridge.

In 2022 and 2023, Pascal Avenue, Route 90 and a section of Route 1 are planned to be paved.

State Budget

The Governor's budget for the state for the next two years was released in mid-January. It is all good news at this point from a municipal perspective. The municipal revenue sharing percentage is staying at 3.75% of sales and income tax (no decrease) and the amount is expected to increase slightly in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The budget proposes an increase in funding for education, holds the homestead exemption reimbursement at its current level (70% reimbursement) and maintains the Local Road Assistance Program at current levels.

MMA's Legislative Policy Committee

The LPC had its first meeting of the year to review proposed bills that are related to municipal government. During this first meeting, the LPC reviewed, debated, and took positions on approximately 40 bills. I will continue to monitor legislation throughout the session. There are bills in the legislature that allow for remote meetings of public proceedings after the state of emergency has expired that are supported by several legislators.