

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

Police – Officer Appointment

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Antonio “Tony” Del Vecchio to the Rockport Police Department as a full-time employee. Antonio has been working for us on a part-time basis since June 5, 2017 and has exceeded Police Chief Randy Gagne’s expectations. Tony is a graduate of the Southern Maine Community College with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. He recently has been employed for over two years with the Scarborough Police Department and currently resides in Warren.

He is a welcome addition to the Rockport Police Department.

Police – Other

All officers recently passed their range qualifications along with the Camden officers. I attended again to watch them qualify and was very impressed with the seriousness with which they do this. The administrative assistant is now working a 20-hour schedule consisting of two 8 hour days on Tuesday and Wednesday and a 4-hour day on Thursday.

Pascal Avenue - High Sidewalk

The delays on the high sidewalk are caused by the fact that we had to delay the project for 6 months and the fabricator of the railing is having to fit the project in around other projects that were already scheduled for this spring. The latest opening date is the end of July. There is some interest in doing a ribbon cutting to formally open it by Leni Gronros of the C-R Pathways Committee.

Route 1 and 90 Traffic lights

The new lights have been installed and are working just fine now. After some initial problems with the directional arrows for lane assignments, the traffic flow seems to be correct now. The crossing signals have all been installed and we are just waiting for MDOT to come in and finish up the painting of the crosswalk and the final part of the sidewalk.

As stated in an earlier report, our doing the work on the sidewalk was the trigger MDOT needed to put in the crossing signals which will save the town of Rockport about \$50,000.00 in the future.

Mount Pleasant Street

The PWD crew is finishing up the remainder of the ditching we have to do before the other major work on Mt. Pleasant Street can begin. Gartley and Dorsky are finishing up the

engineering they have to do on the road so that it can go out to bid in the next couple of weeks or so. We are hoping to begin work on the road by late August.

Walker Park

Walker Park has dried up enough so that we removed the flagging around the wet spot that is normally caused by spring runoff. This year a leak in the water main at the top of hill was also contributing to the problem.

Streetlights

We have been following up on the streetlight outage list and the chief has it scheduled for the night-time officer to do another check this month.

In addition, Jan Rosenbaum has been leading the charge with Megan and me in looking at the cost effectiveness of changing over to LED lights throughout the town.

After several exploratory meetings, I believe that we have enough information for us to report back to the Board at the first meeting in August. After an initial investment in purchase of the fixtures, there could be enough savings to pay back that investment in under 5 years, saving the Town tens of thousands of dollars for many years into the future.

In addition, the new fixtures are much better at limiting light flow up and ruining the night sky. They are also capable of offering many more features for the town such as cameras at dangerous intersections.

Jan is prepared to report out at the August 14th Board meeting.

Library Water Leak

The clean-up has been completed and the Library opened on June 28th after being closed for 5 days. All in all, there was little permanent damage to any of our equipment or books. The carpets were all cleaned and treated with an anti-mold product. The walls were all dried and tested for moisture.

The question of who is responsible for the cleanup has not been solved as of yet. The owner of course thinks it is our responsibility, our lawyers are dealing with that now.

I want to thank the Library Staff and any volunteers who were in moving books from the bottom shelves and re-shelving them to get reopened. They certainly made a very bad situation much more manageable.

Employee Safety Training

Diane has arranged an employee training for employees, particularly those who work outside, called Tick Talk where she has three experts coming in to make a presentation on ticks and tick safety. The Town Office will be closed during this training so those employees can also attend. Camden employees have also been invited.

The program is being held on Tuesday at 8 am at the Rockport Opera House and will be live streamed, so that the public who are interested, can watch at any time they want.

This is the link: <https://livestream.com/Rockportmaine/events/7554963>

Employee Retirement

Public Works Secretary, Sue Dates has announced her retirement to begin in the next 6 or 7 weeks, depending on when a replacement can be found and she can get the new person oriented. She has been with the Town of Rockport since July 1, 2005.

Potential items for the November Ballot

Just as a heads up we currently have three items for consideration on the November Ballot. The first being the land use ordinance change to limit the commercial sale of marijuana. Some minor changes to the Town Charter that keep up with changes in actual practice. These changes are not considered substantive and Town Counsel says that they do not need to be considered by a reconstituted Charter Commission and finally a formal “road posting ordinance” for when we close roads to trucks in the spring.

Spear Street Sewer Extension

The Spear Street sewer extension has been abandoned and the property owner has negotiated an agreement with the Megunticook Golf Course to locate a leach field on their property and that construction is nearly complete. The cost to be paid by the property owner exceeded his willingness to pay and the costs for the Town exceeded the real benefit to the sewer users.

Public Works Department

The crew has been working hard on roadside mowing, tree work, ditch work and culvert replacements all over Town. In addition, they have been straightening signs that have gotten out of alignment over the winter. Crosswalks and lines in parking lots have all been painted.

They have been very short-handed as one employee has been out as a result of the fact that his stepdaughter was in a serious accident and the recovery has been very difficult.