

Manager's Report – September 11, 2017,

Public works

Mt Pleasant Street is proceeding with revisions the contract has been awarded to JBI to remove material in all identified spots where we have been having problems with mud. The cost of this phase will be about \$155,000. This will not do the final lift of gravel in preparation for paving. We will look at that in the spring and decide then if we have enough money to do that phase or not.

Summer Street is supposed re-sloped and paved this week.

Paving has been awarded to Pike paving at a price of \$61.75 per ton. Paving should be starting in the next couple of weeks. Pike will be subcontracting that work to Performance Paving in the interest of getting the work done as quickly as possible. Performance has done the work the past couple of years and we have been very happy with the work they have done.

Assessing

We committed taxes August 24th and tax bills were sent out.

The new mil rate is actually going to be \$14.75 or a \$.14 increase, \$.26 lower than expected and less than 1%. To put it in context, at budget time, our prediction for the new mil rate was expected to be \$15.01. that is up \$.40 from \$14.61. While some taxpayers would love to see no increase or even a reduction in the mil rate, this is much better than expected.

This is very good news and is the result of several things, first the reduction you made to the budget at Town meeting, next the investment we made in hiring a utilities expert to look at values of CMP and finally the re-evaluation of time shares.

A lot of credit in getting the mil rate down has to go to Kerry and Caitlin who worked a lot chasing new value. This was time consuming and arduous, but between the two of them they legitimately found millions of dollars in new value, that was key in that 26 cents savings that all the taxpayers will enjoy.

I cannot overstate the importance of the work that the two of them have done. it is not the super cool stuff like building a new beautiful sidewalk, being the first library in the State to have Virtual Reality or rescuing someone from a car wreckbut it is important in so many other ways.

Thank you, Kerry and Caitlin, for a job well done.

Fire Department

The fire chief and two members of the Fire Department returned from a trip to FL to meet with the builders of the new truck that is expected to be delivered sometime after July 1, 2018. This is a preliminary meeting to be sure that we get the truck built the way that we want.

The fundraising campaign to assist the City of Rockport Texas has raised over \$17,000 so far in donations. We are still waiting to hear if our assistance will be needed in Rockport. I am planning on meeting with the City Manager in Rockport while at the ICMA convention in San Antonio.

Police

The Police Department is still shorthanded however we have been able to maintain coverage using some of Camden's officers to cover a few shifts. Thank you to all of the Officers of Both Departments that have been holding things together.

Personnel Changes

With Stacey leaving to take over the position as Town Clerk for the Town of Union, I have moved Diane Hamilton to move into the position as my assistant in the manager's office. We have replaced her with Hannah Sisk who has taken to the new position quite nicely. We are advertising for a person to take over with accounts payable and payroll to help in Finance. We hope to have that position filled in the next few weeks. GA is temporarily being handled by Janice in Camden and I will be working with The Camden TM to develop an agreement for shared services long term.

Library Survey

The library survey is due to hit the mail on September 14th. The preliminary notification went out in Wednesdays mail and that notification is just asking people to be on the lookout for the survey next week.

The signs will go out very soon.

The door to door campaign could be in jeopardy based on the number of people it will take to do a complete and thorough campaign. It is estimated that it would take about 50-75 volunteers to cover the town in a weekend.

It may be that this is more than we can handle. The only way possible is to open the door to anyone that wants to help and trust that the training and statement they sign will ensure that they do not do anything other than remind people to take the survey.

Office Closed October 4th for the MMA convention. This is the annual staff training provided by MMA

Staff members participated in a water rescue training at the harbor where they got to see me be rescued and learn about drowning victims. They also attended a morning Safety Jeopardy game which focused on training we have had in the past as a refresher.

I will be out of the office late Wednesday afternoon, September 13th through Friday afternoon the 15th to attend the MMA Executive Committee meeting strategic planning session in Kennebunkport.