

FROM: Bill Lawrence, Town Manager  
DATE: September 22, 2017  
TO: Board of Selectmen  
SUBJECT: Manager's Report

**Mid-Coast Municipal Association:** I attended the meeting last Friday in Rockland. This was the first meeting after the summer break. We had a presentation and discussion with MMA Risk Management Services. We were introduced to their new Employment Practices Assistance program. The presenters were Marcus Ballou and Michelle Pelletier.

**Recreation Programs** are back at the Warren Community School. John Leach and I had a very productive meeting with Steve Nolan, Deb Howard and Karla. We discussed better controls for securing the building, damage to the facility and having better communication. We came to an agreement on the issues.

**School Board Meeting:** I attended the RSU40 School Board meeting in Friendship this week. I have been speaking with Jay Feyler of Union and we are both concerned about the recent action taken by the board. The Maine Department of Education sent additional state subsidies to the RSUs and Districts in addition to their budgets. The intent of this law passed in July was to offer tax payer relief. This is not going to happen. Jay was asked to be placed on the agenda for this meeting and this did not occur. He will be speaking during the Audience with the Public portion of the agenda and I will be supporting his proposal. Our request is for the School Board to carry out the intent of the law and to lower the town's contribution. See the e-mail below we received by the RSU.

Good morning,

As you know, RSU 40 received notification from the Maine Department of Education that we will receive an additional \$590,526.59 in State Subsidy for the fiscal year 2017-18. We were advised from legal counsel that there are three (3) options of what to do with the extra money:

- 1) Have the board vote to let the \$590,526.59 roll into fund balance at the end of the fiscal year,
- 2) Have the board vote to use 50 percent of the increase (\$295,263.30) to lower the local contribution from each of the towns and the remaining \$295,263.30 roll into fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. The amount that would be returned to each town, using the cost sharing formula, is as follows:

Friendship \$ 37,251.60  
Union \$ 43,721.41  
Waldoboro \$104,863.64  
Warren \$ 78,643.38  
Washington \$ 30,783.27

3) Have a budget committee meeting, district budget meeting and possible budget validation referendum, returning more than 50 percent of the subsidy increase (\$295,263.30) to the towns to lower the local contribution and/or decide what warrant article(s) to increase or let the remainder of the extra subsidy roll into fund balance.

Please note that the budget committee meeting, district budget meeting and possible budget validation referendum would only need to take place if we return more than 50 percent of **the** additional subsidy back to the towns to lower the local contribution and/or we wanted to increase the budget expenditures.

At its regular business meeting on August 3rd, the school board voted to let the entire amount roll into fund balance at the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

**Public Works** has cleaned up the tree at River View Cemetery. They continue to work on the snow plow maintenance. Some of the plows have lasted more than 20 years because of their process in maintenance. This time of year they grind off the paint and rust, paint with primer and repaint the plow to prevent rusting.

**Tax Bills** have been sent out. There is an error on the bill concerning dates. The date for the May payment shows May 2017 and should read 2018. We will send a post card reminder in the spring like we did this past year. Tax Liens have been discharged and sent to the Knox County Registry of Deeds.