

## **Manager's Report**

First I would like to thank the many residents who have taken the time out of their busy day to either call or to stop by the town office meet with me and say how nice it is to have someone local as a Town Manager. I would also like to thank the Board of Selectpersons for their continued support as we try and move Howland forward in a positive direction while improving our infrastructure and moving forward with our goals of economic development.

Many smaller communities in rural Maine have struggled with economic growth during difficult economies. We are hoping that we will be able to move Howland forward from a bedroom community to a more vibrant future. This past year we have had some new commercial building permits filed that will add to our tax base without taking away our feeling of small town living. Other areas we are pursuing are grants for infrastructure upgrades. This past year our Waste Water Department applied for and were awarded a \$100,000 wastewater infrastructure improvement grant that will fund 80% of pump station upgrades that will allow us the ability to monitor our pumps which will allow us to better manage the five pump station in town. In February the residents approved moving forward with constructing a new municipal building that will house the not only the fire department but the town office and library as well.

As I write this report we are in the middle of the Covid19 pandemic which has made life difficult for everyone in the country. During this pandemic we expect a downward trend in revenues from the state such as the state revenue sharing and the local road assistance program; Our medical transfer have also dropped off due to the hospitals opting not to do some selective surgeries during this time frame. These all relate to loss of revenue which we will need to review our operations going forward and continue to budget in way that minimizes the burden on taxpayers.

Through careful budgeting we have seen some much needed road improvement projects become a reality and these are scheduled to continue. Over the past year we have rebuilt a section of the North Howland Road, River Road, Caron Drive and Terrio Street. We also expanded the parking area on Terrio St by the ballfield.

The Fire/EMS Department continues to grow and provide a higher level of service not only to Howland but the surrounding communities as well. Their service and dedication to the communities is unmatched and their service is appreciated by everyone. This past year we have purchased two newer ambulances which will allow us to continue to provide exceptional EMS service to the communities.

I'd also like to personally thank my coworkers who go above and beyond to make sure the citizens and visitors alike have safe roads to travel on, professional and experienced emergency response services, recreation activities and exceptional customer service here in the town office and library.

David Lloyd, Town Manager