

04/13/12 Message

FOAA Request

On March 28th I received the following FOAA request from Michelle Arsenault, "I am requesting to see ALL emails to and from your email address rkulow@polandtownoffice.org regarding me (Michelle Arsenault)." After several failed attempts to email her the requested information because her computer was not accepting what I sent her, I broke down the emails into small groups of ten to email to her. The total time it took me to fulfill the request for information (emails) was 5.25 hours. Since the first hour is free and municipalities are allowed to charge \$10 per hour after the first hour, the bill to her amounted to \$42.50.

Town Hall Capital Projects

This past Tuesday we hosted a pre-bid conference and walk-around with prospective bidders for Town Hall capital projects. Only one representative from a sprinkler company attended, as did only one general contractor interested in the building renovations. Attendance at the pre-bid conference was mandatory in order to have a proposal considered.

Proposals will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 27, at which time they will be opened and read in the Town Office conference room.

LP Gas Proposals

I continue to wait to receive the final proposals for LP gas from the last couple of fuel companies, but I want to mention today's visit by Irving Oil personnel. They came here to see all the gas tank and connection locations – the only company that has made this effort, to my knowledge. Unfortunately, the pair identified some code violations and safety issues which need to be addressed right away. We discussed their observations with the CEO, who immediately notified Safety Committee members and department heads of the safety threats. Problem areas exist behind the Town Hall, at several places at the transfer station, and at the Fire Station. Serious threats to safety are being eliminated immediately, and less serious code violations will be rectified as soon as possible.

Planning Consultant

Longtime planning consultant for the Town of Poland, Bob Faunce, is terminating his working relationship with the Town of Poland. Therefore, the Town will seek proposals from qualified consultants through a request-for-proposals process to offer third-party review services to the Planning Board and other planning or engineering expertise, as needed and requested by the Town. The Code Enforcement Officer/Planner and I are in the process of developing an RFP presently. A third-party reviewer will only be used for large or complicated projects going before the Planning Board for which the Code Enforcement Officer either does not have the time or expertise to manage. We most certainly extend our sincere thanks to Bob Faunce for his many years of service to the Town of Poland.

Deputy Eric Samson

Deputy Eric Samson, nighttime officer in Poland, is transferring to another detail, so he will be leaving service with the Town of Poland. The Sheriff's Department is initially posting the position in-house, but will expand the search, if necessary. They will use a hiring process that includes a Poland Selectperson and Town Manager on the interview panel. I am hoping that a Selectperson will be selected by the Board at the April 17th meeting to serve as its representative on the interview panel. The law enforcement contract budget may change depending on who is hired for the position. The contract needs to be signed in May, so final changes to the contract need to be made before that.

AVCOG Annual Meeting

Wednesday evening Selectperson, Wendy Sanborn, and I attended the annual meeting of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn. This was a very special occasion because it celebrated AVCOG's 50th anniversary as an organization. A brief history was recounted, the business meeting was held, and awards were presented to employees and businesses. We were treated to a fine meal and Maine humorist, Gary Crocker, to conclude the program. This area is fortunate that such a highly respected and effective organization serves us by fostering regional cooperation among its member municipalities and the business community.