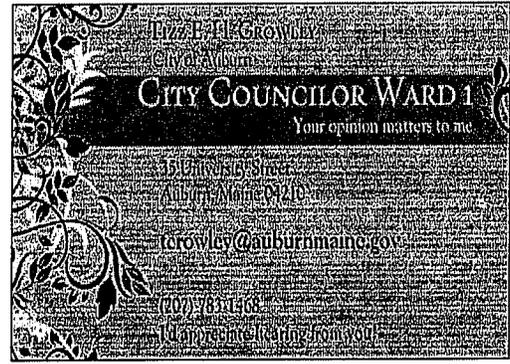


Auburn Ward 1 Report for Meeting Monday 2014.09.09

TO: Residents of Auburn and the Auburn City Council
FROM: Tizz E. H. Crowley- Auburn City Council Ward 1



Writing tonight's report has been quite distressing. I'm changing my usual format to address key items.

Situation at Lake Auburn- Last week, at the regular

meeting of the Auburn Water District Trustees, we were updated on the condition of the intake line for the drinking water supply to Auburn and Lewiston. Michael Broadbent, the UV plant manager, provided written material and gave a slide presentation including a video recording of the inside of the ONLY intake line. It was awful- and I'm not an engineer!

The current intake line was one of the first joint Auburn-Lewiston projects. It was completed in 1996. This single, jointly-used line replaced two separate intake lines. Our problem... is the sharp increase in maintenance associated with the intake as a direct result of organic matter buildup clinging to the sidewalls and bottom of the main.

What once was a periodic cleaning of screens, one a month, has now become cleaning every 3 to 4 days. In the past year we have had two failures with both the intake screens and the low lift pumps that disabled our ability to supply water to Auburn and Lewiston for an entire day. The screens are on the verge of failure.

In October 2013, staff attempted to camera the intake line and were only able to navigate 130' before the camera stirred up the line to the point of failure. There is almost a foot of sediment on the bottom of the main and 2-3" coating on the sides.

The Trustees, upon review and with recommendation of staff, authorized a contract for the cleaning of the intake line as soon as possible. We unanimously felt we could not wait even a week to seek other bids. If the system failed, we did not want to say "we're waiting for bid responses".

But this is not the most distressing part of this report. All the documents and recommendations, including a detailed proposal from Terry Berry Company for the cleaning work, were completed over six months ago. The site evaluation was October 28, 2013. In addition, the contract cannot be executed and work begun until a vote of the Lewiston City Council scheduled in October. I got no explanation to give you as to why notice to trustees was delayed, why Lewiston isn't taken action sooner based on the urgency of the matter. What will be the answer to a resident if the system fails tomorrow? There is no other intake valve. Due to a variety of circumstances, one of the

recent failures had the City of Lewiston within hours of no drinking water supply as reported by Mr. Broadbent. What will happen if the City of Lewiston doesn't allocate funds? I'll report back to you when I get an understandable answer. For the full report- check out the Water District agenda packet for last week's meeting.

Tonight's agenda has two items where there should be a public hearing-but no public hearing notice is on the agenda. We had the same situation our last meeting regarding a TIF. Tonight's it's a zoning change and food codes. Yes, the City of Auburn met the legal obligation of posting a legal notice in the local newspaper- but I do not consider such action as "appropriate notice to residents" which is what I asked about last week. So I reached out to a random number of Ward 1 residents as well as all members of the City Council and the City Managers. I did a brief survey: I asked if the household subscribed to the newspaper, if the household read the legal notices, how they got news about City of Auburn activities and how they would like to receive communication other than the telephone. I didn't hear back from those at this table, but many residents were quick to reply. The majority do not get the paper, those who read on-line say the legal notices are not found readily and the preferred method of communication was email and Facebook (quite age driven), the city website, LA Alerts and the news paper articles. Of course my quick survey was biased in that I only contacted people that had an email address. Wonder if those without subscribe to the paper more and read the legal notices. A more important question is what steps has the Council and the City taken towards our goals of better communication and greater civic engagement?

Effective tonight, I am resigning from the Audit Committee for the City of Auburn. It is imperative that we support majority rule and in the manner the Audit Committee has chosen to operate, I cannot do this, so I resign.

Tonight I will also be sending my resignation from the County Budget Committee. As I stated before I accepted the nomination last year, my first responsibility is to my work as an Auburn City Councilor. I did not get the promised assistance or resources from the City. I also find this Council isn't that interested in the County activities- evident by our lack of movement on the Dispatch issue and our reluctance to look at the potential \$800,000 savings if we joined Cumberland County. It takes 11 of the 14 members of the County Budget Committee to make recommendations for changes to the budget. The process does not work. My time, energy and efforts are better spent serving the residents of Auburn.

"Thank you"- Thank you to Cote Crane for all your company is doing relating to the St. Louis Bells. Thank you to the community members who attended and participated in Saturday's event. Thank you to the donors who are generously giving to keep the Bells in Auburn.

Visiting Hours- My next visiting hours will be this Thursday, September 25th from 5-7pm at the Auburn Public Library.

News to Share: There is a lot going on at the Lake Auburn Community Center (LACC) this summer with two grant awards in full swing! Project Canopy, a Maine Forestry Service initiative brings well irrigation, an educational sign kiosk; a tree nursery and property forest plans, surveyed easements and more to the community. Another grant by the Federal & State Recreational Trail Program rebuilds the "Conservation Trail" for year round public use accessing Lake Auburn for generations to come.

The lake association, through generous donations, has also funded many other improvements to the property, horse shoe pits, tether ball, and now disc golf. This picnic area is a perfect destination for gatherings, work related outings or just fun with friends and family. Also many structure improvements to insure public safety including a barn make-over is well underway. LAWNA would like to thank the outstanding volunteers that make up the management team for the LACC property, they unselfishly provide the means to improve neighborhood access and share that with the general public.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. With the support of Mayor LaBonte and others Auburn will promote the important message of early detection is the best cure. We want to include news of all individuals, businesses and organizations who will have a pink event/activity in October- so please email me with your details. By this Friday afternoon, we will have an Auburn Pink Calendar. You pick up a copy at the Pink Prelude locations during the Art Walk this Friday. It should also be posted to the City Website by October 1st.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am providing a copy of this report to the City Manager and the City Clerk to include in the supplement documents to the agenda packet... as we are suppose to be doing with any materials provided to the Council at the table.