



**City Manager's Report  
November 18, 2024**

**Economic Projects**

<b>River Front - Powerplants</b>	The EPA is demobilizing at the steam plant. This is a CERCLA removal project undertaken at no cost to the City. They took 11 roll-offs with 6-7 tons each of hazardous materials. A fact sheet can be found online. Now the Brownfields project at the diesel plant can begin..
<b>Broadband Initiative</b>	Charter/Spectrum & MCA had a kick-off meeting in August. Charter has received their first batch of pole permits. They will build out in sections as the pole permits are approved. Consolidated is building out their Fidium fiber in Caribou with 181 miles of new fiber.
<b>Ogren Dump Solar Project</b>	No new updates.
<b>Events and Marketing</b>	There are full events planned for Small Business Saturday November 30 and the Christmas Season. Please see the website and social media for details.
<b>Landbank</b>	I spoke to Tuck O'Brien from the Maine Land Bank on November 7.
<b>Chapter 13 Rewrite</b>	No new updates.
<b>Federal American Rescue Plan Act</b>	No new updates.
<b>Blight Cleanup</b>	No new updates.
<b>Birdseye Cleanup</b>	No new updates.
<b>Caribou Development Committee</b>	No new updates.
<b>River Front - Master Plan</b>	The draft EA will need to have public review for 30 days. Since there is a riverine area in the project area, the City will need to complete an 8-step review. Hope to have the "Final Notice To Proceed" from NBRC so we can go out for bid.
<b>Façade Improvement Program</b>	No new updates.
<b>Aldrich ATV/Snowmobile Storage</b>	No new updates.
<b>Caribou Economic Growth Council</b>	No new updates.
<b>Business Outreach</b>	Businesses are excited that Caribou's famous ornament hunt will be back this year!

## Other Administrative Projects

<b>Tax Acquired Property Policy</b>	On tonight's agenda.
<b>Nylander</b>	No new updates.
<b>Fire Structural Work</b>	No new updates.
<b>Fire Station Renovations</b>	No new updates.
<b>Police Station</b>	CUD is working with the City and design team to determine what infrastructure exists on site.
<b>River Road</b>	Versant is working to get the lines on the old pole moved to the new pole.
<b>Investment Policy</b>	No new updates.
<b>Cable Franchise Renewal</b>	No new updates.
<b>Airport</b>	The next project is for snow removal equipment. A scoping meeting with FAA & DOT was held November 15.
<b>Personnel Policy</b>	No new updates.
<b>New LED Street lights</b>	No new updates.
<b>Comp Plan Update</b>	No new updates.
<b>LD 2003 Implementation</b>	No new updates.
<b>15 Prospect Street</b>	No new updates.
<b>Water Street Fire</b>	No new updates.
<b>Age-Friendly Efforts</b>	Several great initiatives taking place at Age-Friendly Caribou.
<b>Personnel Changes</b>	Several positions are now open: Assistant City Clerk, Office Coordinator, Code Enforcement, Police Officer
<b>DOT Village Partnership</b>	Staff met with the design team on November 7, public meeting on December 19 at the wellness center.
<b>Aroostook Waste Solutions</b>	Currently working on their 2025 budget.
<b>Cary Medical Center</b>	Our community hospital is financially sound and looking forward to a bright future, when others in the State are struggling.
<b>Other Updates</b>	Time to start working on the 2025 municipal budget. I would like to have non-union COLA adopted at the next meeting so it can be in effect 1/1/2025 like the increases afforded to employees covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements.
<b>Administrative Approvals</b>	The area rubbish haulers have all been properly licensed.

# **More City Manager Report Notes**

## **Grant Administration**

Here are some updates to the various ongoing grant projects:

The City of Caribou has applied for a \$4,000,000 EPA FY25 Brownfields Grant for the remaining remediation of the Steam Plant, following the CERCLA emergency removal action. The FY23 Brownfields grant for remediation of the diesel plant was put on hold while the CERCLA action was in process.

The Maine Connectivity Authority project at the Caribou Public Library is entering the next phase as the Director is working on putting out requests for qualifications. Unlike most grants, this one includes some funds up front. Typically, the City needs to expend the funds and then request reimbursement.

The Northern Border Regional Commission grant has had the 8-step document approved. The draft environmental assessment document was sent back again with comments. We are working to get this submitted again for approval.

The DOT VPI – there will be a public meeting at the Wellness Center on December 19. We would really like to get a big crowd at this meeting so please mark your calendars. We will put more information on the website as soon as we have it available. This is a project that will make better pedestrian and non-motorized infrastructure to connect the downtown, the schools, the Wellness Center, the Caribou Mill Pond walking paths, and the Aroostook Riverfront.

The City did receive one of the high scores for a DECD Housing Opportunity grant program, this would be to conduct a housing study in Caribou. We are awaiting further information about moving forward with this.

## **2025 Municipal Budget**

The charter amendments for the City budget process as outlined in the City Charter were approved at the November 5, 2024, election.

At the December City Council meeting, I will be bringing forward a recommendation for a COLA adjustment for non-union employees so it can be effective for 1/1/2025.

If any members of the City Council have questions or suggestions, please reach out.

## **2025 Organizational Meeting**

Volunteers are needed to serve on various boards and committees. Please reach out to the Caribou City Clerk for more details.