



**City Manager's Report**  
**March 17, 2025**

**Economic Projects**

<b>River Front - Powerplants</b>	The EPA will be demobilizing soon. After that, the RFP can go out for deconstruction of the diesel plant.
<b>Broadband Initiative</b>	No new updates.
<b>Ogren Dump Solar Project</b>	New forms from MRS have been required for the renewable energy exemption.
<b>Events and Marketing</b>	The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet was held on Thursday March 13. Gary Marquis was honored with the "Citizen of the Year" award. Beaulieu's Garage and Body Shop was the Business of the Year for Community Impact.
<b>Landbank</b>	No new updates.
<b>Chapter 13 Rewrite</b>	No new updates.
<b>Federal American Rescue Plan Act</b>	No new updates.
<b>Blight Cleanup</b>	Planning Board met on Thursday March 13 @ 6pm. Ordinances on Blight & Nuisance properties going to public hearing.
<b>Birdseye Cleanup</b>	Appraisal received.
<b>Caribou Development Committee</b>	Held a work session on housing, Wednesday March 12.
<b>River Front - Master Plan</b>	The Monitoring and Compliance Plan was submitted to NBRC. Appraisals received on riverfront properties.
<b>Façade Improvement Program</b>	The Spring application period is open! Apply before April 15, 2025.
<b>Aldrich ATV/Snowmobile Storage</b>	No new updates.
<b>Caribou Economic Growth Council</b>	Met on Thursday February 27 @ 7 am.
<b>Business Outreach</b>	No new updates.

**Other Administrative Projects**

<b>Tax Acquired Property Policy</b>	City Manager provided testimony on LD 745.
<b>Nylander</b>	No new updates.
<b>Fire Structural Work</b>	No new updates.
<b>Fire Station Renovations</b>	Jim Gardner has drafted an RFP for review by the Municipal Buildings Committee.
<b>Police Station</b>	The committee continues to meet with the design team to meet deadlines.
<b>River Road</b>	No new updates.
<b>Investment Policy</b>	No new updates.
<b>Cable Franchise Renewal</b>	No new updates.
<b>Airport</b>	On tonight's agenda.
<b>Personnel Policy</b>	No new updates.
<b>New LED Street lights</b>	No new updates.
<b>Comp Plan Update</b>	Sections are coming together.
<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>	No new updates.
<b>Personnel Changes</b>	New Office Coordinator will start work on April 8.
<b>DOT Village Partnership</b>	No new updates.
<b>Aroostook Waste Solutions</b>	No new updates.
<b>Cary Medical Center</b>	No new updates.
<b>Other Updates</b>	No new updates.
<b>Administrative Approvals</b>	St. Patrick's Day dance @ VFW, Liquor License for: American Legion & Sizzle and Slice

## How does the municipal budget impact the annual Property Tax Bill?

Tonight, the City Council will be hearing from departments about further cuts to the 2025 Municipal budget. In tonight's manager's report, I want to emphasize again what the Caribou City Council can and cannot control on the amount of the Property Tax Bill.

In 2024, the municipal portion of the Property Tax bill was 41% of the amount paid. If your tax bill was \$1,000 then you paid **\$410** fund your city departments: Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Police Department, Library, Fire & Ambulance, Nylander Museum, Emergency Management, Tax Assessment, Code Enforcement, General Assistance, the City Clerk, Finance Department and Administration.

## The other factors impacting the annual Property Tax Bill:

The City Council has no control of the amounts invoiced by the RSU#39 or the County of Aroostook.

In 2024, the Aroostook County portion of the Property Tax bill was 10% of the amount paid. If your tax bill was \$1,000 then you paid **\$100** to fund the services provided by the County of Aroostook.

In 2024, the RSU#39 portion of the Property Tax bill was 49% of the amount paid. If your tax bill was \$1,000 then you paid **\$490** to fund the school department.

Voters do have the opportunity to vote on the school budget in June. As stated at a prior meeting, Articles 12 through 15 raise funds for the proposed school budget. Article 12 raises the funds needed to receive the "Essential Programs and Services Funding" provided for in Maine Statute. Article 13 funds the annual payment on the debt service for money borrowed by the RSU (approved by voters). Article 14 raises and appropriates additional local funds which exceed the State of Maine "Essential Programs and Services Funding" calculation. Article 15 summarizes the proposed school budget.

At the request of the City Council, staff has reached out to the Maine Municipal Association legal team for questions regarding the current uncertainty of federal funding for education. MMA Legal has suggested that the City ask for an opinion from the RSU's attorney about what will happen if the state subsidy is not received.

# GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

## MARCH 2025



### CERCLA

**\$1.8 MILLION**

EPA EMERGENCY ACTION ON STEAM  
PLANT

- Final fact sheet will be available in Spring 2025
- A demolition plan will be given to the City by the EPA in Spring 2025.



MAINE  
CONNECTIVITY  
AUTHORITY

**\$1.8 MILLION**

This is a fully-funded project at the Caribou Public Library.  
Asbestos removal underway. Design contract awarded.



### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION (NBRC)

RIVERFRONT PLAN & PROJECTS **\$472,550**

- A Monitoring & Compliance Plan for Mitigation has been requested.
- Hoping for Final Notice to Proceed soon.
- Property appraisals have been received.

### CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS

#### SENATOR COLLINS:

FY23 - POLICE STATION **\$2.5 MILLION**

Documents loaded to new portal DRGR

LEARN MORE: <https://www.cariboumaine.org/police-station-project/>

FY23 - CARIBOU POND & PARK RECLAMATION PROJECT **\$4.459 MILLION**

AE Contractor hired

FY24 - IMPROVEMENTS TO FIRE STATION **\$1.359 MILLION**

City Council will be putting out an RFO for an AE contractor.

#### SENATOR KING:

FY24 - ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS AT LIBRARY

This appropriation passed with the federal budget.



### EPA BROWNFIELDS FY2023

DIESEL PLANT & OTHER

**\$900,000**

- Approved for Brownfields Grant/Loan for PCB soils clean-up at Birdseye
- Working with Maine DEP Brownfields program on identifying other sites.
- Applied for FY2025 EPA Brownfields Grant 11.14.2024

LEARN MORE: <https://www.cariboumaine.org/grants/>

### ARPA NEU FUNDS:

2022 & 2023 - USED AS MATCH FOR COUNTY ARPA PROJECT  
2024 - MUNICIPAL SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT

### ARPA - AROOSTOOK COUNTY MATCHING FUNDS

FY2022 - IMPROVEMENTS TO FIRE STATION &  
AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT

**\$150,000**

FY2023 - FIRE DEPARTMENT TURN-OUT GEAR,  
POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS & RADIOS

**COMPLETE**

FY2024 - APPLICATION APPROVED FOR TWO  
PROJECTS: MATCH FOR POLICE/FIRE  
EQUIPMENT & SEWER PROJECT

**\$100,000**



### DOT VPI

**\$50,000**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

- See website for details.



The City of Caribou has applied for a State of Maine  
Department of Economic and Community  
Development Housing Opportunity Program  
Municipal Grant for a housing study. Received  
letter indicating that Caribou is a high-scoring  
application. City Council has approved contract  
with DECD for HOP grant.



### CDBG: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

- Local business was approved for CDBG through State, administered by City. More details to follow soon.

**CARE** for our community, **ENVISION** the future, then  
help Caribou **DO** what it takes to make it happen!

# Care. Envision. Do. CARIBOU 2034

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: [CARIBOUMAINE.ORG/CARIBOU2034](https://www.cariboumaine.org/caribou2034)

Did you know that a successful grant application starts  
with well-constructed planning documents?

The City of Caribou is working on their 2024-2034  
Comprehensive Plan which will be the foundation for  
grant applications going forward.