

Town of Thomaston

Knox Street Rebuild Project Update

October 2023

With the replacement of the water main almost complete it seems like a good time to give an update on the overall project.

Water Main Replacement – This first phase of construction of the project is expected to be complete by the end of this month. The approximately 125-year-old water main, the valves and connections to the side streets, replacement of the services to the customers, and replacement/relocation of the hydrants at a cost of about \$1,800,000 by Maine Water Company completes part of the underground work needed before the street can be rebuilt. Thanks to Public Works Director, Brandon Allen and his crew for working with the contractor to make sure the Town's underground piping was safe.

Temporary paving – The water main contractor, Eastwood Construction, was only required to pave a cover over the trench they had dug, however, they chose to put a skim coat of paving over the entire east lane and sections of the west lane. This will put the street in better condition until it can be completely rebuilt. The Public Works Department will monitor the temporary paving until the street is completely rebuilt.

Street rebuild – Once the funding is in place, and the construction plans complete (scheduled for early 2025), a contractor selected then construction can begin. The first step is to replace the old storm drain system and any other unground work. This will be followed by removing the paving and base that will be replaced with a new gravel base and paving. Construction on the new sidewalk can begin as soon as any underground work is complete.

Funding – This project is expected to cost a little over \$5 million dollars. Of this, the Water Company is paying about \$1.8 million and the Town has already appropriated \$350,000. This leaves a shortfall of about \$3 million. Two million dollars has been identified in grants and other sources but is not yet approved. This leaves \$1 million that will most likely come from borrowing by the Town. The plan is to go to the voters at next June's Town meeting to request authorization to borrow.

Schedule – The preliminary design has been completed and reviewed. Most of 2024 will be devoted to securing grant funds and other funding sources. Construction plans will be finished by the end of 2024 and the project put out to bid. Construction is planned to begin in early 2025 and be completed by the end of the year.

Questions and concerns may be directed to John Fancy at 382-8320 or by email at jfancy@thomastonmaine.gov.