

Town of Falmouth
Public Works Department
101 Woods Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
207-781-3919



Date: January 6, 2014
To: Falmouth Town Council
Nathan Poore, Town Manager
From: Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director
Re: Natural Gas Expansion

As part of the initiative to provide natural gas service to Yarmouth, Cumberland, and Falmouth, the three Municipalities have been working on consolidating and streamlining the street excavation requirements. This initiative was originally outlined in the 3-Town/Summit Natural Gas memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was entered into in the spring of 2013.

Within the fully executed MOU, it is stated that “The Towns will develop a common road opening permit process to be expediently and consistently implemented throughout the pipeline construction process”.

Over the last 6 months, Town Managers, Public Works Directors, and Town Engineers from the three Towns have all been collaborating on developing the framework for managing and overseeing this major utility expansion. As part of our efforts, one utility location and street excavating permit process has been developed.

One area of the street excavations ordinance that requires Town Council approval is the establishment and setting the rates of fees. The natural gas expansion project has been reviewed with regards to the amount of street/right-of-way excavations, impacts on roadways, and the need for street inspections to occur for the three municipalities. Based on that review and the amount of anticipated street excavations, staff from all three Towns is recommending establishing the rate of \$3.20 per linear foot of excavated area.

Staff recommends that the Town amend the street excavations fee schedule to add the aforementioned fee rate that would be specific to the natural gas expansion project.