

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



Date: April 10, 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”.

On January 13, 2014, the Town Council authorized a special fee to cover the costs of professional consulting services to inspect all street openings related to this project. The January 13, 2014 Town Council Order changed the fee to \$3.20 per linear foot of excavated area. More recent collaboration between the Town Managers, Public Works Directors, and Town Engineers from the three Towns have resulted in the need to refine the fee structure to a lump sum fee. The framework for this new fee structure evolved through the negotiation of a contract with Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers Inc. The new fee, paid by Summit Natural Gas of Maine, will be equivalent to the contract with the consulting engineer for inspection services.

Staff recommends that the Town Council amend the street excavations fee schedule to include a lump sum fee in the amount of \$100,000 for excavation anticipated in 2014. Staff will review the 2014 construction season to determine the recommended fee for the 2015 construction season related to this project.