

City of Sanford



**From the Desk of
Steven R. Buck
City Manager**



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: Manager's Report for October 21st, 2014
Date: October 21st, 2014

School Concept Approval:

On Tuesday October 14th a Sanford contingency presented the Concept Plan to the State of Maine Department of Education Board. David Theoharides, Superintendent of Schools presented the history surrounding the design of Sanford's proposed Academic and Career Technical High School. The education specifications, their development, practical comparisons of various models, and how these educational specifications influenced the future curriculum, its delivery and the building design were also presented by David. Lance Whitehead, Project Architect, presented the Concept Design with an explanation on how the proposed facility will support the educational specifications. A large portion of the presentation also focused on the work with the State and Local Officials to produce a cost effective facility to construct, one with future flexibility, and a facility that is cost effective to own and operate. As the City Manager, I presented a brief on the fiscal impacts demonstrating an anticipated tax savings on the Base Option and a flat tax impact on the Supplemental Option.

After a volume of questions from the State Board, a Motion was made and passed to approve Sanford's Concept Plan with a total budget of \$103,016,623. This now caps the Project and any subsequent amendments to the scope or design must remain within or be less than this State approved budget. Just one day after the Board vote, State of Maine Education Commissioner Jim Rier, Jr. submitted a letter to Superintendent Theoharides of the State approval, see attached.

Next Steps:

The Core Building Committee will now begin the work of further disseminating the information on the Concept Design to Sanford voters in preparation for a January 13th, 2015 Referendum Vote. Absentee ballot registration is open with the City Clerk as people can contact the Clerk's office by phone or email to register to receive an absentee ballot. Ballots will be available at least 30 days prior to the referendum date and will be mailed to all those requesting.

The Core Building Committee is setting a number of dates for public presentations and forums. As soon as the schedule and locations have been determined, we will disseminate. For the city

Council, I am working with William Stockmeyer, legal counsel on the project from DrummondWoodsum, on the Bond Public Hearing and Authorization as well as the Referendum Questions to be processed by the City Council on November 18th, 2014. The City Council will also be holding a Public Hearing on the Referendum itself on December 16th, 2014.

The School Department is also compiling a listing of Frequently Asked Questions and is posting the questions and answers on their website at www.sanford.org On the Home Page click on School Construction News and from this page look to the upper right corner under Information for FAQ's. This information will be continuously updated as a means to convey the most asked for pieces of information throughout this process.

Stenton Trust:

For several weeks, two individuals had been working behind the scenes to perform an Adverse Possession and ultimately a demolition project of the Stenton Trust Mills. After a legal examination into the process and individuals, the Chief of Police was able to halt the informal process. I have requested that the individuals involved take no further actions without producing legal documentation as to their intent. A time and date were set to meet on which the parties in question defaulted.

Kennebunk Official Tour the Dispatch Center:

On October 9th the Kennebunk Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Finance Director, Chief and Assistant Police Chief, and Fire Chief all toured the Sanford Regional Communications Center. After the tour, Director Tower presented on the operational aspects of the Center, how it relates to the regionalized service provisions, and asked to continue the very positive working partnership that is the Regional Communication Center. Director Tower works with the Assistant Chief of Police to provide immediate and continual feedback on the provision of services and how operations may be amended to better serve Kennebunk. I would like to extend my appreciation for the time invested by the Town of Kennebunk in the tour and for their continued ownership in the Regionalized Service. The City will continue to reach out to other Communities as we seek to continuously improve upon the scope and delivery of services for regionalized PSAP and Dispatch services.

Central York County Connections Study:

A number of City Administrative Staff have now finished a review of the recently distributed Final Draft of the Study. We met last week on October 15th to develop a series of Substantive Comments on the 224 page Study. The purpose of these actions is to provide starting points of consideration for the City Council to finalize as the City's position on the action items and study findings as outlined. The Study documents the history of the Region its demographics, expected growth, and defines transportation improvement options addressing current and future transportation and economic development needs. The Study does indicate that the option of a new four lane limited access highway between I-95 and Sanford was eliminated early in the process. But the Study does list a significant number of transportation improvements to existing corridors, improvements that can be contained within existing rights of way, for land Use and Access Management plans to both preserve corridor mobility and provide future

improvement, and also reviews options and improvements to public and alternative transportation.

Administration is in the process of compiling the review and comments for City Council consideration. The Public Comment period ends November 14th, 2014. The goal is to finalize the review into a City Council authorized series of positions and substantive comments to accomplish several elements:

1. To better define Sanford's positions and priorities within the Final Study issuance
2. To elevate certain elements within the Study for future funding by MDOT and or City that have the greatest beneficial impacts to Sanford
3. To improve upon the open dialog and working relationship with Region 1 offices and MDOT as a whole
4. To receive comments on the City's Substantive Comments to best understand the MDOT positions on Sanford's priorities within the Study

Administration will be prepared to accommodate the Council's schedule for review by early next week.

Gateway Park:

City Administration met with the Construction Engineer and Contractor for a progress report last Thursday. The report was very positive, the first series of pay requisitions were authorized, and the project is currently on target to finish on or before schedule November 20th. The concern of late season seed and mulch as discussed and expectations to adjust in the spring dependent upon the late fall conditions were set. We will also be keeping the fencing in place over the winter to protect the City's investment in the ground work until the seeding as fully caught in the spring. A Grand Opening will be planned for next spring as appropriate.

Advocacy:

Work will begin this week as I will travel to Augusta on Thursday to work with a subcommittee of the MMA Legislative Policy Committee towards the restoration and or replacement of broad base taxation distributions to municipalities. The City of Sanford has lost over \$1.8 million in former State Municipal Revenue Sharing provided by law to address the disproportionate burden upon property taxes. As most are aware, two Governor's budgets have raided this 40 year-old disbursement to address property tax relief. We are again seeking to mitigate these impacts by offering and or negotiating with the State Legislative and future Administrations other elements to address the imbalance amongst Property Taxes, Income Taxes, and Sales Taxes. I will report out progress as the work product develops.