

# City of Sanford



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



## Memorandum

To: City Council  
Subject: Manager's Report for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Date: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### School Construction:

The Straw Poll on the Concept Design was held at the Sanford High School on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A 1 ½ hour presentation was made on details on the Conceptual Design complete with fiscal impacts. The fiscal impacts were expressed as follows:

Base Option - Local Debt Service of \$7,891,069							
Tax Impact of Bond, Life Cycle Costs, and Capital Reserves							
Based on \$100,000 and \$200,000 Tax Assessments, 20 year Bond, Variable 1.3-3.8%							
			Current School		Proposed School		
	Assessment	Mil Rate Used \$1/\$1000	Annual Costs	Mil Rate Used \$1/\$1000	Annual Costs	Current versus Proposed	
Average Annual Change in Taxes							
Debt Service only	\$100,000	0.24	\$23.92	0.37	\$37.21	\$13.29	
	\$200,000	0.24	\$47.84	0.37	\$74.42	\$26.58	
Total Recurring Costs (includes Debt Service)	\$100,000	1.09	\$109.22	0.95	\$95.45	-\$13.77	
	\$200,000	1.09	\$218.44	0.95	\$190.91	-\$27.54	
Total Recurring Costs & Capital Reserve Encumbrance	\$100,000	1.09	* \$109.22	1.34	\$134.18	\$24.95	
	\$200,000	1.09	* \$218.44	1.34	\$268.35	\$49.91	
*No annual appropriation is currently made and historically has been addressed by bond							
Assumes Average Annual Municipal Valuation of \$1,328,160,860							

Supplimental Package - Local Debt Service of \$10,628,499							
Tax Impact of Bond, Life Cycle Costs, and Capital Reserves							
Based on \$100,000 and \$200,000 Tax Assessments, 20 year Bond, Variable 1.3-3.8%							
			Current School		Proposed School		
		Assessment	Mil Rate Used \$1/\$1000	Annual Costs	Mil Rate Used \$1/\$1000	Annual Costs	Current versus Proposed
Average Annual Change in Taxes							
Debt Service only		\$100,000	0.24	\$23.92	0.50	\$50.12	\$26.20
		\$200,000	0.24	\$47.84	0.50	\$100.24	\$52.40
<b>Total Recurring Costs (includes Debt Service)</b>							
		\$100,000	1.09	\$109.22	1.09	\$109.05	-\$0.17
		\$200,000	1.09	\$218.44	1.09	\$218.11	-\$0.34
<b>Total Recurring Costs &amp; Capital Reserve Encumbrance</b>							
		\$100,000	1.09	* \$109.22	1.48	\$147.78	\$38.56
		\$200,000	1.09	* \$218.44	1.48	\$295.55	\$77.11
*No annual appropriation is currently made and historically has been addressed by bond							
Assumes Avearge Annual Municipal Valuaiton of \$1,328,160,860							

At the end of the presentation and question and answer period, two straw polls were taken as follows:

**Straw Poll 1 – Base Project:**

- *Do you support the proposed Concept Design for the new Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center, with a total project value of approximately \$99,979,252, of which the State will contribute \$92,088,182 and the remaining \$7,891,070 will be raised by the Sanford Tax Payers? (211 Yes, 6 No)*

**Straw Poll 2 –Supplemental Package:**

- *Do you support the proposed Concept Design with Supplemental Items for the new Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center, with an additional contribution of \$2,737,380, totaling \$10,628,450 to be raised by the Sanford Tax Payers? (199 Yes, 18 No)*

The Sanford Contingency traveled to Augusta on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, to present the Conceptual Plans for Sanford’s proposed New High School and Career Technical Educational Facility to the Construction Subcommittee of the State Board of Education. The presentation lasted approximately 1 ½ hours. A historical perspective of the Project was presented by David Theoharides along with the education specifications that served as the foundation for developing the Concept design of an integrated curriculum and facility. Lance Whitehead presented the Concept Design of the Building. As Manager I reviewed the fiscal impacts and bonding for the project. The result was a motion and unanimous vote of the Construction Subcommittee to recommend approval of the Concept Design to the full State Board of Education on October 14<sup>th</sup>. On October 14<sup>th</sup> the same Sanford contingency will travel to

Newport to present before the State Board of Education. If approved on that day, the Core Building Committee will then immediately start the public education campaign towards the Referendum Vote now scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Also, the City Council will likely have before them a request to authorize the Warrant and submit for Referendum Vote the two questions towards the School Construction, the Base Option or supplemental Option. All educational materials will be based upon these two options and votes.

**Legislative Advocacy and Policy Priorities:**

The Maine Municipal Association met on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to develop priorities towards this Legislative Session’s advocacy efforts for elements impacting Municipalities, primarily property taxation. In addition to developing advocacy positions and propagating the LPC positions on any municipally impacting New Legislation, the LPC also develops a platform to address continued issues impacting municipalities. The top 11 of these priorities that will result in Legislative Bills to be submitted are copied below:

<b>LPC 2015-2016 Legislative Agenda Priorities - Tally</b>		
<i>Note: Items above the dark line are on the agenda. Only the proposals receiving votes are listed.</i>		
<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Votes</b>
LD 1	Repeal LD 1.	19
Road & Infrastructure	Restore fuel tax indexing (using efficiency standard or state average).	16
Education	Charter school funding.	15
Road & Infrastructure	Transportation bond at 125% of average.**	14
Road & Infrastructure	Access to high speed internet.	14
General Assistance	Complete reform.	14
Road & Infrastructure	Restore LRAP.	13
Regulatory Authority	Statewide voluntary enforcement of MUBEC.	13
Education	Repeal obligation to pay teacher retirement pension.	13
Regulatory Authority	Create a right of municipal intervention re: abandoned properties.	12
Education	Repeal budget validation process for single municipal school districts.	12
Economic Development	Revamp tax structure to attract businesses.*	11

There were numerous other items considered, but only these top items will result in crafting of legislative bills.

The Mayors Coalition, to which Sanford belongs, is also actively developing their platform for the next Legislative Session. There will be a half day summit, place to be determined, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9AM – 1:00PM. All twelve Coalition Members will convene to finalize the 2015 focused goals, policy, and strategies addressing the most impact elements for the largest of service center communities.

**Gateway Park:**

The Park is currently under construction with a substantial completion date of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Work is being performed by STS, Stuart Torno and Stuart and is on schedule with no

complications to date. A working agreement is being sought with Great Works, the High School Students, for construction of amenities such as benches and planters and for long term maintenance of certain plantings within the Park. The final design of the amenities will go before Property Subcommittee for review and approval prior to authorization to construct. A high level of community involvement has gone into the concept and design and will continue once the Park is completed.

**Fire Department Summit:**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Chief Benotti held a Summit for the Leadership within the Sanford Fire Department. The Purpose of the Summit was to engage the all levels of staff and administration in an open dialog to assess the current state and future of providing the combined services of fire protection and emergency medical services. Various historical perspectives and then topics were presented. After presentation of each topic, the participants broke out into three working groups. The results were then reported out respectively and a collective summary produced. Partial listings of items addressed were:

- Current facilities and limitations
- Future facilities and locations
- Current staffing levels
- Future staffing levels
- Equipment current, future, or reassignment
- Cross training and seamless operations of Fire and EMS Services
- Policy and Training
- Other

As the Manager I would like to express my appreciation of the Staff, the insight expressed during the Summit, and how pleased I am with the depth of experience and command within the Department. The Summit was an exceptional expression of a Department of dedicated men and women working collaboratively to define the future of public safety within our Community. I could not have been more pleased with the progress made.

**City Hall Signage:**

The Signage has been delivered with the exception of the directories, expected within the week. Signage outside of City Hall is being installed as of today (10/7/14) and internal installation will start the following day. The expectation is that the installation will be complete within two weeks.