

City of Sanford



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



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: Manager's Report for May 6th, 2014
Date: May 6th, 2014

Broadband Summit:

Jim Nimon, Bob Hardison, and I attended a summit organized by Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and Mobilize Maine on Broadband and the Economy. I sent praise to Paul Schumacher after the event as being extremely well presented and the information was very relevant and assisting.

The Growth Council is nearly ready to roll out our Feasibility Study on building a Fiber Network in Sanford. The Summit could not have been timelier for Sanford. The information garnered from my pages of notes will greatly assist our Community in considering Sanford's future as it pertains to Broadband.

A reoccurring theme from a number of presenters at the Summit was that for any City/location that has not implemented the type of broadband band width that currently only comes from Fiber within the next 3 to 5 years, you will have fallen below the curve and will be at a competitive disadvantage in the new economic development realm.

Several Key Points made by Blair Levin, a nationally known consultant on broadband:

- Next Generation Networks - used to be the manipulation and transport of hard products - has now shifted to data and information exchange
- Education - will be linked to a robust data connection
- Entrepreneurs are moving to those Communities that have greater access to broadband and band width
- Need future proof scalable broadband systems that can expand with future business needs
- Market forces ARE NOT driving the deployment of world leading data networks - It must be driven from within the Communities
- Gigabit systems will be needed to compete - Watch Google Fiber and AT&T competition and how it impacts business growth
- New technologies in Broad Band Air technologies are now available to lower the build out costs within Rural Communities having greater distances and less densities
- Within 10 years Broadband Access will become critical for competition for future business
- It's about increased production and efficiencies rather than work force reduction

- Local Governments will be responsible for the last mile projects
- Fiber Networks - increases the values of average homes by over \$5,000 per Unit on average
- Lack of Knowledge of the Need for BB is the current largest impediment - Cost is the second factor

CMP Closing:

City has closed on the Transmission Line Corridor for CMP to build new and redundant connections through Sanford to Lebanon. The closing was held last Monday and incorporated the Council's authorization for the following:

The City will sell to CMP a described portion of a parcel Book 1378 Page 429 containing approximately 2.75 ac. and from Book 10321 Page 232 approximately 0.17 ac. The sale is for consideration of clarification of other parcels, i.e. open space requirements, and for monetary value of \$100,000.

The City will further be granted 7.5 ac. of land acquired in fee from CMP from Book 1420 Page 439, all such land abuts and will be made contiguous to the Holdsworth Park parcel for recreational purposes.

Funds from the Sale were dedicated as follows:

1. \$50,000 for the Springvale Beautification Project
2. \$25,000 towards the sidewalk extension in Springvale to Holdsworth Park
3. \$25,000 towards the demolition of the former Bland Block Building at the corner of Cottage and River Street.