

City of Sanford



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



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: **Manager's Report for June 7th, 2016**
Date: June 7th, 2016

High School Construction:

As many are aware, June 1st, 2016 was the Ground Breaking for Sanford's New High School. There was an estimated 100 people in attendance to see the kick-off the State's largest fully integrated Academic and Career Educational High School at a budget of \$102 million. It is slated to be under construction for the next 27 months with an opening date of August 1st, 2018.

Mayor Cote spoke of the significance of the new construction and how it relates to a number of large scale development projects within Sanford and how each relates to a brighter and more prosperous future for our City. Superintendent David Theoharides spoke of the history of developing the educational concept of the school, the design of the facility, and how it relates to the needs of students today and into the future. City Manager Buck spoke of the partnerships that the City had formed to make the new School a reality starting with the Residents of Sanford, a multitude of engaged Citizens, City Staff, Contracted Professional Services, and the Maine Department of Education. By all accounts the Project Development has been both noteworthy and one to emulate. Scott Brown, Architect for the Maine Department of Education, reaffirmed that he had never in 20 plus years worked on a school construction project with the level of community involvement and coordination as with the Sanford High School.

There will be other opportunities for the Community to see and tour the Project as it is being built. These events will be advertised well in advance. There will also be a major ribbon cutting ceremony in the fall of 2018 just prior to the opening of the New High School. The Public will be invited.



SanfordNet Fiber:

The City's initiative to build a municipally-owned fiber optic network designed for the broadband needs of today and future businesses takes another step forward. The City has been seeking leveraged funding opportunities to match its investment in the development of SanfordNet Fiber, an Open Access Non-Discriminatory Gigabit Fiber Optic Network tied to the Maine Three Ring Binder fiber network. The City received confirmation on June 6, 2016 from the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that our application is responsive to the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) and that the city is invited to submit a complete application for competitive funding.

The City applied to the EDA on May 5th, 2016 for \$750,000 or ½ of the total quoted cost of construction and to light the Network. The City has other leveraged funding initiatives in the amount of \$400,000 pending at the time of the application to the EDA making the City's current level of investment \$350,000 of the \$1.5 million dollar project. Pursuant to this notice, the City must now complete the full application to the EDA no later than June 30th, 2016. The Complete Application will place the City into a competitive round for potential award with no guarantee for future funding. Administration does see our pending Application as being very competitive, but again there are no guarantees for funding from the EDA at this juncture.

A copy of the EDA Letter is attached at the end of this Report.

Firefighters Grant:

On June 1st, 2016 the City received official notice from Senator King's Office that the City's application for a Firefighter Act Grant was awarded under Round 4 of the 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, to be awarded to the City as of June 3rd, 2016. Information about the Award is as follows:

There are 100 - 2015 AFG awards nationwide with a total federal share of \$28,795,066.

There are 9 - AFG awards this week in Region 1 for a total of \$3,467,222.00:

- Beverly MA – Federal share of \$ 168,450 for 33 - Firefighter Breathing Apparatus.
- Chatham, MA. – Federal share of \$ 476,191 for a Pumper Engine.
- Lowell, MA – Federal share of \$ 1,209,091 for an Aerial Ladder Truck and a Heavy Rescue Truck
- **Sanford, ME – Federal share of \$ 301,819 for a Pumper Engine.**
- Cranston, RI – Federal share of \$ 118,935 for 4 – Cardiac Monitors.
- Massachusetts Firefighting Academy – Federal share of \$ 353,044 for Vehicle Extrication Equipment and Training Props.
- Maine Firefighting Academy – Federal share of \$ 250,392 for a Firefighting Equipment, Firefighter Breathing Apparatus and Turnout Gear.
- Rockland, MA – Federal share of \$ 337,663 for Firefighter Breathing Apparatus and Training.
- Watertown, MA – Federal share of \$ 221,637 for Firefighter Breathing Apparatus.

Notice of the Award came from:

Diego Alvarado

FEMA Region I Processing Center

External Affairs Specialist – Congressional Affairs

(978) 461-5625 Desk Phone
(202) 384-5312 Cellular Phone
Diego.Alvarado@fema.dhs.gov

The Office of Senator Susan Collins also personally called to share the goods new with Fire Chief Benotti.

The City Council will receive and review the Grant with a request to provide the necessary match of \$30,000. The Department has adequate resources for the match. The Urban Pumper Engine was part of the fire Department's future capital purchases and provides a 10:1 leverage towards the purchase, thus saving the City over \$300,000 in future capital costs for the replacement. Chief Benotti will report to the Council for finalization now that the Award Notice has been made.

Heritage Drive Parking Lot – Brownfield Oil Clean Up on Tax Map J29 17E:

The City was awarded a Brownfield Grant of \$200,000 with a City match of \$40,000 to address known oil spill contamination on the above lot at the intersection of High Street and Heritage Drive. The scope of the work is to remove the area of known contamination stemming from an oil distribution pipeline that crosses the Lot having formerly distributed oil to multiple buildings in Sanford's Historic Mill District. The City interviewed in 2015 and selected the firm of Credere Associates to design, implement, and construct a remedial action plan to clean up the contamination with the end result being an asphalt cap with landscaping, i.e. a municipal parking lot once completed.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently raised concerns based upon their work on similar sites that an asphalt cap could, if an oil source is present up gradient, heat the ground beneath and cause an aggravate pathway for the bunker C oils formerly used by the Mills and potentially still present offsite. Alternative means to investigate any potential of oil up gradient of the City's site scheduled for remediation were explored. Ultimately the EPA has indicated it will be performing site assessments above the City's Lot. The City has decided to hold on finalizing the remedial design until such time as the new information will become available from the EPA. Administration will apply for an extension to our Brownfield Grant in light of this pending information. A renewed schedule is being developed to allow for cleanup and site closure this year with a final determination as to a gravel or paved surface upon the finished Project is made depending upon the EPA's further investigation. Administration will continue to report out on progress as made.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economic Development Administration**

The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street
Suite 140S
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3323

JUN 06 2016

In reply refer to:
EDA Control No. 110131

Steven Buck, City Manager
City of Sanford
919 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073-3545

Dear Mr. Buck:

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Philadelphia Regional Office Proposal Review Committee (PRC) has conducted an initial review of your proposal for assistance with the construction of fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to support the Mill Yard Complex and Sanford Industrial Park. Based on its initial review, the PRC has determined that your proposal is responsive to the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO).

If you wish to be considered for EDA funding, please submit a complete application for your proposed project by June 30, 2016. The requirements for the content and form of a complete application submission are found in the *FY 2016 Economic Development Assistance Programs—Application Submission and Program Requirements for EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs* FFO, and can be found on EDA's website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>.

Please be aware that EDA receives many more meritorious applications than it can fund. This request to submit a complete application in no way guarantees that EDA will approve your application or select your project for an award.

Please contact Alan Brigham, Economic Development Representative, at 215-316-2965 or abrigham@eda.gov, who can assist you in the development of your application.

Thank you for your interest in EDA. For more information about our programs and other upcoming funding opportunities, please consult our website at www.eda.gov

Sincerely,

Marguerite McGinley
Acting Area Director
Philadelphia Regional Office

