

City of Sanford



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



Memorandum

To: City Council

Subject: Manager's Report

Date: December 20th, 2016

Director of Community Development:

As the FY 16-17 Budget provides for the new position of Director of Community Development, the City has completed the hiring process and has extended an offer. The Position has been accepted by Ian Houseal. Mr. Houseal will start for the City on January 17th, 2017.

Ian Houseal will come to the City of Sanford as Community Development Director having more than seven years of municipal experience as an Assistant for the City Manager in program and project development focused in Community Development in the areas of housing and code enforcement in both Lewiston and Portland. Ian holds graduate degrees in Regional Planning and Architecture and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies. He has extensive practical experience in environmental engineering and construction having worked in these trades.

Mr. Houseal is well experienced in the coordination of project and project development, direction of staff, and demonstrated achievements in the area of policy development and implementation strategies to improve all aspects of City housing, land use planning, code enforcement, licensing, inspections, and capital infrastructure. He is currently managing the City of Portland's rental housing registration and inspection program having already successfully registered over 4,750 rental properties and directed the inspection of over 600 of these properties with 1,200 inspections in just 6 months. All of these attributes will lend towards Sanford's future Housing Initiatives as part of the City's overall Community Development strategies.

Ian will start with the City on January 17th, 2017 and will be working directly with the City Manager's office to become oriented and then coordinate our Community Development initiatives. I will ask Mr. Houseal to attend the Council meeting that evening for introductions.

SanfordNet Fiber –

The EDA has received the Award Document Form CD-450 and we have started the process for the Project Management Conference (PCM) scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st, 2016. The PCM is scheduled for 3 hours and will cover all the documentation and processes for the City to access the Federal Award of \$769,209 or 50% of the anticipated construction cost of SanfordNet Fiber in the amount of \$1,538,418.

James Nimon, Paula Simpson, and City Manager Buck will conference with Alan Schuetz, Jr. who is the Project Officer for the EDA out of Philadelphia. Once the City has completed this process and has received sign off on the work performed to date, the federal funding will be made available and the City can start the process.

The anticipated time frame is 330 days from the funding be certified to the time the system is constructed and ready for operations pursuant to our current analysis for permitting, ordering of materials, construction of the fiber network, and installation of equipment to lite the network. The City's informational sheet on the Project and SanfordNet Fiber is attached.

Fire Department Operational & Facilities Study –

Port City Architecture was engaged through a competitive bid process to “perform a 50 to 75 year facilities and operations plan for the City to allow the Fire Department to offer the best emergency services to the people of Sanford and Springvale in the most cost effective manner.”

The Final Draft was presented and reviewed, with comments, by City administration on November 28th, 2016. The Final Report is being completed addressing the review and comments and is slated to be presented to the Public Safety Committee by the week of January 9th, 2017. The Study examined current facilities and their locations, response times throughout the City, the type and number of apparatus, staffing levels, space requirements for service programs, and future sites and building designs. The Study contains professionally developed recommendations of the future staffing, apparatus needs, facilities renovations and or relocations that might be made to meet the current and projected needs for the City for at least the next 50 years. The Study will provide the basis for future operations and budgetary needs for the Department as the City moves into the future.

York County Advocacy Meeting:

The City hosted the York County Advocacy Group meeting, a meeting of York County municipal elected and appointed officials and State elected officials to set priorities for consideration during the next Legislative Session in Augusta. There were over 35 people in attendance and the Agenda focused on the following areas;

- The meeting opened with a presentation and request for funding from the York Shelter in Alfred to create additional options for treatment for opioid and other substance abuse cases impacting York County residents. The Program is seeking funds from the State as well as from the County as well as the County possibly making a future general taxation assessment towards the program. A public hearing will be held by the County on this matter at a future date.
- Workforce Development

- York County Community College
- Pratt & Whitney
- Portsmouth Shipyard
- Transportation
- Solar Power Policy
- Economic Development, including Broadband
- County Jail Funding
- New York County Courthouse
- State Budget Issues
- Revenue Sharing
- School Funding
- Homestead Exemption

The next place of meeting or use of a phone conference during the Session has not yet been determined, but will be address with the Regional Planning Commission.

A Message for a New Year:

As we near the end of 2016, I want to extend my appreciation to the incredible People who comprise the Staff across all Departments of the City. I have worked in several Communities, but I must say that the People with whom I work with in Sanford are absolutely the best. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work for the City of Sanford and to have access to the talent and work ethic within the Municipal Departments. And this would not be possible without the direction and support we receive from the City Council.

I would also like to recognize that the City of Sanford has born the burden of economic downturns and challenges, not unlike the vast majority of Towns and Cities in Maine. Sanford might even be able to claim that these burdens have been more pronounced and or prolonged than they have been in certain other communities. That being said, I see Sanford has now reached a juncture as it works to define its future. We're at a fork in the road. And we all know that great wisdom expressed by the late Yogi Berra, "When you come to a fork in the road....take it!"

As a City we have worked hard to get to this juncture and I say we are ready to "take the fork in the road." So as we get ready to turn the calendar to a New Year in 2017, let us all agree that 2017 will be the year that Sanford will take the right fork in the road, accept any and all the challenges it will present, and that we will endeavor to set ourselves apart and redefine for the World who and what Sanford is. Let's agree to make Sanford the City in which we are proud to live, to work, and to call home and that the rest of the World recognizes what it is that is making Sanford different from other places. Our only limitations are the ones we impose upon ourselves. So let's start 2017 without limits and let's set our own direction as we take that right "fork in the road."

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year

SanfordNet Fiber:

Your City's Digital Future

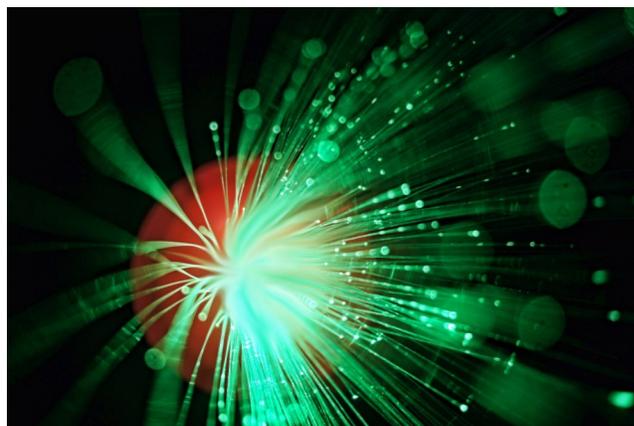


Explore. Create. Grow.

- ◆ SanfordNet Fiber is a 45-mile fiber optic network designed to serve Sanford's historic downtown mill complex, its 600 acres of industrial parks and more than 80 other locations, including the Southern Maine Health Care campus and our new high school and technical center, currently under construction.
- ◆ The system is **eight times** larger than the next largest municipal information network in Maine and will be one of the fastest in the entire Northeast US, with speeds **100 times** faster than the national average.
- ◆ The estimated \$1.5 million dollar project has been funded with \$769,209 in federal funds from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) with the remainder coming from the sale of surplus City properties, such as the former Emerson School. There is **no increase in taxes** to build this project.
- ◆ SanfordNet Fiber will be completed in 2018 and is a huge win both for your personal internet access and Sanford's overall economic development in today's technology-driven world.

"Sanford needs a competitive edge and a differentiating factor when it comes to competing with other cities and towns for economic development and the workforce needed to support that growth. This project will provide Sanford with that edge." - Mayor Tom Cote

- ◆ **Benefits to households and business:**
 - ◇ 10 gigabit/second upload and download speeds, expandable as needed to 100 gigabit/second
 - ◇ Open-access, non-discriminatory system that will promote competitive pricing and new offerings among internet service providers
 - ◇ Initially expected to create more than 140 jobs and leverage more than \$1 million in private investment
 - ◇ Broadband is one of the greatest current business needs and SanfordNet Fiber puts us ahead of most other communities at attracting information technology and biopharmaceutical companies, bringing 21st century job growth to this region.
 - ◇ Estimated impact is \$47-\$191 million increase in business productivity over 10 years.



City of Sanford

919 Main Street
Sanford, Maine 04073

www.sanfordmaine.org

E-mail: srbuck@sanfordmaine.org



@Sanford Growth

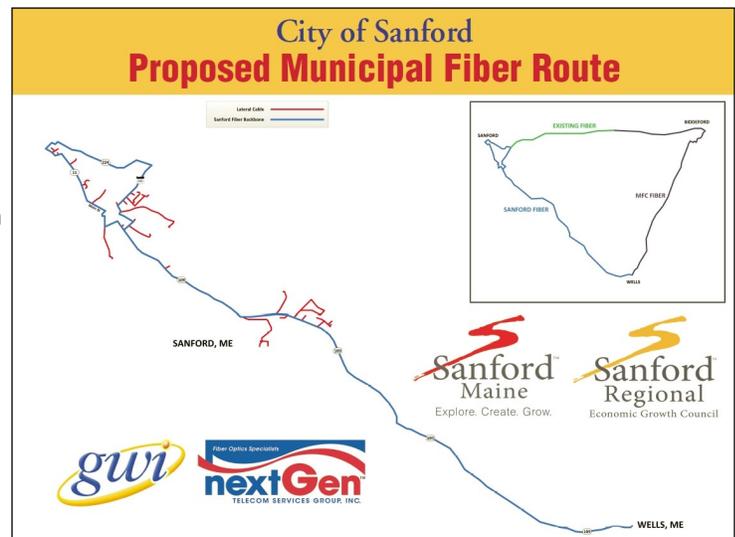
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SanfordNet Fiber:

Why Fiber-Optic Broadband and Why Now?

- ◆ Historically, business has relied upon transportation: proximity to roads, rails, airports, and water to move goods. As we move into the future, broadband is becoming THE essential business utility. SanfordNet Fiber is specifically designed to produce worldwide connectivity, worldwide presence, and the ability compete in a global economy. By laying this groundwork now, Sanford is setting itself up to be able to compete and do business on equal footing with any community anywhere.
- ◆ The network (the information highway) will be owned as a City asset and as an investment in our economic future, yet it will be competitively constructed and operated by private companies in the business of attracting and expanding commerce dependent upon robust communications systems.

- ◆ The system is designed as an Open Access Non-Discriminatory Fiber Optic Network, which means that it can be utilized by a host of internet service providers (ISPs), all of which are reliant upon fiber optics as the backbone of their communications offerings. The more ISPs that use the network, the more options that will be available and the more competitive the prices, which will benefit all users, both business and residential.



- ◆ The City of Sanford will own the fiber assets and will contract with GWI, a Maine-owned internet services provider, for operation of the network. This arrangement will provide an additional source of revenue to the City and place day to day management concerns and upkeep in the hands of an experienced private business.
- ◆ Business Attraction using SanfordNet Fiber will be focused on information technology industries such as software development and programming, business support services and telecommunications, as well as biopharmaceutical companies developing tomorrow's medicines. These companies create "Traded Jobs" where their goods and services are sold outside the State, importing wealth into our Region. Each Traded Job can generate up to six support jobs and/or related services. This provides a multitude of widely-varied job opportunities not currently available within Sanford.



Economic Growth. Job Creation. Investment in our Future.

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919 Main Street
Sanford, Maine 04073

www.sanfordmaine.org

E-mail: srbuck@sanfordmaine.org