

## City of Sanford



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



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### Memorandum

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To: City Council  
Subject: Manager's Report for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

#### **Medically Assisted Opiate Treatment Program:**

Chief Connolly has obtained signatures on the Memorandum of Understanding with Maine Behavioral Healthcare to implement a Medication-Assisted Opiate Treatment Program or MAT. The purpose of the Agreement is to outline a program to:

- To ensure the best possible community-based care for clients requiring treatment for opiate abuse and reduce the number of opiate-related deaths
- To provide specialized training to selected Sanford Police Officers who will identify clients who are amenable to MAT and who express an interest in stopping the use of illegal opiates
- To ensure that the Sanford Police Department and MBH work together to identify a funding source for evidence-based MAT that would include intense outpatient treatment services managed by MBH

To identify the anticipated funding source, the City has worked through the Mayor's Coalition for funding assistance from the State. The Coalition had legislation sponsored as LD 1488, **An Act To Establish the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in Maine**. The Bill seeks \$2.0 Million in funding for 8 PILOT programs as is summarized as follows:

This bill establishes the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program to address drug crimes by diverting low-level offenders into community-based treatment and support services. The program includes, but is not limited to, the provision of case management services to program participants in order to secure appropriate treatment and support services such as housing, health care, job training and mental health services for program participants. The Attorney General, in consultation with the district attorneys, is directed to implement the program by establishing 8 pilot projects in communities around the State.

Chief Connolly represented the City on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Augusta participating in a Press Conference and then gave Testimony before the Criminal Justice Committee in support of LD 1488. Coverage of the event may be seen at:

MPBN - <http://news.mpbn.net/post/bill-would-offer-drug-offenders-treatment-support-instead-jail> . This link has both radio and print stories. The print version is also in the BDN.

Press Herald - <http://www.pressherald.com/2015/12/31/proposal-to-fund-police-diversion-programs-for-heroin-users-just-a-start-lawmaker-says/>

Attorney General Mills supports the initiative as conveyed to Representative Mark Dion the sponsor of the Bill. Two other district Attorneys were present with concerns that were addressed and they therefore left in support of the Bill.

### **Cool and Connected Grant –**

Administration has applied for the Cool and Connected Grant, details of which are available at this web link: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/cool-connected-announcement-federal-planning-assistance-broadband-and-sustainable>

The City is seeking this opportunity for Federal Planning Assistance whereby a Team of experts, if awarded, would come to Sanford and develop a marketing plan to promote the newly created broadband initiative as a place-based economic development tool.

Lee Burnett, City Grant Writer, working with our Economic Development, Planning, and Manager's Offices compiled a Letter of Interest to the EPA Office of Sustainable Communities to Director Ed Findley. It was submitted on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Letter of Interest outlined interests pertinent to both EPA and USDA as the planning grant combines economic development interests in both fields. The Letter hit upon two major themes:

- *Revitalize an urban core that has the ingredients for revitalization but which has responded only fitfully to traditional smart growth techniques due to weak market conditions and competing vacant mill space inventory closer to the interstate.*
- *Create a competitive advantage for the entire Springvale Farm Belt, which is home to a growing niche agriculture sector with examples of cutting-edge innovation and collective marketing and distribution solutions. Farms are exploring development of a regional food hub in the downtown mill complex.*

Lee also obtained support from our Congressional Offices as well to be filed separately. The announcement date/s for an invitation to fully submit are not yet known.

### **Budget Committee Process:**

Pursuant to Sanford City Charter Article VI Section 602, the Budget Committee will start its process of reviewing the submitted budget requests for municipal and school operations on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 starting at 6:00PM in the Council Chambers. The anticipated schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 3, 2016	6:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
At its first meeting the Budget Committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson		
Thursday, March 10, 2016	6:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2016	6:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
Meeting to include a Joint Public Hearing - City and School		
Thursday, March 24, 2016	6:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 31, 2016	6:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2016	7:00 PM	Budget Committee Presentation to the City Council.

Authorization of the Municipal and School budgets by the City Council shall be the final budgets that are to be presented to the Voters in their aggregate amounts for final authorization at any Budget Validation Referendum.

### **Solar Arrays and Pending Legislation:**

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I attended a conference organized by Sanford Resident Cliff Babkirk with Sanford State Senator David Woodsome. The meeting was set to discuss all forms of pending Solar Legislation, especially an omnibus type of Bill still not finalized, and how it would impact Residents. Popular topics raised were:

- Sustainability
- Self-sufficiency
- Green Energy - Renewable Energy
- Localized Grids
- Transition away from Fossil Fuels and foreign dependency
- Maximize building orientation to maximize solar potential rather than orienting to roads
- Security of Electric Grid and being less susceptible to terrorist activity
- Align Maine's solar development to be competitive with other States

The pending Bill, again not yet in print, is anticipated to contain goals of increasing Maine's investment in solar electrical generation and increase the State's current generation capacity in solar an additional 250 megawatts. The new generation is sought over the next five years and would include categories for:

- Residential and Small Business Net Metering allowances
- Commercial and Industrial onsite installations up to 1 MGW
- Community Solar Installations without customer limitations

Todd Martin from the Natural Resources Council of Maine advocated for the pending legislation and spoke of the their work with the PUC and electrical distribution companies towards support of the Bill.

Tim Schneider from the Maine Public Advocates Office provided details of the work performed to ensure that 250 MGW of solar power could be installed and distributed by the existing grids without impacting Rate Payers and that the installation of the solar arrays could produce net savings to the grid and customers.

The State's recent change in views developed from the recently released study, "Maine Distributed Solar Valuation Study." The Study may be found at:

[www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/elect\\_generation/documents/MainePUCVOS-ExecutiveSummary.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/elect_generation/documents/MainePUCVOS-ExecutiveSummary.pdf)

The Study highlights many of the points that the City has been testifying about to the Energy Utilities and Technology Committee for the last three legislative sessions. Such identified benefits include, but are not limited to, avoided market costs including energy supply, transmission delivery, and distribution delivery costs equating to \$0.092 per kWh. The Executive Summary goes on at length about other positive aspects associated with solar development. The Public Advocates Office worked directly with CMP and other distribution companies to negotiate the pending Bill. The City will be sure to express a position on the Bill once available for comment.

**Phase II of School Construction/Renovations:**

City and School Administration will be in Augusta on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 to continue working with the Department of Education on Phase II of Sanford Schools. The project development examines all of Sanford's school facilities, absent the pending New High School, and seeks to make renovations to accommodate Sanford's pre-K through 8 Grades. The initial feasibility work is underway and Administration will be discussing the potential to take the concept draft to the public and potentially for engineering. Once DOE approves, the City will move Phase II forward for local review.

**Reminder of Exemptions:**

**From:** Tax Assessor Office

**Date:** 3/1/2016

**Re:** Property Tax Exemptions for Fiscal Year 16/17

If you own a home or purchased a new home before April 1, 2016 you may be eligible for the following tax exemptions:

Homestead

Veteran Exemption

Widow/Widower Veteran Exemption

Paraplegic Veteran Exemption

Blind Exemption

Also, please remember to notify the Assessing office in writing or complete a new application, for any of the above exemptions by April 1. It is important to remember that the homestead exemption benefit does not automatically transfer to a new residence. A new application is required if you move or if you change the manner in which title is held on your existing homestead. All exemptions are removed per sale each year by April 1.

For information or questions, contact the Assessor's office at 324-9115 to see if you qualify for any of the above exemptions, as there is a certain criteria for each one.