

City of Sanford



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



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: Manager's Report for June 3rd, 2014
Date: June 3, 2014

Energy -

Natural Gas – I am working with James Nimon towards a meeting with Senior Management of Unitil to discuss Sanford's need for CNG. We know there is a likely extension of the line in South Sanford to the proposed School Site off Rt. 109 behind Burger King and across from Marden's. The line is proposed to be extended along Jagger Mill Road and to the proposed School Site. It will be but a short connection to the vacant line already placed to service customers Old Mill and Westview. Existing easements will then be considered to propagate the line towards the Mill District and continuing northerly.

Solar Farm:

Representatives of CMP have responded to our last meeting as to their ability to participate in our Solar Farm Project. CMP is currently prohibited from owning generation until the expiration of a PUC stipulation order, i.e. cannot be an equity partner in the Project. CMP could only participate under MRSA Title 35-A §3204 provided the Project addressed a reliability issue, of which there are none. The Utility also cannot take advantage and or participate with the City in the purchase of the Renewable Energy Credits (REC) absent PUC approval as it would not be viewed as a non-core service. The City will therefore look for other avenues for the sale of excess power.

We are scheduling a next meeting with GroSolar knowing the outcome of CMP's ability to partner with the City.

Broadband:

The last of the economic impacts study is being finalized by State economist Charles Colgan. This is the last element to complete the Fiber Network Study for the City. Administration anticipates scheduling a presentation to the Growth Council and the City Council on the same day. Administration has also met with a Leading Fiber Network Contractor that both builds and operates systems as anticipated for Sanford. We have a second meeting with a top provider of broadband and community access scheduled to further examine operating and financing models to add to our Report Findings. To date there has been excellent reception to the Draft information and for the potential for fiber network systems in Sanford.

Mill Street Dam EAP Tabletop:

On May 21st the Sanford Emergency Operations Center hosted the State of Maine Emergency Management to perform a tabletop exercise to drill through a catastrophic failure of the Mill Street Dam. There were officials from the EOC, Police, Fire, Water, Sewer, Public Works, City Manager, and State Emergency Management. A Scenario was laid out by the State providing all Entities to document their ability to respond and coordinate the event. By all accounts the exercise went very well predominantly due to the amount of continued preparation by our Emergency Management Department in conjunction with other City and Utility Departments.

Senator King's Office:

Mayor Cote and I had the recent opportunity to meet with tow of Senator King's representatives Bonita Pothier, Regional Representative, and Adam Lachman, Director of Special Projects. Topics discussed were:

- Federal Funding towards State & Local Matters
 - HUD and CDBG
 - Federal Highway Funds and pass through of URIP
 - EDA and other leveraged funding sources for Projects such as Broadband and or Solar
- Affordable Care Act and impacts upon insurance costs
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the importance to Sanford and the Region for employment and our economy. There are no new BRAC processes for the foreseeable future, yet continue award of contracts for work is essential.
- Sanford Initiatives of:
 - Broadband
 - Transportation improvements to our local and State roads
 - Energy via Solar, renewables, and CNG extension
- Destination Tourism Attraction and regional impacts
- Construction of Sanford's New High School and Regional Career Technical Center
- Bi-partisan cooperation of Maine's Congressional Delegation for the best interest of all

MDOT Scoping Meeting:

MDOT Contractors have started the summer work on Route 202 and pending for Route 109. The work from the New Hampshire border on Route 202 to Sanford is now ongoing. They estimate to complete the 202 Project just prior to July 4th. The Contractors will then move to Route 109 for the mill and fill from the Post Office in Springvale to south of Acorn Street. The work on 109 is not anticipated to start until after July 4th. Parks has coordinated with DOT on the parade. The State will also be working on Route 109 from Emery Street south past the McDonald's with a maintenance overlay and realignment of lanes to create a center turning lane to relieve the congestion in this area. Any night work that the Contract might perform will come to the City for review and approval prior to commencement.

Traffic Control Ordinance:

Chief Connolly and I met with the Police Union Board to review, discuss, and subsequently amend the Draft Traffic Control Ordinance addressing their concerns. Subsection 5 has been strengthened for the Chief of Police conferment in the determination of the use of Police Control in traffic light intersections as well as the major listed roads. The amended Draft has been submitted to the Union for their review and meeting on June 11th. An Amended Draft

will be placed in the Council packets on June 13th for continuation of the hearing process on June 17th.

Dispatch:

Director Tower and I met last Friday with County Administrator Greg Zinser on the pending Contract for Dispatch Services for York County, to include PSAP and Warrants. A review was performed of the process that entailed over the past year on the development of the Partnership Agreements and new cost distributions to more equitably assign the regionalized service. Concurrence was that no Contract was ever signed yet both the County and City had been following a Draft, which was not finalized. Therefore City Management sent a New Contract at the same time as all other Contracts that were up for renewal.

The County is asking to mitigate this year's impact by negotiating a ½ reduction of the increase for this year. Administration committed to working with the County towards a possible resolve along this line. To date, the resolve has not been identified. The City has also asked the County to assume a more active role in the regional service for the combined benefit of all partnering communities, including the County. The meeting was productive and further comparisons were forwarded for the County's consideration.

Fire Contracts:

Negotiations with the Paid Call company should conclude this Wednesday on their successor agreement, current agreement ending June 30th, 2014. The new Agreement will be reviewed prior by the Council negotiations Team for a proposed consideration for the June 17th Council meeting.

Administration will complete proposals for Council review and amendments this week to start the negotiation process for the Union Fire Company. Their Employment Agreement also ends June 30th, 2014 and both parties are seeking an expedited process for negotiations.

Public Works Interviews:

Two more interviews have been scheduled, one for this week and one for next week to identify a New Public Work Director prior to the end of the Fiscal Year. Peter Smith has been appointed acting Director and desires to have assistance prior to the end of June as the position of Environmental Services Director is not funded for the ensuing year.

MEREDA (Maine Real Estate & Development Assc.) Recognized Six Developers for Best Practices

Northland Enterprises received an award for the **Sanford Mill Historic Renovation**, which renovated 66,000 square foot former textile mill into 22,000 square feet of commercial office/retail space and 36 residential apartments. This \$11.5 million public / private partnership utilized historic tax credits in order to preserve the twentieth century architectural features to complement the modern day amenities like a gym, library and outdoor patio for the tenants.