

MANAGER'S REPORT

March 4, 2013

Auburn Mall Ice Arena

Since the last report a lot of research continues. The operational implementation plan and construction schedule are still pending. Here are some highlights or progress:

- The City will be posting the Director's position within the next two weeks. The current plan for funding is to operate using the Ingersoll enterprise fund.
- The City continues to work out construction details with the developer:
 - The building is ordered.
 - Construction is expected by mid March; weather is a major impact to the work.
 - The City is reviewing the second sheet also having a concrete floor. Other arenas that keep ice year around point it out as a benefit more than a detractor. (Specifically I spoke with representatives of Haverhill and Exeter.) Savings is estimated at \$98,000.
- The Twin City Titans have been asked partner with the City in a fundraiser for an ice surface, "Zamboni".
- Contract meetings are underway for both ice time and advertising. Staff is also investigating a memorial plaque at Ingersoll for donations and to commemorate gifts to the building.

NEMO BLIZZARD- RECOVERY EFFORTS

City Departments submitted eligible costs associated with the NEMO Blizzard that occurred on the weekend of 8-10 February 2013 to Jill Eastman who spearheaded the effort. Those costs were submitted to Androscoggin County EMA to help the County obtain that event being qualified as a "Snow Disaster Declaration". Through our efforts the City of Auburn helped the County obtain that declaration! The City of Auburn submitted over \$130,000 in costs associated with this storm! The County needed over \$371,572 to meet that threshold. The process now requires FEMA to come to the County and meet with various stakeholders to learn more about the actual event. There are possibilities that there could be more costs that become eligible once we meet with them. Please note that the City of Auburn is going to host FEMA on Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m. so our fellow municipalities can have a professional facility to work in.

Also, Great Job by our Departments in keeping the City safe and operational during that weekend!

Budget

Deadlines are approaching. As of February 27th 80% of departmental reviews has occurred. Staff is still formulating the new material for each department.

Although with minimal to no budget impact some adjustments are occurring to operations. One that was recently shared with staff is the potential of building off from recent collaboration between Parks and Public Works. In order to progress this efficiency the Parks Crew may use PW as a base of operations. Pettengill will still provide storage space and Recreation remains there as well. One other consideration is providing more space for Electrical at what is currently the park's garage.

The efforts to review services with Lewiston are still underway and reports are coming in. The CIP review with Lewiston per Charter will occur next week between the City Managers and at that time the next steps in reviews will be outlined.

Policy Updates

Per City Council request staff and I are working on some issues per Council directive. These include:

1. Ice Arena operational schedule and plan. The goal is to present a complete plan for both and with pending decisions as indicated in the Arena Report it will take more time. Currently the timeframe expected is the end of March.
2. Economic Development Operational Structure. The goal of Feb. 25th was not feasible however; March 11th workshop will have a presentation. This will include most of what is detailed in the 2013 work plan and an organizational plan for City staff.

Joint Agency Review

As part of the FY14 Budget Process, Auburn will be working with the City of Lewiston to review Joint Agency draft budgets starting in the month of March. Staff from both cities will handle the preliminary reviews being held on March 4 and 5. Joint Agency draft budget data will then be presented to the Joint Agency Subcommittee, comprised of Lewiston Councilors Cayer and Butler and Auburn Councilors LaFontaine and Crowley on March 13 and 14. The Joint Agency will evaluate the budgets and present a funding recommendation to their respective Councils in the form of a report. In the event that the City Councils fail to agree on the funding level of any agency, either Council may request that the Committee meet to review the disagreement and make a recommendation for its resolution.

Preliminary Review:

This review process will be conducted by Clint Deschene, Ed Barrett, Jill Eastman and myself.

Monday, March 4th:

1. 8:30-9:30 – Auburn-Lewiston Airport

2. 9:30-10:30 – LA Arts
3. 10:30-11:30 – Great Falls TV

Tuesday, March 5th:

1. 1:00-2:00 – LA Transit Committee
2. 2:00-3:00 – LA 911 Committee
3. 3:00-4:00 – LAEGC

Second Review:

The Joint Agency Subcommittee is comprised of Councilors Cayer, Butler, Crowley, and Lafontaine. Staff will be on hand as well.

Wednesday, March 13th:

1. 5:30 - 6:30 – LA Transit Committee
2. 6:30 - 7:30 – Auburn-Lewiston Airport
3. 7:30 – 8:30 – LAEGC

Thursday, March 14th:

1. 5:30 - 6:30 – LA Arts
2. 6:30 - 7:30 – LA 911 Committee
3. 7:30 – 8:30 – Great Falls TV

Transportation Center Project

City staff is coordinating a meeting with Hannaford Brothers to discuss the status of the proposed transportation center on Spring Street adjacent to their Auburn location. During the meeting we are in hopes to move forward on the project and make it a reality for our citizens who utilize public transportation. This piece of infrastructure is key to our long range plans in bringing further travel and commuting options to our residents. I will keep you updated on the status of this project once information is gathered.

Public Items

Questions arose regarding Police Vehicle use policies and the new Command Vehicle Purchase. The Manager Report on that night addressed the uses and I have communicated with the residents. No unresolved matters at this time.