

MANAGER'S REPORT

April 16, 2013

NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION IN CITY FACILITIES

The City received notice that Unitil Gas Services will install natural gas at no cost at 3 sites. They are as follows:

- Site 1 – Public Works Garage at 296 Gracelawn Rd. – 1 meter, 400 foot of 2" gas service, 5,000,000 BTU/Hr total gas load, Estimated annual gas consumption of 24,024 CCF AND Maximum delivery pressure 2 PSI
- Site 2 – Hasty Gym/Ingersol Arena- 48 Pettengil Rd. - 3 meters, 800 foot gas main extension plus 3 gas services (45' service, 65' service and a 25' service), 3,825,000 BTU/Hr total gas load, Estimated annual gas consumption of 30,164 CCF, Maximum delivery pressure 2 PSI
- Site 3 – Central Fire Station- 550 Minot Ave.- 1 meter, 700 foot gas main extension plus a 250 foot 1 1/4" gas service, 5,414,000 BTU/Hr total gas load, Estimated annual gas consumption of 12,347 CCF, Maximum delivery pressure 2 PSI

ROUTE 4 PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Reminder- there is a public information session scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. We have sent out reminders to our local delegation, City Council Members, MDOT/ATRC personnel, Public Safety Officials, Registered E-Alert Users, etc. We hope to continue dialogue with citizens and officials to bring a solution that meets the safety of our residents and visitors.

New Auburn Transportation Study

ATRC (Androscoggin Transportation Research Center) has awarded a contract to TYLIN International of Falmouth, Maine to provide transportation engineering and planning services to develop an integrated transportation and land use plan for the New Auburn village. Interested citizens should contact Dan Goyette, City Engineer @ dgoyette@auburnmaine.gov or 333-6600 ext. 1134 for further details about meeting dates and locations. TYLIN plans to hold their first public meeting in mid April, 2nd meeting in late May and 3rd and final meeting in June. Citizens interested to serve on an advisory board to help gauge public input in this process should contact Dan Goyette at the email address above.

Auburn Citizen of The Year

Auburn Business Association has named former State Senator Olympia Snowe as their 2012 Auburn Citizen of the Year! Auburn Business Association will be honoring Senator Snowe with this recognition

on May 30th at the Lewiston Ramada Inn. Once we receive more details I will forward that information onto you so you can all attend this event in Lewiston!

CEI HOUSING PROJECT- 3 ACADEMY ST

CEI had a ribbon cutting on April 12th to showcase their new properties on 3 Academy Street. Properties are now available to the public from \$111,000 to 114,000. All properties are furnished with energy efficient materials. Funds were used from CDBG, HUD, CEI and DECD.

CDBG SETTLEMENT ON LIENED PROPERTY

In recent dealings with a mortgage liens held by the City of Auburn on residential property at 39 Sherry Lane owned by John T. Reid. The liens arise from business loans that the City made to Mr. Reid in the late 1990's. Mr. Reid subsequently filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7, and his debts to the City were discharged in bankruptcy.

John T. Reid's attorney has proposed that the City release its mortgage liens on the property in exchange for payment of \$4,500 by Mr. Reid. The amount offered is in excess of the attorneys' fees incurred by the City in the bankruptcy matter.

For this reason, it was to the City's advantage to reach an agreement with John T. Reid. In the end, the City received payment in the highest amount that could be negotiated with Mr. Reid - \$4,500. The alternative would have been to allow the property to be foreclosed upon, in which event the City would have received nothing.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (PROPOSED)

As part of the last agenda, staff read through the current ordinance and made an attempt to interpret what the ordinance meant, as requested. Staff showed the Board the proposed ordinance changes. They discussed the proposed ordinance changes, but there was no real consensus amongst them. Some members disagreed with all of the proposed changes and wanted to let the ordinance stand as is and felt like the proposed changes were meant to circumvent the board. Some members also felt that if a member was going to be absent, then an alternate should be assigned to the board meeting in place of the absent member for that night. Some members felt that the ordinance language should be changed to state that if a member misses three meetings in a calendar year, they should be replaced. The ordinance currently states that if a member misses three consecutive meetings, they will be replaced. Members also were open to having another ex-officio member (athletic director) and felt there had to be language defining what a quorum was. Others asked if any other boards had by laws? Some members felt that since this is a board that is advisory in capacity, they did not see what substantive bylaws would accomplish. Majority also stated that researching grants should not be required of the board. The board will take up the issue again and offer recommendations at the next meeting scheduled for May 28th. NO APRIL MEETING!

LEGISLATURE BILLS REGARDING AUBURN

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, April 9th to discuss LD875 "Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Study of Possible Connector Roads in Androscoggin and Franklin Counties". The Mayor and members of the public

attended and make numerous testimonies that outlined the need for corridor improvement on items such as pedestrian and vehicle safety, implementations of BMP, hazard mitigation practices, etc. The Committee was not impressed with the amount of public participation and didn't encourage the City to continue collecting data and enforcement of speed on Route 4. MDOT and Maine Turnpike Authority both testified in opposition to this bill. We will keep moving forward on this important endeavor.

ICE ARENA STATUS

The Ice Arena project is moving forward with ground work, foundation preparation and various other components being researched and secured. Gathering of permits from the Fire Marshall's office is still being worked from Mr. Schott's consultant as again this is a private development project. From the City perspective we are here to support Mr. Schott in making this project a smooth endeavor. If we get anything new there it will be forwarded to the City Council.

ICE ARENA POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THE CITY

Roland Miller, Economic Development Director and Ravi Sharma, Parks & Recreation Director will be the City's primary points of contact for the arena.

The City's Consultant, Terry MacLaughlin, will provide technical expertise and oversight of construction and installation of specialty equipment.

Roland, Ravi and Terry MacLaughlin (City's Consultant) will attend construction meetings on behalf of the City.

In dealing with any discrepancies, City staff will work directly with the City Manager. The General Contractor, Mike Hebert, will work directly with the Developer, George Schott. It will be the responsibility of the City Manager and the Developer to negotiate any differences and develop solutions to unresolved issues.

BUDGET FY15

The 2014 budget is not complete but there is already something to report about 2015. Without question staff and I are still working hard on this year's budget and I feel it is fair to say that I expect significant changes to the manager proposed budget and the final one approved by the Council.

However, during development of this budget it is clear that sustainability is a significant challenge ahead. Department Directors have already met and agree that in July we will start developing the 2015 budget to start making changes to impact the long-term sustainability of the City. Auburn needs to look closely at service levels and short term expenses that result in long-term savings. Many of these may be a shift in how we do business but small changes to the status quo will not result in the level of savings Auburn needs to be competitive in the future.

Trees & Brush 101

Correspondence from Curtis Webber, Esq., Forest Board Member, regarding our last workshop's discussion on the Forest Board Ordinance and other items related to this subject has been received. I have discussed with Mr. Webber the abutting property owners who own trees in the public right of way

between the sidewalk and street. The abutting property owner is subject to the right of the City to cut and prune trees which present a danger to passing traffic and passersby. The Forest Board's ordinance would provide a legal basis for the City to cut and prune these trees and otherwise maintain them whether or not public safety is in jeopardy.

I will continue this dialogue to bring this subject back to the City Council for more discussion.

Economic Development Regional Structure

Mayor LaBonte and I will be presenting our proposal to the Joint ABDC and LDC Boards on Friday, 12 April 2013 at LAEGC. In the discussion we will highlight the City's goals and direction for economic development. We have forwarded our proposal to Ed Barrett, Lewiston City Administrator, for review by him and Lewiston City Council. We have not heard any reaction.