

MANAGER'S REPORT

June 3, 2013

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Public Works and Parks crews worked through a damp week to ensure the cemeteries were presentable for Memorial Day. Crews placed 58 flags on street poles and over 300 flags on veteran graves. This is in addition to the multitude of flags that were placed by volunteers from various organizations. Thank you to Councilor Crowley and Walker for helping coordinate flag placement with City Staff and American Legion Post 153. The City received many compliments regarding the placement of American Flags on various streets. Reid's Gun Shop donated 90 American Flags to the City and we appreciate their patriotism. We should be proud of the effort our Public Works and Parks staff put out in regards to this endeavor.

AUBURN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Auburn Business Association honored former State Senator Olympia Snowe as their 2012 Auburn Citizen of the Year at the Lewiston Ramada Inn on Thursday, May 30th. There was a great turnout for this event.

TAX COMMITMENT PROCESS FY2014

We are implementing a process to tax commitment to avoid issues such as those of last year. The final commitment paperwork will not be submitted until the City Manager, Finance Director, and Assessor all agree and review as a group. Our auditor will also review before it is submitted to the State Revenue Services.

ICE ARENA STATUS

- Staff is reviewing sound system proposals.
- Notice of award for the ice resurfacing machine has been sent to LSK Enterprises for a 2013 Olympia Millennium machine for the purchase price of \$122,050.00. This includes the Olympia Millennium ice resurfacing machine, automatic wash water system and two laser-guided leveling systems. The machine will be paid for by the City and reimbursed by the developer, George Schott.

- A meeting with Jeff Gosselin and Ray Teixeira of Mechanics Saving Bank regarding their interest in advertising/sponsoring the Olympia machine took place. We will let you know if anything developed from our meeting.
- A meeting with Kevin Pratt of Acadia Contractors also took place regarding advertising/sponsorship of Olympia ice resurfacing machine or score board. We will let you know if anything transpires from this meeting as well.
- A meeting was held with Lee Hixon, Athletic Director and Don Fournier, Principal, of Saint Dom's. Details of a transition to the new facility were discussed. They have requested a formal contract that can be reviewed.
- Staff has been developing a miscellaneous list of products and equipment that will be needed for the new facility. These items will be reviewed at the next construction meeting.
- A meeting has been scheduled with a Gladiators & Titans representative on Tuesday, May 21 regarding contractual agreements and sponsorships.
- A meeting was held with Rob Manville of Neokraft Signs on Monday, May 13. Rob has previously held positions with various arenas in advertising sales. Rob was able to provide information and insight on his approach to selling ads. This was an informative meeting where Rob shared experiences and gave helpful suggestions on how to manage the process.
- A meeting was held with Ravi Sharma, Mike Berube, Denis D'Auteuil, Renee Bogart and Dave Gonyea to discuss an idea for a documentary on the arena. Several topics were covered: interviewer/narrator, intended audience, intended purpose, general logistics and timeline.

Citizen's Request for Naming of Pettingill Field

Mr. Colby Dill, on behalf of American Legion Post 153, has requested to name the baseball field at Pettingill Field the "Ted Ricker Memorial Field". Mr. Ricker was born in 1919 and passed away in 1991. Mr. Ricker was a lifetime resident of Auburn who served our country during World War II. He was a valuable member of the community serving in many capacities such as Commander, American Legion Post 153, Director, Lewiston Auburn Sports Hall of Fame, volunteered at the Grandstand Club in support of Edward Little High School and was instrumental in establishing a scholarship program for the Auburn American Legion team members. This will be taken up after the budget season as indicated by the City Council. We do have a policy and it will be followed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE #2 CEREMONY- SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, 10 A.M. @ SOUTH MAIN ST STATION

The Auburn Fire Department invited the community to join them in welcoming the arrival of our new Engine # 2 to the city! A special ceremony to formally place this new engine into service was held. In addition to the housing of our new engine, there was a special recognition of in memory of Captain Willis F. Millett who was a Captain on Engine – 2. Captain Millett made the ultimate sacrifice on October 31st, 1952 four days after being grievously injured while successfully rescuing a four year old girl from a fire on Main Street. Family members of Captain Millett were on hand to take part in this recognition. Tours of the new engine and Station # 2 were well received and light refreshments were served.

MDOT SIGNS

MDOT installed new directional signs along the Washington Street-Route 4 corridor. The signs are a welcome to the community as they can assist travelers in getting around Auburn, proper turning lane and directions to our neighbors.

ROUTE 4 PROJECTS

ATRC (Androscoggin Transportation Research Center) Policy Committee has recommended funding the following Auburn projects:

- \$500,000 for Route 4, south of Lake Shore Dr to north of Blanchard Rd: overlay and restriping to 5 lanes;
- \$150,000 for Route 4 at Fair/Martin/boat launch: PE for future roundabout
- \$150,000 for Route 4 at Lake Shore: PE for future roundabout
- \$195,000 transfer to PIN 11599.20, Minot Ave bin wall: funding shortfall based on latest MaineDOT estimate
- \$400,000 transfer to PIN 14787.10 (South Main St, Vickery Road to Cook St) funding shortfall based on latest Maine DOT estimate

As you can see a significant amount of funding has come our way to deal with safety issues on Route 4 and funding shortfalls on a few MDOT projects. There is a public comment period between now and June 27, 2013. Once the notice is posted in the Sun Journal I will forward to you and have it placed on the website

so residents can comment in favor of this much needed project! Thank you to staff that has worked on making this happen!

SHERWOOD HEIGHTS TENNIS COURTS

Sherwood Heights tennis courts are in poor condition and according to Jude Cyr, Business Manager-Auburn School Department, they are not going to get funding in their CIP to fix. Our insurance company, MMA, has inspected the courts and found them to have

- Slip, trip, fall and impalement hazards;
- Courts are being used for non-tennis related activities;
- Nets, net supports and net tensioning ratchets are damaged or rusted;
- Fence support posts are leaning in toward the courts with the court surface cracked with varying widths

It is staff's recommendation to demo the courts and remove the hazards. Neighbors have contacted the City over the years complaining about the noise and vandalism that has taken place and encourage the City to demolish the site. I am anticipating a late July- early August demo project. I will confirm with Public Works on a definite date and will let you know as soon as possible.

ELECTION COSTS

The question was asked at the May 13, 2013 Joint City Council Meeting with the School Committee what the cost of a Special Referendum Election would be. With little history to go by it is difficult to predict what the voter turnout would be. Staff did find voter history information from September of 2004 when a Special Referendum Election was held for the Park Elementary School. The total project costs were not to exceed \$9,766,000 with a second question voting on an additional gymnasium for up to \$635,000 in additional bonds. The voter turnout for this election was approximately 2,200 ballots cast or a 13-14% turnout. I would expect a higher voter turnout for the new high school especially with the impact of the local tax rate if this should pass. My best guess estimates are below. I've included a one polling place estimate as well as a 5 polling place estimate using a range of 20-40% voter turnout.

Some statistical information regarding voter turnout;

2012 Presidential Election – 72%

2008 Presidential Election – 75%

2012 June Primary (no referendum) – 8%

2010 June Gubernatorial Primary/Referendum – 30%

2010 November (Gubernatorial) – 57%

2006 November (Gubernatorial) – 56%

2011 November Municipal/State Referendum – 43%

2009 November Municipal/State Referendum – 57%

2012 School Budget Validation Referendum – 4%

2011 School Budget Validation Referendum – 6%

1 Polling place costs (estimated)

Election Workers - \$900 - \$1200 (1 Warden, 1 Ward Clerk, 4-6 Election Clerks)

Tabulating Machines - \$1350 for programming cost

Ballots – \$960-\$1,920 (approximately .30 a ballot and between 3200-6400 ballots which would be a 20 - 40% turnout)

Clerk Staff - \$400

Public Notice - \$200

Postage for absentee ballots - \$220 - \$442

Total - \$4,030 - \$5,512

5 Polling places costs (estimated)

Election Workers - \$5000 - \$6500 (1 Warden, 1 Ward Clerk, 4-6 Election Clerks per polling place)

Tabulating Machines - \$1350 programming cost

Ballots - \$960-\$1,920 (approximately .30 a ballot and between 3200-6400 ballots which would be a 20 - 40% turnout)

Clerk Staff - \$400

Public Notice - \$200

Postage for absentee ballots - \$220 - \$442

Total - \$8,130 - \$10,812

If a special election for a new Edward Little High School is approved by the City Council, my recommendation would be to do so at the same time as either a June Primary/Referendum Election or a November Election because of the costs and time involved to hold a Special Election and because there would be a higher turnout.

SCHOOL VALIDATION ELECTION

REMINDER- The School Budget Validation election is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 June 2013 @ City Hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ballot will include a second question asking voters to consider going to back to the previous method of approving the budget. We will be using voting machines for this election.

TRANSPORTATION CENTER

At the end of May I signed an agreement establishing a Transportation Center Committee comprised of representatives from the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee, AVCOG, as well as City Staff. The committee shall be made up of two AVCOG staff, the LATC Chair, one LATC Member and four City Staff.