



CITY OF SACO, MAINE

Administration
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Michaud and Saco City Council
FROM: Kevin L. Sutherland, City Administrator
DATE: March 6, 2017
RE: **Administrative Update**

Joint Meeting with Biddeford

At the end of January, a large contingent of elected and appointed officials from both sides of the river participated in a land use exercise looking at the two downtowns. This included a presentation from an engineering firm on traffic in the downtown, an update on the economic development and event planning from the two Main Street organizations, and finally a break out session where the room was split up into eight groups to review a map of the two downtowns and envision changes that could be beneficial to both communities. The [Joint Biddeford Saco Council Steering Committee](#) will be reviewing the information collected and making proposals for the two Councils to consider.

Budget Process

In January, City Administration requested direction from Council after presenting its forecast of expenditures, priorities, and capital and debt needs. Council gave direction for the city to present a zero tax increase on the budget.

The School Board is meeting on March 8th to vote on the school budget.

Given the financial situation, the Mayor has invited the School Board attend the Council workshop on the 13th to discuss options after the vote. At the Workshop, we'll present a summary of the budget to show the total proposed expenditures and revenues and the net effect on the property tax rate.

On March 20th, both the School Superintendent and the City Administrator will present the two budgets to the Council. Thru the month of April, Council will meet to review department budgets during televised workshop sessions.

On May 8th, we'll have a special Council meeting to potentially make amendments to and vote on the Municipal, School, and Water Resource Recovery budgets.

Maine Municipal Association – Legislative Policy Committee

This year starts the first regular session of the 128th Maine Legislature and I am serving as the representative for Saco to the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA serves to provide professional expertise to municipalities, including advocacy at the state legislative level. Monthly, I've spent a day in Augusta arguing for or opposing legislation that will have an impact on Saco and collectively the LPC advises MMA staff to advocate for or oppose certain legislation. While not all of the legislative bills effect municipalities, there are nearly 900 pieces of legislation being considered this cycle. If you'd like to review bills being proposed that could affect municipalities, MMA has a [created a list](#) with additional links to the legislation. There is also a [Legislative Bulletin](#) that is worth a read and includes some upcoming hearings. Finally, I have found a great website for browsing, searching, and reading the different bills being proposed, who the lead sponsors of bills are, the most viewed, etc. It's called [LegiScan](#) – the link will take you to Maine's site.

Route 112 Bypass to Maine Turnpike Exit 36

As you're aware (and all information related to this can be found [here](#)), I've reached out to the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) about the traffic issues on Industrial Park Road and Route 112, asking them to investigate options to alleviate traffic on these roads. While MTA's board has not yet met, a tentative agreement has been reached where MTA and Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) will each contribute 40% towards an engineering feasibility study and they are asking the local government to contribute 20% as well. The engineering study is estimated to cost \$180,000 – \$200,000, putting Saco at no more than \$40,000. Financial participation will give the city the opportunity to have final say in the location of a bypass and I will bring forward a budget amendment on March 20th with a final vote on April 3rd to cover this.

February Police Department Statistics

Each month, the Police Department releases an [activity report](#). Here is a link to the [February data](#). The total calls for service have stayed nearly the same compared to this time last year; however, motor vehicle related incidents are up.

Financial Dashboard

Starting with [January](#), we've released a new dashboard to assist in understanding the financials of the city. Going forward this will be a part of the Council Workshop (so for March 13th, we'll have this information available displaying February numbers).