

City Council Goals for 2002- 2003

Goal: Implement the recommendations of the Camp Ellis Beach Erosion Study Report and Saco Bay Beach Management Report.

These reports call for applying sand from the river to the beach and lowering, shortening, and roughening the jetty. Legal action in support of the changes to the jetty also needs to be evaluated. The City Council is committed to applying resources to meeting this goal.

Goal: Comprehensively address solid waste issues including resolving issues with Maine Energy Recovery Company (MERC), increasing recycling efforts, and seeking alternative disposal methods.

The goal is to reduce tonnage going to MERC. The City Council awarded a five-year contract for curbside solid waste pickup to BBI Waste Industries and Bestway Disposal Services on November 1, 1999. The contract term starts on January 1, 2000. The first year cost is \$215,000. The 1999 cost for this service was \$241,000. The City Council, also on November 1, 1999, awarded a five-year contract to BBI Waste Industries and Bestway Disposal Services for curbside recycling collection services for a first year cost of \$107,000. The 1999 cost for this service was \$111,000. The City Council awarded a one-year contract to BBI Waste Industries and Bestway Disposal Inc. for Transfer Station Operation on November 15, 1999 for the calendar Year 2000. The current cost for this service is \$22.00 per yard and the new cost is \$20.00 per yard. On December 4, 2000, the City extended this contract for one year. In the current year budget, the Transfer Station Operation will be managed by the city's Public Works Department, beginning January 1, 2002, to capitalize on the revenue to be made in the commodities market. The household hazardous waste pickup day offered for the first time in 2000 provided an opportunity for residents to dispose of 4.3 tons of hazardous waste and has been funded again in the fiscal year 2002 budget.

Goal: Continue implementation of Comprehensive Plan and complete 5-year recreation facilities plan.

The City Council is committed to begin these improvements once the plan is adopted, perhaps with implementation of a landfill reuse plan, and the development of a recreational impact fee system to pay for new facilities. They will continue to find non-general fund sources for additional facilities. The Capital Improvement Plan Policy addresses this goal. "A Plan for the Parks, Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Saco Parks System Years 2001 – 2010" was completed in February 2001.

Goal: Maintain roads, infrastructure and utilities to high standard and invest in downtown infrastructure

improvements, York Hill parking, traffic improvements and installing new gateway and orientation signage in the downtown area.

The Capital Improvement Program includes \$500,000 street and road related expenses. This is a part of the City's implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Standard 34 which assures compliance with the "Modified Approach" that the City has elected. The Council approved bid documents in February for the construction of parking facilities adjacent to the train platform.

Goal: Explore revenue sources that reduce reliance on property taxes, including seeking legislative action, review of fees, and creative financing techniques.

The Council has adopted resolutions supporting the State of Maine's Enact the Debt Avoidance Act (local option sales tax) and An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Education Funding Reform Committee.

Goal: Maintain a stable tax rate, in part by increasing the commercial-industrial tax base by marketing and constructing industrial parks and redeveloping Saco Island.

The 24-lot Spring Hill Section of Industrial Park Phase 1 expansion is substantially complete. The Phase 2 expansion will create five lots, and Phase 3 will create two lots.

Goal: Continue to develop multi-modal transportation available to residents and visitors to the City: construct bike paths on Buxton Road, US Route One and Seaside Avenue and work to assess sidewalk and bike path needs. *The City Council is committed to this construction, particularly on Route 9, Route 112 and Route 5 and especially Route 1. Sidewalks will be completed in the new fiscal year from the Cascade Road all the way to the Scarborough city line.*

Council Goals Cont.....

Goal: Provide all City Employees with proper training and equipment, as well as safe working environments so that each employee can fulfill the requirements of their positions and can respond pro-actively to the demands placed upon them by their customers.

City Hall improvements to the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system were awarded by the City Council at the November 22, 1999 meeting. Work is now complete. A training personal computer (PC) is located on the third floor server room for the Microsoft (MS) Office 2000 Suite. The successful completion of this training will enable one to be a certified MS Office user. The Employee Training Report indicates the different degrees of education and certification of our 123 City employees: (3) Masters; (13) Bachelor; (19) Associate Degree; (117) H.S. Diploma; (19) MCJA Graduate; (22) EMS License; (12) Firefighter One; (6) WWTP Grade 1; (2) Dale Carnegie; (8) Other Licenses; (15) Other Certificates; (9) Working Toward Degree. The City Council adopted the Employee Evaluation Policy on January 13 1999.

Goal: Work Collectively to keep the Saco taxpayers informed and involved in the business of the City through appointments to the various boards and committees of the City and by encouraging active citizen participation in all of its meetings.

This is another non-monetary goal that will be achieved by the improved ability to televise City Council and other City meetings throughout the new fiscal year.

Goal: Continue to work with the Saco School Committee to ensure that the school system establishes and maintains a high educational standard and to provide the students of Saco with excellent school facilities and appropriate staff and materials.

Capital Improvement Committee formation was first discussed by the School Board on 10/3/95 and held its first meeting on November 14, 1995. It continues to meet regularly. This committee prepared voters for a successful authorization of spending \$8.3 million in renovations to all of the various school buildings in fiscal year 2002. All schools are Internet accessible from classrooms, libraries and offices and the Saco Schools website is operational. The schools are moving toward full implementation of the Maine Learning Results. The curriculum has been aligned and the schools are currently working on a comprehensive system of assessment. The following curriculum areas are now operating within a continuous cycle of review: social studies, science, literacy, and unified arts. New Initiatives: The Professional Development Team was formed for the express purpose of improving teaching and learning. Peer coaches assist teachers in implementing instructional practices and in organizing professional development opportunities.

Goal: Implement an enterprise resource planning system.

The Information Technology Plan will be completed in March. This Plan will serve as the roadmap for information technology deployment including the enterprise resource planning system. The Police Software will be upgraded this year, as well as the Finance Department file server computer. The cable franchise renewal will be completed this year with the construction of a local area network for public buildings.

Goal: Provide a safe environment for residents and visitors.

The City's Flood Insurance Community Rating will be improved from a class 8 to a class 7. The Insurance Service Office Fire Insurance rating will be decreased from a Class 4 to Class 3 in the urban part of the City and from a Class 9 to Class 8 in the rural parts of the City. The Health Study to be completed in cooperation with Maine Energy Recovery Company will document air quality levels. The proposed Capital Improvement Program includes funding for the upgrade of traffic signals at three intersections.