

Administration

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Doyle and City Council
FROM: Bryan T. Kaenrath, City Administrator
DATE: March 1, 2021
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Joint Saco-Biddeford Working Group

The joint committee met on Feb 25th and discussed the possibility of a shared dispatch communications center which resulted in the group deciding to investigate having a feasibility study done to determine if the proposal has merit and should be pursued further. A joint harbormaster position was also discussed, and it was determined that more information was needed to be gathered and prospective language drafted before both communities could look more closely at the idea. The committee plans to meet again in mid-April.

Army Corp of Engineers "Option 6" Project

Mayor Doyle and I met with staff members from our Congressional Delegation last week to discuss the latest communication from the USACOE and our letter of support for the "option 6" project. They informed us that a response to our letter of support is pending and we should receive that response in the next few weeks. As you may remember, the USACOE has now mandated a number of specific items that need to be contained in our letter to proceed to the PPA. We may have to include these items in a revised letter should we receive a negative response in this round.

Bike/Ped Bridge Collaborative Project with Biddeford

As you know, in late October 2020 the City of Saco, in coordination with Saco Main Street and the City of Biddeford, signed a contract with Thornton Tomasetti to complete a Concept Plan for a proposed bike/ped bridge across the Saco River parallel to the railroad tracks connecting the Saco Transportation Center and Lincoln Street in Biddeford. This Concept Plan will investigate the feasibility of construction, identify two possible design concepts, including cost estimates for each, and identify potential funding sources and next steps to construction. As this study wraps up, Saco and Biddeford are working together to submit an application to PACTS for the next phase of funding: Preliminary Design Review. Planning & Economic Development Staff will provide a project update and seek input from the Council at a future meeting in early April.

Senior Meals Programs

Saco Parks & Rec is preparing to hold our next senior meals program event on March 4th at the Community Center. The meal will be a lunch provided by Bradley Street Deli and Catering. The event is sponsored by Saco Valley Shopping Center and Biddeford Saco Rotary Club.

Wage and Compensation Study and Analysis

The City recently put out an RFP for services to perform our FY21 budgeted wage and compensation analysis. We received 6 proposals with only two having work history in the New England area and another two being within our budgeted price range. After presentations to a staff committee the unanimous choice was to select Municipal Resources Inc. due to their knowledge and work history in Maine, strong references and coming in below our maximum budgeted amount for the project. We expect to have results of the study potentially as early as May.

