



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

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TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: February 11, 2013

## Meetings:

On Thursday, February 14, the City Council will hold an Informational Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The agenda is enclosed.

## Other Items:

Among the agenda items listed for this Thursday is a proposed RFP for provision of piped natural gas to City and School facilities. With help from Ken Young at KVCOG, we have developed an RFP that is modeled after one that Falmouth, Yarmouth and Cumberland jointly solicited last month. I worked with Gardiner City Manager Scott Morelli and County Administrator Bob Devlin on ours. If you approve of it, we will issue it to Maine Natural Gas and Summit Utilities. In addition to considering price and organizational capacity, the weighting would also take past performance into consideration and, importantly, the proposed saturation rate for delivery of infrastructure throughout the expanse of the City. This is intended as a joint proposal but all parties (us, Gardiner, the County) reserve the right to go it alone if that proves in our own best interest. As we said during our goal-setting session, the advent of natural gas to this region is a once in a lifetime opportunity to benefit residents and businesses as well as our own operations. I look forward to proceeding with this.

A copy of the draft goals and action items for 2013 is enclosed for discussion on Thursday also.

You will also note an agenda item related to a possible amendment to the Old Belgrade Road – Exit 113 TIF agreement with the State Department of Transportation. Last week, the State opened bids for the construction of the Exit 113 improvements and they were somewhat over budget. The State has asked us if we are willing to increase our TIF commitment from a potential \$1.2 million to \$1.42 million (see the enclosed e-mail correspondence from MDOT Project Manager Ernie Martin). Ordinarily, I would start this with the Council TIF Committee but according to Mr. Martin there is a time crunch here so I am bringing it to the Informational Meeting. You may recall that you approved this TIF to provide a local match that spurred both State and Federal funds to facilitate the hospital's construction (no exit build out – no certificate of need). Simply stated, the TIF agreement says that whatever new commercial value comes in the neighborhood of the new hospital – up to a maximum of \$1.2 million – for the next 30 years, we will return half of it to the State to help offset the cost of Exit 113 improvements. Since it's a 50% TIF it should have no adverse impact on us provided we have economic development uses

for the remaining 50% of sheltered revenues. Matt Nazar and I believe we could increase that amount an additional \$220,000 to avoid holding things up without adverse impact to the City. If this can be addressed Thursday evening, that's fine. If you feel it should be referred to the TIF Committee, we will of course proceed accordingly.

This afternoon, I testified before the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee in support of LD 6 (sponsored by Representative \_ and Mayor – Cassavant of Biddeford and co-sponsored by Senator Katz and Representatives Pouliot and Wilson) a bill that would eliminate the municipal requirement that the school superintendent be a resident of the City. A copy of my testimony is enclosed. In response to committee questioning, I pointed out that under state law a change to our charter would require voter turn-out of a least equal to 20% of those voting in the last gubernatorial election and that might not be achievable until November if 2014 if past turn out is an indicator. As I said in my testimony, I never thought I'd be before the Legislature advocating for a bill that goes contrary to municipal home rule but the circumstances associated with this issue are unique and compelling. School Board Chair Sue Campbell and Member Deb Towle also testified in support of the bill. No one spoke against it.

I close with another heartfelt expression of thanks to DPW (and their associates in Parks and Cemeteries) for their great work over the past several days.

WRB/pec

Enclosure

cc: Department and Bureau Directors  
Legislative Delegation