



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: June 3, 2013

Meetings:

On Thursday, June 6, the City Council will hold its regular Council Meeting at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. There will be a pre-meeting at 6:30 pm in conference room "A". The agenda is enclosed with your package.

On Friday, June 7, a senior staff meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. at Public Works.

Other Items:

I have been notified by Hallowell's City Manager Michael Starn that the finance committee of his city council has instructed him to develop an alternative to contracting with the City of Augusta for ambulance/rescue (EMS) service if the City of Augusta is unwilling to waive the \$22,463 annual per capita fee we charge for providing that service. Chief Audette and I have had several conversations with our counterparts in Hallowell regarding this matter and it now seems apparent that it will need to be addressed at the Council policy level. The Chief and I have a number of concerns about this development and its implications. For one, we also provide contract ambulance service to Chelsea, and I have to assume that we will need to have consistency in our fee structure if we waive a fee to Hallowell (certainly, if I'm a Chelsea official I will not want to pay a \$12,500 per capita fee if another community doesn't). Furthermore, per capita fees are pretty standard around the state. Beyond that, the public safety relationship between Augusta and Hallowell has for many years been an integrated, comprehensive one. It should be noted that we received about \$75,000 in revenues annual from Hallowell EMS calls (total billing comes to about \$100,000 but there is an adjustment made by Medicare and MaineCare that results in the lower net amount).

We provide police and fire dispatch service to Hallowell and our fire mutual aid services go well beyond the usual arrangements with other neighboring communities (because of our seamless fire/ambulance/rescue departmental structure). On the police side, we are the primary back-up agency for the Hallowell PD and routinely back stop that department (especially given the frequency with which Hallowell has only one officer on duty). I am advised that Delta Ambulance is prepared to contract with Hallowell for ambulance service with no per capita fee and that should Augusta decide to end its relationship with Hallowell that the City of Gardiner

may be willing to enter into an arrangement with them. Should that occur, it raises additional operational issues including that we currently provide emergency medical dispatch (EMD) to Hallowell. If another agency replaces us for EMS, I don't believe we will want to assume the liability of providing third party EMD service. I have advised Michael Starn that I will take this matter to the next Council informational meeting (June 13th) for discussion with you.

WRB/pec

Enclosure

cc: Department and Bureau Directors
Legislative Delegation