

Government Operations Committee

Monday November 2, 2015

(Immediately following the Finance Committee meeting)

City Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Referral, Council Resolve 15-359 – Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$50,000 in Grant Funds from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, for the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program.
 - Please see the attached Council Action page and Council Resolve
2. Sub Recipient Agreements for the Partnership for Success (PFS) Program
 - Mayo Regional Hospital as fiscal agent for Piscataquis Public Health Council --\$38,546
 - Katahdin Shared Services as fiscal agent for Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot County --\$38,546
 - o Please the attached Council Action pages and Council Orders for each sub-recipient agreement
3. Sub Recipient Agreement for the Healthy Maine Partnership Program
 - Sebasticook Valley Health as fiscal Agent for Healthy SV --\$10,000
 - o Please see the attached Council Action Page and Council Order
4. Wrap –up of Town Hall meetings held during September and October.
 - Please see attached memo from City Manager Conlow

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No.

Date: October 26, 2015

Item/Subject: RESOLVE, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$50,000 in Grant Funds from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, for the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program.

Responsible Department: Public Health and Community Services

Commentary: This resolve will authorize the City Manager to accept and appropriate \$50,000 in grant funds from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems for the Partnership to Improve Community Health. This is the second year of a three-year grant from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) to improve health outcomes in the region. The objectives of the project are to improve community access to healthy foods, increase opportunities for populations to engage in regular physical activity, and to strengthen clinical-community linkages and chronic disease prevention. Bangor Public Health and Community services would continue, as a sub-recipient, to serve the communities that comprise our Healthy Maine Partnership service area. The term is 9/30/15 to 9/29/16.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information:

Resolve

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for

Passage

First Reading

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Referral to Gov't Ops on 11-2-15



Assigned to Councilor

CITY OF BANGOR

RESOLVE: Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$50,000 in Grant Funds from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, for the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The City Manager is hereby authorized to Accept & Appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 in Grant Funds from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems for the period September 30, 2015 to September 29, 2016 for the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: November 9, 2015

Item/Subject: **ORDER**, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Mayo Regional Hospital, as the Fiscal Agent for the Piscataquis Public Health Council

Responsible Department: **Public Health and Community Services**

Commentary: This Order will enable the City Manager to execute a sub recipient agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Mayo Regional Hospital, as the Fiscal Agent for the Piscataquis Public Health Council, for substance abuse prevention activities in Piscataquis County. The PPHC serves as the local Healthy Maine Partnership for Piscataquis County. The sub recipient agreement would end 6/30/16.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: **Order**

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for
 Passage
 First Reading
 Referral

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, 2015

Assigned to Councilor



CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Order, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement in the amount of \$38,546, with Mayo Regional Hospital, as the fiscal agent for the Piscataquis Public Health Council.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR:

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a sub-recipient agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Mayo Regional Hospital, as the fiscal agent for the Piscataquis Public Health Council, for a term ending 6-30-16 in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor or Assistant City Solicitor

**City of Bangor
Agreement to Purchase Services**

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 3rd day of November, 2015 is by and between the City of Bangor, hereinafter called "Contractor" and Mayo Regional Hospital, mailing address 897 W. Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426, hereinafter called "Provider," for the period of 10/1/2015 to 6/30/2016.

WITNESSETH, that for and in consideration of the payments and agreements hereinafter mentioned, to be made and performed by the Contractor, the Provider hereby agrees with the Contractor to furnish all qualified personnel, facilities, materials and services and in consultation with the Contractor, to perform the services, study or projects described, and under the terms of this Agreement.

The following Riders and Attachments are hereby incorporated into this Agreement and made part of it by reference:

- Rider A – Specifications of Work to be Performed
- Rider B – Payment and Other Provisions
- Rider D – Additional Requirements
- Rider E – Program Requirements
- Rider F – Budget, F-1 Proforma, F-2 Agreement Compliance Form
- Rider G – Identification of Country In Which Contracted Work Will Be Performed
- Rider I – Assurance of Compliance
- Rider – Exceptions
- Appendix A – Strategy Resource and Count Guide To Substance Abuse Prevention Objectives

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Contractor and the Provider, by their representatives duly authorized, have executed this agreement in one original copy.

CITY OF BANGOR

By: _____
Catherine M. Conlow, City Manager

AND

MAYO REGIONAL HOSPITAL

By: _____
Marie Vienneau, CEO

Total Agreement Amount: \$38,546.00

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: November 9, 2015

Item/Subject: **ORDER**, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Katahdin Shared Services, as the Fiscal Agent for the Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot

Responsible Department: **Public Health and Community Services**

Commentary: This Order will enable the City Manager to execute a sub recipient agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Katahdin Shared Services, as the Fiscal Agent for the Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot, for substance abuse prevention activities in northern Penobscot County. PHNP serves as the local Healthy Maine Partnership for northern Penobscot County.
The sub recipient agreement would end 6/30/16.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: **Order**

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for
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 First Reading
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, 2015

Assigned to Councilor



CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Order, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement in the amount of \$38,546 with Katahdin Shared Services, as the Fiscal Agent for the Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR:

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with Katahdin Shared Services, as the Fiscal Agent for the Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot in the amount of \$38,546, for a term ending 6-30-16, in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor or Assistant City Solicitor

**City of Bangor
Agreement to Purchase Services**

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 3rd day of November, 2015 is by and between the City of Bangor, hereinafter called "Contractor" and Katahdin Shared Services, mailing address 200 Somerset St, Millinocket, ME 04462, hereinafter called "Provider," for the period of 10/1/2015 to 6/30/2016.

WITNESSETH, that for and in consideration of the payments and agreements hereinafter mentioned, to be made and performed by the Contractor, the Provider hereby agrees with the Contractor to furnish all qualified personnel, facilities, materials and services and in consultation with the Contractor, to perform the services, study or projects described, and under the terms of this Agreement.

The following Riders and Attachments are hereby incorporated into this Agreement and made part of it by reference:

- Rider A – Specifications of Work to be Performed
- Rider B – Payment and Other Provisions
- Rider D – Additional Requirements
- Rider E – Program Requirements
- Rider F – Budget, F-1 Proforma, F-2 Agreement Compliance Form
- Rider G – Identification of Country In Which Contracted Work Will Be Performed
- Rider I – Assurance of Compliance
- Rider – Exceptions
- Appendix A – Strategy Resource and Count Guide To Substance Abuse Prevention Objectives

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Contractor and the Provider, by their representatives duly authorized, have executed this agreement in one original copy.

CITY OF BANGOR

By: _____
Catherine M. Conlow, City Manager

AND

KATAHDIN SHARED SERVICES

By: _____
Robert Peterson, President

Total Agreement Amount: \$38,546.00

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: November 9, 2015

Item/Subject: **ORDER**, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement with Seabasticook Valley Health.

Responsible Department: **Public Health and Community Services**

Commentary: This Order will enable the City Manager to execute a sub recipient agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00 with Seabasticook Valley Health, as the Fiscal Agent for Healthy SV, for health promotion activities in the Penobscot County towns of Carmel, Corinna, Dixmont, Etna, Newport and Plymouth. Healthy SV serves as the local Healthy Maine Partnership for the Seabasticook Valley region.

The sub recipient agreement is for a one year term, July 1, 2015 to 6/30/16.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: **Order**

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for
 Passage
 First Reading
 Referral

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, 2015

Assigned to Councilor



CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Order, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub Recipient Agreement with Sebasticook Valley Health

BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR:

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a sub-recipient agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00 with Sebasticook Valley Health, as the Fiscal Agent for Healthy SV, the local Healthy Maine Partnership for the Sebasticook Valley region, for a term of one year (7-1-15 to 6-30-16) in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor or Assistant City Solicitor

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between City of Bangor and Sebecook Valley Health**

THIS AGREEMENT is by and between the City of Bangor, hereinafter called CITY, and Sebecook Valley Health hereinafter called SVH, for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

In consideration of the payments and agreements hereinafter mentioned, to be made and performed by the CITY, SVH hereby agrees with CITY to furnish all qualified personnel, facilities, materials and services and in consultation with CITY, to perform the services, study or projects under the terms of this Agreement.

The HMP for which SVH is the lead agency is expected to serve the towns of Carmel, Corinna, Dixmont, Etna, Newport, and Plymouth to meet MOU deliverables.

I. AGREEMENT FUNDING SUMMARY

Funds are provided under this Agreement for the provision of services detailed in section “Service Specifications and Performance Guidelines”, of this Agreement.

II. GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SVH agrees to submit reports to CITY in accordance with the specifications of the DHHS Appendix B, according to the following schedule:

a. Quarterly Fiscal Reports

Due thirty (30) days following the last day of each quarter: October 30, 2015, January 31, 2016, April 30, 2016, July 30, 2016.

b. Quarterly Prevention Performance Measure IMPACT Report

Due thirty (30) days following the last day of each quarter: October 30, 2015, January 31, 2016, April 30, 2016, July 30, 2016.

c. Agreement Closeout Report

Sixty days following the close of the Agreement period.

III. SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

1. Staffing

The SVH HMP Partnership Director will serve as the point of contact for the CITY and will provide overall leadership to the local coalition for the implementation of deliverables outlined in this Agreement.

2. Programming Criteria and Deliverables

- SVH agrees to develop and increase local capacity and support District infrastructure to deliver essential public health services across the State of Maine. SVH agrees to continue to strengthen the local Coalition to assess local public health needs and participate in Shared Health Needs Assessment and Planning Process (SHNAPP).
- SVH agrees to collaborate with District HMPs to create shared efficiencies on common HMP contract work.

3. Infrastructure and Capacity Deliverables and Expectations

The HMP for which SVH is the lead agency, agrees to:

- Actively participate on the Penquis District Coordinating Council
- Assure two-way exchange of information between DCC and local service area
- Participate in District Public Health Improvement Plan effort
- Respond to emerging public health opportunities and calls to action
- Participate in SHNAPP community engagement activities
- Provide SHNAPP engagement contacts and promote inclusion of populations from the local service area
- Respond appropriately to direction and guidance from the CITY and the District Liaison from the Maine CDC

IV. AGREEMENT AMOUNT: \$10,000

V. INVOICES AND PAYMENT

CITY shall pay SVH twelve monthly payments; the total amount of the payments will not exceed the Agreement amount.

SVH will submit a monthly invoice to CITY for the amount of \$833.33 per month for eleven [11] months and one [1] month for \$833.37. A detailed budget report and accompanying expense documentation must accompany each monthly invoice.

Payments may be adjusted by City on a quarterly basis if the State of Maine determines an under expenditure of budgeted funds as reported on the quarterly financial reports.

VI. INDEPENDENT CAPACITY

In the performance of this Agreement, the parties hereto agree that and any agents and employees of SVH, shall act in the capacity of an independent contractor and not as officers or employees or agents of the State or employees of CITY.

VII. TERMINATION

The Agreement may be terminated by CITY in whole, or in part, if the State of Maine DHHS Agreement Administrator determines such termination is in the best interest of the State of Maine. CITY will be notified by the State of Maine of any such termination by a Notice of Termination specifying the extent to which performance of the work under the Agreement is terminated and the date on which such termination becomes effective. The Agreement shall be equitably adjusted to compensate for such termination, and modified accordingly.

VIII. GENERAL

This Agreement will be reviewed and renewed annually by SVH and CITY as long as the parties are in Agreement throughout the HMP funding cycle.

IX. CONTACTS

SVH: Karen Hawkes
447 N. Main Street
Pittsfield, ME 04967

207.487.3890 ext. 2733
khawkes@emh.org

CITY: Jamie Comstock
103 Texas Avenue
Bangor, ME 04401
207.992.4466
Jamie.comstock@bangormaine.gov

City of Bangor

Catherine M. Conlow, City Manager

Date

Sebasticook Valley Health

Randall Clark, Chief Financial Officer

Date

Memo

To: Government Operations Committee
From: Catherine Conlow
Date: October 29, 2015
Re: Meetings

City staff and councilors have participated in four “Ask Bangor” community forums to directly communicate with residents about issues of concern. The City held four forums at the following locations:

William S. Cohen School – September 10

James F Doughty School – September 24

Mary Snow School – October 8

Downeast School – October 22

Attendance at these events was limited with the best attendance being the Downeast School thanks to volunteers who delivered 800 flyers door to door. Regardless of attendance the staff generally found that the dialogue was a useful way for residents to communicate issues with city staff. The attached minutes were taken at each of the meetings and questions and responses were posted on the website. Themes across the city were similar in that folks mainly had questions or concerns that were directly attributed to the livability of their neighborhoods. A majority of questions were regarding police response, code enforcement, and traffic/sidewalk/pedestrian improvements. Some of the issues were easily dealt with immediately and some were longer term budget items.

Additionally the forums on the West side have generated some questions to the school about how they are dealing with drug use, bullying, and parenting issues. I have shared those concerns and the Superintendent and the school has responded directly. Additionally, the school, as of today, posted a forum on their TV about bullying. Not surprising, the West side forums also generated more concern over the expansion of bus services and social services.

As a result of the forum in Capehart, City staff will be participating in additional neighborhood forums. For example, the Grange will have a spaghetti dinner and the Public Health Department will be presenting information on substance abuse. The PD has also agreed to have coffee one day at the grange and have specific dialogue. I mention this because these forums have allowed staff to make connections on issues of concern to specific neighborhoods.

In addition, the staff has followed up on a number of issues including beginning the bid process for hauling large bulky goods as well as responding to a number of other issues that were raised.

Ask Bangor: Community Town Hall Meeting
September 10, 2015
Summary

1. What are the demographics of the city? It seems like there are a lot of houses for sale. How does school enrollment look?

A: School enrollment has been steady at around the 4,000 mark.

A: The population has also been steady. There is a seasonal effect that is noticed with properties, however, we have not seen a large influx either way as far as housing. It is a sellers' market with around 300 properties for sale currently but that seems to be a healthy number. There are a sufficient number of transactions happening.

2. What kind of impact has the revitalization project on the West Side Neighborhood had? Particularly with crime?

A: In 2014/2015, the West Side neighborhood was targeted for revitalization efforts and approximately \$989,000 has been spent. The City went in as a lead and a lot of private interest helped to supplement our efforts. There is a lot that the West Side Neighborhood has going for it, such as its close proximity to service, stores, downtown, etc.

There is a West Side Watch, which was the first developed project and there have been significant improvements. There is regular police patrol of that area, with particular attention to 2nd Street Park. PD has noticed the type of calls from that area has changed. There is still some drug activity but there have been less burglaries. Police chief, Mark Hathaway, says "it's not perfect but it's gotten a lot better." Collaborative efforts have helped to reduce crime in that area.

As the neighborhood continues to improve, we expect property values will increase.

3. Why aren't there effective speed bumps in front of all the schools? Some of the existing speed bumps, people actually enjoy going over.

A: Per policy, a study would need to be conducted by the Engineering dept. to look at accident history, traffic volume, etc. to ensure that the speed bumps are warranted.

Bob Farrar, Assistant City Manager/ HR Director, said that we will check in with the schools regarding this matter.

4. The area around EMMC including State Street and Hancock Street are treated similar to racetracks. Traffic calming measures are needed from State Street down past the hospital toward Cascade Park. There is a number of issues there with traffic coming together, no crosswalk, the pedestrian crosswalk sign has been run over several times, etc.

A: Public Works will be updating some signage and EMMC has bought a flashing beacon for crosswalks similar to the ones found downtown and we expect it will be installed within the near future.

5. Morning Community Connector buses going to the University are packed with standing room only. This is a safety concern, could a second bus be added to the route with expanded service to evenings and Sundays?

A: We understand the concern, the Veazie, Orono, and Old Town (VOOT) run is a busy one. An extra bus could be added, but that route is paid for by those communities. The bus system does not bring in enough money to pay for itself and it comes down to tax dollars. We will reach out and see if there is interest by those towns to add an additional bus.

6. There seems to be a lot of furniture on sidewalks. Are people fined for dumping their furniture by the road? Could the City implement a pickup program?

A: The last curbside cleanup was around 20 years ago. There were many problems with it including the manpower and equipment needed to pick up all the waste. Dana Wardwell, Public Works Director, estimates it would take 30 employees, 6-8 weeks to comb the streets and make sure everything was picked up. He also pointed out that there was a lot of abuse by contractors and people who lived out of town.

What to do if you see waste on the sidewalk: notify the City via the Go Bangor App and file a request. The City will contact the owner to move it.

7. What is the City doing for its senior residents? You've mentioned that we have an aging population but there isn't much for them to do with limited opportunities.

A: Parks and Rec are aware of this concern and are working to offer programs. Currently, the facilities are busy handling the different sports teams, before and after school care, etc. that makes scheduling difficult.

Eastern Area on Aging and the Senior Center downtown are both great resources for seniors, as pointed out by Council Chair Nelson Durgin. They hold different activities and provide opportunities for exercise.

8. There is a big safety concern about Pearl Street between State and Garland Street during the winter with terrible parking and street becoming so narrow that an ambulance would not be able to get through.

A: The section is a one way with no parking on one side. The Police Dept. and Public Works will work together to do better in making sure cars are parked legally and the snow has been sufficiently removed to ensure access.

9. There is a parking problem on Fruit Street, particularly during school events that sometimes blocks driveways and makes it difficult to get in and out. Residents have complained and put up no parking signs they were given by PD but the problem persists.

A: There is a balance that is hard to meet in this area. There is no designated area for parents to drop off students and where teachers park are large concerns. There is a lot of congestion in that area. There is no easy solution. PD didn't realize it was as big of a problem as it is. Police

Chief, Mark Hathaway, stated that he will go look at the area and if there is something that can be done quickly, they will do it but a more permanent solution will take time. We will speak with the Superintendent to see if there is anything they can do to alleviate the problem.

10. Thank you to the City for providing shelter last winter to those who lost power in Capehart. Is there anything we can do to ensure this is available this coming winter, if it's needed?

A: The Fire Department is trained and prepared for any pending storms. There are designated areas for warming shelters and full blown shelters, if necessary. Please rest assured that this service will be provided, if needed.

11. People cross Griffin Road to get to the Airport Mall frequently. Residents are concerned that someone will eventually get hit here. We would like to suggest a flashing crosswalk light similar to downtown. Also, the Capehart drug issue is a big one. People are selling drugs out of their homes, have lots of people parking and walking down the streets to their apartments and it is big safety concern. Bangor Housing basically says to mind our own business and PD doesn't seem to be doing anything either. Are these issues being addressed?

A: There are neighborhood issues facing communities all around the country, it is not unique to us. We receive many calls about perceived drug use/ selling and not all of them are actually drug related. PD has been making an effort to flood neighborhoods, stopping every car. It takes a lot of work to build drug related cases and they are more time consuming than people expect. However, by flooding neighborhoods- it drives people seeking drugs out and acts as a strong deterrent. The goal is to put those people dealing from their homes, out of business.

Drugs are being carted in from away and it's creating an even bigger problem because as soon one person is arrested, they have a replacement on their way up. PD has partnered with Maine Drug- that's who is responsible for the arrests of those five people on federal charges just recently. It took a long time to build those cases.

Extra police presence and the effort to flood neighborhoods is a priority with the PD. However, it comes down to manpower. There are lots of things that PD want to accomplish but are unable to due to limitation of resources. The public's perception is that we aren't doing anything but that is not true. It may not be as quick as everyone would like but steps are being taken. The drug problem is a top priority for PD.

12. What is being done about the state of Pickering Square?

A: There is a plan to address Pickering Square. It is on the list for the Community and Economic Development to address, just like the West Side Revitalization efforts. However, it will be 2017 before any real changes are noticeable. There is a lot of dead space in Pickering Square and poor visibility which will be addressed. Things are being done in the interim including trimming hedges and hopefully the fountain will be removed in the near future to allow better visibility. Tanya Emery, Community and Economic Development Director pointed out that just because people are hanging around down there does not mean they are up to no good.

There is a police officer dedicated to downtown. He has done a lot of good work in reducing problems such as shoplifting, reducing loitering, etc. He is very familiar with the area and has a

good idea who is who. We know we can do better, so PD is looking to add extra coverage during the weekends for next summer.

13. When are sidewalks paved? Why was the esplanade on Pearl Street removed? Why are there no sidewalks in new developments?

A: Sidewalks are typically paved when the street is paved. However, some are require a lot of extra work to bring back, which we try to do unless the residents have stated that they don't need them. Paving crews try to do both sides, when possible.

Generally speaking, there is nothing that requires that sidewalks be put in new neighborhoods and to save money, they typically choose not to create them. The planning board might require it if it was a safety concern but it's difficult to require a sidewalk that leads to nowhere.

14. It is understood that there are fewer resources and the City is doing what they can. A more concerted effort would be more helpful than the individual effort, as commendable as it may be. Has the City explored creating an active volunteer program to help with different projects?

A: There is an active volunteer group that does tasks in downtown. This idea is something we can look into. It would require some management but perhaps the group in downtown could be a good starting point.

15. Union Street Bridge is taking a long time to finish. There are guys standing around not doing anything. There is a lot of congestion coming from the on ramp from Ohio Street. Have you considered closing it?

A: The Union Street Bridge is a Maine Department of Transportation project. It is not being completed by the City. We do know it is a congested area with different access points. However, the bridge had to be removed in pieces and then built- section by section. It is a time consuming project and not one that can be done all at once.

16. Can code walk us through the process of a blighted/abandoned building?

A: There is a Council Ordinance that regulates vacant buildings. A lot of them are vacant due to foreclosure and so the City ends up dealing with banks that don't have the title yet. We send notices to register vacant buildings and to minimally maintain the property. Compliance is pretty good but maintenance can be challenging. If it hasn't gone through the foreclosure process, which can take years, they may be reluctant to do anything. The City only takes possession if there are matured tax liens. There is a registry that the City keeps. It has not been made public so as not to attract unwanted attention but you can call the Code office and they will let you know where in the process they are with a particular building.

If it is known that squatters are in vacant buildings- we work with PD to remove them and then Public Works will board up the house. It is largely a complaint driven process. We may not know about the problem. Also, please keep in mind that the Code office has a very high work load. Items are prioritized based on safety concerns and other factors. If you have concerns, you can file a service request on our website or via our Go Bangor App.

Town Hall Meeting
September 25, 2015
Summary

1. When will the house on the corner of Patten Street be demolished? What about the motor home, it is illegal.
 - a. Monday, September 26. However, the motor home is off limits. We will follow up on the legality of the motor home.

2. What is being done about the vacant homes in our neighborhoods?
 - a. There are a number of vacant homes in Bangor. The majority of them are bank owned and this is an issue that neighborhoods are facing everywhere. There is a significant process to take homes and it should be hard to take people's homes but we understand that it seems awful when they just sit. If you have questions about a vacant home near you, call the Code office and they will be happy to let you know where they are in the process.

3. Will the rickety hurricane fence along Main Street remain all winter?
 - a. We don't have a removal date, it is typically left up between seasons. However, staff are looking into ways of improving it.

4. There is a "black hole" at the intersections between Third St. and Fifth St.
 - a. Dana Wardwell, Public Works Director, will take a look at this.

If you have issues- please let us know by filing a service request online either through the Go Bangor App or our website.

5. What is the turnaround time on requests? A neighbor filed one about a pot hole and didn't see any results. What is the process?
 - a. There has been a transition period to this new system and some people were still running complaints through the old system. Sometimes things are fixed but notification wasn't sent out. However, most kinks have been worked out now.

For issues like pot holes, the turnaround time is typically about 24 hours. For larger issues- it is around 30 days. Issues like street lights- Public Works will wait until there is a group of lights in the same area need attention before sending out a crew is sent out. This is for efficiency reasons. They are usually taken care of within a couple of weeks.

6. The flashing pedestrian lights downtown- will we see those pop up elsewhere? What do they cost?

- a. They cost about \$5,000 for a pair (one on either side of street). There are six pairs that will be installed throughout Bangor in the near future. They are prioritized for upcoming year. If you have suggestions for the following year- please let us know. Below is the list of those that are planned to be installed in the upcoming year.

State St @ Bus Stop to Bellview (EMHC purchased-PW installing)

Main St @ Cross St

Union St @ Second St/High St

Third St @ Vine St/ Sidney St

Union St @ Thomas Hill/Sliding are/Pancoe pool

Broadway @ Somerset St

Fourteenth St @ Ralph St/ Fourteenth St School

7. During the summer time on Fairmount there are barrels that get placed on the roads as acting as temporary “speed bumps” and they get beaten up. Is there a plan to address the concern residents have for children at this park?
 - a. City staff will take a look at this area. We would conduct a traffic calming study, per policy, to see if the area meets the guidelines for installing speed bumps. We will look at crash data, speed of drivers, etc. We generally do these studies through the engineering dept. at the request of citizens.
8. With the barrels, it is a tight fit and little room for error. Can the barrels be moved a bit?
 - a. We will take a look at this and reevaluate the placement.
9. What if the Fairmount Park area doesn't meet the criteria you've listed? What does the City plan to do?
 - a. The policy was established to provide guidelines for staff to follow when determining whether traffic calming measures are necessary. Everyone wants people driving slower on their street even if drivers aren't going as fast as you may think. We would have them everywhere.

What we have done in the past and could do if it doesn't meet the criteria is create a strong police presence in the problem area around Fairmount Park that will deter speeding. We've had success doing this in other areas. Doesn't take long before the word gets out not to speed in an area because of police presence.

10. When an area is lacking the criteria for a traffic calming measures, what's the missing factor? There is a lot of traffic on Norway Rd and we think it is a big safety concern, does a child have to be hit? Can the policy be changed?
 - a. The missing factor is usually crashes. The criteria states there should be three crashes within a one year period. We do what we can within the parameters of the policy. We rely on signage and warning lights. Speed bumps are not always the answer, they are

unpopular and can be controversial. This is part of why the policy exists. Norway Rd likely does not meet the criteria, however, the City will do a study. What we have seen is there's not as much traffic as you might think. For example, we did a study on Cottage Street due to complaints of cars cutting through and speeding. We found that it has about 500 cars a day, which is not considered high volume for our area. Additionally, PD spent four days on Cottage and they struck out. People were driving under 30.

We will take another look at the policy.

11. I've seen school buses speeding in our neighborhood.
 - a. We will contact the bus company and ask that they slow down.

12. On either side of Fairmount Park, on Royal Rd. and Norway Rd. people park everywhere including on the ends. Perhaps, we can take a look at restricting parking to one side?
 - a. We will take a look at the current parking situation and see if there is a reasonable solution.

13. There is a large concern about parking around Fairmount School. The curb is yellow, indicating no parking, but people do anyway. Even the areas posted "No Parking" are ignored. Kids dart out between vehicles and it seems like someone will end up getting hurt.
 - a. We will talk with the schools and see what can be done.

14. During evening events at Fairmount School, people park on both sides of street and the crosswalk empty directly into driveways. We were told years ago that it would be moved but it never happened, why?
 - a. The crosswalks can certainly be moved to better locations. There is an ordinance that prevents people from parking within a certain distance of driveways.

15. Also, some sidewalks in this area are in disrepair. We've been told they would be fixed but again, it hasn't happened yet. It also seems like some roads are being paved before others that are in worse condition.
 - a. We evaluate our roads and try to work with utility companies because there may be other work that is due. For example, Court Street hasn't been paved because there is a sewer project that is scheduled to happen next year. We certainly don't want to use the resources to pave a road only for it to be torn up. There are a lot of factors that are considered when determining when a street is paved.

As for sidewalks, they are typically paved when the road is, if at all possible. We are averaging about 4.5 miles of sidewalk a year. We are working hard to catch up with sidewalks because there was a period when it was allowed to fall behind but it will take more time. The harsh winter/ climate hasn't helped. There is a replacement plan that

covers 29 years. The council has done a lot toward addressing this including issuing a \$2 million bond.

16. What was the reasoning behind the recent decision to turn Clinton Street into a one way street? It was an easy way to reach downtown and it seems like the City has created a problem. Why wasn't the suggestion of an experimental period not considered?

- a. The reasoning behind why it was changed was because of the five leg intersection. Five legs adds conflict that aren't typical for people to expect. Taking the fifth leg out of an intersection reduces conflicts and increases efficiency. We evaluated the traffic and we got rid of the low volume direction. The volume of traffic going down Clinton Street toward Hammond Street was under 50 vehicles in peak hours. This is very low volume. We received money from Maine Dept. of Transportation to improve the intersection. It would have been another 20 years before we saw money for that intersection again. We took the opportunity to make it safer and more efficient.

There are alternate routes available but there will be a little bit of a learning curve. This was not done to hurt people but to make the area safer, as the city, and therefore traffic, grow. The plans were evaluated by many engineers. The area is real close to reaching the amount of accidents to make it a high crash area and we decided to address the problem, proactively. That way, years down the road, we won't be asked why we didn't fix it before it became a big problem. Our approach always considers two big factors- safety and efficiency. This is why we use our existing policy to evaluate areas, so there is data and rational behind all of our decisions.

17. The utility companies have come through and butchered our trees on 14th and 15th streets. They did such a bad job that some of the trees will need to come down. Can the City address this?

- a. Unfortunately, the City is partly to blame because 25-30 yrs ago we planted trees that shouldn't have been placed below lines. Now, we only plant the small ones. They have begun an aggressive program to cut trees to prevent outages in the wake of last winter. They have standards on how to prune but they don't care if they are pretty. We do work with them but we don't have the authority to tell them not to do it. If you believe it is a city tree (and not a personal property tree) - give us a call might be able to clean it up a bit. If we have to take a tree down, we do try to plant a new one, unless resident doesn't want it.

18. We used to have spring clean ups. We don't anymore but people are putting their junk on the streets anyway. Are the landowners responsible?

- a. If you see it on private property- call Code or file a service request through the Go Bangor App or our website. If it is on City property (such as sidewalk or esplanade), call Public Works or file a service request through the Go Bangor App or our website. What we have been doing is placing signs to the junk we see asking that it be removed or they will be fined. This seems to be helping.

As for spring clean ups- it was discontinued because it cost a quart of a million dollars to do and takes 6-8 wks to pick everything up. This means, there is trash out on the curb for those 6-8 wks.

19. Can we have a program that would allow people to pay a fee to have it picked up? People could make appointments and there would be a certain number of slots available. A lot of people don't have trucks. Often times, it ends up in the woods. Couldn't this service be put out for bid? Are there options for people for to call to have it picked up?
 - a. These are great suggestions. It ultimately comes down to resources and it would cost a lot of money. It would need to be added to next year's budget. However, we can add a list of vendors to the website that citizens can call for private disposal. If it is left out there and nothing is done after it's been posted, you will be fined for the removal.

20. Can the airport prevent jets from coming in while people are sleeping?
 - a. We don't have a lot of control about this but we try to work with the Guard and ask that they don't until after 6am. However, they do what they need to.

21. There is a big issue of properties that look bad, that landlords don't take care of, etc. Is there an incentive for homeowners to clean up their property?
 - a. The City's Community and Economic Development department has rehabilitation loans for façade work for investment properties. We send out dozens of notices every week. There are lots of procedures that have to be followed and so it results in lots of waiting times.

There are a lot of people in Bangor who may not have a lot of money. The targeted use of resources with the West Side revitalization effort has really helped move things along. Individual volunteers are going out and offering to help out. They have really stepped up which is wonderful. It's much easier to have neighbors helping neighbors than it is for the City to try and force people to mow lawns or paint their house.

22. There are several houses empty on Royal Rd. This has us very concerned about safety, particularly concerning squatters. What is being done?
 - a. This is a challenge. There are 150 vacant homes registered and most are owned by banks that are 5-6 years into the foreclosure process. Unfortunately, banks are handling so many of these all over the country, that Bangor is not high on their priority list. However, we are taking steps to work with them and we've hired another inspector in an effort to be more aggressive. However, if they do not comply, the next step is court. And that is a time and money consuming process. Simply put, judges don't want to hear property maintenance cases because they are considered low priority.

We mainly respond to complaints, we do not go looking for vacant property. Our highest priority is those that present safety concerns, such as squatters in the building. We do go in and empty the building and board it up. We have razed more houses in the last couple years than years previous to that but they have all been in the words for years. If a bank owns a property- so long as they pay the taxes, we can't take it. So it will just sit and then we are back to trying to get the banks to maintain the property.

23. Can some of the bigger one family homes be turned into apartments so they may be more attractive to buyers?
- a. That is a question of zoning. Some apartment buildings were put up without proper permitting. So if we may be investigating poor maintenance and we come across this, we try to address it. However, it is a sensitive issue. For example, say you bought a building 20 years ago that you've been renting for years. Now you want to sell it but there are lots of complaints and through that you've learned that it's zoned for three apartments but there's five, it can be sensitive. We do send notices about it but the property may not be as attractive to buyers now.
24. Can you explain a bit more about the zoning concerns?
- a. Zoning residences may have areas zoned differently than others. For example, there may be 4 or 3 unit house in a single family zoned area. So, if the house were to go up for sale and sits for over a year, it reverts back to a single family home and it can't go back. That means it's unlikely that anyone will want to buy it. Now, if it's within the acceptable time frame- it can be sold as a nonconforming multi-unit. But not everyone in the neighborhood may want it to be a multi-unit. We may not even know there is a problem unless we get a complaint or get notification from an insurance company, which isn't often.
25. How does someone know what a property is zoned as?
- a. There is a GIS zoning map available on our website or you can call the City planning office to find out.
26. Walking on Buck Street, where a person was hit a while ago, one sidewalk disappears and there is no sidewalk on the other side. People going to the fair and other events are walking on the road. Why is there no sidewalk on the side closest to Bass Park? Also, why hasn't the bass park parking lot been paved?
- a. It comes down to money, although we understand the safety concern in regards to the sidewalk.

Citizens recommended giving taxpayers a pass when they register their car to park in Bass Park parking lot for free and those coming from other towns can pay to park. This money could be used to upgrade the lot. City staff will look into this.

27. There is a large concern about parking at the Cross Center and ADA requirements and whether or not they are being followed. Many handicap citizens are being forced to walk long distances to different elevators. How is this allowed?

a. The City Manager will speak with the manager of the Cross Insurance Center.

28. There has been a rash of burglaries and break-ins lately. One house was hit twice. There just seems to be a constant stream of bad people and it's getting worse. Drugs are out of control. We know we are asking a lot of the police but what is the City doing about this problem, particularly with Hammond Street?

a. This is a concern and we are working hard to address these problems but they didn't happen overnight. There are groups of people working hard to address these concerns. For example, there is a group of local CEO's getting together for a public meeting in December to talk about these issues and make recommendations for things like diversion programs to get people into treatment earlier but things take time. There are working groups between hospitals and providers to come up with protocol for narcotics. Conversations about different forms of additions, how to get people out of their cycles and into clean places to live with support. You will notice that people are really starting to talk as groups. It won't solve everything but we are working on it.

Please know that the Police are hard at work. The person responsible for the east side burglaries has been caught. That was accomplished through an overnight officer that was experience and picked up something and ran with it. Every morning at 9am, PD has a staff meeting. We run reports and focus on the issues to see where the man power should go that day. But creativity is useful and we use it to our advantage. There will be more manpower that will be put on the West Side to catch who is responsible. A lot of us ourselves live on the West side and we are doing everything we can. Those that are responsible are often in drugs and that is their motivation.

The Pines is another area close to Hammond Street where a lot of homeless folks tend to gather. We have worked with the local shelters clean this area out. The bad spots are on our radar and we are all working hard to curb this problem.

Citizens recommended engaging school to help with early intervention to help set kids on the right path. That we should all, as a community, be looking to engage students that slip through cracks. City staff noted that there are some prevention dollars that go toward communities. However, schools like things to be before or after school hours and the kids that would need the outreach most, leave immediately after school. However, its issues like these that is why neighborhood watches have been formed. A citizen pointed out there is a website (westsidewatchbangor.org) that you can visit for the West Side Neighborhood Watch that give tips to stay safe.

29. I see needles all the time on the streets. Are they ever tested for fingerprints? What do I do?
- a. Call PD and they will come take care of them. We do not test them for fingerprints, we don't have the resources or times to tackle something that large.

30. Is the take back program for unused medications still available?

- a. Yes, there is a drop box at PD for pills and they can be dropped off at any time.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to staff, our job is to help you.

Ask Bangor: Community Town Hall Meeting
October 8, 2015
Summary

1. I would like to see more police presence in my neighborhood. Why aren't police patrolling neighborhoods more?
 - a. It is a staffing issue. Unfortunately, we aren't able to hit all the neighborhoods as much as we want. We do have some ideas on how to push officers into the neighborhoods but we haven't been able to implement them yet. In the interim, we will do our best.
2. Why hasn't an ambassadors program that appoints one person as the point of contact for all neighborhood been implemented?
 - a. The Council has considered this but fortunately, Bangor is small enough where staff are accessible by all citizens, including the Councilors. We can readdress this at a later time, if necessary.
3. The concert area with the fence is an eye sore and the concerts are too loud, especially the bass. What is being done? Who pays to maintain the area?
 - a. There is a balance to concert noise levels. Its great entertainment and by nature it's loud but we are looking into ways, including technology that will help. Specifically, we are looking into a second set of speakers that will deliver a more direct sound to the audience. There is a curfew for concerts- 11pm on weekends and 10:30pm Sunday through Thursday night. We understand that is a bit late if a concert falls on a school night but if we restrict the curfew too much, we won't be able to attract high selling performers. We are having conversations about implementing different types of solutions as early as the next season. As a result, we expect that our improvements will help address these concerns.

Long term goals include better fencing and a roof structure. The City will continue to have concerts and we will continue to look into improvements.

The City receives money from each ticket sold. For the 2015 concert year, the City received \$112,000. Who pays for what and how much the City receives in revenue is part of a contract that was negotiated. The ticket revenue is straight money with no restrictions. Services provided such as fire and police, are paid for separately and do not take away from the ticket money the City receives. They take care of facility charges/ maintenance, which is not something the City is paying for.

Councilor Faircloth pointed out that not only to we receive money directly from the concerts but there is an increase in other benefits as well, including money spent in local restaurants, hotels, and store.

4. There is an increase in traffic going up Essex Street. There is more traffic on Grandview from people trying to avoid Broadway. Is there something that can be done?

- a. We haven't looked at that intersection but we certainly can. Engineering will look at it to see if there are any possible/reasonable improvements that can be done.
5. At Broadway and State Street- people step off curbs and walk across the street without paying any attention to traffic or crosswalks. Is there enforcement on that?
 - a. Jaywalking is not something we generally enforce. As far as police priorities and things citizens would like us to be paying attention to- jaywalking is considered a lower priority. Everything has to be prioritized and it would be unrealistic to expect that we would be able to stop it from happening. However, PD will take a look at it and try to curb it in the "problem" areas. Right now, officers don't usually write tickets for it but if they do, its downtown.
6. Enforcement of parking restrictions isn't uniform. Vehicles on French Street get ticketed but not on Broadway. Why?
 - a. We will check into these concerns. Generally speaking, Broadway and nearby streets in that area are a priority, especially given the high school. We try to curb it quickly in that general area because we realize it is a big deal for some people. We do give students a week grace period at the beginning of the school year but John Bapst High School is very good about working with us to address our concerns.
7. Is it possible for PD to write and newsletter in order to publicize these sorts of things so everyone can be more aware? Not everyone has a computer. Perhaps the City could publish it?
 - a. There are lots of ways we try to push information out to the public. PD has a huge presence on social media. We have a dedicated public information officer who has enough on his plate. Not sure we have the time to take on a newsletter. However, PD will be putting their stats online.

The City is working with the University of Maine to look into ways to better communicate information to the public. We send information out so many ways already. The problem is people pick up the information differently. People can sign up to receive emails on a number of different topics. Unfortunately, there is already lots of junk mail out there so things get ignored. We just don't have the resources and staff to do a newsletter.

8. We understand that PD is understaffed. Have you considered reserve police officers to do community work without carrying guns?
 - a. Some Police Dept. have modified training programs but those, along with reserve programs are going away due to mandates that state police officers must be fully certified to do pretty much anything. Smaller towns that have relied on reserve police officers to supplement their force, will have to think of different ways to that moving forward.
Now volunteers are different and we do have a group interested in taking a citizen's policy academy. We aren't sure what the program will look like right now but there are two in the state that have had reasonable success. We just don't have the staff to manage it, it would have to be run by volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Chief Hathaway or Deputy Chief Johnston.

9. Is there a way to shut down the methadone clinics here in Bangor? It seems like there are better ways to help people.

- a. The short answer is no. There appears to be a misconception about what the City has voted on in the past as far as the clinics go. How the law is written you can't say no, only where they go via zoning. Therefore, cities/towns can regulate where they go but can't keep them out.

Councilor Civiello has pushed the legislature to listen in an effort to bring more services to other areas in order to cut down on high traffic to our city from people seeking treatment. We have been working at this for about three years. It is an uphill climb but we are seeing it get some traction.

We actually need more treatment, not less. We are working to try to expand treatment in doctors' offices as an additional resource. Different things/treatments work for different people. There are lots of ways to recover. As a City, we have been meeting for over a year, focusing on a strategy that will encourage doctors to be more accepting of treatment in their offices. These efforts could potentially lead to the closures of clinics. People could heal in their own communities. Recently, Director Public Health & Community Services Patty Hamilton has recently been appointed to a task force to try and help with these initiatives. So, there is a lot going on to try and address this. Things aren't going to happen overnight but these things give us hope that things will get better.

10. We are concerned about the condition of our roads. This is supposed to be a vibrant city but the roads are terrible. Citizens on French street have asked for years to have their road fixed. What about the surrounding area? Isn't there a program that is based on how bad the actual roads are?

- a. We are working on this. We know that French Street is terrible but we hope that you hang onto those thoughts while all the work is done. Next year, we will be doing the whole works for that street, including sidewalks.

It doesn't make sense to ignore what's underneath and fix the top. We have to wait and it has to be planned, which takes time.

Center Street from Montgomery to Cumberland- work on the sewer and catch basins has begun and we are hoping it is paved soon, before snow falls.

Park Street has recently had some emergency work done but there work needed on the retaining wall which may be a big restoration project.

Sewer pipes are in bad shape in many areas. We know other areas where the streets are bad but it has to be planned out so we are using money effectively. We don't want to pave a street before the other work is done, only to dig it up. It is a struggle to catch up on the roads, especially after we backed down mid-decade due to the slow economy but we are doing what we can. We are not intentionally ignoring any street.

11. The oil prices are down- why aren't we doing more streets?

- a. We are really at our capacity this year. However, the byproduct from oil is now being used in other projects, other than asphalt, so that cost has actually risen. The price has fluctuated and may not be as low as you might think.

We have secured Federal and State funding for some main arteries, here in Bangor but the funds won't come through for another year or two. We have the financing to complete Broadway from Stillwater to where they ended the new pavement this year. We just have to patient for the funding to come through.

- 12. The debris signs for things left outside. How long to they stay before something is done?
 - a. We check back usually within two weeks and then they are picked up. We have been trying this on an experimental basis and it appears to be more helpful.
- 13. Last week, debris signs went up but it looks like the "easy to pick on" places were targeted. It seemed like unfair placement. How is it decided?
 - a. We operate largely on complaints, so we may not see it all. We can assure you that it is not based on neighborhood bias. If you see it, let us know and we will ticket it.
- 14. There is a large amount of people going the wrong way on Columbia Street. Is there a way to fix the signage?
 - a. Engineering will look into this.
- 15. What will the City be offering for Senior Citizens give that the Senior Center will be closing until it relocates?
 - a. Right now, we have a program that meets a few times a week for seniors. We have done special events in the past. Staff is already looking into what we can do to pick up any slack.
- 16. Essex street wood- The entry way looks demolished, like they did work but didn't pay any attention to how bad they made it look. Why? Can you also comment about what is happening with the end of the trail where access has been blocked?
 - a. The section you are referring to is where a sewer line runs underneath the trail and in order to service/ improve it- it was necessary to dig up. We are looking to improve that area moving forward.

A portion of the trail that connects part of the woods is private property. Recently, the property owners have had legitimate concerns and frustrations that not everyone was being respectful of that section of trail. The short term remedy was to place signs to close that section while staff works on a long term solution. We are working to resolve it in order to continue the long history of use that citizens have enjoyed.

- 17. What's happening with the Airport?
 - a. There are major renovations under way at BIA. We are working to upgrade an old tired terminal. We are looking to improve customer flow and a better customer experience. We have the room for growth and are looking to take advantage of that. We want the airport to feel like you are in Maine. We are working with concessions to help with this. We want Bangor citizens to be proud of our airport.

- b. You may also notice that in the lobby there is a huge monstrosity of a structure. We are working in partnership with TSA to have a more efficient check baggage system.
- 18. Are there any more additions? Will we get the Boston connection back?
 - a. Two years ago we got United Airlines back with the help from great staff. Boston traffic used to have more business with an increasing market, at the time which helped us but through the mergers, things have changed. However, Boston is on our list to get back, along with Charlotte and Atlanta.
- 19. What about Manchester, NH?
 - a. Any place within a few hours of us is more of a drive market. It would not be profitable.
- 20. The website previously had multiyear assessment available but now they only have one, so I can't compare. Can that be changed?
 - a. We did limit it this year but if citizens want multiple years back, we can make that happen.
- 21. Is it possible to get Assessing information online rather than coming into office?
 - Over the next couple of months, some of that information including tax cards will be available online. GIS platform will be put up that will have it all available with an easy icon. For \$50, you can come pick up a CD that has all the information.
- 22. The windows in City Hall near Council Chambers are in horrible condition. What is being done?
 - a. We don't disagree with that. We have been working to replace those. There is an opportunity with Efficiency Maine's large customer program that would allow us to bundle smaller projects together with up to 50% funding from them. This would help with projects around the City including fire dept. and airport. Please know, that anything we do to the windows at City Hall will have to go through the historic preservation society. We have to go through the same process as everyone else when they want to alter a historical building.
 - b.
- 23. Has there been any progress in making an amendment to eliminate the code that says buildings will revert to single family homes after being vacant for 12 months, regardless of how many units it has?
 - a. There are a few buildings that this has happened with and we are aware that investors are not willing to rehab them for a single family home. We have been working on amending that code. However, there are many other high priorities and oftentimes, it is the problem of the day that we must address. We will get back to it but please know that it is a large building that requires a lot of effort from the planning board, council, legal, etc.
- 24. What is happening with all of the foreclosures?
 - a. Most foreclosures are bank owned. There are approximately 150 or so registered vacant homes. Some banks care more than others but we do struggle with getting them to maintain their properties. When the City is able to take possession, we try to turn them around as quickly as possible. Recently, we have been able to demo a couple buildings that were safety concerns. The challenge is really the ones that we don't own. We actually had a bank reach out to us months after we sent a notice telling them to demo

it and ask what they need to do. We love when they respond but it is a struggle to get them to.

25. Can you add fines to an ordinance as incentive for the banks to comply?
 - a. We know it is a big problem but in reality- in order to actually receive or enforce the fines, we'd have to take them to court. Court is a very expensive and time consuming process, so it wouldn't be as effective as you may think. Additionally, judges do not want to hear cases on property maintenance and other similar issues. They are very busy, as well, and those sorts of issues are not their priority. The other issue is, we go through the whole process to get them in court and they take care of the problem just before so we have no case. Then we are back to square one. We push these issues as far as we can. There is a recent change on the state level that would allow us to do some maintenance but that still translates into us spending money. To put a lien on a property is \$50. That can add up quickly, not to mention the complicated process and procedures must be followed.

26. There's a foreclosure near me that's been 12 years in the making. Trees have grown up so much that you can't get in the back door. Why can't the City buy the property and fix it up before selling it?
 - a. We do this with some properties, it depends on the property. But we are working to return as many properties as possible back to the community either through, fixing them up and selling, demolishing the house and selling the property, selling as is for others to fix up, etc. With local banks, we can negotiate a short sale easier than with big banks. We are working with small banks to fix as many as possible, faster. Unfortunately, houses can wait years in foreclosure. If you have a house near you that is a safety concern- please reach out to us either by calling or the Go Bangor app. We will respond.

27. There are so many potholes, I'm worried for my car. What's being done about it?
 - a. File a service request via the Go Bangor App or by calling us. We do have crews that go out and fill potholes. There is lots and lots of information on our website, or you can get information by calling us.

28. City Council Candidates at the Candidates forum discussed how they would like to extend the City Bus services. This hasn't happened is it due to the expense? How much money are the talking about?
 - a. The simple answer is that it's an expense issue. Each year we go through the budget and discuss people's desire to increase services. However, it's not a money maker and so it is subsidized by taxpayers. There just aren't enough riders to cover the cost of extending services. We can't know how much money because there are too many variables. We are on a regional system and we are one partner. So, even if the City does want to extend hours, not all may want to. It would be a City Council issue and they do the best they can to prioritize all the things that need more money. Everything is important and there is a balance. However, we are all aware there is a need there.

29. The roof at the airport mall is leaky, specifically Ocean State Job lots who have a big blue tarp collecting water. At what point does the City do something about that?

- a. This is news to us. We were not aware of this problem but that would be a code issue whether it's a house or business. Code will look into that. If you see things like this that have you concerned, please let us know!
30. Do restaurants have to have working bathrooms?
- a. Yes, if they don't, let us know. We depend heavily on information received from citizens through our Go Bangor App, website and phone calls. We do utilize the system. Last year alone, we handled 3,500 service requests. If it is an emergency, please call us directly.

Ask Bangor: Community Town Hall Meeting
October 22, 2015
Summary

1. Can we add a sidewalk to Finson Road from Ohio St. to Weebees or add additional street lighting to that section?
 - a. That section is classified as rural/country road and we don't typically put sidewalks in those areas. Instead we pave a five foot side section of the road for pedestrian use. Putting in a sidewalk would entail enclosed drainage which would be a big challenge and expensive. We have secured state funding

2. What about Bolling Drive?
 - a. We can look to see if we could find the funding for that project.

3. Please explain why small sections of roads are skipped when paving, for example Central Street.
 - a. For Central Street specifically, the bridges have concrete sections that cannot be paved. For budget reasons, we sometimes do smaller sections and wait a year or two to do the rest. It's a matter of finding the funding and spreading the resources throughout the city and trying to make everyone happy.

4. There is a lack of lighting in new Capehart and no sidewalks. There is no safe place to walk. Can the speed limit be changed to 15mph? Speedbumps?
 - a. The street light policy says there should be lights at intersections and every other utility pole. We will look at the spacing in that area to make sure it abides by the street light policy.

The state sets the speed limits and for a 15mph limit, it must be a school zone. The City has a traffic calming policy that we follow. We will take this as a request to look at that area including Bolling, Langely, etc. We will look into additional signs and see what the options are.

The Police will get out on Bolling and the surrounding roads over the next week or two.

5. The crosswalk on Griffin Rd from new Capehart to the Airport mall is scary. Nobody stops there. Is there a better way to mark the crosswalk? Can a flashing crosswalk beacon be put there?
 - a. We understand this concern. We are redoing Griffin Rd next summer and will move that crosswalk under a street light so it's easier to see people crossing. All unattended crosswalks (unattended meaning they are not at an intersection tied in with the lights) have four signs- two from each direction. We will make sure the crosswalk has been painted. The flashing crosswalk beacon is not budgeted right now but we can add it to the list for next year.

6. How much do the flashing beacons cost? Could we raise money to have them installed?

- a. They are \$6,000 for a set. EMMC and Penquis have both purchased them for areas near them and we installed them.
These flashing beacons are great, however, we do want the public to be aware that there is concern that people will stop paying attention to them just like the signs. The more of them that there are the quicker that will happy. So, we aren't saying no just that they don't belong everywhere.
7. Have there been serious discussions of putting armed guards in our schools?
 - a. We have a lot of schools and one liaison who is responsible to all the principals. Downeast School in particular is covered by Officer Brennan. The schools don't pay for this service and we did used to have two school liaisons but we had to some shifting in the budget and it was reduced to one.

Every school is covered before school starts. They are on our radar. It's not a perfect situation but we don't have the ability to cover it all. However, the schools are very important to us and PD. We will continue to be in schools as best we can. We use a school every April for training so officers have an idea of layout which will help if we ever run in to a problem.
8. What is being done about bullying at school and at bus stops?
 - a. That is a school and police issue. We can't speak to the school but we encourage you to reach out to them and speak with Chief Hathaway to address the problem. We will have the school resource officer/ liaison present if he is aware.
9. What will be done about sidewalks being cleared this winter? Last year kids had to wait on the road for school buses.
 - a. Last year was a very challenging year. We typically see 70 inches of snow and we got 140. We did our best. We like to equate clearing sidewalks with driving your lawnmower to Ellsworth. Simple things will break the machines down and when there is a storm on top of one another- it slows us down even further but rest assured our guys are out working hard to clear sidewalks. We plow 80 miles of sidewalks a winter- you can imagine how long that takes.
10. Can we specify where the bus stops are and make sure they are cleared?
 - a. We can certainly look into that. Once we have the locations, we can use a loader to push the banks back in those area.
11. A lot of people push their snow onto the sidewalks, particularly on Blue Hill West. Is there something that can be done about that? Can you send a letter to landscaping companies asking them not to?
 - a. It comes down to a matter of personnel to enforce it and we just don't have that. It is against state regulation. Vendors move around plowing different driveways, it's hard to pinpoint who is doing it. We can site the landowner. The letter is a good idea, unfortunately, it's unlikely we would reach everyone.

12. There are kids doing drugs on Bolling Drive near bus stops and on Langley St. where they hide behind a garage- bus comes about 7:45. And it's not just kids- its parents. It's a big problem. We call the police but by the time they get there, they're gone.
 - a. We will work on solutions. That is a problem area. Plate numbers are helpful. Making them aware that people see them and try to be proactive are all good points. We have some officers that will interact and relate with the kids. It will be easier once we know who they are and we will work with the schools and PD will get out to the bus stops. We will get out there throughout the week and press it upon them to knock it off. We take bullying very seriously.

13. Do you know what the schools are doing about bullying and drug abuse?
 - a. We don't know what the school department is doing specifically because we cannot speak for them. They operate under their own guidelines even though we share a building. It wasn't because they didn't want to come but we thought there were enough City concerns to address without bringing in the School. However, the City Manager will speak with the Superintendent and pass along these concerns.

14. Some kids are unable to participate in Parks & Rec activities due to transportation issues. When practice gets out late- the buses no longer run. Now with the Hampden service discontinued- there's no transportation to the Parks & Rec building on Saturdays either. What is being done about this?
 - a. We can certainly look into helping with that. We can ask on forms if a child has trouble with transportation so we are aware and we'll see about facilitating carpool.

As we move forward into the next year, we will be looking at options in regards to the bus line. We know there is a desire there to provide service to the lower end of Main Street. The options will be presented to Council and they will make the ultimate decision.

15. How much would it cost for a shelter to be put in for not only the City bus but for kids waiting for school buses as well? Could we raise money for that too?
 - a. The cost ranges between \$3-5,000 depending on size, prep work, etc. We can certainly look into this and see if moving forward we can budget for some additional shelter. There are standards and they are in the City's right of way. We will look into other funding resources and see about packaging some of these things up. We would rather see the City attempt to address these concerns first.

16. Has there been any consideration to put in another park near Langely and Randolph? The only park around the Capehart neighborhoods is the school and it's not suitable for little kids.
 - a. City Staff will look into this. We understand the need and are looking into a spot that would be most convenient for most people. We are aware of the need for an additional park. We will have a conversation with Bangor Housing and do what we can.

17. Has there been any conversation of moving the Homeless Shelter on Main Street?
 - a. No. It's a property they own that they have put a lot of resources and money into. People don't like to look at it but it's a necessary service that is centrally located.

18. Both shelters have been full a couple nights in October. What happens in January when it's freezing outside? My church puts people up but aren't there other resources?
 - a. We have had conversations about that. We've been told by some people they are full but when we call they aren't. There are options with GA and other services. We won't leave people out in the cold. We suggest calling Rindy Fogler and talk and coordination with her for those types of services.

19. People are throwing their trash on other people lawns and debris signs get put on it. We can't prove other people are doing it. What do we do? Specifically, there's a house on Thomas Hill Road where it's an ongoing problem.
 - a. This is a challenge. The signs have been effective. If it's a big problem call us and we will do what we can. Ultimately, owners are responsible for keeping their property clean. Code is aware of the familiar with that issue. Hopefully the bank will be able to sell it. There is no easy answer.

20. Is airport mall up to code? The first thing people see coming from the airport is that mall.
 - a. This has been brought up before. We are trying to get in touch with the owners of that building. We are aware of the maintenance issues. However, Marshalls and Hannaford's looks nice so it's not all bad.

21. What is going on with Captain Nicks?
 - a. It will be demolished. RH Foster owns the building and they have plans to expand their parking lot.

22. I see Bangor Housing spending lots of money for entertainment, etc. but they haven't invested in bus shelters. I was hoping someone from Bangor Housing could address that.
 - a. We will share your concerns with them but we can't speak for them. We did not invite them to attend this meeting because we thought there were enough City issues for us to address in this meeting alone.

23. Do we have grant writers?
 - a. We do write grants but they only go so far. It sounds great to be able to do all the projects that we want but we have limited resources. The State has cut our funds that paid for amenities that we used to enjoy. The city was hit hard after the housing crisis and commercial values went down. Some people say we've done a bad job with the tax rate but it provides great services that we need. We try to strike a balance, we know a lot of taxpayers are on limited fixed incomes. We do the best we can. We can't do everything so we work hard to prioritize so the most critical needs are addressed first.

24. What can we do as a community to help?

- a. It is great to hear that. We don't have all the answers but we would like to get the name and contact information of those interested in helping.
25. What do you do for people that are in the street, homeless? For drug addicted people with children who have had chances but can't break the cycle?
- a. We work hard with the shelters and other resources to get people to all the available services. We don't want anyone to be homeless and we do our best to connect them with what's available. We've held meetings to address this issue to help where we can but unfortunately, we can't reach everyone, it's just not possible but we do our best. You are right that this is a problem that we are struggling with.
26. Where are all the drug forums in Bangor? There have been others but not here. What about a family shelter?
- a. There are lots of people working on these issues, including dedicated teams/ meetings. We know these issues take time. We can hold more forums and City staff will take this information back to the groups and see about holding more public meetings. We know there is a need for a family shelter. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. We are working on a campaign to reduce the stigma associated with these types of issues so people feel more comfortable asking for help. Better treatment options from doctors to prevent them from getting to the point of the family breaking up is an issue we are discussing.
27. There are kids that trespass and are on the Downeast School roof. We call PD but they always come after the fact and there have been times they haven't responded. Why?
- a. We do respond but calls are prioritized. There is an officer assigned to that area and they should be responding at night. We have a young motivated crew. Police Chief Hathaway said he would be disappointed to find out that a call wasn't responded to. No call goes unanswered. He will look into that and if it's true, someone will be in trouble. Now, usually the dispatcher will ask a caller if they want a call back and most people don't. We will do a better job with that. We encourage you to call us. If you don't want to give your names, that's fine but we will still respond. A delay during the day may occur due to priority.
28. When is leaf pickup?
- a. It begins November 2 and goes until the weather shuts us down. WE are looking into tracking our movements and making that available so everyone will know but not this year. Please be patient.

Electronic Submissions- Wrap Up

29. Would it be possible to bring in good draining soil to raise and level off a portion of Stillwater Park to create a nicer playing surface?
- a. Park & Rec will work with Public Works to determine what some possible remedies might be to address the drainage problem along the Howard Street side of Stillwater

Park. Ultimately, it could become a larger task that requires a request for funding during the next budget process.

30. Can you relate on the subject of a passenger rail here in Bangor to support movements of passengers and cargo?
 - a. Mayor Durgin has represented Bangor on a State-wide task force for explore the expansion of passenger rail. At issue is the ownership status of tracks and rail lines; and the condition of the rail lines is not sufficient to accommodate higher speed passenger trains; and it is very costly to bring those tracks and lines up to passenger rail levels north of Brunswick. For those reasons it will take a statewide solution to improving the rail corridor and Implementation of passenger rail will likely continue to expand north incrementally. We will continue to work with the State to develop long range plans for the implementation of passenger rail in Bangor although it is a very long term plan.

31. How many full time employees does the City have and how many of them live in Bangor?
 - a. The city currently has 449 fulltime employees (non-school). Of that total, 111 or 25% live in Bangor. State law prohibits municipalities from enacting ordinances mandating that employees live within the community. Municipalities may, however, enact reasonable response times to report to work or maximum mileage distances from work, when these are determined to be an important element of the job. The city does have these types of requirements in place for certain police, fire, and public works employees for whom response time to work is important.

32. What is the plan to correct the City's violation of the clean water act and what will it add to my wastewater/stormwater bill?
 - a. The City of Bangor, like many other municipalities, has a combined sewer system that sometimes overflows through combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The City of Bangor has been working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency over the last few years to craft a legal agreement (the Consent Decree) to reduce and eliminate CSOs over the next twenty years that is both acceptable to DEP and EPA and affordable for the citizens and property owners of Bangor. The Consent Decree includes sewer improvement projects that the City will complete in the immediate future, as well as provisions for the City to develop a Long Term Control Plan to address CSOs.

The City of Bangor has been continuously working towards the reduction of sewer overflows and the current Consent Decree formalizes this process. Ongoing funding of CSO projects will be required to meet the conditions of the Consent Decree, but City Engineering Staff does not believe that the residents will see an immediate spike in sewer or stormwater rates directly related to the Consent Decree. Additionally, the terms of the Consent Decree include affordability language, stating that if financial conditions within Bangor significantly change, then the City has the opportunity to modify the Long Term Control Plan with EPA and DEP approval.