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**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – ENERGY AUDIT DISCUSSION**

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**TO:** INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** JOSH PLOURDE  
**SUBJECT:** ENERGY AUDIT DISCUSSION  
**DATE:** NOVEMBER 25, 2014  
**CC:** DEB CYR, FINANCE DIRECTOR; CATHY CONLOW, CITY MANAGER

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The purpose of this evening's discussion will be to determine if there is consensus to direct City staff to craft and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to conduct an energy audit on City owned properties. An energy audit was previously completed in 2006/2007, but significant technological advances have taken place and prices for efficiency upgrades have dropped since that time. Deb Cyr will be present to provide background information on the prior energy audit that was conducted in 2007, as well as to shed light on how the RFP could be approached.

**Background**

Energy audits are a professional service to determine where and how energy is used within a facility. The audit itself does not specifically fix areas of inefficiency, but rather, identifies the areas and proposes the most 'bang for buck' solutions to reduce energy consumption and cut costs.

Costs associated with utilities represent a significant portion of the budget. Utilities are arguably the only portion of the budget where technology readily exists to reduce costs without reducing services.

**What will this cost?**

If consensus exists, City staff will establish a RFP, which does not cost anything to issue. As the RFP is non-binding from the City's perspective, the Council will have the option whether to formalize any agreements proposed in responses.

Responses to the RFP will include cost-related information at which point the Council can decide whether to take action.

Similarly, once the energy audit is conducted and the final report issued, the Council will then have the opportunity to decide whether or not to take action on energy efficiency-related recommendations provided.

**What will the energy audit suggest for solutions?**

It's likely that the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Airport present the greatest areas for improvement in the realm of reducing energy consumption. Generally speaking, solutions involve upgrades to lighting, heating, or cooling systems. Due to recent advances, many of these upgrades can be made with significant cost savings seen over a 5- to 10-year period. Once an energy audit is conducted, the City will be eligible to take advantage of any incentives available through Efficiency Maine's business program, which might help drive which energy solutions make the most sense for Bangor.

**What action needs to be taken today?**

This committee must determine if consensus exists to direct staff to draft the RFP. Deb Cyr will be present to answer questions about what steps will be taken if the consensus exists.