



# The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MONDAY, OCT 31, 2016

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A1

## Capital Improvement Plans aka CIP

City staff prepared a five year capital improvement plan (CIP) for submittal to the City Council. This was the first time in many years that such a document had been prepared. A copy of the 2017 plan can be found on the city web's site [www.biddefordmaine.org](http://www.biddefordmaine.org) or by clicking [here](#).

You might be wondering why a CIP is an important document and process. The answer is, very few people realize the extensive amount of roads, sewer, drainage, buildings, parks and vehicles that the City owns and manages. A CIP provides a framework for maintaining these assets on a defined schedule and allows elected officials the ability to make informed budget decisions. As of June 30, 2016, total City assets included the following: (*continued on A2*)

City land	\$7,068,700
School land	\$827,675
City buildings	\$10,549,212
School buildings	\$67,009,553
City vehicles	\$12,406,751
School vehicles	\$3,295,549
City infrastructure	\$56,775,402
School infrastructure	\$526,959
<u>Construction in progress</u>	<u>\$421,241</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$150,563,425</u>

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Tuesday, Nov 1

4:30pm - Finance Committee  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

5:15pm - Downtown Task Force Workshop  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

6:00pm - City Council Meeting  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

#### Wednesday, Nov 2

8:30am - Economic Improvement Commission  
(City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room)

6:00pm - Planning Board Meeting  
(City Hall Council Chambers)

#### Thursday, Nov 3

5pm to 7pm - Extended hours for Absentee Voting  
and Voter Registration ONLY  
(City Clerk's Office | Main Street Entrance)

6:00pm - Strategic Planning Committee  
(City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

### Safety Enhancement Grant Approved

City of Biddeford is pleased to announce it has received a Safety Enhancement Grant and Scholarship Grant awarded by the Maine Municipal Association for \$2,000.

The Safety Enhancement Grant and Scholarship Grant programs offer financial incentives to members of the Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Fund. The grants are used to purchase safety equipment for services that assist in reducing frequency and severity of workplace injuries.

Improving workplace safety for municipal employees saves taxpayers money by reducing lost hours at work, cost of insurance claims and overtime expenses for employees who might have to fill in for injured co-workers.

The City will use this grant exclusively for purchasing Body Armor.

#### *Recreation (A2):*

Teen Center Halloween Party | Mayfield Drainage Project | 50 Plus Club Bingo and Bus Fundraiser

*(continued from A1 CIP)*

In addition, the City also has another \$39,078,561 in assets that are assigned to sewer operations managed under a separate fund. These assets are found in the same kinds of categories as above.

The CIP document is normally provided to the elected officials about 6 months prior to the time the Council receives the proposed budget for the next year. The CIP is designed as a planning document not a funding document. In other words, simply because an item is included with the CIP, does not mean that it will be completed/purchased. When an item is included in the CIP, it implies that it is a necessary expense and that if all goes well, it is suggested that the item receive funding through the normal budget process.

With over \$190 million in assets to care for, the bills for upkeep, maintenance and replacement can be substantial. The task to prioritize these expenses and recommending when to spend is not easy for staff. Your elected leadership finds the task of prioritization even more complicated because they often lack the personal expertise of city staff and must determine how limited tax money is to be spent in relation to all other municipal priorities. The CIP process is designed to make the process easier by providing a five-year projection of planned expenses.

The CIP is also designed so that every citizen will have a better understanding of the pressures on the budget.

By design, the CIP provides a view of the horizon with annual funding decisions made during the normal budget process. Having the CIP discussion at a different time than the budget, allows the elected officials to focus on long-term investment decisions for the City instead of just looking at the next budget and the next year's tax bill. The intent is to attempt to reduce the higher costs that often accompany decisions focused only on the short-term. The CIP is a valuable tool for elected officials and citizens that focuses on the long-term care of all of the assets of the City.

## Teen Center Halloween Party

Friday, October 28th the Teen Center held its annual Halloween party for youth, grades 6-12. The event included games, a costume contest and a variety of prizes. Transportation to and from the event was provided by BMS.

## Mayfield Drainage Project

For many years the Recreation Department has been looking at ways to address the drainage issues at the Memorial Park (Mayfield) softball field. For too long, the field has not been playable during the Spring or following heavy rain. Construction began in Spring 2016 and this past week installation of some backstop fencing was complete.

This project was made possible through the CDBG Program. It was a cooperative effort by the City's Engineering Department who provided the design, bid specs and project oversight.

Aceto Construction, Public Works and Parks Division of Public Works who performed a bulk of the project's labor. During the project, the Recreation Department assisted in relocating games or practices as the season progressed.

An additional challenge at the field over the years has been the lack of water for use to support the program. In the past, through the kindness of the Donovan family (a neighbor of the field) Little League was allowed to use water from their home.

The field will be back in action spring of 2017. The City would like to recognize Linda Waters from the CDBG office who worked diligently to secure the funding. City engineers, Tom Milligan and Bob Sanchioni for their contributions along with Guy Casavant, Ray Parent, Dave Marchand from Public Works and Parks as well as their skilled crew, Kevin Aceto of Aceto Construction, Jim Godbout of Godbout Plumbing, Mike Fecteau from the Recreation Department, Andy Donovan President of Girls Little League, Don Perreault of Girls Little League and the City Council for their support of the project.

## 50 Plus Club Bingo and Bus Fundraiser

On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> the 50 Plus Club held a bingo fundraiser at the Rochambeau Club and raised another \$2,315 towards purchasing a bus. One hundred and seventeen people played bingo that day.

Many members of the club prepared goodies to sell at the event which accounted for about \$200 of the total amount. There are many bingo fans in the club, which helped to make the event very engaging and a huge success.