

## **State of the City Address**

**March 2, 2015**

**City Council Chambers**

**Joint Meeting of City Council & School Board**

**Mayor Dana Hilliard**

**School Board Chairman Don Austin**

**Robert M. Belmore, City Manager**

**Jeni Mosca, Superintendent, School District**

**Dave Sharples, Director of Planning & Community Development**

**Scott Smith, Director of Finance & Administration**

3/2/2015

1

## **City Charter**

### **ARTICLE XIX – STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

**The State of the City Address is required annually by Charter and has to include these essential updates:**

- Current financial condition of the City: budget performance and capital expenditures/CIP.**
- Future plans for City Improvements to maintain or enhance facilities and service delivery.**
- City's Master Plan placed into action.**

3/2/2015

2

## Year in Review: Current Fiscal Year Condition

### G/F Revenues as of February 21, 2015

Revenue Source	Budget	Receipts	% Rec
■ Taxes	\$25,771,956	\$ 24,983,933	96.94%
■ Licenses, Permits, Fees	\$ 1,515,625	\$ 1,012,133	66.78%
■ Intergovernmental	\$ 859,331	\$ 810,414	94.31%
■ Other Sources	\$ 762,455	\$ 484,476	63.54%
■ Use of Fund Balance	\$ 1,698,888	\$ 1,698,888	100.00%
<b>■ Totals</b>	<b>\$30,608,255</b>	<b>\$28,989,844</b>	<b>94.71%</b>
<p>■ <i>Use of Fund Balance - \$1,313,888 (\$180,000 used for Downtown Improvements and \$1,133,888 used for High St. project), \$385,000 used to reduce property taxes.</i></p>			

3/2/2015

3

## Year in Review: Current Fiscal Year Budget

### Appropriations

- Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund Budget = \$ 13,314,781 \*\*
- Overall, General Fund Budget has expended 69% of appropriations as of February 21, 2015.
  - Winter Maintenance is impacting the Department of Public Works budget. Areas such as overtime and equipment maintenance are already over budget. Current estimates are the bottom line of DPW will be overspent by year end
  - Current estimates reflect that any over expenditure due to winter maintenance can be absorbed by under spending in other departments.
- Expenditures historically fall within 98% of appropriations.
- *\*\* Includes Ordinance 3-15: Supplemental appropriation for Downtown Improvement Project adopted on August 11, 2014 and Includes Ordinance 4-15: Supplemental appropriation for High Street Improvements.*

3/2/2015

4

## Year in Review: City Financial Condition

### Fund Balance Policy

- City Council adopted a formal fund balance policy in September 2011.
- City Council Fund balance retention policy: "The City will strive to maintain an unassigned fund balance in it's General Fund equal to 5-17% of the total appropriations of the community (which includes City, School, and County)".
- Maintaining a healthy fund balance is important so that emergencies may be addressed or other unanticipated expenditures, and to assist in mitigating dramatic City tax rate fluctuations.

3/2/2015

5

## Year in Review: City Financial Condition

The change in the City's budgetary fund balance is as follows:

Budgetary Fund Balance-beginning of year	\$4,476,762
2013-2014 excess revenues over expenditures	1,446,483
Ending budgetary fund balance - June 30, 2014	\$5,923,245*

**\* Includes non-spendable, assigned, and unassigned fund balance, which is detailed on the next page**

3/2/2015

6

## Year in Review: City Financial Condition

The components of the budgetary fund balance is as follows:

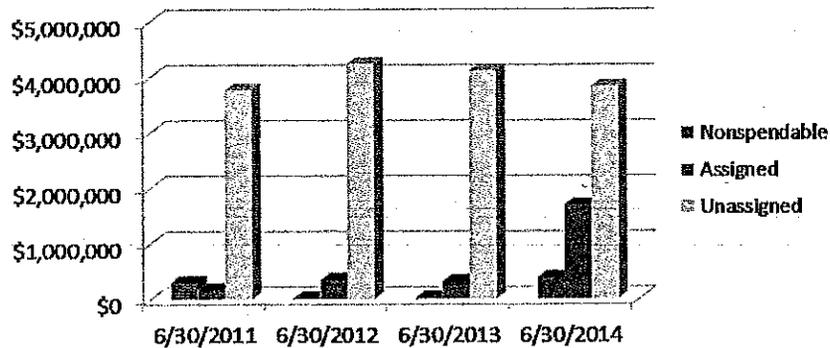
Non-spendable:		
Prepaid expenses	392,475	
Assigned:		
Designated to offset Tax Rate	385,000	
Voted for Appropriations	1,313,888	
Unassigned:		
Undesignated	3,831,882**	

**ACTUAL PERCENTAGE                      8.32%**

\*\* Note: City Council Fund balance retention policy is 5% - 17%.

## Year in Review: City Financial Condition

**Budgetary Fund Balance**



## Year in Review: Debt Service

The City's Capital Improvement plan recommends road reconstruction funding through municipal bonds – replacing retiring debt to minimize the tax rate impact:

·Issued \$2,220,000 bond issue for High Street repaving (\$1,100,000), Downtown Improvements/Bridge Rehabilitation/HVAC Units (\$1,000,000), and HVAC Unit (\$120,000)

·2005 \$1,500,000 bond issue for capital improvements matures (final payment) in Fiscal Year 2016. CIP recommends a municipal Bond for road reconstruction in FY17.

·2001 \$1,200,000 bond issue for City Hall and Landfill Closure matures (final payment) in Fiscal Year 2017.

·1997 \$5,300,000 bond issue for High School renovation matures (final payment) in Fiscal Year 2017. CIP recommends a bond issue in FY17 for improvements to the Career Technical Center.

3/2/2015

9

## Year in Review: Enterprise Funds Water Department

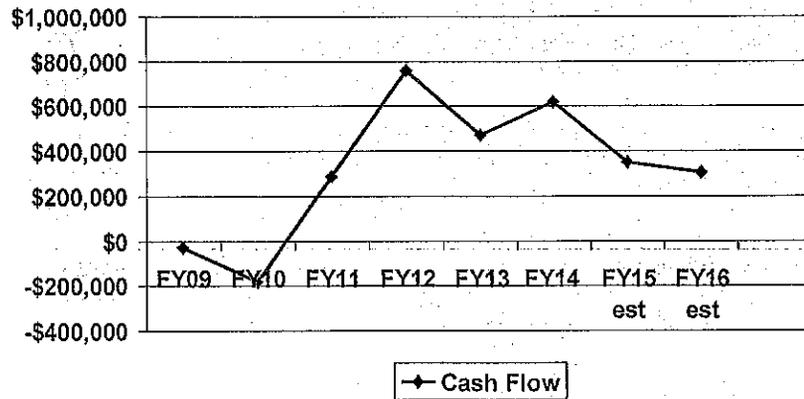
■ Increases cash/cash equivalents FY14	\$619,610
■ Cash/cash equivalents as of 6/30/14	\$1,457,054
■ Cash/cash equivalents as of 1/31/15	\$1,807,450

■ *The above analysis represents cash/cash equivalents based on ordinary operations of the water department. The water department also had cash/cash equivalents from unspent proceeds of a portion of the bond issue for the downtown improvements project as of June 30, 2014.*

3/2/2015

10

### Year in Review: Enterprise Funds Water Department



3/2/2015

11

### Year in Review: Enterprise Funds Sewer Department

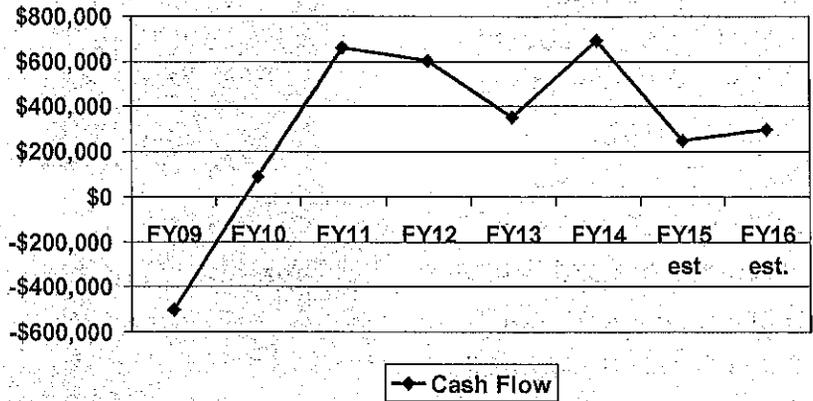
- Increases cash/cash equivalents FY14                    \$694,620
- Cash/cash equivalents as of 6/30/14                    \$971,692
- Cash/cash equivalents as of 1/31/15                    \$859,840

▪ *The above analysis represents cash/cash equivalents based on ordinary operations of the sewer department. The sewer department also had cash/cash equivalents from unspent proceeds of a portion of the bond issue for the downtown improvements project as of June 30, 2014.*

3/2/2015

12

## Year in Review: Enterprise Funds Sewer Department



3/2/2015

13

## Capital Expenditures and Plans *Plan for the Future*

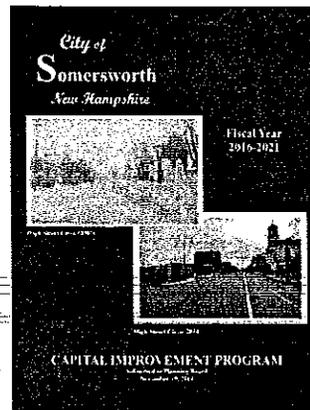
### Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

(by Charter - City Manager submits to City Council by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>)

This Plan attempts to provide a sustainable funding strategy for the City's infrastructure over a rolling 6 year time frame.

The CIP is a planning tool  
*Investing funds in  
our Community's future.*

CIP is available online at  
[www.somersworth.com](http://www.somersworth.com)



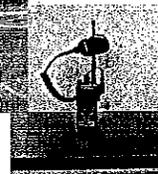
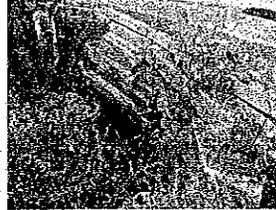
3/2/2015

14

## Capital Expenditures and Plans FY 2015

### **CITY MANAGER Proposed CIP funding for FY 2016:**

- One Police Cruiser
- City Hall Server Upgrade
- Fire SCBA Replacement
- PW Plow Truck
- Maple Street Culvert
- Portable Radios – Fire Dept.
- Buffumsville Road Drainage
- Snow Equipment – DPW
- Salmon Falls Road Bridge Improvements



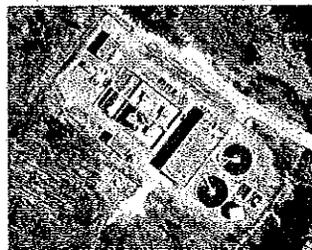
3/2/2015

15

## **Enhance and Maintain Services to the Community**

### *What We've Done and What We're Doing*

- **Improved services**
  - City aided in the passage of SB 347 that will increase efficiency of the City's code enforcement efforts
  - Major improvements to High Street corridor and Tri-City Road
  - Studying facility needs at the Wastewater Treatment plant to insure future capacity for growth and business expansion
  - Mayor and Council scheduled a Public Safety Forum for March 21, 2015 at 9:30am. Police & Fire command staff and EMS personnel will update the community on public safety efforts throughout the City



3/2/2015

16

## Enhance and Maintain Services to the Community

### *Keeping the Community Informed*

- The Recreation Office developed a Facebook page to keep the community informed of the City's recreational programs and opportunities
- The Recreation Office has engaged an intern with one of her tasks to develop a marketing strategy to promote our recreational programs and parks
- In addition to Channel 22, our local government access channel, the City launched Channel 95 as a new educational channel
- Fire Department held an Open House to allow the community to visit the station and learn about the department



3/2/2015

17

## Enhance and Maintain Services to the Community

### *Businesses and Community Connecting*



The City's Economic Development Manager Supports Business Expansion and Retention via:

- Regular business visits
- Resource sharing through the website, business e-newsletter and LinkedIn
- Partnerships with the CTC, Chamber and various support agencies
- Continuing with our successful Business Before Hours at City Hall on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am

Recruitment of New Business Via:

- Participation in a regional recruitment initiative
- Promotion of City at regional and State events
- Relationships with developers and commercial realtors

3/2/2015

18

## City Master Plan – Strategic Planning to Achieve Our Community Vision

- **The VISION:**

***"Somersworth will be a vibrant and highly sought after community in which to live, work and play that celebrates its history, culture, diversity and industrial roots."***  
*Vision 2020 – Master Plan Steering Committee*

- There are 49 specific action items listed in the Master Plan with 4 of these being specific to the school system. Of the 45 City items, most of these have either been accomplished or actively being pursued. Some examples include...

3/2/2015

19

## City Master Plan – Strategic Planning to Achieve Our Community Vision



**Goal – Make the Downtown a livable, walkable, vibrant focal point for the City...**

- RSA 79-E is proving to be a successful program with a second application approved for High Street which will create two commercial units and a new market rate apartment
- Bridge Rehabilitation project will be completed by June 15, 2015
- Downtown Infrastructure project complete with the exception of final overlay which will occur in the spring 2015
- Transportation Enhancement (TE) project expected to be completed by May 15, 2015

3/2/2015

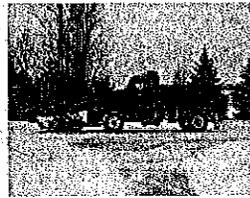
20

## City Master Plan – Strategic Planning to Achieve Our Community Vision



### Goal – Provide community services in an efficient and effective manner

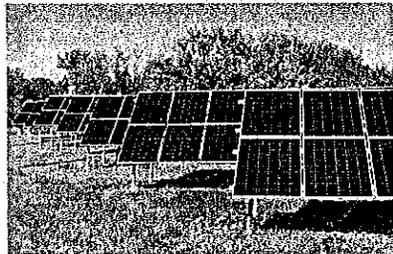
■ The City Manager & the Superintendent along with City and School staff are studying opportunities to consolidate efforts to improve efficiency while maintaining the current level of services. The focus will be on services that overlap between the City and School.



3/2/2015

21

## City Master Plan – Strategic Planning to Achieve Our Community Vision



### Goal – Take a leadership role to build a sustainable community

■ The City is moving ahead with a large scale solar array facility at the landfill site on Blackwater Road

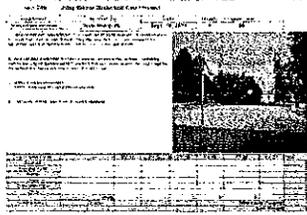
■ The City is working with Lighting Retrofit and PSNH to perform lighting audits on all City buildings. DPW barn and City Hall have been completed and the reports expected soon



3/2/2015

22

## City Master Plan – Strategic Planning to Achieve Our Community Vision



3/2/2015

### **Goal – Periodically examine the City's recreational resources and seize opportunities to upgrade /expand recreational areas...**

- The City developed a Capital Improvement Program for all our recreation areas and identified upgrades that will enhance the experience at our parks. Upgrades planned as part of the FY 14-15 budget are repaving the basketball court and replace some fencing at Jules Bisson Park

### **Goal – Expand recreational opportunities along the Salmon Falls River**

- The City is in the design stage of the grant funded Mast Point Dam Revitalization project that will enhance access and usability of over 2,800 feet of shoreline on the river

23

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STATE OF THE CITY – MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2015

MAPLE WOOD

- Due to the efforts of our students, teachers, and staff we are making growth in the areas of reading and math!
- For the 100<sup>th</sup> day, our Student Council challenged all classes to collect 100 cans per grade level for the food pantry. Our school ended up collecting 525 cans.
- We have a family atmosphere at Maple Wood! We all work together in order to make our school run efficiently. People have volunteered to take on additional responsibilities around the school this year and we always have each other's best interest in mind and switch duties to take care of our staff members.
- We have had a great turnout at our after school events this year. We held our first science night where most of our staff members participated by having hands-on activities and demonstrations for the children. On February 18<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Kitchen Math Night. We have over 140 people registered to attend the event. We look forward to providing additional events throughout the year.

IDLEHURST

- Staff being asked to sit on NHDOE panels regarding use of data to inform instruction.
- Staff being asked to appear on NHDOE training videos regarding use of data to inform instruction.
- Staff being used as role models in the use of Readers'/Writers' workshop model for various other school districts across the state.
- Staff offering a variety of parent nights for parents: Local churches, Target, Heinemann, SLC and End 68 Hours of Hunger to name a few.
- Quality Targeted Professional Development in the areas of ELA and Special Education.
- Idlehurst School being chosen by the NHDOE to help present at the National T1 Conference in San Francisco, CA.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- National Title 1 Distinguished School, only one in New England.
- PSIS student average of 94.88% of the students in the "Green Zone". Year to date average.
- Advisory program has become a model for NELMS school members.

HIGH SCHOOL/CTC

- 126 college applications were submitted by 60 students (if you exclude exchange students/partnership that is over 50% of the senior class).
- TECHNICALLY, it hasn't been officially accomplished yet, but April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our first annual College & Career Fair at SHS (6-8 open to the community as well as our students). To date we have over 30 representatives from colleges/universities and local businesses that will be present.
- Life of Athlete implemented.
- School-wide initiative focusing on teaching vocabulary and responding to text dependent questions.
- Marching Band participating in band competitions.
- Revised course selection booklet to include Development of Career Path, SHS recommended course.
- Revised job description for CTC guidance personnel and resulting increased connections and positive relationship to the business community.
- 

BUDGET FOR FY2015

REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CIP

Status as of: February 13, 2015

Description	Budget	Year-to-Date
Revenue	\$10,890,082	\$ 5,465,747
Expenditures	\$25,810,232	\$25,637,663

---

CIP included in Operating Budget \$80,000

Respectfully submitted,



---

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk