

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAY 30, 2012

I apologize for having no April report as Berlin's City Council has been very busy putting together the final touches to the FY 2013 municipal budget. The budget presented at last week's public hearing will increase taxes a bit after not having an increase for nearly five years. The proposed increase is about 54 cents per thousand, or roughly \$40 for a home appraised at \$80,000. We all should be very proud of our City Council members who worked very hard and put in long hours. We are very sensitive to the economic conditions of our community and we are wary of increasing any costs to Berlin's businesses and homeowners. I'm also very proud of Berlin's department heads and especially the Berlin Board of Education. We have developed a great working relationship with the schools, and our new City Comptroller, Patty Chase, has gone well beyond the call of duty as she acclimates to her new position. I want to thank all of you!!

I was quite disappointed to hear that my good friend, John Gallus, has decided to leave public service. Senator Gallus always looked out for us here in Berlin and Coos County, many times opposing Republican leadership. John was very comfortable working with Democratic members of the Senate, as evidenced by his close friendship with Manchester Senator Lou D'Allesandro. Whenever I was in Concord on city business, John always made me feel like I was in his living room. Thank you John Gallus for your devoted service, and also for Peggy Gallus, who had to endure life as a political spouse. As far as the next State Senator from District One goes, it is vitally important that the person elected resides in Coos County. Party affiliation is less important than having someone who grasps the issues here and understands the vital interconnection that the State of New Hampshire plays here in our county.

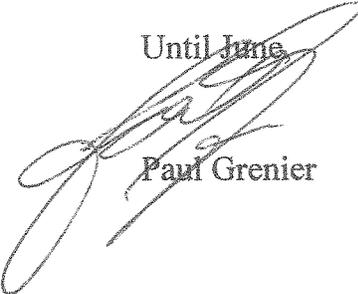
There is a lot of activity surrounding the ISSI property and machinery. Although it is difficult to imagine a rapid restart and full employment given the nature of the structural steel construction business, the fact that folks want to get into that business and employ many of the talented laid off workers bodes well for Berlin. The City of Berlin will do everything it can at its disposal to assist all parties who succeed in the ISSI acquisition.

If you haven't already noticed, Berlin has many refreshingly new families arriving here to begin working at the new Federal Prison. As Mayor of Berlin, I want to welcome all of you with open arms as you begin a new phase in your careers. You will find us here to be very friendly and honest. You should have little trouble acclimating to our pace of life here in northern New Hampshire. I want to thank Warden Shultz for being so gracious as she and her family have been a valuable addition to our Berlin family.

Finally, even though Memorial Day was celebrated on Monday, New Hampshire

still recognizes the original day of May 30th. Memorial Day is about honoring all of our nation's men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice serving our great nation, not about going to the beach on a three day weekend. Our veterans served our nation without regard to Democrat or Republican, "liberal" or "conservative". They are and were Americans first and foremost. They fought for the right to publically criticize our leaders, pray without interference, and to organize the workplace to bargain collectively. All of these rights are being threatened by both parties, isn't it time we remove the millions of anonymously donated money that is corrupting our democracy? How better to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Until June

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grenier', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Paul Grenier