

MAYOR'S REPORT

JUNE 30, 2011

With the arrival of summer comes a bit of a relaxed atmosphere for the City Council. We will be meeting the first and third Mondays of every month until September. A policy that was promoted during Leo Ouellet's tenure as mayor, I felt that the City Council has earned a couple of months of a reduced commitment. Now that our municipal budget has passed, I want to thank the efforts of all of the council members. We were able to reduce your property taxes a bit and not lay anyone off who is currently employed full time by the city. Early in the budget process, I confided with both Councillors Mike Rozek and Lucy Remillard of my intention to try to reduce the tax burden in the city. They supported my initial goal and I want to take a moment to publically say "Thank You"! Under normal circumstances, I probably would not have supported a small tax decrease given the infrastructure needs of the city, but with 9% unemployment in Berlin and businesses struggling, I felt it was the appropriate course of action to take.

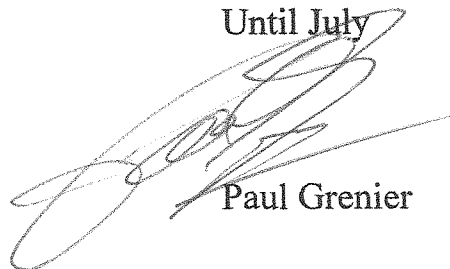
When economic times are difficult, even the best of the best are affected. Isaacson Structural Steel, one of Berlin's largest employers and taxpayers, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization. ISSI as a company has an impeccable reputation in the building steel industry for delivering product on or before time with an untarnished reputation for quality. We are all very fortunate that ISSI is here in Berlin. Some of their recent projects include work at Fenway Park in Boston, the Children's Hospital New Research Building, Yawkey Center for Cancer Research at Dana-Farber, They currently are the exclusive provider for structural steel for the new Liberty Mutual building in Boston. ISSI will also be the provider of structural steel for the Berlin Station (Laidlaw) project. That is why it is so critical this get moving ASAP! As your mayor, I'm 110% behind Isaacson in their efforts, and anything that Berlin can do as a government will be done. I share Steve Griffin's optimism that this episode is just a mere bump in a very rough business road.

Number 9 Paper Machine started up last week after being down for almost 8 months. The view of steam rising to the sky from the papermill rooftop was a feeling of satisfaction that the team performed brilliantly. By the end of July, it is hoped that two flat papermachines will be online, virtually bringing back all of the laid off workers. Again, to Willis and Lynn, thank you very much, and to the mill workers, you have the opportunity to stick in the eyes of all of the non-believers!!

There is some activity in Washington regarding funding to open the Bureau Of Prisons facility in Berlin. US Senator Jeanne Shaheen, one of the biggest advocates for Berlin in her entire career in public service, seems to making some inroads for funding. A few days ago, US Senator Kelly Ayotte also began beating the drumbeat. Opening this facility will require the efforts of the entire NH congressional delegation, and the effort will need to be bi-partisan. Washington could sure use a lesson from Berlin's City Council and the Coos County Commissioners on how to place the good of the people over personal political ambition.

Lastly, I was on vacation and could not attend Laura Viger's retirement party. I have had the extreme pleasure of working with Laura on city issues for over 20 years. I have yet to meet anyone in the public sector who was as selflessly dedicated to kids, the elderly, and most importantly, community pride. Laura Viger served the City of Berlin with class and a dignity that is virtually irreplaceable. She shall sorely be missed, especially by me. She took on the task of redeveloping our athletic fields a few years ago in the midst of many of us who had multiple opinions on how it all should be done. Undaunted, the job was flawlessly executed and we have the beautiful athletic fields here in Berlin because of Laura's guiding hand. Laura knew how to make all of us "turf experts" happy in the process, which to this day I still can't figure. Here is to a retired life that is just as prosperous and meaningful as the efforts that you gave to Berlin in the decades of your service. God Bless You.

Until July

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grenier', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom left.

Paul Grenier