

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAY 2, 2013

By now most of you have read the headlines on the hiring of Jim Wheeler as our new City Manager. I am very excited to have hired a Berlin native with the superior qualifications that Jim brings to City Hall. With over 42 applicants reviewed and interviewed, Jim was by far the most energetic, knowledgeable, and passionate about Berlin. Jim Wheeler brings a wealth of managerial experience to the table and a complete understanding and knowledge of the inner workings of municipal government here in Berlin. Over the years, Jim has also cultivated a huge network of contacts that should serve him and the taxpayers of Berlin very well for a very long time. On behalf of the City Council, I want to wish a warm welcome back to Jim and wife Karen and look forward to working together to make a Berlin the best it can be!!!

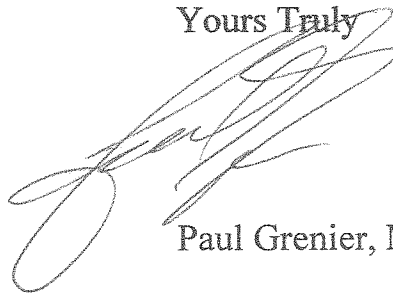
Now that the winter season seems finally behind us, Mike Perrault and the Public Works Department crews are gearing up for some badly needed infrastructure repairs. At the top of the list is the sewer main replacement project on Hutchins Street. Wright-Pierce, the city's consulting engineer on waste water and inflow and infiltration (I&I) work is finalizing design. It is my hope that within the next 4-6 weeks we can bid the work and have Hutchins Street paved from Bean Brook Bridge to Turcotte Street. We also plan to demolish about 8 delapidated properties that the city tax deeded this past year. Although we've come a long way to achieving our goal, we still have much to do. The main eyesore, the old rooming house next to the Holiday Center, is slated for final demolition before school gets out. Main Street is looking nice these days, but it is very important that we make every effort to support our downtown merchants. The Downtown is the pulse of Berlin and the many businesses there provide goods and services that can't be found anywhere else. Where else can you be greeted with a smiling familiar face??

There have been numerous letters to the editors lately on employee contract issues. Although I feel it is in no one's best interest to negotiate in the press, the City Council has been consistent with its philosophy that city employees all be treated equally. As a bit of side information, newly hired City Manager Jim Wheeler will be receiving as part of his compensation the health plan that was recently accepted and ratified by AFSCME Local 1444 public works, waste water, park and recreation and water works. RSA:273 requires that the legislative body

accept cost items for all labor agreements. The legislative body in a city form of government is the City Council. With local resources already stretched, the City Council is wary of allowing employee costs to escalate out of control. That would only set us all up for big layoffs in the future or worse, the elimination of services that may be done cheaper in the private sector. If labor, management and the council all work together, it is possible to insure no one ends up out of work.

Finally, the Stanley Cup Playoffs are back! For us diehard hockey fans, it's two and three games a night for the next 7 weeks. GO HABS GO!!!

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grenier', written over the printed name.

Paul Grenier, Mayor