

## **City Council Work Session November 20, 2017**

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Higbee, Nelson, Otis, Rozek, Theberge, Morgan Allain, and Gentili; Councilor Remillard was absent.

Others present: Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Superintendent of Schools Corinne Cascadden, Public Works Director Mike Perreault, HEB Engineer Jay Poulin, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Pauline Tibbets and Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

### **AV Home Health**

Pauline Tibbets reported that November is National Home Health Care Month. AV Home Care took on several bathing clients when the Berlin Health Department closed and though they are asked to pay a suggested donation, not everyone does which caused an impact to their budget. Ms. Tibbets went on to say that they have a very dedicated staff representing every generation including 2 who are in their 80's. AV Home Care's finance officer is retiring after 30 years and they were fortunate to find someone for the position. Dorothy's Gift raised \$8,000 last year. Ms. Tibbets thanked the Council for supporting the citizens of Berlin by supporting AV Home Health, allowing the elderly to stay at home as long as possible. Councilor Higbee asked what services public health was providing that AV Home Care had to pick up. In reply, Ms. Tibbets noted that there were 180 Medicare reimbursed bath care clients who were not readmitted to the program. Ms. Tibbets thanked the Council and left the meeting at this time.

### **Route 16 Update**

Jay Poulin reported that the Route 16 Project is substantially complete with only signs and pavement markings left. An infrared company is coming to repair two patches and two ponding areas. The process will work if it's not freezing and there is no precipitation. In terms of next year, there are decorative crosswalks as part of the project. Lawns and trees will likely have to be touched up.

Councilor Rozek asked why we are painting when there has been salt and sand treatment to the roads. Mr. Poulin replied that the areas painted were small so they are swept prior to applying. Councilor Rozek asked why the infrared is not being done in the spring to prevent peeling up. Mr. Poulin stated that it would be best if the puddles don't stay over the winter. The process will be more warming the pavement to allow some movement to get it to drain.

Councilor Higbee asked about the decorative crosswalks and Mr. Poulin said that it is an emulsified sheet that binds to the pavement to look like brick. The process is in the contract if the city wants to do it at a cost of about \$30,000. To Councilor Theberge's question about durability, Mr. Poulin noted that it has a life expectancy of at least 5 to 10 years and is easy to repair. Mayor Grenier stated that he would like to discuss the crosswalks with the City Manager and PWD director. He added that we've gone this far, do we want to finish or take a step back. There are streets that could use the \$30,000 for paving.

### **Storm Damage Summary**

Mr. Perreault explained that FEMA has been contacted and though we have met the criteria for a disaster declaration, it has yet to be issued. AB Excavating stepped up and did a great job

with repair work to Enman Hill Brook, Howland, Coos and Grafton Streets. In the spring sidewalks and drainage lines will be completed.

Haskell Street has been cleaned up. Forbush Avenue had washouts and they have been repaired. Bean Brook Bridge had the abutments washed out and AB Excavating will do that repair next. Mayor Grenier said that due to the deposit of silt, Bean Brook now has only 7 or 8 inches of capacity compared to the 2 to 3 feet that was present prior to the storm. He asked if this will be worked on. Mr. Poulin stated that he is aware of bridge work that needs to be done as well as a riverbank that needs repair at the end of Wood Street. Mayor Grenier asked if the silt can be removed before spring. Mr. Poulin said that they will need to look at access and where to dredge; this is typically done at bridges. Mayor Grenier expressed the concern of those living along the brook, that a small amount of water has the potential to flood again because the bottom of the brook is filled with sand. Councilor Theberge stated that there was damage to the East Mason Street Bridge west. Mayor Grenier noted that Johnson Brook has been spilling its banks every ten years and Mr. Perreault said that there are FEMA funds to prevent recurrence. Mr. Poulin said that the key will be that a disaster is declared by the Governor and then is sent to the White House for public assistance funding. First the repairs are funded at 75%; after that, mitigation is funded at 75% as well. FEMA is still collecting information and doing site visits. Mayor Grenier state that small communities cannot pay for such storm damage; Mr. Poulin noted that we first have to repair and then if a declaration is made, we would be reimbursed.

Councilor Higbee asked if Bean Brook and Johnson Brook are in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ms. Laflamme stated that Bean was definitely and she is not sure about Johnson.

#### **St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts – USDA Grant Support**

Ms. Laflamme informed the Council that St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts is writing a grant to the USDA to help with building deficiencies inside. One of the grant requirements is to have the community's support. Councilor Nelson moved with a second from Councilor Higbee to support an application to the USDA by St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts and to authorize Mayor Grenier to sign on behalf of the City. So moved, the motion carried.

#### **Other**

Councilor Theberge stated that he received a petition from citizens for street lighting 12<sup>th</sup> Street north to White Mountain Lumber. Council conceded to forwarding the petition to the Traffic Safety Committee for the next meeting.

#### **Non-Meeting**

Councilor Nelson moved to go into non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2I (c) legal consultation; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to come out of non-meeting session; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried.

At 7:40 p.m. Mayor Grenier called for a five minute recess prior to starting the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant

Note: Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the Council by motion.

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