

## **City Council Work Session**

### **October 17, 2016**

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Otis, Nelson, Remillard, Morgan Allain, Higbee, Gentili, Rozek (6:40 p.m.) and Theberge.

Others present included: City Manager James Wheeler, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, HEB Engineer Jay Poulin, Fire Chief Randall Trull, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

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

### **Route 16 Update**

Jay Poulin reported on the progress of Route 16. Mill and overlay is complete from Twelfth Street to Cates Hill. Phase II is from St Anne Church to Ron's Variety with box cutting, gravel, drainage, base and binder pavement having been completed. Granite curbing on both sides will be done this week and it will cause road closure from High St to Peavey Lane to allow the work to get done. So far, everything has gone well.

The plan is to complete the box cut, drainage, gravel, base and binder pavement up to Heritage Lane by November 7 and then be off site for the winter by Thanksgiving. Eversource will be installing overhead utilities and all the poles, continuing to work through the winter. There are approximately five pole locations where poles will be installed beyond where the existing pole is and those will have to be protected with jersey barriers. Sargent will be on site to be sure utility poles are installed in the right location. The remainder of the roadway and sidewalk will be done next year.

The contractor has tackled the most challenging part of the road. There has been good communication with state offices, the credit union, Ron's Variety and the Pub. The project will pick up as early as possible in the spring. Mayor Grenier asked about the challenges of the site and Mr. Poulin reported that they found water lines through catch basins, and old curved pipes that were in need of replacement. Mayor Grenier asked if the new pipe will allow for more volume and Mr. Poulin confirmed that they are replacing the size of pipe that exists. Councilor Rozek entered the meeting at this time (6:40 pm).

Councilor Rozek stated that he has had constituents express concern about the cutouts and the width of the roadway. Mr. Poulin confirmed that the bump outs are for intersection safety. There is parallel parking all along the route with the exception of 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Streets. The bump outs will also be used for streetscape with grass, trees, and concrete pavers. He added that it is the intent to narrow the road to slow traffic. Councilor Rozek asked if public works is prepared to deal with the snow removal. Mr. Perreault noted that it will be a different experience but he and the Public Works crew are discussing the best ways to approach plowing. Councilor Remillard asked if the bump outs will reduce parking. Mr. Poulin reasoned that bump outs are in areas where there is no parking. Councilor Morgan Allain questioned the narrowness of Main Street in the area of Cambridge Street. Mr. Poulin agreed that the right of way is narrower there but only for a short distance. He added that temporary striping will be

added before winter and that will more clearly delineate the travel lane. With no further questions from the Council, Mr. Poulin left the meeting at this time.

### **Eversource Contracts**

Mr. Wheeler explained that Eversource has a program to change out lighting in municipal buildings to LED. Audits of several municipal buildings were done; however there was a delay in implementing the change due to a lack of funds in the Eversource program. The Library, City Hall and the Firehouse will be done and the estimated savings will be about \$8,500 per year. There are three ways to pay for the changes: the city could front the money at a cost of about \$46,000.00 which is not budgeted; 75% of the savings could be put toward paying for the project; or 100% of the savings could be applied to the project. The recommendation is to apply 100% of the savings which will pay for the new lighting in 41 months for the Library, 37 months for City Hall and 40 months for the Fire Department. Councilor Rozek moved to approve entering into a Smart Start contract with Eversource to convert City Hall, Library and Fire Department to LED lighting, and to pay for the project with 100% of the savings; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Ladder Truck Grant**

Chief Trull informed the Council that the Fire Department was not successful with their application for an Assistance to Firefighters grant for a ladder truck and they want to apply again. Nothing has changed; the grant would fund 90% of the cost and with the City matching 10% of the approximate \$1 million cost. There is a resolution on the agenda to apply for a third time. Chief Trull added that \$30,000 of repairs was put into the existing ladder truck. Councilor Rozek commended the Chief for having the work done adding that our truck is up to a safer standard for the time that it will be used. Councilor Higbee asked if there was any indication from the granting agency about why the grant was not accepted. Chief Trull said that the City's truck is a 1995 and there are still 1992 trucks out there and they are given priority.

### **Non-Compliant Property Update**

758 Second Avenue – Chief Trull stated that progress is being made with the owner taking bids to have the building torn down.

811 Sixth Avenue – The owner has been receiving help with clean up from the church. All combustibles were removed, the grass and shrubbery were cut and debris will be removed. Windows at the property have been fixed. The owner is making good headway.

1159 Main Street – there has been some material removed from the driveway and backyard. Mayor Grenier asked if we know where the items are going and Mr. Wheeler reported that the owner has been warned that the items cannot go to another property.

609 Sixth Avenue – Chief Trull stated that the property has been damaged by fire three times. The owner was issued a 155-b order because the roof fell in.

569 Champlain Street – the owner was contacted and he states that a contractor will raze and remove the building before snow.

There being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant