

City Council Work Session

January 8, 2018

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

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Clerk Elaine Riendeau, Public Works Director Mike Perreault, Community Development Director Pamela Laflamme, HEB Engineer Jay Poulin, Tom McCue, Barbara Tetreault *Berlin Daily Sun*.

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

Route 16 and Storm Damage Cost Summary

Route 16 is considered substantially complete as of December 8. There are pavement markings, decorative crosswalks, and punch list items remaining. The Route 16 project will have a surplus of about \$150,000. Councilor Rozek questioned how long pavement markings at the center line are expected to last. Mr. Poulin said that they should be painted every year and it will be done again as part of the project. Councilor Rozek asked Mr. Poulin if there is anything about the project that he has concerns about. Mr. Poulin replied that there are two puddles by 8th Street that will need to be addressed. This was a very challenging project and he is very proud of the outcome. Councilor Theberge confirmed that a sealer will be put on the sidewalks as one of the punch list items. Councilor Theberge also asked if the trees are warrantied and Mr. Poulin noted that specific street trees with salt tolerance were purchased; however it is expected that some will not survive. Councilor Higbee observed that the natural flow of traffic goes over the center line; he confirmed that the same lines be painted. Mayor Grenier stated that the project substantially changes the view of the city.

Mr. Poulin reported on storm damage that HEB worked on in the Coos and Grafton Street areas as well as Bean Brook. Reconstruction varied with Grafton and Enman Hill being complete and Howland and Coos needing more work. The wearing course of pavement will need to be put in and sidewalk reconstruction needs to be done. A 36" concrete pipe was found with a separation in it. There will likely be another \$90,000 needed to finish the work. Bean Brook bank stabilization was completed at a cost of \$30,000. The City was fortunate to have AB Construction do the work under a change order of the Route 16 project.

There was additional work done around Bean Brook by the Landry Family at their expense. Coos County did receive a disaster declaration and public assistance of up to 70% will be made available by FEMA. Applicant briefings will be held Wednesday, January 10. If the projects are determined to be eligible, 70% of the \$490,000 will be reimbursed. Mayor Grenier commented that in his experience with FEMA, it is not likely that the funds would come in time for the budget but we should have a number to carry as a receivable. Mr. Poulin left the meeting at this time.

Legislative Policies Review

Tom McCue stated that the NH Municipal Association is looking ahead at the next biennium. If anyone wants to volunteer for the various committees, there are positions available. The Legislative Policy Process starts in April. Representative are separated into 3 subcommittees to review Legislative bills in

preparation for the Legislative Policy Conference in September. He added that if the Council takes a position on a bill, he should be kept in the loop. Mr. McCue stated that he enjoys being Berlin's representative and he would like to continue. Mayor Grenier noted that Mr. McCue has done a very good job representing the City and Councilors agreed. His work as a Berlin Planning Board member coupled with his position on the Coos County Planning Board gives him a unique view of incorporated and unincorporated places.

Councilor Rozek moved to appoint Tom McCue as the City of Berlin's representative to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Brown Street

Ms. Laflamme explained that during a boundary survey done by Horizons Engineering, several inconsistencies were discovered including the status of Monty Road and a small portion of Brown Street. The Planning Board has reviewed the proposed changes and approved a Lot Line Adjustment. There is a formality to get the Council to approve.

Councilor Higbee moved to authorize the transfer of land between the City of Berlin and the Daniel J. Hebert Jr. Revocable Trust as depicted on the attached plan titled Lot Line Adjustment with a Project Number of 17055 and to allow the City Manager to execute all documents to finalize the transfer of land; Councilor Nelson seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Higbee asked about the fiberglass statue on the corner and Ms. Laflamme indicated that there is no longer a business and it is squarely on the road in the right of way. The City will have every right to remove it. All were in favor of the motion

Other

Councilor Rozek asked about the interviews that have been scheduled to talk about the school system. Mayor Grenier said that Don Jutton and Pat MacQueen were hired to do a study that will measure the School Board's and the Council's views on a regional school system. Ms. Laflamme added that the study will gauge how education moves forward in the future. Mr. Wheeler noted that the study will look at all the scenarios and come up with solutions and costs.

Councilor Higbee asked what is happening at North Country Council. Ms. Laflamme stated that there has been a consistent turnover of staff.

With no further business for the work session Councilor Rozek moved to adjourn; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant

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