

**City Council Work Session**  
**February 18, 2019**

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Theberge, Higbee, Gentili, Rozek, Otis and Remillard; Councilors Berthiaume and Morgan Allain were excused.

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, City Engineer Eric Grenier; City Clerk Shelli Fortin; Claire Stiles; Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

**PWD Winter Budget**

Eric Grenier shared a record of snowfall over the last 10 years, and explained that if they continue with the current projection, this year will be at 125.6 inches of snow. Eric Grenier also advised that this is the highest year of the 10 year average for salt use. They have been using a 2-1 mix of a higher quality salt and a lower quality mix due to the high cost of salt. Due to the higher snowfall and a higher material cost, they are about \$43,000 over budget so far this year. Councilor Rozek asked if there were any foreseeable problems in the next six weeks and Eric Grenier advised that the salt trucks are at the end of their life. Hopefully they will make it through this season, but may not pass inspection for next season. They have looked at whether or not it is worth repairing the trucks they have, purchasing a used truck in good shape, or a lease program for a new truck. The concern is for the frames and bodies. Eric Grenier advised that one snow blower has been fixed and the other should be this week. They are down one dump truck, which has slowed snow removal. They have discussed possibly hiring trucks, or using a vehicle from another department. Eric Grenier advised that they are over budget on winter maintenance/overtime as well. The budget is currently at 69% used, and should be at 61%. City Manager Wheeler advised that they did receive FEMA money from the major storm in the fall of 2018 in the amount of \$143,000, which has been added to the revenues for this fiscal year. Mayor Grenier pointed out that the City Engineer position was vacant for about 3 months, so there is money in the budget from that, along with the money set aside for insurance, which Eric Grenier is not taking. It was recommended that nothing be done now, and if they are short at the end of the year, money could be taken from the FEMA revenues at that time. Eric Grenier advised that they will begin to use just the lower priced salt now that the temperatures are a little higher and will work with DOT and Cargill to negotiate prices for salt this summer for next season. Eric Grenier advised the council that they are responsible for 196 vehicles in the city's fleet, with 4 mechanics at the garage. Councilor Remillard stated that due to a lack of funds, whatever decisions made about the replacement of trucks must be cost effective.

**Burgess Street Property**

City Manager Wheeler shared a memo with the Council concerning the property at 480 Burgess Street. David and Marlena Buzzell offered to purchase the property from the city for \$1.00 and demolish the building. Letters have been sent twice to the abutters to see if there was any other interest in the property and there was none. A document will be drafted with specific requirements for the demolition of the building and merging of the lots.

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to authorize for sale at the earliest appropriate opportunity the property at Map/Lot 130-255, 480 Burgess Street, for \$1.00, to David and Marlena Buzzell of 486 Burgess Street, with conditions as indicated. So moved, the motion carried.

**Non-Meeting**

Councilor Rozek moved with a second from Councilor Otis to enter into non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) collective bargaining. All voted in favor by roll call.

Mayor Grenier moved on to the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelli Fortin  
City Clerk

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