

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 02-01-2016
Re: City Manager's Report

1. Offers of employment have gone out for two additional firefighters; two had accepted an offer of employment. One has since withdrawn. Gary Auger from Whitefield will begin work January 11. The second hire is therefore still in process.
2. In mid-January Senator Shaheen held a round table discussion at BHS to discuss the heroin problem. One of the things I was proud to note at the meeting was the recognition by several participants about how this was the first time they have seen such a broad group of stakeholders come together to seek a multifaceted solution to a problem. This came about, at least in part, by the City's organization of the community heroin forum last fall. Also, attached is a letter from Senator Shaheen to President Obama requesting additional resources to fight substance abuse.

<http://nhpr.org/post/shaheen-says-feds-must-take-opioid-problem-far-more-seriously>

<http://nhpr.org/post/citing-heroin-concerns-berlin-allows-anti-overdose-drug-schools>

3. An Email was sent to the Berlin delegation supporting HB 1428 which provides funding for several project in the NHDES State Aid Grant Program. A copy is attached.
4. Mike Connelly of LS Power Development, LLC introduced himself as the new contact for the wind towers located on Jericho Mountain. He reported that the wind project was commissioned in the October – December 2015 period. The Commercial Operations Date (COD) with ISO NE was January 23, 2016. That is the day that all of the testing and records review was deemed complete by NE-ISO. They have been selling power to the grid through the testing period but as of last the 23rd they are producing power IAW our PPAs with the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and the Reading Municipal Lighting Department.
5. Sharon Gauthier sent the annual report of the AVR RDD's activities for 2015; a copy is attached.
6. The Police Departments 2015 Year End Activity Report is attached. On the negative side, Burglaries are up from 47 in 2014 to 74 in 2015. On the positive side, Restraining Orders/Stalking Orders are down from 125 in 2014 to 80 in 2015.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 12, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As you know, New Hampshire, like so many states across the country, is facing a public health crisis. Substance abuse, particularly related to heroin and prescription opioid drugs, has reached unprecedented levels. Additional resources are needed to tackle this epidemic, and as you finalize your fiscal year 2017 budget request, I urge you to request an increase in support for substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently announced that opioid overdose deaths increased fourteen percent in 2014 alone, resulting in the death of 47,000 people. The CDC data also shows that deaths from heroin have tripled since 2010, and that deaths involving fentanyl are also increasing rapidly. In addition, the CDC found that 44 Americans overdose every single day, and drug-related deaths now exceed automobile crashes as the number one cause of accidental death in the United States.

Last year New Hampshire lost more than 400 people to drug abuse, more than any other year. Between 2013 and 2014, our state saw a 74 percent increase in deaths related to drug overdose. Furthermore, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services reported that in the last decade the number of people admitted to state treatment programs increased 90 percent for heroin use and 500 percent for prescription drug use. We also know that many families are being turned away from potential life-saving treatment due to a lack of resources. We must do more to help.

Substance abuse impacts all facets of our communities, from social service networks, to schools, businesses and health care providers. The Office of National Drug Control Policy reports that the economy loses as much as \$200 billion each year as a result of drug abuse. Lost productivity due to treatment, incarceration, health care costs, and criminal justice costs only compounds the fiscal problems communities are facing as they attempt to meet this incredible challenge.

As I travel across New Hampshire talking to those on the front lines of the crisis, I hear over and over again about the lack of resources to develop and implement a well-coordinated response to the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic. We must treat this issue like the public health emergency it is and marshal all necessary resources to communities on the front lines. I urge you to commit additional federal resources in your budget to the substance abuse crisis.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Susan Tremblay

To: Jeff Woodburn; Yvonne Thomas; Representative Robert Theberge;
Alethea.Froburg@leg.state.nh.us
Subject: FW: HB 1428

Dear Delegation,

It is my understanding that the House Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 1428 which provides funding for several projects in the NHDES State Aid Grant program. Berlin has one such project which is the Phase 2 Upgrade of Berlin's wastewater treatment facility. This was a major undertaking that had a total cost of approximately \$17,000,000. Please do whatever you can in support of this bill. The City recently had a significant increase in the local tax rate that ranks us as one of the highest in the state. The wastewater treatment facility is central to the City's efforts to improve our economic conditions so that we can reverse this trend. As an example, much of the upgrade work was done to accommodate flow from the Federal Prison which provides employment throughout the area. Other economic initiatives will require treatment capacity as they increase economic activity, create jobs and improve the tax base. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Jim

Jim Wheeler
City Manager
City of Berlin, NH

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ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY REGIONAL REFUSE DISPOSAL DISTRICT
2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Our Materials Recycling Facility processed a total of 1,442.69 tons of recyclables, for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, representing \$143,780.27 of marketing income to the District.

For calendar year 2015, our Transfer Station received 2,478 deliveries from District residents for a total of 556.84 tons of bulky waste and construction and demolition debris. In addition, our 362 commercial accounts delivered 402.55 tons of bulky waste and construction and demolition debris and 303.25 tons of wood. Recycling at the Transfer Station consisted of 1,005.88 tons of wood that was processed through a grinder, 301.57 tons of scrap metal; 103.73 tons of leaf and yard waste and 320.60 tons of brush which was chipped. In addition, 354 refrigerators/air conditioners; 126 propane tanks; 5,739 tires; 12,252 feet of fluorescent bulbs; 309 fluorescent U tubes and HID lamps; 387 ballasts and 68.31 tons of electronics were recycled. We also received 1,750 gallons of waste oil from our residents which was used in our waste oil furnace to heat the recycling center. Transfer Station recycling income totaled \$28,402.37. The District owns and operates the Recycling Center and Transfer Station.

District Officers are: Chair Linda Cushman of Jefferson; Vice Chair Paul Grenier for the Coos County Unincorporated Places and Secretary-Treasurer Michael Rozek of Berlin. Other District Representatives are: Raymond Holt of Dummer, Yves Zornio of Gorham, Raymond Aube of Randolph, Larry Enman of Errol, Wade Goulet of Milan, Alan Rossetto of Northumberland and Colin Wentworth of Stark.

In June, the District conducted its twenty-fourth annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The collection was held at the District Transfer Station with 297 households participating. The project was funded through the AVRRDD Budget with no assessments to the member communities. In addition, a grant from the State of New Hampshire reimbursed the District \$3,510. The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the District Transfer Station.

2015 was the thirteenth year of operations for the AVRRDD Mt. Carberry Landfill. Since purchasing the landfill in December 2002, no assessments have been made to the District municipalities for Mt. Carberry Landfill operations, with income raised through landfill tipping fees covering operating expenses. The landfill is operated, under contract with the District, by Cianbro Corp.

No assessments were made to the member municipalities for the 2015 AVRRDD Budget and there will be no assessments made for the 2016 AVRRDD Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Gauthier

Sharon E. Gauthier
Executive Director

Berlin Police Department
February 2016 Commissioner's Meeting
- December 2015 Activity Report -
YEAR END

	December 2015	Year To Date 2014	Year to Date 2015	Difference %
Total Calls for Service	1334	18219	18038	-0.99%
Milan Calls for Service	45	604	686	13.58%
Total Arrests	45	730	676	-7.40%
Protective Custody Arrests	3	67	66	-1.49%
Felonies	13	228	224	-1.75%
Misdemeanors	68	987	912	-7.60%
Thefts	28	330	337	2.12%
Burglaries	4	47	74	57.45%
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	16	199	197	-1.01%
Criminal Threatening	12	141	122	-13.48%
Sexual Assaults	3	38	45	18.42%
Assaults	11	115	132	14.78%
Domestic Violence Incidents	18	254	258	1.57%
Verbal Arguments	10	64	66	3.13%
Restraining/Stalking Orders	11	125	80	-36.00%
Motor Vehicle Stops	141	2463	2616	6.21%
Motor Vehicle Violations	12	258	198	-23.26%
Motor Vehicle Warnings	93	1676	1811	8.05%
DWI Violations	0	39	28	-28.21%
Accidents	22	210	207	-1.43%
Accidents Within an Intersection	6	62	62	0.00%
Parking Tickets	73	402	417	3.73%
Dog Complaints	30	417	473	13.43%
Animal Complaints (other)	3	181	159	-12.15%
Assists to other Berlin Departments	37	551	521	-5.44%
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	55	934	860	-7.92%
Assists to Gorham PD	6	81	79	-2.47%
Assists from Gorham PD	5	51	43	-15.69%
Juvenile Incidents	12	164	198	20.73%
Juvenile Arrests	4	49	46	-6.12%
Officers issued 73 parking ticket for the following reasons:				
Winter Parking - 1st Offense	52			
Winter Parking - 2nd Offense	14			
Overtime Parking - 1st Offense	1			
Against Traffic	5			
Other	1			