

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 9-4-2018
Re: City Manager's Report

1. The Berlin Board of Education and Mayor are hosting a workshop on education funding on Thursday, September 6th at 6 p.m. in the Berlin Middle School Auditorium, located at 200 State Street. Attached are talking points, sample questions for political candidates and SOS (Save our Schools) posters.
2. The Hillside Ave. Bridge is open to pedestrian traffic travelling to and from school at the beginning and end of each school day. This accommodation was made so that the bridge closure did not affect/add to bussing schedules. The current opening date to vehicular traffic it expected the in first week of October..
3. The Primary Election will be held on September 11, 2018. Elaine Riendeau has agreed to stay on on a per diem basis to assist us with the election. Bryan Chevarie, Deputy City Clerk is overseeing the day to day preparations so that the election goes as smoothly as possible.
4. Attached is a press release from Eversource indicating that the sale of its NH hydroelectric facilities is finalized. As we know, Hull Street Energy, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland is the new owner.
5. Attached is a letter from Alex Belensz of the North Country Council regarding the State Ten Year Transportation Plan for FY 2021-2030. North Country Council will be in contact this month to nominate new projects for inclusion in the Plan. We will include possible projects for consideration on an upcoming Council Agenda.
6. The LED Lighting project is 97% complete.
7. Plans for the Skatepark are 100% complete. We plan to begin some in-kind work within the next two weeks. Following this work, Spohn Ranch will arrive to execute the construction of the park.
8. HEB Engineers will give an update on the Riverwalk Project at tomorrow's Planning Board Meeting. The presentation will be held in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. The online survey generated almost 400 responses, including many helpful comments from the community.
9. The Fire Department Incident report is attached as well as a report from Fire Chief John Lacasse.
10. The Police Department Activity Report for July is attached.

SCHOOL FUNDING TALKING POINTS

The NH Constitution sets two core requirements for K-12 public education:

- **The State has a duty to pay for the cost of a constitutionally adequate education for every K-12 public school student;**
- **The taxes that the State uses to pay for this education must have a uniform rate across the state.**

The State Legislature has enacted comprehensive standards for an adequate education, but the amount of aid the State provides to meet these standards is woefully insufficient. While the average annual per pupil cost is over \$15,000 per year, the State's main "adequacy grant" provides only \$3,636 per year, with small additional grants for children who qualify as from low-income families, receive special education, or are English language learners. Some school districts receive "stabilization grants," although these are being reduced. Even when all of these grants are added together, the State pays only about 32% of the cost of education in New Hampshire.

More than 60% of the cost of educating our children is paid by local property taxpayers at tax rates that are wildly disproportionate from town to town. For example, in the 2015-2016 school year, the Rye School District spent \$19,535 per pupil, while the total rate of state and local school property taxes in Rye was only \$6.20. In Pittsfield, the per-pupil spending was \$14,723, but the combined education tax rate was \$18.00. This great disparity occurs

because the equalized value of property in Rye is \$3,311,717 per student, but in Pittsfield the equalized value per student is only \$463,649.

Towns with a great deal of valuable property ("property wealthy") can raise enough money to spend generously on their students, even while their tax rates remain low. Because of the great disparities in property wealth from town to town, taxpayers in the property poor towns like Pittsfield pay much higher rates but are able to raise much less for their schools than districts with lake-front property, ski resorts, or very valuable coastline.

Taxpayers in property-poor towns make much greater financial sacrifices for their students, but they struggle to raise enough money to meet their schools' basic needs. In recent years, many of these school districts have been laying off teachers and other employees, delaying building maintenance, skimping on equipment, eliminating classes, and losing talented and experienced teachers to other districts which can afford to pay higher salaries.

This funding system discourages economic growth in many towns and cities across the state. Why would a new business open in a town with high tax rates? And, why wouldn't the owner of an existing business in a property-poor town with high tax rates feel financially pressured to relocate?

The funding system also discourages young families from moving to school districts with high property taxes and struggling school systems, and it prompts local officials to discourage the creation of affordable housing for young families because of the impact of additional children on school budgets .

The current school funding system hurts students, their parents, local homeowners, and businesses and it works directly against efforts to attract and keep young people, enlarge the work force, and encourage new businesses in all regions of the state.

A number of school districts are already in crisis, with many more to follow. This problem is harming school budgets and pushing up school property tax rates in New Hampshire's largest cities and countless towns in all regions of the state.

For more than a decade, the Legislature and NH's governors have allowed this problem to get worse. In fact, they have continued to downshift costs by reducing stabilization aid.

As the 2018 election season starts to heat up, we must raise the issue of school funding and property taxes with each of the candidates for governor and with everyone who is running for the NH House or Senate.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK **POLITICAL CANDIDATES**

- *What will you do to make sure that the State updates its adequacy grants to more realistic levels?*
- *What will you do to make school property tax rates more fair and equal across the state?*
- *As an immediate measure, would you support a moratorium on cuts to stabilization aid? Would you support restoring the amount that has been cut since 2015?*
- *If you are in favor of a constitutional amendment on school funding, what would such an amendment say and how would the Legislature be held accountable for supporting our public schools?*

For further information, please contact:

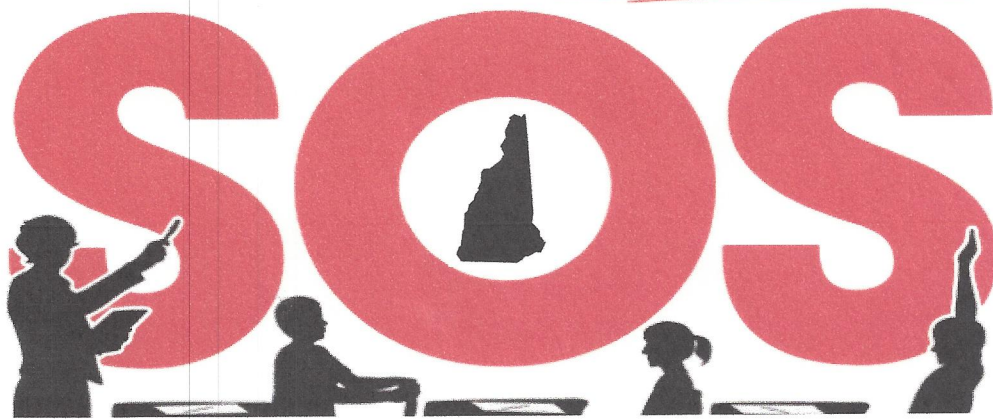
Andru Volinsky--

avolinsky@bernsteinshur.com or

John Tobin--jtobinjr@comcast.net

For updates and the scheduling for future forums, please connect with Advancing NH Public Education at <https://anhpe.org/>

Save Our Schools



SOLVE EDUCATION FUNDING NOW

CURRENT FUNDING SYSTEM ISN'T WORKING

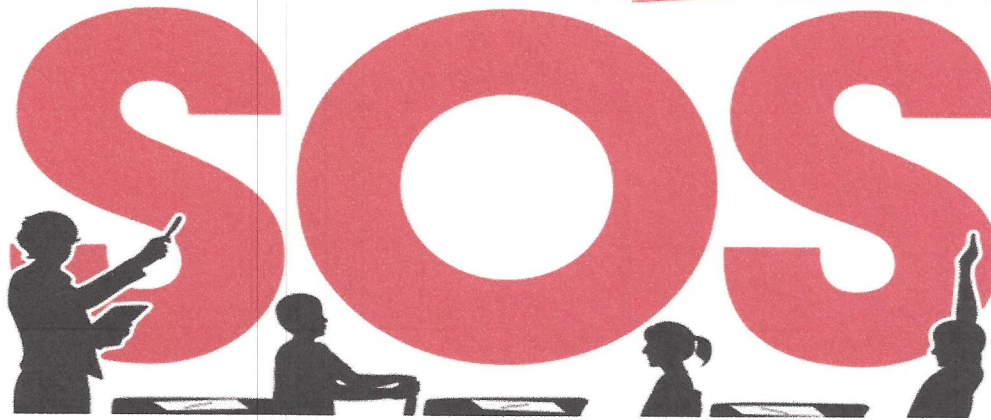
- Relies heavily on local property tax to fund most public education costs
- Enables some districts to provide more robust programs with lower taxes
- Property-poor communities struggle to meet basic school needs
- Economic implications are not limited to property-poor communities, but hinder the statewide effort to attract younger families, support broad job creation and work force housing initiatives, and avoid state costs associated with schools that do not serve their students

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

ATTEND: EDUCATION FUNDING FORUM—THURS. SEPT. 6, 6:00 P.M.

BERLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 200 STATE ST., BERLIN, NH

Save Our Schools



SOLVE EDUCATION FUNDING NOW

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Save Our Schools



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CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE!

603-271-2121

News Release

Eversource Finalizes Sale of New Hampshire Hydroelectric Facilities

Sale marks completion of electric utility deregulation

MANCHESTER, N.H. (August 27, 2018) – Eversource has completed the sale of its New Hampshire hydroelectric facilities to an affiliate of Hull Street Energy, LLC. Eversource's nine hydroelectric stations—Amoskeag Hydro, Ayers Island Hydro, Canaan Hydro, Eastman Falls Hydro, Garvins Falls Hydro, Gorham Hydro, Hooksett Hydro, Jackman Hydro, and Smith Hydro—will continue operating under new ownership.

"The completion of this sale is the final milestone in the deregulation of the electric utility industry in the Granite State, which will provide a number of important benefits to our customers," said Eversource NH President Bill Quinlan. "With this final sale, we are honoring the commitments made to employees and communities where the facilities are located, and we will maintain close communication with the towns to ensure a smooth transition."

The sale of the energy company's power generation facilities is a component of a comprehensive restructuring and rate stabilization agreement established in 2015. In January, Eversource completed the sale of its New Hampshire fossil fuel powered generation facilities to Granite Shore Power LLC. The sales were completed in adherence to an auction process established by the N.H. Public Utilities Commission, which chose J.P. Morgan as its auction manager.

Under the sale agreements, the new owners must keep the plants in service for at least 18 months, and must honor a comprehensive employee benefits package established by Eversource and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Moreover, Eversource will provide three years of tax stabilization payments to communities where a power plant was sold for less than its assessed value.

Hull Street Energy is an experienced owner of power generation assets and related businesses and is building a significant presence in the North American power sector, as it transitions to a more decentralized and sustainable asset base. The transaction was originally announced in October 2017.

Hydro Assets – 68.2 MW total nameplate capacity:

- Amoskeag Hydro, Manchester; 16.0 MW
- Ayers Island Hydro, Bristol; 8.4 MW
- Canaan Hydro, West Stewartstown; 1.1 MW
- Eastman Falls Hydro, Franklin; 6.4 MW
- Garvins Falls Hydro, Bow; 12.1 MW
- Gorham Hydro, Gorham; 2.2 MW
- Hooksett Hydro, Hooksett; 1.6 MW
- Jackman Hydro, Hillsborough; 3.2 MW
- Smith Hydro, Berlin; 17.2 MW

Eversource (NYSE: ES) is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, serving more than 500,000 homes and businesses in 211 cities and towns, and also supplies water to approximately 9,300 homes and businesses in Hampton, North Hampton and Rye. Eversource is proud to be recognized as the top contributor to United Way in New Hampshire. Recognized as the top U.S. utility for its energy efficiency programs by the sustainability advocacy organization Ceres, Eversource harnesses the commitment of its more than 8,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. For more information, please visit our website (www.eversource.com) and follow us on Twitter ([@eversourceNH](https://twitter.com/EVERSOURCENH)) and Facebook (facebook.com/EversourceNH). For more information on our water services, visit www.aquarionwater.com.

About Hull Street Energy, LLC

Hull Street Energy is a private equity firm that acquires, optimizes and grows middle market power businesses through the application of industry-leading risk management, efficiency enhancements and commodity contract structuring. Hull Street Energy was established by a team with extensive, long-standing expertise in the power industry. They bring to the firm's investments a unique combination of deep technical and commercial knowledge of the electricity industry, and top-tier financial investment expertise. Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, the team leverages its decades of experience and unique knowledge of North American electricity infrastructure, including fuel inputs, renewable and fossil powered generation assets, transmission and distribution systems, and electricity demand-side businesses to build value for our investors and stakeholders. For further information about Hull Street Energy please see www.hullstreetenergy.com.

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Regional Planning Commission & Economic Development District

Re: Upcoming 2021-2030 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan and Statewide Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan

This letter is to inform communities of the impending biennial update of the **Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)** and **Statewide Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Ten Year Plan)** for fiscal years 2021-2030. The **TIP** is the document in which regional priorities for transportation improvements are compiled by North Country Council (NCC) for consideration by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and the Governor and Executive Council in the development of the **Ten Year Plan**. Prioritization of projects is based on statewide criteria and voted on by NCC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Both efforts are updated on a two-year cycle.

In September of 2018, NCC will be sending an official announcement and project solicitation to communities for the 2021-2030 **TIP** and **Ten Year Plan**. Local officials will be asked to reaffirm their support for already-programmed projects in the **TIP** and **Ten Year Plan**, or to nominate new projects for inclusion in the **TIP** and **Ten Year Plan**. Detailed information on the project submission process will be included with the announcement. It is anticipated that new projects will need to be submitted to NCC by late fall 2018.

The purpose of this notification at this time is:

- To encourage communities to begin considering potential projects for submission;
- To encourage communities to consider any relevant data needs (e.g., traffic volumes, turning movements, crash data). NCC is available to share existing data or collect new data, as needed;
- To encourage communities to nominate a representative to NCC's Transportation Advisory Committee (if they have not already done so), or encourage their existing TAC representative to participate in upcoming meetings, in order to be represented in the prioritization process.

NCC staff are available to meet with local officials and board members to assist with project development and answer questions. Please contact Alex Belenzs for additional assistance, or to schedule a meeting or appearance at an upcoming local board meeting (abelenzs@nccouncil.org, 603-444-6303 x2012).

Sincerely,

Alex Belenzs
Planner, North Country Council

cc: Michelle Moren-Grey, Co-Executive Director & CEO, North Country Council

Tuesday, September 04, 2018

City Council Meeting
Fire Department Report

- The new Fire Danger sign has been installed.
- The flag pole beautification project is just about completed.
- The demolition in the new storage space in the building next door to the department is almost completed.
- The EMT class that Berlin Fire is hosting begins tonight and is scheduled through January.
- Training
 - Four firefighters are currently enrolled in the NH Fire Academy's Fire Officer I program.
 - Four firefighters are currently enrolled in the EMT class at BFD.
 - Two firefighters are currently enrolled in the EMR module within the EMT class at BFD.
 - One firefighter is enrolled in the NH Fire Academy's Fire Inspector program.
 - Two firefighters attended the Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings held in Socorro, NM at New Mexico Tech.
 - This is in addition to training sessions that individual shifts perform during their scheduled shifts.
- The incident command class, ICS 402 Incident Command for Executives, had to reschedule the class and has changed the date from November 3, to November 10. The times and the location are the same. I will inform the City Manager and the Council when registration goes live on the NH Fire Academy's website.
- The new gear washer and dryer have been installed.
- Inspections have been going well and I have been able to schedule and perform the inspections with minimal impact to the public and operations here at BFD.

John C. Lacasse
Fire Chief

City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date Between {08/01/2018} And {08/31/2018}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
1 Fire				
100 Fire, Other	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
113+ Cooking fire beyond Container	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
150 Outside rubbish fire, Other	3	3.70%	\$0	0.00%
	5	6.17%	\$0	0.00%
2 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)				
200 Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
3 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident				
300 Rescue, EMS incident, other	5	6.17%	\$0	0.00%
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	8	9.87%	\$0	0.00%
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
357 Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
381 Rescue or EMS standby	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
	18	22.22%	\$0	0.00%
4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)				
400 Hazardous condition, Other	3	3.70%	\$0	0.00%
460 Accident, potential accident, Other	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
461 Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
462 Aircraft standby	6	7.40%	\$0	0.00%
	12	14.81%	\$0	0.00%
5 Service Call				
500 Service Call, other	11	13.58%	\$0	0.00%
511 Lock-out	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
522 Water or steam leak	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
531 Smoke or odor removal	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
541 Animal problem	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
550 Public service assistance, Other	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
553 Public service	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
571 Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%

City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date Between {08/01/2018} And {08/31/2018}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
5 Service Call	20	24.69%	\$0	0.00%
6 Good Intent Call				
600 Good intent call, Other	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
651 Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
	5	6.17%	\$0	0.00%
7 False Alarm & False Call				
730 System malfunction, Other	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
733 Smoke detector activation due to	8	9.87%	\$0	0.00%
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other	4	4.93%	\$0	0.00%
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire -	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
744 Detector activation, no fire -	1	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
745 Alarm system activation, no fire -	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
	18	22.22%	\$0	0.00%
9 Special Incident Type				
911 Citizen complaint	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
	2	2.46%	\$0	0.00%
Total Incident Count:	81			
		Total Est Loss:	\$0	

Berlin Police Department
September 2018 Commissioner's Meeting
- July 2018 Activity Report -

	July 2018	Year To Date 1/1 - 7/31/2017	Year To Date 1/1 - 7/31/2018	Difference %
Total Calls for Service	1912	13583	12918	-4.90%
Milan Calls for Service	91	573	628	9.60%
Total Arrests	81	440	535	21.59%
Protective Custody Arrests	10	37	55	48.65%
Felonies	17	94	123	30.85%
Misdemeanors	79	581	480	-17.38%
Thefts	28	154	141	-8.44%
Burglaries	3	22	15	-31.82%
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	17	110	79	-28.18%
Criminal Threatening	15	56	78	39.29%
Sexual Assaults	1	30	20	-33.33%
Assaults	5	58	57	-1.72%
Domestic Violence Incidents	24	128	146	14.06%
Verbal Arguments	14	43	53	23.26%
Restraining/Stalking Orders	8	51	66	29.41%
Drug Complaints	28	148	120	-18.92%
Suspected Overdose	3	13	11	-15.38%
Motor Vehicle Stops	257	2114	1810	-14.38%
Motor Vehicle Violations	28	252	272	7.94%
Motor Vehicle Warnings	197	1384	1355	-2.10%
OHRV Complaints	8	48	42	-12.50%
OHRV Stops	7	47	38	-19.15%
OHRV Accidents	2	9	7	-22.22%
DWI Violations	9	26	32	23.08%
Accidents	14	126	117	-7.14%
Accidents Within an Intersection	4	26	31	19.23%
Parking Tickets	8	129	188	45.74%
Dog Complaints	60	213	278	30.52%
Animal Complaints (other)	61	125	191	52.80%
Assists to other Berlin Departments	25	209	218	4.31%
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	80	553	564	1.99%
Assists to Gorham PD	8	43	37	-13.95%
Assists from Gorham PD	6	25	37	48.00%
Juvenile Incidents	10	122	88	-27.87%
Juvenile Arrests	2	33	12	-63.64%
Officers issued 8 parking tickets for the following reasons:				
Blocking Driveway	1			
Restricted Area	2			
Sidewalk	5			