

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: February 1, 2010
Re: Manager's Report

CIP Bond Issue Closing

The CIP \$5M bond issue has been closed and the City will be drawing down the funds for the projects as needed. There seems to be a good deal of flexibility in how we do this which should make it easier to comply with all the IRS timing requirements which are intended to be sure that municipalities don't make money on bond issues through arbitrage (the investing of borrowed funds at a higher rate than the rate of the borrowing).

Projects like the Hutchins Street Project and the City's match for the Rt 110 Phase II project are probably the two most difficult projects to time because there are so many questions about when the projects can actually move forward.

Court Move

District Court has moved out of the Courthouse building into the new State Office Building on Riverside Drive. The State, which called to see if they could get out of their lease, will pay rent on the District Court Building through April when their lease expires. Attached is a Thank You note from the State thanking the PD and PW for assisting them in the move.

Assessing

We have received four proposals for contract assessing beginning in July of 2010. Our contract with Avitar runs out at that time. The next contract will likely be for a five year period beginning in July of 2010. The proposals are being reviewed by the Board of Assessors which will make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

I have attached a letter sent out to a random sampling of properties in the City by Avitar as part of the assessing data verification process. The letter basically asks the citizen to contact the contract assessor to set up an appointment to view the interior of the property in order for them to obtain the information necessary to do quality assessments. The process of seeing the inside of properties does lead to more equitable higher quality assessments. However, the letter is not as clear or as 'user friendly' as it might be and is one of the types of things we would hope to improve on in the next assessing contract.

Great Lakes Hydro Tax Case Withdrawal

I have attached the BTLA Order which confirms the withdrawal of the tax abatement case that Great Lakes Hydro had filed.

NSP Program

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program has gotten off to a solid start with far more interest from contractors than what was expected. Andre Caron ended up explaining the program to more than 100 contractors who showed up to the Thursday January 14th session at which he explained to them how they might participate in the program which is aimed at rehabilitating distressed housing and demolish blighted buildings.

AVRRDD Meeting

Last Thursday, the AVRRDD Waste District reviewed a proposal in which its excess methane gas generated at the landfill could be mixed with natural gas from the PNG pipeline and then delivered to the Fraser Paper plant in Gorham as a far more economical and efficient energy provider to the mill than the oil it currently uses. The District Board passed a series of motions indicating its willingness to pursue this type of project which makes a productive use of the methane at the landfill which is currently being simply burned off and will help to keep the paper mill a more efficient and viable manufacturer of paper. Several potential buyers are seriously looking at the purchase of the mill currently in bankruptcy reorganization. This potential project should make the purchase of the mill that much more attractive to them.

Attached is the Annual Report of the District.

Cable TV

Attached is a letter and information packet from Time Warner regarding transitioning to a new operating platform which they say will provide "the most advanced video services available in the country in Berlin". Apparently, this transition will require customers with set top boxes to exchange them. The materials that customers will be receiving this week are attached for the Council's information.

SEC CPD Hearing

The SEC Hearing on the citizen petition to require Clean Power Development to go through the EFSEC process even though they have already been through the City processes was heard this past Friday. The hearing took up the full day. The City was represented at the hearing by Mayor Grenier, Councilor McCue and Councilor Rozek. City Planner also attended primarily to

answer any questions about the City processes that CPD actually went through. The SEC will be meeting on Wednesday of this week to deliberate and presumably make a decision.

LGC Elected Official Workshop

The Local Government Center has scheduled a workshop for Elected Officials for this Saturday February 6, 2010 from 9am to 1:30pm at the Local Government Center in Concord. The registration deadline is Friday, but if anyone would still like to go, it should still be possible for you still to register by email tonight or first thing tomorrow morning . A copy of the workshop flier with the contact information is attached.

Animal Spaying Clinics

The Rozzie May Animal Alliance from Conway has received grant money specifically to underwrite much of the cost of neutering cats and dogs in Berlin. As we know from past attempts to deal with it, we have a very large uncontrolled cat population in Berlin. The next such clinic in Berlin is scheduled for Monday March 8th at St. Anne's Hall on School Street. These clinics are a great opportunity for Berliners to get their animals neutered at very low cost and local residents should be encouraged to take full advantage of them. Attached is flier from the organization and a web site and phone # if more information is needed.

Public Works Monthly Report

Attached.

Manager's Time Keeping

Attached.