

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: February 7, 2011
Re: Manager's Report

Housing Matters

We have submitted a Letter of Intent to compete for NSP3 (Neighborhood Stabilization Program). There is total of \$4.5 million in the NSP budget and we have applied for \$3.5 M of it in renovation and demolitions. This is a statewide competition in 48 tracking census tracts which can compete for the funding, and Berlin has three of those census tracts. The likelihood is that any award will get divided up into 2-4 winners. We hope our past performance as well as our readiness to move forward with NSP 3 combined with our tremendous need will serve us well in the competition. We have awarded two additional demolition contracts in the past couple of weeks. One for 241 High Street to Fortier and Associates for \$9,777 and the other for 508 Champlain to Tran Bros. Construction LLC in the amount of \$9700.

DRA Assessing Review

Attached is a copy of the review of DRA of assessments so that they can perform their annual equalization of local assessed values. In this review, they found that our assessments are at 100% which means that our values overall are exactly where they should be in relation to the market. It should be noted that the attached data sheets show a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) for the City on the whole to be 9.1. Anything under 10 for the COD is considered to be very good and compares with the

COD in the 14-15 range for the City before the revaluation. Generally, anything below 20 is considered acceptable.

Snow

In spite of all the snow, (February started out with 16" of snow in the first week or over 3' since mid-January) the Public Works Department reports that we have through January used only about of our snow budget. This is better than many of the municipalities we hear in the news which have already used all of their budgets. Much of the credit for this goes to the PW crews who now see all of the cost numbers and are working very hard to try to keep those numbers down. They have found satisfactory sand which is about half the price of the sand we had been using. They also have been working to minimize fuel use. Our average cost per storm is around \$25,000.

Waste District Discussions on Leachate

Another lengthy conference call between City and District staff and both party's engineers and attorney's was held this past Friday. We are still working on refining the issues that were in the draft agreement which the Council has seen. Progress is good and the draft should be completed soon. When it is finalized, it will be brought back to the Council for approval.

Wild Goose Chase

HB 293, which would phase out the pollution exemptions which the Mayor and Council have supported for a long time, was supposed to have a hearing at 2pm last Thursday. I made a point to be there to testify but as so often happens with trying to testify in Concord, the hearing is either ridiculously late or postponed altogether. In this case it was postponed altogether for a couple of weeks. Attached is a copy of the letter I would have submitted to the Municipal and County Affairs Committee which had been scheduled to hear the bill.

North Country Council Survey

To date we have received only two responses from the Council on the survey we passed out several weeks ago to complete this survey for the North Country Council on the Northern Pass project. Please try to get those in this week.

LSR 930 allowing Auto Dealerships to process motor vehicle registrations

City Clerk Patrick brought to my attention which the Town Clerk's Association opposes. The bill proposed by the New Hampshire Automobile Dealer's Association (NHADA) would allow dealerships to process motor vehicle registrations electronically using a 3rd party vendor. As indicated in their attached communication, the Town Clerk's Association is concerned about potential for loss of revenue, residency issues, additional costs to municipalities for auditing and reconciliation of monies; and loss of control.

NH Request for Information from Prison Contractors

Attached is a copy obtained by Mayor Grenier of an RFI put out by the State Department of Corrections in mid-January seeking information, or in effect pre-proposals, on how the State DOC might provide for the reduction in use and eventual replacement of the existing State Prison for Men in Concord and the State Women's Prison in Goffstown with one of more of the following:

- Expansion of the existing state facility in Berlin.
- Construction of one or more facilities for its adult inmate population (men and women, all classifications).
- The establishment of a multi-state correctional facility.

This is a very broad RFI from the DOC which really is asking for any all ideas anyone might have on how the DOC might best deal with its growing prison population.

RSA Booklets No Longer Available

Starting with Executive Councilor Ray Burton, we checked with the State for the little yellow and blue booklets containing the RSA 273-A laws on collective bargaining and the RSA 91-A right-to-know laws. These used to come out of the Attorney General's Offices but now are on the respective web sites of the PELRB and the AG's office.

PWD Monthly Report

Attached

Manager's Timekeeping

Attached