

# Memo

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

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## **Budget Submission**

The City Manager FY 2011 Operating Budget is submitted herewith for the further review and consideration of the Mayor and Council.

## **Tiger Grant**

We found that our valiant attempt to put together a regional road paving TIGER (stimulus funds) Grant was not successful. Perhaps we were naïve all along to think that we had a shot at the \$44M in stimulus funds. The company that we worked with, Roadway Management, spent a lot of time and money on the project and greatly assisted in putting the grant application and the follow through. The project would have essentially rebuilt all the paved roads in Berlin, Gorham, Shelburne, Milan, Dummer, Colebrook and Rt. 16 between Berlin and Erroll and Rt. 23 between Erroll and Colebrook.

The project was no doubt unique among all the projects submitted but the obvious weaknesses we had when you compare us with the nation-wide winning projects were essentially the following:

- Rural low-population areas essentially received no funding.
- Road projects generally were not winners with most of the money going to bridges, rail projects and major population center infrastructure projects designed to move large volumes traffic.

- Most of the winners had large local matches where we had a very small match.

No projects from New Hampshire were funded. The other project submitted from New Hampshire was the Memorial Bridge Project in Portsmouth which New Hampshire and Maine submitted jointly. It was not funded either.

Roadway Management has not given up on this project, and now that all the work has been done in putting it together, will be looking for other opportunities to submit part or all of it for funding.

### **Granite Street Demolition**

The burnt out property at the corner of Granite Street and Willow Street is currently scheduled for be advertised for demolition bids on March 9, 2010. The bid opening is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> and the actual demolition should occur between April 19 and April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOP-FCI Talent Team Recruitment**

This past Thursday, I attended a so-called Talent Team Recruitment Meeting at the White Mountain Community College which was put on the by the local Department of Employment Security, WMCC and the BOP. The purpose of this effort is primarily to try to be sure that local businesses and people are through proper education and dissemination of accurate information are able to take maximum advantage of the employment and business opportunities that the prison will offer.

The BOP offers a 15 hour class on just filling out the application for employment at the prison and local people will be trained to put on this class as well.

West Virginia has apparently used this approach to a great advantage for their area where a new federal prison has just opened up. For example, typically normally only about 10% of the applicants for a federal prison position are local. In West Virginia, they managed to get this number up to 65%.

Again to summarize the characteristics that this new FCI will have:

- Construction cost \$267M (original appropriation \$179M)
- Construction Complete -- Fall of 2010
- 2 months or so for punch list completion
- 1,152 medium security inmates
- 128 inmate minimum security camp
- 340 FT staff of which approx 209 will be new hires
- Will start hiring about 4 months prior to Construction completion
- \$38-40M spent in local economy each year.

Attached is the latest BOP FCI fact sheet for your information.

### **BEMS Annual Report**

The Annual Report of the Berlin Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) Inc. is attached for your information. This company has provided the ambulance service for Berlin on a contractual basis. The current contract with BEMS runs until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

### **"What's at Stake?" Gambling Forum**

The forum sponsored by UNH and the NH Humanities Council on the subject of gambling in New Hampshire will be held this Saturday at White Mountain Community College from 8:30 to 4pm. If you would like lunch, you should register in advance. The flier for forum is attached.

### **Legislative Matters**

- HB 1345, which would require that the owners of income properties provide to assessors basic income and expense information about the property necessary to determine value, has been voted by the Local Regulated Revenues Committee as Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL). This is bad news because this kills the bill for this year.
- HB 1255, which would again unfairly try to apportion damages among remaining parties to liability litigation regardless of whether they had any significant contribution to the damages, has been voted Inexpedient to Legislate. This is good news as this is a very bad bill.
- SB 492, which would extend the pole tax exemption, is still out there. There is no rational reason for this other than the fact that the cable and telephone companies like the preferential treatment and have been very successful over the years in maintaining this giveaway for themselves. It needs to be killed.

### **Public Works Monthly Report**

Attached.

### **City Manager Time Keeping**

Attached.