

# Memo

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

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## **Budget**

Enclosed herewith is the proposed City Manager Budget for FY2012. It is not substantially different than budgets for the past several years. An attempt was made to hold the tax rate flat by asking all Departments to reduce their budgets to an amount slightly below this year's FY11 budget. The School budget however, instead of being reduced or even flat is up by about 6% which makes it near impossible to flat line the tax rate because the School is by far the largest Department in the City. Even so, by reducing most of the other smaller Departments by about 4%, the overall City General Fund budget is still only up by 0.3%.

## **Fire and Library Telephone Purchase**

Proposals were received for replacing the phone systems at the Library and Fire Departments. Five proposals were received and reviewed by the Fire Chief and Housing Coordinator. Goulet Communications Inc. from Stark was selected and awarded a contract to provide the new systems at a cost of \$7,789 installed.

## **Police Generator Bid**

You may recall that the Police Department has found that its standby generator no longer has the capability to power the Department in the event of a loss of power. The PD has been able to get Homeland Security funding to purchase and install a new larger capacity

standby generator. An electrical engineer was asked to draft specifications and we put it out to bid a few weeks ago. The bids came in last week. Six bids were received and they are being reviewed by Lee Carroll prior to award. The apparent low bidder was in the amount of \$51,890 and the high bid was in the amount of \$94,500. It is hoped that an award can be made this week.

### **241 High Street Demolition**

This property next to the BJHS was demolished during the school week of vacation by Fortier Associates. Backfilling, cleanup and driveway formation will have to wait until probably April to complete. April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for completion.

### **Coos County Annual Budget Meeting**

The County Annual Budget Meeting will be held this Saturday, March 12, 2011, at the Coos County Nursing Home on Cates Hill Road in Berlin at 9am.

### **Governor's Proposed DHHS Budget**

Attached is a memo from Welfare Director Angela Martin-Giroux giving her take on the impact of the Governor's proposed budget on us as the safety net of last resort. There is no doubt that the State's problems will to some degree (yet to be determined) be passed along to us.

### **Tri-County Cap Transit**

Attached is a letter from Bev Raymond, Transportation Director at TCC which transmitted a Directory of profit and non-profit transportation providers within the region. There is a web site [www.grafton-coosrdd.org](http://www.grafton-coosrdd.org) which includes this Directory for anyone who would like to see it. We also have one hard copy of it in the office.

### **WorkcampNE**

I have attached information on this "camp" which is coming to Berlin this summer. It is a Christian sponsored camp and religious exercises are a required element of it. It appears to be quite a well organized program which has had significant success in a number of communities across the country. The Berlin camp will occur in Berlin from July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>. The students will be "camping" at the High School and will be volunteering with projects (like painting, carpentry, roofing, framing and sheet-rocking) throughout the community, many of them helping with housing maintenance and improvement for residents who are not able to carry out these projects themselves. The volunteers pay their own way for this camp

## **Northern Pass**

Attached is a letter from Senator Ayotte updating information on the Northern Pass proposal. There will be a scoping meeting on Thursday sponsored by the US Dept. of Energy at the Mountain View Grand Hotel in Whitefield on Thursday, March 17, 2011, from 6-9pm. We have packets and other information on the Northern Pass project if anyone would like to avail themselves of it.

## **Legislative Matters**

SB133: A vote on this bill which would re-instate the Pole Tax Exemption is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Council has sent a letter of strong opposition to this bill.

SB156: This is the bill which would authorize retail vehicle dealers to act as agents of the DMV. It is scheduled to be heard this Friday March 11, 2011, at 9am in State House Room 100. Amendments are being proposed to tweak the bill to have a one year pilot program to see how it works and to guarantee that municipalities actually receive the revenue. The Council has sent a letter of opposition to this bill.

SB78: This bill would repeal a surcharge (which is scheduled to sunset on 6/30/11) on motor vehicle registrations which has served to increase the amount of Highway Block grant funding that municipalities receive. NHMA has taken a position opposing this at least until "an equitable substitute for funding the highway fund is adopted."

SB1: This bill has passed and become law. It repeals the "evergreen law".

## **Public Works Monthly Report**

Attached.

## **Manager's Time Keeping**

Attached.