

# Memo

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**cc:** Department Heads  
**From:** Pat MacQueen  
**Date:** March 21, 2011  
**Re:** Manager's Report

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## **State and Federal Prison Issues**

The most recent state budget chatter has our State Prison in the mix with a threatened closure in order to meet certain state budget goals. Needless to say, such a plan no matter how unrealistic must be actively opposed.

Our recent discussion with the Federal BOP-FCI has them worrying about whether we can handle their increased flows as they begin a ramp up. Now we are all worrying about whether in fact they will be starting up.

Seems like there is no end to the problems that keep cropping up to get in the way of some real progress. That situation will be faced with no end to the determination to overcome those problems.

## **PSNH Energy Star Homes Program**

Attached is some correspondence from Andre Caron which reviews the fact that we have 20 NSP renovated units which qualified for the Public Service's Energy Star Homes Program's incentives. As a result we have received two incentive checks totaling \$20,125 for 20 living units. Andres' memo goes on to explain some of the several secondary benefits that these home renovations have had.

### **Conway Bypass Communication and NCC TIP**

Attached is correspondence from the Conway Board of Selectmen which conveys to NCC their concern about proper maintenance of the improvement already made in Conway to their road system as well as concern about what happens if the southern portion of the bypass is completed but not the northern two sections.

### **Impact of More Downshifting**

Attached are a few more memos from Welfare Officer Angela Martin-Giroux which give her assessment of the various things going on with respect to the State budget and possible impacts on us.

A report of the NH Center for Public Policy Studies has a report on the impacts of state cutback on municipalities at <http://www.nhpolicy.org/report.php?report=267>.

### **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. This contract has been awarded to Pow'r Generation Systems of Oquossoc, ME in the amount of \$51,890. Six bids were received and the high bid was in the amount of \$94,500.

### **Meeting with State Health Officials in Concord**

On Friday, I met with State Health Officials Joyce Welch of the Food Division and Louise Hannon who is the State Health Official Liaison in Concord in relation to the various health issues we need to be dealing with in the absence of Laura Viger. The meeting was quite useful in determining what various resources are available from them as well as details on what we actually need to be doing.

### **Legislative Matters**

SB118: This bill which would have extended the RGGI law past 2015 to indefinitely into the future was withdrawn and last Thursday's proposed hearing was not held. Laidlaw asked that this bill be withdrawn.

SB3: This is a comprehensive retirement reform package which has been passed a first time by the Senate. This bill is an NHMA policy bill and needs to be adopted by the state to help clean

up the retirement mess. The details of the bill can be seen at <http://www.nhlgc.org/nhma/nhretirement.asp>.

SB133: This is the bill that would reinstate the Pole Tax Exemption. The Council has strongly opposed this bill as has NHMA. Its next hearing is this Thursday at 10am in Rm 301 of the LOB. Hopefully, it will go down for good this time.

HB1&2: This is the budget bill and its trailer. The House Finance Committee continues to work on this and it is being brought to full committee this week. It is still way too early to have any real feel for what the State is going to end up with for a budget and what that impact is going to be on us.

HB457: This is the bill that would lower by half the interest rates on delinquent taxes. Despite a 15:1 committee vote to ITL it, the full House passed it based in inaccurate information to the effect that these rates are higher than federal of state rates on delinquent taxes. NHMA is hopeful that the Senate will still kill it.