

# Memo

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**cc:** Department Heads  
**From:** Pat MacQueen  
**Date:** April 4, 2011  
**Re:** Manager's Report

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## **State Budget Fallout**

Attached is another memo from Welfare Officer Angela Martin-Giroux referring to the passage of HB2 by the House which still includes the provision which in effect does away with the requirement for a locality to provide welfare once its welfare budget runs out. That would be a major change in a very long standing state welfare law if it were to be finally passed.

## **Airport Service**

I have attached a very nice commendation letter regarding the service that Eric Kaminsky provides to customers at the airport. This letter from John Hallé who is the CEO of Cate Street Capital describes the kind of service that customers at the Berlin Regional Airport receive which is first rate. Impressions are important everywhere in public service, but they are particularly important at the Airport where people get an all important first impression of the area and what it has to offer.

### **POD Meeting**

Chief Trull and I attended a meeting last week at the BHS with Principal Gary Bisson and State Officials on the ongoing planning for a health emergency. Berlin High School is the designated (Point of Dispensing) POD for any emergency vaccines that would be dispensed to the public in this area. Therefore, it is necessary to have adequate planning for how these vaccines would be dispensed to the public in an emergency health situation.

### **March Snow**

This year March forgot that it is supposed to be the transition to Spring. Instead, it brought us 35 more inches of snow including this last weekend in which we got another 12". Fortunately, that melted away about as fast as it came. The snow fighting budget still turned out well despite what the winter brought. PWD is to its credit still under in both its sand and salt budgets. It has been a particularly tough winter on the roads in the City and the pothole filling has been and will be ongoing.

### **Leo Roberge Retirement**

Leo Roberge who has worked on the Public Works crew for the past 9.5 years has retired effective March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks go to him for his service to the City and best wishes for his retirement years.

### **Legislative Matters**

SB133: It is hard to believe that this bill extending the pole tax exemption for Fairpoint and Comcast is even close in the State Legislature, but it is and it still floating around sitting on the table. It was reported out of House Committee on a 9-7 "Ought to Pass" vote. On the first full vote in the House, it passed on a vote of 186-180, but then its supporters moved to reconsider in the hope that there could not be a future motion to reconsider. This backfired and the motion to reconsider passed on a vote of 193-174. The supporters immediately moved to table it which is where it sits now. The Senate has already passed this bill, so to keep it on the table to kill it if it comes up again will require persistent effort from elected officials talking to their legislators. No doubt Fairpoint's and Comcast lobbyists will be.

HB1&2: This is the budget bill and its trailer. It has passed the House.

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. It will be heard by the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee on Tuesday 10:15am in LOB 101.

### **Public Works Monthly Report**

Attached