

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen, City Manager
Date: May 7, 2012
Re: Manager's Report

Car Freshener Shut Down

The closing of the Car Freshener Plant in Berlin certainly came as another unwelcome surprise. That plant has operated quietly for many years in Berlin and this just came out of the blue. According to the attached release from the company, the demand for their products remains strong and in effect they are simply consolidating their New York operations offering jobs to those who want them in their New York locations. Since much of the work provided was part-time, it is not expected that many Berlin employees will move to New York but at least the offer is there.

Tax Deeded Properties

Attached is the list of three dozen properties that were tax deeded by the City on Thursday May 3rd. As is usually the case, the number of properties on the list as of 4/15/12 was about 80, while the final number represented by this list is less than half of that. Yet, it is still a very substantial number. We now have to go through a sorting out, registering, assessing and eviction process as well as the notification process informing former owners of their right and time frame to repurchase if they so choose.

WWTP Phase II Improvement Bids

Finally, the award of the Phase II WWTF improvements contract has received all the approvals needed from USDA RD and DES and the contract has been awarded to Apex Construction in the bid amount of \$13,138,700. The pre-construction meeting will be held this week. This is the beginning of a two-year construction period at the WWTF, during which time it will still have to fully operate to properly treat all the sewage we currently receive and will receive over that two year period.

I&I Work

The current Phase I, Contract 2, I&I work was initiated this winter by taking advantage of the frozen ground to replace the interceptor that ran through that wetlands area. Now, the Contractor has come up Main Street and is now into McGee Street. There are about 30 houses in this area which the contractor will be going into to complete separation work.

We have also begun working on Phase I contract 3 project designs. The scope of this project will look at the Bean Brook crossing, Wood Street, Horne, Trudell and Blais Streets drainage area and the cross country line that connects this drainage area to Kent Street. This project will likely include sanitary separation in approximately 55 residential homes.

Finally, we are doing additional sewer flow studies. We have installed 6 flow meters on the main trunks of the sewer system and now we are moving those meters back into the distribution system. The recent rain events have helped greatly with this process.

It is worth noting that all of the buildings involved in the NSP projects have included sanitary separation during the construction.

VA Clinic proposed for North Country

Attached is a press release from Senators Shaheen and Ayotte and Congressman Bass in which they urge the VA to consider a veteran's Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC's) in Colebrook because of the difficulty our vets have getting access to VA care. Currently, the nearest CBOC's are in Littleton and Conway.

Legislative Matters

HB 1223 which provides penalties for knowing violations of the Right to Know Law (RSA 91-A). A penalty of \$250 to \$2000 is authorized. NHMA suggested that any such penalty imposed go to the municipality rather than to the State Treasury was accepted by the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, since this Senate amended

bill now goes back to the House, it is not clear what the House will do with it, but it seems probable that it will end up in Committee of Conference. The House and Senate are supposed to have acted on all Committee of Conference Reports by June 7th.

PWD Monthly Report

Attached.

Manager's Time –Keeping

Attached.