

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: May 17, 2010
Re: Manager's Report

Budget Publication

Attached is the budget which was published for the Budget Public Hearing which is scheduled for Wednesday May 26, 2010 at 6:30pm in the City Hall Auditorium.

East Milan Road Project

We are awaiting NH DES approval to award the East Milan Road project. At the request of BWW we also included work in the bid for them (e.g. bringing a water line across the 12th Street Bridge when we bring the sewer line across). We are also waiting for BWW to determine the extent of their participation.

Granite Street Property Demolition

The demolition for the Granite Street demolition project finally occurred last week. The work by KRW Dirtwork went smoothly.

CPD PILT Meeting

An initial meeting was held this past week between Bill Gabler of CPD and Skip Sansoucy and me on the issue of PILT. The meeting consisted primarily of Bill explaining what it was that they planned to build and what each of us hoped to achieve from a PILT.

Laidlaw Tour

Primarily to allow Skip Sansoucy to provide a value for this year's tax assessment as well as form the basis for PILT discussions, Mr. Sansoucy and I are scheduled to meet for a tour of the Laidlaw property on May 24th.

Tax deed 15% assessment waivers

As the Council is aware, a number of the properties that were recently tax deeded were single family homes. Thus far four of the owners of those properties are applying for the waiver of the 15% assessment penalty which the Council provided by ordinance for these types of situations some years ago. In most cases they are eligible for this waiver. One of these parties has already re-purchased back their tax deeded property, and it appears likely that the remaining three will do so as well.

Tree City USA

Berlin has again been named a Tree City USA community for 2009. The Tree City USA program is sponsored in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. The award itself usually comes through the State Forester's office in the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED).

Statewide Mosaic Parcel Map

City Planner Pam Laflamme is working with State DRA in association with the State Departments of Information Technology, Safety, and Transportation and the UNH Technology Transfer Center to assemble a statewide parcel map with linked assessment data bases. Basically what this will do is to link the state-wide GIS mapping with local data mapping such as Berlin's tax mapping and other GIS mapping so that someone going to the state Granite site would basically have access to the GIS mapping in each of the municipalities which participate in this project. They are calling this the Mosaic Parcel Map. The driver in this for DRA is to streamline its internal processes that aid in the support of disaster relief/response, regional planning, and equitable property tax assessment and equalization.

Robin Hood Road Rally

The Robin Road Rally will occur this coming weekend at the Laidlaw site and Mt. Carberry Road. Hutchins Street will be closed for the two days of the event because Hutchins Street will be crossed about every five minutes by a race car. It should be quite an event with 54 cars of varying racing types schedule to compete on an every five minute schedule for two days with each car hoping to have three races each of the two days.

WWTF Sale of Surplus Material

The WWTF recently advertised and took bids on a bunch of surplus materials which included two used diesel generators, two raw sewage pumps, a hand crank hoist and other assorted pieces of used equipment. It looks like the bids for these materials should bring in a little over \$5,000 to the Sewer Fund. One of the items was 14 pallets of masonry block left over from the original construction of the facility. The block is not in good shape having sat outside for the last 30 years and brought a bid of only \$20.

Legislative Matters

State Budget

The State Budget goes round and round and Committee of conference reports are supposed to be finalized by May 27th for a final vote by the full House and Senate by June 2nd. Keep your heads covered....

Pooled Risk Management Programs

While most of the State's stated concerns seem to have to do with the Local Government Center Health Trust, the legislation which has been introduced in Concord would provide further regulation of these entities which were formed in the 80's to provide property liability and worker's compensation insurance to municipalities who were having a very hard time getting any insurance at all. Since that time these entities have been providing these types of insurance for municipalities, counties and schools in the state.

Two things should be of concern: First, it is disconcerting to have the State of New Hampshire which has watched and done nothing about the approaching insolvency of the New Hampshire Retirement System wanting to tell these entities how much they should be holding in reserve. Second, if there is to be greater regulation of these entities, common sense would say that that would be done by the New Hampshire Insurance Department. Yet the legislation proposed mystifyingly puts the regulation under the Secretary of State which has no experience whatsoever in insurance regulation.