

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: June 6, 2011
Re: Manager's Report

Bickford Place

Mayor Grenier presided over a great dedication of Bickford Place last Thursday evening during the "Drive in the Fifties" event. BIDPA is certainly to be highly commended for undertaking such an ambitious downtown project. It makes a statement that says, "We are open for business and we are here to stay."

It is going to require the vigilance and effort of all Berlin's citizens to be sure that this new center stays in first class condition and continues to be used by the public. They need to see it as their own facility which it is. If Berlin's general public decides it is going remain in first class condition, it will.

Health Software Demos

Staff has over the last couple of weeks witnessed software demonstrations from three separate companies who provide the type of software needed to better automate the visiting nurse function in the Health Department and which will be required by Medicare in the near future.

Oil Bids

This year only one bid was received for heating oil and it is significantly higher than last year's fixed price. This year our bulk price is \$3.24/gallon whereas last year's price was \$2.39/gallon. The bidder is CN Brown who also had last year's contract. Unfortunately, this means that we will need to add \$68,489 to our budget across all the Departments including Schools for heating fuel.

Long-Term CSO Plan to comply with our Administrative Order

In response to the EPA Administrative Order that we received in January which took us to task for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) events we have had in heavy rain events, we have sent off to the EPA a draft of a long-term CSO mitigation plan. They will review this and approve it with any changes they require and then return it to us for follow through with it.

Phase I Update for Burgess WWTF

In line with the above, we have received word that the EPA has approved utilizing our Coalition Grant Funds for carrying out the Phase I environmental update. We should have this update in about three weeks. This update should allow us to make a decision relative to the acquisition of this property with minimal environmental liability. We are using GZA environmental consultants who is already state approved to do this type of work.

Cross Town ATV Trail

Late last year the Mayor and Council and group that has been dealing with the cross-town ATV trails heard from a number of residents on York Street who were very upset with the ATV's on York Street. Accordingly, we were able with grant funds to pave the trail through the Dead River Park and have that portion of the ATV back into the Park. The pavement should solve the dust problem which seemed to be the biggest part of the problem in the Park.

State Prison Letter of Deficiency

Attached is a letter of deficiency we received regarding the State Prison and the operation of two of its boilers and three of its emergency generators. Pam Laflamme is on the local Citizen's Advisory Board for the Prison and is assured that they are dealing with the problem which seems to be a lack of proper reporting to NHDES.

Police Commission Evening Meeting

Attached is an agenda for a Police Commission meeting scheduled for this Thursday at 6pm.

Legislative Matters

Budget Bills and SB3: The Senate has passed its version of the budget bills and it now seems fairly certain that the conservative revenues we project receiving in the budget are probably reasonably close to accurate. The biggest unknown at the moment is retirement and what the state will or won't contribute to it. It seems pretty clear that the State is going to drop its current 25% contribution level for teachers, police and fire to zero. This would translate to retirement cost increases for us in the range of 67 to 75%. The hope is that the retirement reforms in SB3 would offset these increases, but there is no guarantee of that. It is critical that the state reform the retirement system to make it solvent, and now it is even more critical that that happen in order to avoid municipalities having to absorb large additional retirement costs above the large retirement increases we are already absorbing.

Pole Tax Exemption SB133: The attempt to resurrect this special interest bill which would make permanent the infamous pole and conduit property tax exemption for telecommunications companies seems to have been headed off. The deadline now for the House acting on such bills has expired and so the bill remains on the table and can't by the House rules be removed without a two-thirds vote which seems very unlikely at this point.

PWD Monthly Report

Attached.

Manager's Time-keeping

Attached.