

# Memo

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**cc:** Department Heads  
**From:** Pat MacQueen  
**Date:** June 20, 2011  
**Re:** Manager's Report

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## **Main Street and Riverside Drive Waterline Project**

The waterlines that BWW is installing on Riverside Drive are being done to provide better pressure and firefighting capability as well as to provide more water to the two prisons across the river. Overall, it is the extension of 3,600 feet of two 12" lines (high and low pressure) from Noury Street to the Pump Station on Cates Hill. It is replacing old cast iron 6" and 8" pipe. In effect it ties the Ramsey Hill tank to the Cates Hill tank providing better pressure and a half million additional gallons for firefighting to the entire area. At the moment BWW is almost done with a 1,000' section to Woodrow Street which should be complete by the end of the week. The remainder of this work at the north end of Riverside Drive is likely to take about six weeks.

BWW will also be installing waterline from about Peavey Lane to the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge this summer as well as drilling a line under the river from Horne Field to 8<sup>th</sup> Street. This drilling is likely to take place in July and the rest of the work is likely to take most of the summer.

## **East Milan Road Sewer Project**

The East Milan Road Sewer Project is nearing completion. It is about two weeks behind schedule overall due primarily to extra time needed for the pump station itself.

This is a quite large pump station and there is a lot to it including getting our people trained in how to operate it. East Milan Road has now had its final coat of paving put down out to the Urban Compact at Industrial Park Drive. Although there is nothing solid in the works that I am aware of, I believe the State is still considering trying to do something better with their section from the Compact Line out to the City line. It is unfortunate they didn't pursue the options that were available to them last year with the Contractor Sargent giving them some very good prices for making improvements on that section of road.

### **Value Engineering**

The Value Engineering process for the Phase II WWTF improvements is now set for the third week in July. This is the process whereby a third party Engineering Firm (Underwood Engineers) comes in and spends several days with us and our Engineer Wright Pierce reviewing the plans they have developed thus far. Different ideas are floated about how to accomplish different functions and eventually some recommendations may get made about how to better or more efficiently accomplish different functions. The goal is to improve design and reduce costs if possible. The process is required by USDA Rural Development and NH DES when a project exceeds \$10M in cost.

### **Street Sweeping**

Some people wonder why we "waste" money on what they view to be a cosmetic function sweeping streets when the roads are in such bad shape. The aesthetic part of street sweeping is by no means the major reason we sweep the streets. It is very difficult to keep our storm drain system clear of sand and debris even without all the sand we put down every winter. If we don't sweep the streets of winter sand, then most of that sand ends up in the storm drain system which is already overloaded with sand. In addition, it keeps down the dust and danger of bikes and cars sliding in it.

### **Demolition of 645 First Avenue**

Attached are some pictures of the demolition of 645 First Avenue. This was a fire property which is not owned by the City but for which we obtained an RSA 155B order from the court which allowed us to raze the property.

### **I&I Work**

Attached is a copy of a letter from Public Works Director Mike Perreault to residents in the area of the next phase of the I&I work along Riverside Drive now that the main

line has been relined. The project is now concentrating on the side streets in the area of the WMCC. Basically, the letter is informing them of the work to come and the fact that if the project needs to touch or cross their property, they will be approached by us to obtain easements.

### **DOT and Conway Bypass**

You will recall that we and other northern NH towns have taken a strong position supporting the completion of the remaining phases of the Conway bypass. Attached is a letter from DOT Commissioner George Campbell responding to the letter and resolution we all supported. Basically, I would say that Commissioner Campbell is saying that the DOT is still studying the matter and evaluating alternatives and their impact.

### **RD June Home Ownership Project**

Each year USDA Rural Development working closely with Tri-County Cap highlight a particular home ownership improvement in the area by spending an all hands on deck day at the selected property finishing up needed improvements to it. This year the home was 377 Western Ave and it is owned by Chad and Genie Tardiff who have a two year old and a brand new baby. The improvements made to the home were already very apparent and it obviously couldn't come at a better time in the lives of this young couple. Councilor Russ Otis and I were able to attend the ceremony for this event on behalf of the City last Thursday. Attached is a copy of a letter from Janice Gingras of USDA RD which further explains the project.

### **Laura Viger Retirement Dinner**

Last Thursday evening, the retirement dinner for Laura Viger was held at the NFHP. It was a very informal affair pretty much as Laura wanted. She was able to be there in good spirits which she needed because there was a little roasting going on as well. Needless to say, we all wish this special lady (particularly so to the City of Berlin) the very best in her retirement.

### **Berlin Leadership New Hampshire Graduation**

On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, I was able to attend the graduation of this year Class of Leadership North Country. I am proud to say that Administrative Assistant Sue Tremblay was one of this year's graduates in this fine program which is building leaders for Berlin, the North Country and the State.

## **Legislative Matters**

**Budget Bills:** The House and Senate conference committees have reached agreement on a budget to be presented to the House and Senate this Wednesday and it looks as though it is coming down to what we thought in terms of the major impact on us – what is retirement going to cost. For that we are still going to have to wait and see, possible until mid-July. We may get hit with a large increase on July 1, which may get ameliorated in mid or late July. SB 3 on retirement reform was vetoed by the Governor but its language has all been put into the budget trailer bill HB2. So we may find out late this week how this all sugars out.

## **Time Off**

I plan to take the week of the July 4<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) off to attend a family reunion. Pam Laflamme will be Acting City Manager in my absence that week.