

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: August 2, 2010
Re: Manager's Report

BOP Prison Tour

Last week I went on a tour of the new BOP-FCI. There is no question that it is quite a facility. There are some very impressive outdoor recreation facilities if you don't mind the appearance of or running into barbed wire every now and then. The indoor facilities in some ways ain't that bad either if you were able to come and go as you pleased. Many of the people incarcerated there if nothing else will have an impressive view of the North Country landscape. For those that cannot imagine what \$260 M will buy you, this will give you a pretty good idea.

East Milan Road Project

The East Milan Road Project continues to go well and ahead of schedule. The night work is complete and gravity pipe has been installed from the prison down under Horne Brook and approaching the industrial park. The temporary connection to be at the Industrial Park (going under the river) should be ready for tie-in in about three weeks. The force main from the pump station south should be complete in about two weeks except for the 12th Street Bridge crossing. The pump station is a little behind schedule which they hope to make up with some week-end work.

12th Street Bridge Project

HEB is finalizing the bid package for this project. It should be advertised for bids as soon as NHDOT approval of the package is received with the expectation that bidding will occur this month which will allow for a September/October construction period of 8-12 weeks.

WWTF Improvements

With the Council's approval to accept the RD funding, WP is moving ahead with the design of the improvements to the City's 32 year old WWTF. This is happening simultaneous with the engineering for this summer's I&I construction efforts between the Dairy Bar and the Armory pump station and the East Side. In addition, we have gotten the Value Engineering (VE) effort which had been delayed with Underwood Engineers back up and running. The NH DES has been asked to approve that agreement with Underwood for the VE work. The VE process is being scheduled at the plant during the middle of September.

Waste District Action

The AVRRDD has voted to continue the funding and pursuit of the methane/natural gas pipeline which will serve the Cascade Paper Plant. Hopefully, that keeps this project alive and the proceedings will continue toward the purchase of the plant and its continued operation and improvement. There is no question that the District has put a great deal of time and effort into this project. There is also no question that Mayor Grenier, as a member of the District Board, has worked very hard to keep on track what is a very complex project.

IT System Restoration

The City IT system is fully back up and running as of last week. We plan as soon as possible to hold a debriefing session with ourselves first to review what we can do to lessen the likelihood of a similar event happening in the future or how we can be better prepared if it does happen. After this, we will then sit down with the people we brought in to get us back up and review this same ground with them. Fortunately, the backing up process was fully adequate and we were able to recover everything even though the servers lost so much that they had to be fully re-built.

Spay Neuter Clinics for Cats

If you haven't attended one of several spay neuter clinics that have been held in Berlin, you should in the future. It is pretty impressive to the number of volunteers and professionals who care enough about these animals to spend hours devoted to getting them properly cared for. If there is any question that there is a problem with the over-population and poor care of these animals, this clinic quickly quells any doubt. Seventy and eighty cats are lined up in cages

waiting for their turn with a veterinarian who performs the neutering operation on them. The clinic I attended was last Thursday at St. Anne's Hall where two large rooms were filled with the prepping people and cats waiting in line. Roz Manwaring (used to be with the Humane Society in Conway) of the Rozzie Mae Animal Alliance in Conway obtained a grant exclusively for Berlin to hold several of these clinics in Berlin. Even so, it is still heavily a volunteer effort with local volunteers such as City employee Doris Anderson doing the heavy lifting. Berlin owes the Rozzie Mae Animal Alliance and the local volunteers a great debt of gratitude for taking this problem on in Berlin.

Farmer's Market

From everything we hear, the new Farmer's Market is quickly taking hold and growing. People particularly seem to be scarfing up the fresh local produce from local growers. The local growers are responding with more supply. There is great music entertainment and overall the market seems to be a great new addition to downtown Berlin.

ATV Route

Educating the ATV and car-driving public as to their roles on the road and rules of the road seems to be the order of the day with respect to the cross-town ATV route. We are working on trying to improve signage where possible. However, the biggest issue seems to be educating the ATV riders that they are supposed to ride in the lane of traffic and not on the shoulders and educating car drivers to treat the ATV riders the same way they would other cars instead of viewing them as an obstruction that they have to get around. For the most part, the whole thing seems to be working well with relatively few complaints, but we do have these types of problems to work on. A group of ATV club members and F&G reps having been meeting with City people to keep after this. There will be another such meeting this week.

City Tours

Attached is a Press Release from the Northern Forest Heritage Park regarding a program of sight-seeing tours of Berlin. NFHP will conduct these tours starting August 4, 2010. The new service will leave from the Brown Company House at 961 Main Street every Wednesday at 4pm until further notice. Poof Tardiff will be the guide and narrator which should make the tour quite interesting. The cost for adults is \$10.00, children 11 and under \$5.00 and no charge for kids under 5. This seems like a great new program to show off what a great history, culture, and narrative the City of Berlin has to show off.

Smith Hydro Tank Repainting

I expect that most everyone has seen the new look as you come into town of the Smith Hydro Tank. The repainting of the tank by PSNH emphasizes the clean energy theme which Berlin with all its hydro facilities is a significant supplier of in New Hampshire.

Public Works Monthly Report

Attached.

Manager's Time Keeping

Attached.