

# Memo

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**cc:** Department Heads  
**From:** Pat MacQueen, City Manager  
**Date:** September 19, 2011  
**Re:** Manager's Report

---

## **Hurricane Irene**

At a FEMA meeting in Gorham last week, we completed and submitted a Request for Public Assistance to hopefully get some 75% reimbursement for our costs in dealing with Irene. We believe our costs to be in the range of \$50,000.

As it turns out, even though the President declared a number of counties in New Hampshire as eligible for federal assistance, Coos County was on the list only for public agencies such as the City. Individuals in Coos County are not eligible for this specific assistance. When the FEMA officials come to Berlin, we will however show them individual properties that were damaged in the hope that these officials can direct these individuals to some other resource that they can take advantage of.

## **Berlin Federal Prison Funding**

Attached is a News Release from Senator Shaheen's office which indicates that the Berlin FCI has been included in the 2012 budget funding bill by the US Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Related Agencies. This funding however, must still be approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee and the full Congress before the FCI in Berlin can actually open in FY2012.

### **Finance Director Resignation**

Finance Director Betty Domino has resigned effective at the end of October due to personal reasons. Betty has worked very hard in this position but has been in it for less than a year. This is a difficult situation for the Department, but the Assistant Comptroller Patty Chase and all the employees in the Department have stepped up to deal with this latest challenge.

### **PWD Director Major Surgery Recuperation**

As you know Mike Perreault underwent major surgery last Thursday at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon. Much to our surprise, he was home apparently on Saturday and actually called in to the office this morning. Needless to say, he seems to be doing very well although realistically it is likely to be six weeks or more before he will be back in action.

### **Ten Year Transportation Plan Hearings**

Attached is the Public Notice for hearings to be held by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT), which is composed of the five Executive Councilors and the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation on the State's Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2013-2022). Copies of the plan are available on the NHDOT website at <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>. The hearing in Berlin is scheduled for Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall auditorium at 7:30pm.

### **ATV Festival Thank You**

I have attached a copy of the cover of the July ATV Festival Program as well as the page the Council requested to see which includes all the businesses and agencies which sponsored the event. The City Seal can be seen in the upper middle of this page.

### **Legislative Matters**

Somewhat at variance from normal, the House met in session this past week as a continuance of their normal 2011 session to deal with five new bills which are more or less fallout from the last session budget issues. They had to suspend their rules to

do this with the idea that the full House would meet in October to deal with them. It is then not clear what will happen because the Senate has not scheduled any further sessions this year. The four bills which may have an impact on municipalities are:

HB 653 would require state budget reductions of an additional \$35M to offset what the State might have to reimburse the federal government in Medicaid payments the federal government made to the State disproportionately for hospitals.

HB654 would require the NHRS to issue credits to municipalities for overpayments made prior to recertification of employer contribution rates in the amount of \$4,161,723.

HB655 would establish a committee to study the LGC focusing on the report by the Secretary of State which alleges that the LGC acted improperly in setting up its health trust and has retained far too much municipal funds in operating the health trust. Presumably the committee would develop legislation if need be to deal with some of these issues by December 1, 2011.

HB656 requires cities prior to the 2012 presidential primary to change ward boundaries to bring them into conformity with the 2010 federal census, and also requires cities to adopt a process to make boundary changes after any future federal census by November 1, 2020, which process would then not require the approval of the voters.