

# Memo

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

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## CWSRF Loan

As the Council is aware, we are currently financing the WWTF improvements with a \$15M SRF Loan from the State of New Hampshire. Long term that will be converted to a USDA Rural Development \$12.805M Loan and \$1.342M grant. In addition to giving us very attractive short term financing (no principal repayment and 1% interest until complete), it also makes us eligible for the 20% state aid grant share (currently deferred) if that is funded in the future by the state in the future.

In addition the State recently received additional ARRA SRF funds which they are administering under what they are calling CWSRF funds for which our WWTF improvements are eligible. These funds will make us eligible for both the 20% state share if that gets funded again in the future as well as 30% principle forgiveness up to a maximum of \$2M. This provides us the real possibility of reducing our out-of-pocket WWTF improvement costs by as much as \$5M.

We have been waiting to submit an application for this new SRF funding. Today we received word from the state that it is not time to apply for it. We will be submitting a Resolution for this new SRF application at the first meeting in January.

## **AVRRDD Leachate**

The District project to connect to our WWTF to treat their leachate is pretty well complete, and they should be sending leachate to our plant any day now. The District has sent us a check in the amount of \$287,500 which covers \$95,500 toward their share of our I&I efforts and \$192,000 toward their share of our aeration system upgrades in the Sewer Fund.

## **Demolitions**

246 Grafton Street was abated and demolished last week in less than two hours but it took two days to abate the asbestos inside and out. 52 Gilbert has been abated and the sheds demolished and the old commercial office is in the process of being razed. 49 Gilbert Street is in the process of being abated with demolition scheduled for early next year.

## **12<sup>th</sup> and Sweden Water Main Break**

There was a particularly large and destructive water main break in the 6" line at the intersection of Balsam and Sweden Street on Sunday. The line was cracked 8' on the bottom of the pipe. It caused considerable damage in the area and plugged sanitary sewer and storm drains systems with gravel and rocks. Our crews are cleaning our systems with the water jet system and our vac-all truck. We may have to use our portable boiler to thaw things so we can remove the debris from the catch basins. A few people had to be provided with temporary services and there was some additional private residence property damage. The section of Sweden Street between Balsam Street and Twelfth Street has basically been washed out from all the water and will likely be closed for the winter because it is steep and it can't be repaved and can't be properly plowed. Since there are no houses or driveways on this section of Sweden, it should not cause any great inconvenience.

## **Snow and Ice**

It has been a strange pre-winter so far. We have had a couple of snow and ice events. December 8<sup>th</sup> was the only substantial one where we got between 3 and 6 inches of snow. With the mild weather (until today), things have not frozen and there was quite a bit of snow plow damage which our crews have been working to fix. The mild weather has helped on fuel usage with use at 1000 gallons below this time last year.

### **Rt 110 Preconstruction Meeting**

NH DOT held a preconstruction meeting last Thursday to go over the demolition project for Route 110. The buildings on eleven parcels along the new route will be demolished by Spear Brothers from Laconia, NH. The remaining twenty buildings will be put out to bid in June as the historical and archaeological documentation has not yet been completed. Representatives from the City including both the Fire and Police Departments attended the meeting at DOT's field office which is located at 779 First Avenue in one of the homes purchased for the project. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in the spring. Bidding for the construction phase of the project is not anticipated until late 2012/early 2013.

### **BOP**

Attached is a press release from Senator Shaheen's office relative to the start up of the BOP FCI in Berlin. The BOP is now accepting applications from local residents for positions at the facility. The Northern New Hampshire Talent Team is currently offering free job application workshops to help applicants with the process of applying for these federal jobs. Information about these workshops and specific jobs is available from the WMCC and from NHDES here in Berlin.

**BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**