

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen, City Manager
Date: March 19, 2012
Re: Manager's Report

Property Sale Bids and Demolitions

March 8 was the bid opening for three tax deeded properties that the City was attempting to sell. 567 First Avenue was sold for \$23,525 to "Northern New England Conference of Seventh Day Adventists" which was just above the minimum bid. 819 Fourth Avenue and 290 Grafton Street did not sell and will be re-packaged to try again this spring.

Three properties on Western Avenue -- 790 Western, 661 Western and 653 Western - had the pre-demolition walk-thru last week with contractors. Bids are due on these on Thursday, March 22nd.

Environmental Assessments are being done on 729 & 735 Second Ave & 483 School St; and demolition bids will be going out for those within 2 weeks.

WWTD Bid Opening

The bid opening for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade has been finalized and extended for another week to April 4th in order to ensure the maximum possibility for bidders

to put together their bids. The pre-bid meeting held last Tuesday the 13th was well attended and indicated good interest on the part of bidders.

Abatement Filing Deadline

March 1 is the last day that requests for abatement were accepted by the Assessor's office. The City received 35-36 requests for abatement and these will be heard with by the Board of Assessors.

Recreation

The Men's Basketball league represented by coordinators of the league, Joey & Jesse Arsenault purchased 20 quality basketballs to be donated to the Berlin Recreation & Parks. This is the league that used the Junior High gym for their summer basketball league last year. They had a great season last summer with many teams and large public support and attendance at their night games.

Move to City Hall

The Housing Coordinator's and Code Enforcement offices have moved from the District Court Building Basement at 220 Main Street to the basement at City Hall. Andre Caron designed and coordinated this move as he done with so many other projects in the City. We are hoping that other uses for the courthouse are found so that this building does not fall into disrepair and continues as an important building on Main Street.

Legislative Policy Process

The NHMA Legislative Policy Process will get underway in April. The Committee on Government Affairs (CGA) organizational meeting for this will be held on Friday, April 13, 2012. NHMA's CGA will divide into three policy sub-committees and will between then and the Annual NHMA Conference in September develop the legislative recommendations for adoption at the conference which will guide NHMA's legislative positions for the coming year. Certainly, if the City Council or any member of the public has thoughts or suggestions on how state law might be changed to better support municipalities, now is the time to transmit those ideas to NHMA. The policy proposal form can be downloaded at governmentaffairs@nhlgc.org.