## City of Berlin

# Memo

**To:** Mayor and Council

cc: Department Heads

From: Pat MacQueen, City Manager

**Date:** April 16, 2012

**Re:** Manager's Report

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### WWTP Phase II Improvement Bids

Apex \$13,137,700

TBuck \$13,714,714

Penta \$14391,700

Trumbull/Nelson \$14,391,700

#### Testimony on SB 306 and Amendment to SB 291

On Wednesday afternoon of last week I received word from Senator Gallus's office that SB 306 was being heard the next morning by the House Municipal and County Government Committee in Concord. This is the legislation that we submitted to amend the existing law to provide that users of the commercial and industrial construction property tax exemption be required to apply for such exemption in advance of such construction rather than retroactively as was allowed in the original legislation. It also extends indefinitely the sunsetting provision of the original legislation which would have sunsetted in 2013. Senator Gallus sponsored both the original legislation and this amendment at our behest and was there to support its passage. I attended and spoke in favor of the legislation as well. There

were no voices in opposition and most of the Committee time was spent on an amendment just introduced which had nothing to do with the original legislation. Overall, the feeling was that the Committee was very supportive.

While in Concord, Senator Gallus asked me to support an amendment to SB 291which would provide \$550,000 to purchase land and erect on it an outdoor fire training facility similar to the one that already exists at the Fire Academy in Concord. This would make it much easier for fire personnel in the North Country to utilize this type of simulation but close to reality training because of the difficulty it is for many people to get to Concord from up here. Senator Gallus, Senator Dellasandro, the Assistant Public Safety Commissioner Earl Sweeney, the new Director of the Fire Academy, a Fire Officer from Littleton and I all spoke in favor of this amendment. No one spoke against it and the feeling is that it will pass the Committee and move along quickly in the Committee as the money is available from a Fire Trust Fund.

#### **Property Sale Bids and Demolitions**

Recent demolitions include 653, 661 and 790 Western Avenue. The land for the first two will now go out for sale while the third piece of land will be retained because of its location next to the lot where we have been placing clean fill.

Four properties are about to be put out for sale. These are 590 Goebel, 819 Fourth Ave. and 24 Birch.

#### **I&I Work**

Phase I contract 2 which got started this winter is in progress. The contractor is currently in the McGee Interceptor drainage area and is currently going across Riverside Drive and up McGee Street with the main sewer line. This should be crossed this week. Separation is also going on in homes in the drainage area (McGee, Howard, Noury and Riverside).

Contract 3 work is being put together for bid which will concentrate on the east side.