

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: September 7, 2010
Re: Manager's Report

East Milan Road Project

All the gravity and force main pipe for the East Milan Road project is in the ground, including the pipe hung under the 12th Street Bridge. The temporary connection for the BOP-FCI which runs under the river is working fine. All that remains with the piping is the testing of it and the main connection at the 12th Street Bridge and Main Street. This connection, which is 17' deep, will be completed this week. At that point, the only part of that contract which will remain is the pump station itself which is not slated to be completed until next summer.

WWTF Improvements

As the Council is aware, we are proceeding with the WWTF Improvements with the \$12.805 RD loan and \$1.342M grant we have been awarded from USDA Rural Development. We had some communication issues around when to perform the Value Engineering which NHDES and RD require as part of the process for obtaining these funds but now have that straightened out.

We also applied again for State Revolving Loan and 30% State Aid Grant in the latest round of applications. 30% of \$12-\$15M would be around \$4M-\$5M of grant which would go a long way toward making up for the \$6-\$7M we were hoping to receive from USDA Rural Development.

As it turns out, we ended up second on the State's list in this latest round of funding because they correctly placed a good deal of emphasis on "affordability" which put Berlin right up at the top. Unfortunately, they also decided to limit the maximum grant to \$2M in order to make the \$10M in funding that they have go further among NH municipalities. Nevertheless, an additional \$2m in grant to the \$1.342M grant we already have been awarded from RD will still be a very welcome addition to making the WWTF Improvements project more affordable to the Sewer Fund. This is still not a given by any stretch in that we have to convince both USDA Rural Development and NHDES that we should be able to take advantage of both of these separate federal and state programs and not simply have to choose between one or the other.

12th Street Bridge Project

Bids for the 12th Street Bridge Project were opened on Friday, August 27th. Four Bids were received and the low bidder was Winterset Inc. from Lyndonville, VT in the amount of \$599,065. This is about \$100k below the HEB estimate which again is a very good thing. The award was made to Winterset the following Monday, and they are already gearing up to start the bridge project. As previously indicated, the actual closing of the bridge will occur next week probably starting on Monday the 13th of September.

Bickford Place Bid Opening

Bids for BIDPA's Bickford Place project were opened on Thursday August 27th. Only two bids were received. Couture Construction is the low bidder in the amount of \$587K. BIDPA is considering these bids and working with Couture to lower the price to within the BIDPA Budget. This may take some time.

NSP Program and Governor's visit

On August 20th Governor Lynch visited the progress being made on Berlin's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Governor Lynch was greeted by Mayor Grenier, Councilor Rozek, Councilor Evans and Housing Coordinator Andre Caron and toured the buildings under redevelopment. A poster board display of before and after pictures was shown to him in order for him to see the dramatic changes taking place within this 700 foot area of lower Champlain Street. Since the Governor had been here last year when Berlin was awarded the monies for this redevelopment project, he was familiar with the concept and the neighborhood and was quite impressed with the speed of execution and the final results. The tour was led by the two principle owners of TKB Properties, Kevin Lacasse and Tim Coulombe, and their project manager Tony Smith who answered all of the queries the Governor had about this project.

Rotary Park Landing Project

On Wednesday August 18, a group began the layout on the ground of the new landing, parking area and dock on the Androscoggin River which is being funded through a Land and

Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$25k. The new landing on the Androscoggin River will be located on property recently transferred from the Northern Forest Heritage Park to the City so that the grant for the project could be accepted and utilized. The location can be seen by the stakes marking it out on the northern end of the strip of land just above 9th Street on Main Street. The total project is about \$35-\$38k with the difference being in-kind match funds contributed by Parks and PW who will be building the project. The project required that an archeological review be done prior to any construction. That has been completed and it came up clean which means the project can now move forward.

Conway Bypass Roundtable Meeting

Attached is a flier noticing a roundtable meeting on the Conway Bypass which is to be held Thursday September 30th from 5-7pm at the Albany Town Hall. Elected officials from Berlin are encouraged to attend.

TIGER Grant

We went into emergency mode to get this TIGER pavement management project grant submitted on line (which is the only way they would accept it) by 5pm on Monday August 23rd. We got it done at around 4pm that Monday. The next day we received notices that because so many people had problems getting theirs in that they were extending the deadline until 5pm on Tuesday. They then did it again for 5pm on Wednesday. Our guess is that because New York City and Los Angeles probably didn't get theirs in on time that the rules got changed. Somehow, I have a feeling that if we hadn't gotten ours in on time that they wouldn't have moved the deadline back.

Beacon Communities Meeting at WMCC

The City Planner and I attended a meeting last Wednesday at WMCC to go over the Beacon Communities program which provides funding to Berlin, Plymouth and Nashua for energy projects in each of these three communities chosen to be 'Beacon Communities' in New Hampshire. As the Council is aware, the program has \$10M to provide financing for energy projects in each of these communities. A significant amount of the money is going to the non-profits engaged in administering the programs.

PSNH Abatement Filing

The Board of Assessors has received an abatement filing for the 2009 tax year from PSNH on all of its property in Berlin.

International Existing Building Code

The City Attorney has done some checking around on this and has provided us with an opinion that we could also adopt the IEBC. We intend to do this and will hope to have an ordinance ready for introduction at the next Council meeting.

Homecoming Parade

Attached is the permission being granted to the BHS Homecoming Parade Committee for the parade which is to be on Friday September 17, 2010 beginning at 7pm.

North Country Council Annual Meeting

The North Country Council Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2010 at the Mountain View Grand. The Business Meeting is at 4:30pm, reception at 5pm and dinner at 6pm.

PWD Monthly Report

Attached.

Manager's Time Keeping

Attached.