

## **EnVision Montpelier Infrastructure and Built Environment Committee**

Notes from September 20 , 2007

The meeting was convened at 6:00. Those present included: Garth Genge (Co-chair), Suzanne Hechmer, Todd Law, Bill Fraser, Clancy Desmet, and Gwendolyn Hallsmith, and Ashley Pelletier.

Committee learning objectives and “A Study and Analysis of the Fiscal Impacts of Growth in the City of Montpelier” was given out

[http://www.montpelier-vt.org/pdf/Fiscal\\_Impact\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/pdf/Fiscal_Impact_Final_Report.pdf)

Bill Fraser and Todd Law discussed the following topics:

- Water Supply
- Transportation
- Communication
- Energy
- Waste Management
- Fire and Police Department
- Parking

### **Learning Objectives Covered**

What are the assets in the city in terms of infrastructure?

What is the capacity of the city – what do we have and what do we need?

Should the city be building infrastructure first, so we can better direct development?

We need to work on an integrated approach to water, sewer, and transportation improvements because they're all related.

There was a fiscal impact study done for the police and fire departments.

What should we do about a parking garage in the downtown?

### **Water Supply**

The Berlin Pond currently supports the city with 1.1 millions gallons a day and has a total capacity of 4 million gallons per day. The only threat of contamination is the section of the pond exposed to the interstate.

There is capacity to support more users both residential and commercial. By having supporting other municipalities, such as Berlin, water rates would be lowered.

Montpelier's water tanks are located on Town Hill, Terrace Street, and Northfield Street. An additional tank is needed at National Life to complete the system loop that currently serves U-32.

Hydroelectric generation is not a possibility due to the location of the water plant.

Currently, pressure is added to the support the circulation to neighborhoods in higher elevations.

Although the mains are very good, secondary systems need improvement. Lines on East State Street have high sediment build-up, reducing the original diameter of 4”.

### **Sewer**

Montpelier’s sewer system currently supports 1.4 million gallons per day. At night this reduces to 700,000 gallons. The plant is at 50% capacity and could handle more users/ volume.

An issue with the sewer system, however, is the BODs (Biochemical Oxygen Demand). Since the sanitary sewage isn’t diluted it takes longer to break down resulting in a high BOD. To handle a higher BOD another generator would be needed, a \$1 million cost.

### **Transportation**

Montpelier’s transportation infrastructure is dated. City roads have high volume and are expensive to maintain. Parking is also a major issue in the city.

Ideally a transit/ transportation network is needed to alleviate parking downtown. An in-city bus system could bring residents from neighborhoods to the down town area eliminating resident car use.

The elimination of downtown parking has increased parking in residential sections. This causes hazardous conditions on residential streets.

### **Communications**

Bill Fraser discussed the recent council authorizations of a negotiation with Burlington Tele-com and has hired a consultant to do a financial analysis and market study. The purchase of a Tele-com fiber optic system would provide the city with high speed internet, telephone, and cable. The capacity of a fiber-optic system extremely high is the most stable, and reliable.

Owning the line would also result in supporting other municipalities, such as Waterbury and/ or Stowe

### **Police, Fire and Rescue Services**

There are no current issues with these services; however, growth would result in the expansion of these departments.

### **Next Meeting: October 18 @ 6:00 in City Hall’s Memorial Room**

Focus: Housing, with a joint meeting of the Housing Task Force

Submitted by Ashley Pelletier