

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

Council Information Report – 11/20/09

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- **Planning Commission Meeting:** Monday, November 23rd, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **Design Review Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, November 24th, at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **Thanksgiving Holiday:** City Hall office will be closed Thursday and Friday.



FOR YOUR CALENDARS ...

- ❖ **Welcome Legislators Reception:** Thursday, January 28th, **2010**, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Capitol Plaza.

STATUS REPORTS ...

Enclosures:

Parks Commission Minutes: October 20th, 2009
Letter from U.S. Department of Justice; City's grant application was not selected for funding
Update 2009 Parade Permits: 11/16/09

Poll Vote of City Council Members:

City Clerk Charlotte Hoyt asked our office to poll Council Members for consideration of a REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL SAMPLING EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION. The New England Culinary Institute & LaBrioche would like to host an educational wine tasting at LaBrioche, with a sit-down wine tasting, lecture and wine sale. The name of the event is ***Wine Spectator Best Award of Excellence Holiday Sale*** and would take place on Wednesday, December 2nd, from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.. The result of this poll vote will be ratified at the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting on December 9th.

Council Minutes – Web Casting:

I have final proposals from both companies and will make a selection today or Monday. Council Member Hooper has been an unofficial advisor, and I'd like to touch base with him before finalizing this. There are financial considerations. One proposal will cost approximately \$10,400 per year with no one-time start up. The other will cost approximately \$6,250 per year with a one-time \$8,970 start up cost – making the first year cost over \$15,200. After two years, the first company is still about \$1,000 less in total. After three years, the second company is \$3,400 less in total and \$4,150 lower each year thereafter. The first company is New England based with 150 clients; the second company is nationally based with 584 clients. One concern had been the potential connection between one company and ORCA Media, but we've determined that whichever choice we make will not impact them at all. We also learned that they have not made any official arrangements and are still in discussion stage. So basically, ORCA is not an issue. Both companies offer a similar range of services and options, although how they are delivered is very different in some cases.

Employee Health Insurance:

Thank you for supporting the health insurance recommendation. Two of the employee groups have still not fully signed on; I am meeting with them today to relay your enthusiasm and commitment to the City's role in the proposal.

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 20, 2009

Page Two

Financial Review – State Auditor:

Mr. Salmon will be holding another open meeting at 5:15 on Monday, the 23rd, to continue the process as per the direction from Council this week. He has been speaking with CPA firms about the work; I am posting a public notice for CPA firms on the web today.

From the Mayor Regarding Potential Increase in Train Traffic:

I was invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, the 19th, at Rock of Ages in Barre:

Those in attendance were: Darren Winham - Barre Area Development Corp, Charlie Miller—vtrans-rail, Brad Towne—Berlin, Rep. Pat McDonald, Joe Flynn—rail division, Jeff Blow—Barre Town, Mayor Thom Lauzon—Barre city, Sam Mathews—CVDEC, Paul Hutchins – Rock of Ages, an individual from Northern Power Systems and me.

Rock of Ages is seeking contracts to sell its waste material (not new or expanded quarrying, simply using material already on site). There may be a proposal at some point to install a crusher which would be operated by the entity purchasing the material from Rock of Ages.) R of A believes that there will be increased demand for its waste material as the permits on other facilities around the country come to an end, many are due to expire within the next few years. They are currently in serious discussion with a company who would use the material for rip rap). I totally understand why they are anxious to do this.

Rock of Ages does not anticipate that it would add new jobs as a result of this contract, but that it would be able to retain the existing work force. If the crusher is installed jobs would be associated with that facility.

Another firm in the Wilson Industrial Park hopes to have contracts which would enable it to take advantage of the tracks, too. This firm employs 130 individuals in well paying jobs and anticipates that it could double its work force.

There is discussion about improving or laying train tracks into the industrial park.

They are talking about staging cars in the area parallel to Main street in Barre, behind the city hall in the area that was/is a rail yard. I think they would collect 4 or 5 cars there and then move them to a second staging area in front of the Ames Plaza where they would create a train of up to 40 cars which would then be moved to Montpelier Junction. At the maximum build out of the proposed contract for R of A a 40 car train would go through Montpelier 2 times a day (out once, back once) and a 20 car train would go through 2 times a day. All of this would take place during day light hours. The material from rock of ages probably wouldn't be moved during the winter. There was a discussion of a potential of 8 to 10 trains a day, which differed from the above scenario. They may want to restrict the hours so that access to the high school isn't impeded, also during our rush ½ hour. Which would compress the train traffic into the remaining day light hours.

VTrans is currently engaged in doing bridge and track assessments. They have identified the two pin truss bridges in Montpelier as issues of concern. In addition they are generally concerned about encroachment on their right of way. In Montpelier they talked about M&M and the bank. They also acknowledged the concern about pedestrian traffic on the tracks. They talked about doing the intersection diagnostics. They said they were looking at the tracks in response to questions I had raised.

We talked about how long it would take to clear an intersection of the train. I didn't think to ask how long the intersection would need to be closed prior to the train arriving into the intersection. While it would only take a train 2 to 4 minutes to move through the intersection, given that they can't stop in less than ¼ mile, the guard would have to go down sufficiently in advance to allow traffic lights to clear the stacking area as the train came within ¼ mile of the intersection. (6 to 12 minute closure?) They stated that two intersections would be closed at a time, I'm guessing that it would be three. I wonder if we will have people racing from one intersection to another.

They stated that no permits are required. There was a discussion of how to talk with the public. They described this as presenting what was going to be, not gathering input.

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 20, 2009

Page Three

Lots of discussion ensued about how good this would be for the region and Vermont. I agreed that there was economic value for some but wondered what value there was for Montpelier compared to the problems.

I acknowledged the value of the quarries and the other business (which would like to remain anonymous) and then spoke at length and passionately about the value of our downtown businesses, investments, future plans, traffic flow and quality of life was to us. I was the only person putting forth these concerns.

Issues raised, beyond the general: Bike path, the remaining property on Stone Cutters waiting to be developed, development of Sabin's Pasture, depression of property values, safety in general, traffic, and impeding emergency vehicles.

Please let me know if there are other issues we should add to the list.

Reappraisal:

As of Friday, November 20, 2009: 2,012 properties have been measured and photographed; 1,176 interior inspections have been completed; entry rate of 58%.

Council E-Mail:

This should be up and running; please contact us if you are still having difficulties.

National Citizen Survey:

I will be conducting an open forum to officially present the survey results on Wednesday, December 2nd, in the City Council Chambers; exact time to be determined; it will be widely announced.

Budget:

I have spent a lot of this week reviewing department budgets. We should have a better sense of the overall picture next week.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 2	National Citizen Survey Presentation
December 9	Survey Review Carr Lot Jacobs Water Issue Budget – Overview, Administration, Justice Center, Misc. Accounts
December 12 (Saturday)	Budget Work Session (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM) – Fire, Police, Parks, Cemetery, Planning & Development
December 16	Budget – Public Works (streets, water/sewer, capital plan, equipment), City Hall & 58 Barre Street, Senior Center
January 6	Budget – if needed for wrap-up
January 13	Receive Report from State Auditor and Committee Budget – First Public Hearing
Thursday, January 21	Budget – Second Public Hearing

Parks Commission Minutes
October 20, 2009: 7:00-9PM
Community Room, Police Station

Commissioners: Stephen Bosserman, Aaron Brondyke, Ethan Parke, Leigh Seddon
Staff Present: Geoff Beyer

A. Minutes of September Meeting

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

B. Garden Parks

The fence surrounding the playground at the Vermont College community garden has been removed but may need to be replaced. The tool shed at this garden is almost finished. Two Rivers has approached Geoff to explore the possibility of partnering with the Parks Department on managing their property. The Parks Commission will continue to explore possibilities with Two Rivers.

C. McAvoy Property Update

The McAvoy's are satisfied that their requirements for the sale of the parcel of land to the city have been met. The survey is in progress. The Conservation Fund Advisory Committee will address the project at their next meeting. Following that meeting an application for funding will be made to the Montpelier Conservation Commission. A title search will also be completed.

D. VAST Trail

Trail remediation work occurred on the North Branch Park trail created by VAST on October 17. Mary Stone of the East Montpelier Trail Inc. is satisfied with VAST's work on the East Montpelier trail and is ready to allow snowmobiles on the trail this winter. In Montpelier, seeding and mulch have been put down and some steep slopes have been graded. Posts for gates have been placed at the Gould Hill Road entrance. A tubular steel gate has been installed at the trail leading from North Street in East Montpelier. The Parks Commission discussed whether remaining work on the trail, including final work on the new bridge, and a gate at Gould Hill Road need to occur before winter use of the trail can be approved. The Parks Director will communicate with VAST on these areas of concern. VAST must either install a strong gate at Gould Hill Road or take permanent responsibility for any repairs needed on a gate that is not so strong. They must also finish work on the trail, which includes approach ramps on the new bridge.

E. Stonewall Meadows

Stonewall Meadows Association is beginning a title search on the Stonewall Meadows 7-acre recreational parcel that they hope the city will acquire. They would like the Parks Commission to help with lawyer's fees in the title search. A search of the complicated claims on this property may reveal the conditions under which the property can be conveyed. The Parks Commission agreed to look for an intern who can work pro bono with city lawyers to explore this issue.

F. FY 2011 Budget

The Parks Commission discussed several items pertaining to the FY 2011 budget:

1. The Sit Down Mower has been removed from the budget.
2. The Hubbard Park Pond dig has been divided between FY 2011 and FY 2012.
3. The Yanmar replacement will be moved from FY 2012 to FY 2011 for safety reasons.
4. Hubbard Park Tower repairs may be reduced.
5. The Tree/Parks half-time position will be included in FY 2011. Parks will pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wages for the position.
6. Repairs for the Parks vehicles for FY 2009 have been very high and a new vehicle will be needed in FY 2011.

G. Next Meeting

November 17, 2009

Submitted by Stephen Bosserman



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Went

Washington, D.C. 20531

October 28, 2009

William Fraser
City Of Montpelier
City Hall 39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602-3064

GMS Number: 2009-G0553-VT-SC

Dear William Fraser:

The Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) would like to thank you for your recent grant application in response to BJA's FY 2009 solicitation, **Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program; Category VI: Improving Resources and Services for Victims of Crime**. Your proposal received careful consideration, but we regret to inform you that it was not selected for funding.

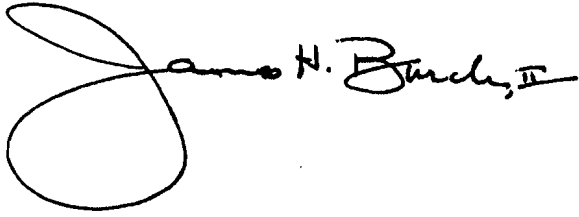
This decision was based on a thorough review of the Six-Hundred Thirty (630) applications that were received. Although many of the applications had merit, Fourteen (14) applicants were selected for funding based on peer review feedback and other considerations, such as underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

In an effort to assist your organization should you choose to apply for future funding, enclosed please find the summary of the peer review findings of your application. These comments are shared with you to help you improve future applications, or to assist in identifying potential issues identified by subject-matter experts should you want to go forward with the program without funding from BJA.

Three independent peer reviewers evaluated each application and noted strengths and weaknesses. You may notice occasional duplicative or contradictory comments, which are a result of similar or differing opinions of the reviewers. As a matter of policy, OJP takes steps to ensure that reviewers are aware of the contradiction and have an opportunity to resolve it, but does not ask peer reviewers to change the substantive nature of their comments. All OJP funding decisions are final, and reviewer comments expressed in the summary are those of the individual reviewers.

We thank you for your interest in assisting BJA's mission by participating in this grant program solicitation process. We encourage you to visit BJA's web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA and continue to apply for future BJA grant opportunities as they are announced. If you have any questions, please contact BJA at 1-866-859-2687 or via e-mail at AskBJA@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Burch, II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" that extends downwards and to the left.

James H. Burch, II
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance

cc: Yvonne Byrd
Laura Ivkovich

**City of Montpelier
2009-G0553-VT-SC**

Statement of the Problem

STRENGTHS

- The applicant wants to replicate a restorative justice concept program. The applicant has a mediation focus.
- The applicant clearly explains the problem. The applicant notes specifically that there will be no duplication of services through competition with other agencies.

WEAKNESSES

- Only one job will be created.
- The crime statistics and numbers of participants are not identified. The three partners needed in an RJ effort of victims, offenders, and the community is not spelled out. Only victims are described. For example, how many the applicant anticipates are volunteering.
- No specifics are provided on the occurrences of the types of crime the applicant wants to target.
- How quickly the applicant could get started is not addressed.
- The applicant is a relatively new agency, and participation in the current victim services program is low.

Program Design and Implementation

STRENGTHS

- The application has great program design. The application presents a good model for replication.
- The application establishes one position as the full time victim liaison to arrange the RJ activities.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program Announcement
Category VI: Improving Resources and Services for Victims of Crime

- The applicant has researched, collaborated, coordinated, and partnered with the necessary agencies, organizations, and stakeholders needed to develop the new position and program.

WEAKNESSES

- The application is primarily a general narrative extolling RJ principles.
- Some of the information is incorrect or dated, for example, Susan Herman is no longer the director of the NCVV.
- The program only focuses on the RJ process, does not address other "advocacy" issues for the victims, and contains nothing on court accompaniment, restitution, impact statements, or orders of community service.
- The application is a bit redundant about RJ.
- Nothing is noted about establishing the connections needed with offenders or with communities where work projects could occur.
- Nothing is mentioned about working with the offenders on their legal status if they take responsibility for the harm caused and/or if they fail to follow through.
- No numbers are provided on the participants (v's or o's) or the sessions to count/measure.

Capabilities/Competencies

STRENGTHS

- The application mentions a competent staff.
- Six years of victim services experience is noted.
- Vermont does have RJ models and trainers available.
- There will be city oversight for the fiscal accountability.
- The applicant expresses with confidence the increase in its capabilities and competencies with the addition of the new hire Victim Liaison.

WEAKNESSES

- The applicant is a relatively new agency.

Budget

STRENGTHS

- The application contains a good budget outline.
- The city will have oversight and has handled grants before.

WEAKNESSES

- Many unallowable expenses are included.
- The application is unclear on the contract to the Barre Community Just Center and the reason for the costs is unknown.
- The fringe benefits look very high, almost 50%. It is questionable if that percentage is allowable.
- It is unknown if the contractor/consultant fee of \$450 per day is allowable.
- The applicant should verify what allowable expenses are with regard to direct victim services as it applies to outreach/education, specialty staff, administrative staff, and consultant services. The budget must show a clear delineation between direct services line items allowable Byrne funding and alternate funding.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainment, and Description of the Applicant's Plan for the Collection of the Data Required for Performance Measures

STRENGTHS

- The application contains good impact measures and sustainability plan.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program Announcement
Category VI: Improving Resources and Services for Victims of Crime

- The applicant voices in plain and simple language that it wants to make this program successful. The applicant's knowledge of and relationship with like state and national programs provides an even stronger link to the importance of the above-listed statistical valuations. Sustainability is a key component of this section, and the applicant provides specific information in this section about its 2011 strategic planning and communications with financial donors to keep this project going past this grant funding period.

WEAKNESSES

- Only one job will be created.
- The applicant says they are replicating other RJ programs, but only gives generic information and quotes from leaders like Zehr and Karp.
- This is a weak section in the application. The applicant will count sessions, but no numbers are targeted so it is unknown when they will achieve the goal.
- No mention is made of numbers of victims, offenders, or community projects with MOUs or existing partnerships.
- No mention is made of the legal issues of offender participation or status of community services.
- The impact on the criminal justice system is implied, embraced in the RJ principles, but no specific statements are provided.
- The data section is weak, missing lots of details, and no comment is made on longer term outcomes.
- For sustainability, the applicant will rely on funding from the VT Center for crime victims.

Overall Summary

- Job creation is included.
- One job will be created.
- This is a weak application with little info provided to justify the request. This is mainly a restatement of restorative justice concepts and there is a strong history of

Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program Announcement
Category VI: Improving Resources and Services for Victims of Crime

Vermont operating RJ programs. However, no data or studies about success or impact or evidence based evaluations are noted.

- RJ involves at least three partners, victims, offenders, communities, but this application only addresses weakly the victim piece.
- This application proposes to create jobs and/or retain existing positions.

Sandy P.

2009 PARADE PERMITS

Updated 11/16/09

Date	Organization	Start	Contact	Added Info
NOVEMBER 2009				
Wednesday, Nov 11	Veterans Day Parade	9:30 AM- 11:30 AM	Malcolm MacAskill 229-9028/479-2325	Patrol to direct traffic, control intersections. 801 will lead in marked cruiser
Saturday, Nov 14	Rally for Justice for Calves	10:30AM – 1:30PM	Katherine Collins 476-5302	Sidewalk Rally in front of Statehouse.
DECEMBER 2009				
December 31, 2009	First Night Runners/Mont. Alive	2:45 pm to 4:30pm	Suzzane Eikenberry 249-0404	Patrol to control traffic at intersections and on Bailey Ave. and State St.
JANUARY 2010				
Saturday, January 16	Vt Right to Life	10:45am 11:30am	Mary Hahn Beerworth 229- 4885	Cruiser to escort/protect the rear of the parade. Officer to control traffic at State and Main Streets
FEBRUARY 2010				
MARCH 2010				
APRIL 2010				
MAY 2010				
JUNE 2010				
JULY 2010				
AUGUST 2010				
August 14, 2010 21	Prevent Child Abuse – VT	6:00 am to 2:00 pm	Ed Bride 229-5724 Approx 300 walkers on sidewalks	No Special Provisions
SEPTEMBER 2010				
OCTOBER 2010				
NOVEMBER 2010				
DECEMBER 2010				