

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 5/28/10

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- ❖ **City Hall Closed – Holiday:** Monday May 31st. Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade
- ❖ **Community Justice COSA meeting:** Tuesday June 1st, 4:30 p.m. Manager's Conference Rm.
- ❖ **Board of Abatement:** Tuesday June 1st, 5:15 p.m. City Council Chambers
- ❖ **Independence Day committee Open House:** Thursday June 3rd, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Manager's Conf. Rm.
- ❖ **Current Events Committee Meeting:** Thursday June 3rd, 6:30 p.m. Memorial Rm.
- ❖ **Development Review Board:** Monday June 7th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- ❖ **City Council Meeting:** Wednesday June 9th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

ENCLOSURES ...

- MSAC ROUND TABLE, Thursday, May 13, 2010
- Turntable Park Consultant Agreement
- VMERS Notice of Election

STATUS REPORTS ...

There was no report last week (May 17th) because I was attending the Vermont Town and City Management Association spring conference in Middlebury on Thursday and Friday. Key topics were emergency management (and a specific review of the dangerous train derailment in Middlebury a couple of years ago), district energy (with a tour of the Middlebury College biomass plant), renovation of old buildings for community use (with a tour of the Middlebury Town Hall Theatre) and updates on various initiatives and activities of local governments around the state. I made a presentation of the national citizen survey process that we used and the new web based video meeting archive system that we have in place. Both were well received and generated interest.

Railroad Issues:

Attorney Giuliani has made a recommendation for an attorney with expertise in rail issues and we are setting up a meeting with this person for more discussion. Trains are scheduled to begin running now. The High School is holding an assembly on Tuesday to educate their students about the safety issues.

Reappraisal:

As per the presentation the other night, booklets will be mailed on Tuesday and should be in people's hands by Wednesday or Thursday. All related information will be posted on the web by Wednesday as well. Overall values are up around 60%. The shift onto residential properties is only about 1%. Currently the tax rate is estimated to be around \$2.28 per hundred of valuation, down from \$3.66.

Information that will be available on the city's web site includes: A listing of all sales from the last three years (already posted), all property cards (to make looking up comparable properties easier), the tax maps and information about how to estimate tax bills.

Goals & Priorities:

My apologies for this being omitted on the last agenda, we will include it for the June 9 meeting.

Police Negotiations:

Yesterday, Finance Director Sandy Gallup and I met with two members of the Police bargaining team and two reps from the VLCT Health Trust. The purpose of the meeting was to go through the new health plan in detail, respond to any questions or concerns and develop a common understanding of how it works and what coverage is included and how it compares to the previous plan. I came away feeling that the session was very helpful.

We have another negotiation session with them on Tuesday. This will probably be a critical meeting and will likely determine whether or not the arbitration hearing on the health plan scheduled for June 11th will happen.

Turntable Park Consultant

You will find enclosed a proposed contract for engineering services for the turntable park. This was developed by Garth Genge with assistance from Tom McArdle. We'd like to move on this prior to the June 9 meeting in order to get the project going. There will be a follow up contract with the Johnson Company for environmental services as well. All funds for the project are in place. Please let me know by Tuesday of next week if you have concerns about this, otherwise I will proceed with authorizing the contract and we can formally ratify it on the consent agenda on the 9th.

Upcoming Meetings:

June 9	Year End budget transfers Berlin Pond ordinances – 1 st reading July 3 rd street closings Private noise variance and street closing requests Goals Water/Sewer rates (tentative)
July 23	Berlin Pond ordinances – 2 nd reading

William Fraser
City Manager