

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Council Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

**TO: Mayor Walter Ash Jr. and Honorable Members of Belfast City Council**

**FROM: Joseph J. Slocum, City Manager**

**DATE: Friday, April 30, 2010**

**Agenda items:**

**10.B Discussion and possible action on paving Washington Street and Cross Street Parking Lots.**

Both parking lots need to be reground and repaved. These were Capital Projects that were approved to do in this budget year. We have sought the assistance of a local survey group to better understand where the property lines are at the Washington Street Parking Lot. The line running parallel to Main Street is not a straight line so we will not pave every square foot of City property so that we can show a straight driving lane between the two entrances to this lot. The bid results are attached and we would like to make the award and get the work done immediately and well in advance of summer traffic. We will indeed re-stripe and mark out at least 2 handicapped spots in the Washington Street Lot and one in the Cross Street Lot. These spaces will allow for a wheel chair to exit the passenger side of a handicapped equipped van. We recommend that you award the bid to the lowest bidder.

**10.C Discussion and possible action on a request by the Friends of the Footbridge for a rededication ceremony on October 8, 2010.**

In your packets you will see a memo from Tammy Lacher Sculley. The original Footbridge was dedicated in 1921 and at that time a plaque honoring all Waldo County soldiers who died while serving in World War I was installed. Unfortunately that plaque was removed sometime in the 1960s and has never been recovered. In 2003 a group of people known as the Friends of the Footbridge pledged to replace it. They're now prepared to replace this plaque and would like to have a commemorative ceremony at the footbridge on the united anniversary of the original dedication, which will be this October 8, 2010. It is always fitting to memorialize veterans in the sacrifices that they and their families have made on behalf of the nation as well as this community.

**10.D Discussion and a Walsh Fields ground keeping bid opening, which was tabled from last meeting.**

Representatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be present at the meeting to discuss this with the Council. The Commission has unanimously recommended that the Walsh Fields area and all its components be maintained to the level of quality in which Bank of America gave it to the City a few years ago. This is a remarkable facility and contains some of the best sidewalks we have anywhere in the City and, if I understand correctly, is one of the top three little league fields in the State of Maine. This year for example will attract additional little league tournament games to this site. This obviously brings more people to the community to hopefully support our local economy. When I attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting this week I was reminded that the singular bid we received for

maintaining the grounds at Walsh Fields was still lower than the second lowest bid we receive to do the work when we put the matter out to bid three years ago. The Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed multiple options to try to find a way to either save money on the grounds maintenance or to raise revenue to help pay for this level of care. The City's budget was originally configured to include hiring additional staff of buying additional equipment to do this work. It appeared to us that this bid might be a less expensive option for the city. We will discuss this further at the meeting.

**10.E Request from the Parks and Recreation Commission to accept a donation of a memorial bench to be placed in City Park.**

A donor would like to donate a bench to the City Park along with the placement of the cement pad upon which it will rest and be secured. Only the Council can accept this in the name of the City. The Commission and the Parks Director have recommended that we accept this gift. We are fortunate to have people willing to donate resources for the improvement of the community as a whole.

**10.F Update on sidewalk repairs in the downtown area and in the neighborhood.**

We are getting ready to do some significant work on sidewalks. Starting the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be tearing up concrete sections of downtown sidewalks and replacing them. Most of them are marked with white paint. Our goal is to get this work done before Memorial Day. As part of this work we will also be installing and reinstalling some brick trim. The largest section we plan to do will be in front of the Belfast Library. That entire walkway unfortunately must be replaced. We hope to work on that during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>. It will extend a full block from Spring Street to Miller Street.

Other areas of downtown work include the area in front of Consumers Fuel, the area in front of Dudley's Restaurant, the island in front of the Candy Shop and law office, we also hope to redo the sidewalk at City Hall on the Church Street side. Our plan is to move the entire sidewalk on the south side about 5 feet to the North so that there is sufficient room to park and walk along without vehicles being on the sidewalk. This will also make it safer for the traffic to move through the Key Bank Drive-Through.

We're also looking at doing various sections of the City's asphalt sidewalks. Each of these requires a complete rebuild. Waldo Avenue from Main Street to the high school, which is 2233 feet long. Lincolnton Avenue from Athena Health Drive to the middle school, which is 2109 feet long. Main Street from Waldo Avenue to Grove Cemetery which is 1453 feet long and Field Street from High Street to Waldo Avenue which is 650 feet long. Northport Avenue from Fahy Street to Mayo Street, which is 1393 feet long. The estimate to do all this work is roughly \$160,000 to \$200,000. It has not been put out to bid but we do have a general quote. In as much as we do not have this much to spend we will prioritize and do less of this as soon as possible. All work will be handicapped accessible.

**10.G Discussion possible action and transfer of reserve funds to replace computer equipment in the clerk's office.**

We maintain reserve funds to replace computers when they're needed rather than budget every year to replace them without knowing will actually need to spend that money. We formerly budgeted money

every year and yet we only need to spend the money in one year on four when things actually broke down. We decided that a better way to do this was to create a reserve so we didn't have to make contributions annually on an uncertain need to replace computers. The City does have this at reserve for the clerks office and they do have that need immediately and accordingly we are requesting that the city move money from the clerks computer reserve in the amount of \$2600 and authorize the purchase of the two computers which are needed

That's about it for this report. There are wonderful people here and a lot of them work very hard to make this community as great as it can be. Some who contribute so much are associated with City Government- many who contribute so much are not. Some things don't need to be touched- they only need to be preserved. Some things can be better and we should all be smart enough to recognize that and do our best to help improve upon them. The one right thing I did recently was to acknowledge when I was wrong.

There is energy to Belfast, a passion that runs deep in many and sometimes differing directions. There is nothing wrong with that at all. Our greatest challenge is to communicate clearly and respectfully to one another so that knowledge, not rumor, is the telltale that guides us. Things in many ways are good. Where they are not they will get better. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.