

**City Manager's Report
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
City Hall at 6:00 p.m.**

TO: Mayor Walter Ash Jr. and Honorable Members of Belfast City Council
FROM: Joseph J. Slocum, City Manager
DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2009

Agenda Items:

11.B Discussion and action on Boat House Roof Resurface Bids.

We budgeted this year to resurface the roof of the Boat House. Follow-up research indicated comparative advantages of metal roof over asphalt shingle roof. Metal roofs last about twice as long but could cost as much as twice that of an asphalt roof. The project was put out to bid, using professional specifications, in a way that will allow the council to consider each alternative. Our concerns with the Boat House roof is unique in that- its exposure to the wind and to the salt-water elements are constant. There is a summary of the bids in this report and we will discuss them at the meeting. We ask first that you accept the bids and make a roof surface choice and award the bid if you are comfortable with a contractor's credentials at that time. If more time is needed to review a contractor's references we will seek a decision on awarding the bid at a later date.

11.C Discussion and action on a request by the Belfast Maskers' to reserve Steamboat Landing Park from July 9 through August 17, 2010.

The Maskers' are asking for additional time next summer for their outdoor performances. We will have the underground-enhanced electric outlets installed before Christmas. The Boat House is largely booked up during this entire period- particularly on the weekends.

11.D Presentation by the Performance/Community Center Committee.

This Committee has requested approximately 15 minutes to make a presentation and understands that you may have questions or comments following the presentation.

All Council members should have copies of the final report of the consultants. If not, please let Denise know, she has extras.

11.E Consideration of a request by the City Manager and the Police Chief to purchase a speed recording radar traffic counter.

During our recent response to variety of complaints about speeding motor vehicles in the City, we learned about a device that quietly records the speed of every vehicle going down the road on a continuous basis. This technology offers a comprehensive profile of the extent of the speeding problem in a given area as well as the identification of peak speeding periods. The Police Chief looked into this

equipment and found that this equipment costs \$4,390. He had a conversation with the Camden Police Chief who purchased this equipment sometime ago. According to the Camden Chief, it was the best investment he has made for traffic safety. If we purchase this equipment it would free up officers from manually recording speeds to assess the scope of the area problem. It would also give us a more complete survey of the problem.

Chief Trafton has \$1,950 in his budget to purchase new radar and he supports the idea of using this money towards the purchase of this speed tracking equipment. The remaining \$2,440 needed to purchase this equipment could come from the equipment capital reserve account for the Police Department, which presently has a little over \$13,000 in it.

I recommend that we purchase this technology so that we can confirm the extent of the speeding problem in various areas of the City and to best calculate and effective response. The technology that Camden uses is from JAMAR technologies and because the purchase would be \$390 over the bidding requirements, I would also ask you allow us to sole-source this purchase directly from JAMAR technologies if you agree to this purchase.

If you agree then you would move to authorize the Police Chief to purchase a Jamar radar recorder/traffic counter from Jamar Technologies on a sole source purchase in the amount of \$4,390 to be funded through the current budget in the amount of \$1,950 and \$2,440 from the Police Department's Capital Equipment Reserve.

11.F Update on Rangeway/Walkway Improvements near the Route 1 and Route 141 intersection.

The City has a rangeway, which connects Route 1 to Footbridge Road. We were planning on paving a walkway the length of that range way to connect Footbridge Road to the sidewalk on Route 1. The State, as part of its approved traffic calming measures, is currently relocating the sidewalk on Swan Lake Avenue as it intersects with Route 1 so that people crossing Route 1 will now cross on the eastern side of Swan Lake Avenue rather than on the western side. In moving the sidewalk and its associated crosswalk to the east, we are going farther away from the above referenced City owned range way.

It has occurred to us that perhaps the better course of action is to pave a sidewalk across the grass strip, which divides Route 1 from Footbridge Road directly in front of the crosswalk. We think that people crossing over from Swan Lake Avenue will just continue to walk straight across the grass strip to Footbridge Road.

Either the City or the State owns this 100' wide grass strip. We have been religiously mowing it for years. The investment of the asphalt walkway is significant and we want to place it in the right spot. If we do not pave in the rangeway then we can still use stone dust or some less expensive material to mark out and preserve that public way.

Jim Bell is looking at this issue and consulting with members of the Parks and Recreation Commission to get their thoughts. I met with the Hiking Biking and Pedestrian Committee and they agree that the sidewalk might better be directly in front of the crosswalk such that pedestrian crossing Route 1 will go

on a straight-line to reach Footbridge Road. It would also be easier to clean the snow over that sidewalk running through the open grass strip of land rather than the steeper land on the range way.

We would like your input before proceeding further. I have attached a map to show the two alternatives.

11.G Council discussion on the Public Hearing set for October 13, 2009 regarding the Comprehensive Plan's land use proposals.

Wayne Marshall will address this item with you.

This completes this manager's report. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend.