



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT

Washington County

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PRESS RELEASE

CROSTOWN ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE

SHUT DOWN FOR WINTER

Berlin...November 29, 2007 ...The Town of Berlin Selectboard has reluctantly authorized postponement until Spring 2008 of continued work on the Crosstown Road Stabilization project. The vote to postpone the work was in response to concerns raised by the Town's contractor regarding the impact of cold weather and frost on achieving full compaction and long-term stability of the road. The contractor advised the Board that he could not guarantee he would be able to meet the specifications for compaction and that further work through the winter would require a signed waiver of liability, a condition the Selectboard was not willing to meet. As a result, Crosstown Road will remain closed to through traffic until further notice.

The Crosstown Stabilization Project is nearly 50% complete. The concrete leveling pad is in place and the area stabilized. The site will be fully secured with fencing and additional warning signs throughout the project shut down. The Town anticipates that the contractor will be back on site in May of 2008 to put the mechanically stabilized (MSE) wall in place and complete the project by the middle of June.

The Selectboard has implemented an immediate freeze on discretionary spending until it secures the additional funds, currently estimated to be \$150,000, from within the Town's existing budget. The Contractor's discovery of additional ledge following the commencement of work this fall resulted in unanticipated and substantial extra costs for additional design, engineering and construction work. Work on the project had to be temporarily halted while the town and its engineers and contractor worked toward a solution to the problem. This delay contributed to the inability of the Selectboard to reach its longstanding goal of completing the project and reopening the road by the end of this year. "This was a very difficult and disappointing decision for the Board", said Pat McDonald, Board Chair. "Our goal had always been to have this project completed by year-end because we realize the importance of the road to the region and the impact its closing would have on our residents and neighbors."

The Berlin Selectboard will be working with local and regional police, fire, rescue and other emergency personnel to develop plans to ensure the delivery of public safety services for Berlin residents in West Berlin and along the Rte 12 corridor. The Board is asking for the public's

cooperation in remaining away from the construction site until the road is reopened. More detailed information will be provided at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Selectboard on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the municipal offices.