



**Town of Berlin
Municipal Office Building
108 Shed Road**

**Berlin, VT. 05602
Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month**

Special Meeting

**Tuesday, August 30, 2011
6:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Susan Gretkowski, Chair; Nancy Driscoll, Vice Chair; Roberta Haskin, Secretary; Brad Towne, Jonathan Goddard. Present: Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator. All items are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

APPROVED MINUTES

Susan Gretkowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Flood Damage Update

Jeff Schulz stated that the Vermont Route 12 corridor sustained substantial damages due to the recent storm. He stated that the Town roads that were substantially damaged were Chase Road, Muzzy Road, Rowell Hill Road, Lovers Lane and Coos Road. **Jeff** stated that the Road Crew has done a great job in getting out to the damaged roads as soon as possible to make repairs. He stated that Chase Road and Muzzy Road are open to one-way traffic, Rowell Hill Road still needs quite a bit of work, but the Road Crew is hopeful that the lower end of Rowell Hill Road will be open to traffic soon. **Jeff** stated that Lovers Lane was significantly damaged on both sides of the bridge and has the potential to be closed indefinitely. He stated that the Road Superintendent is working to get an inspector on site to determine whether the bridge needs to be replaced, or if it can be repaired. **Jeff** stated that a number of private properties received significant damages. He stated that M's RV and Weston's Trailer Park are just a couple of the private properties that received significant damage. **Jeff** stated that Weston's Mobile Home Park has approximately 83 lots and 74 mobile homes received water above the floor of the home resulting in significant damage to those homes. He stated that **Chief Wolfe**, Berlin Police Department, continues to have extra personnel on patrol and is continuing to conduct extra patrols around the Weston Mobile Home Park area. **Jeff** stated that the Federal government and FEMA has declared a disaster and the President has approved disaster declaration for Vermont, but has not yet determined individual assistance.

Emergency Public Health Order – Weston's Mobile Home Park

Susan Gretkowski stated that the Town has a responsibility under State law to protect the public health. She stated that if the Town determines that conditions are such that it threatens the public health, the Town is required to institute a Health Order that states that the public's health and safety is at risk. **Susan** stated that this means that no one would be allowed to live in these conditions. She stated that the Emergency Health Order is not indefinite, and does not mean that the area is condemned. **Susan** stated that the Board is considering issuing an Emergency Health Order to formally stated that there are conditions at the Weston Mobile Home Park that threaten the health and safety of the public. She stated that until these conditions are cleaned up, no one would be allowed to live at Weston's Mobile Home Park. **Susan** stated that the

Board had initiated an Emergency Health Order at the River Run Mobile Home Park in May that stated that the residents could enter the park between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to clean and clear damaged goods, but could not reside overnight at the park. She stated that this is the same order that the Board is considering instituting at Weston's Mobile Home Park. A resident stated that they are being told by the Weston Mobile Home Park owner, that they are still responsible for lot rent. She stated that the park is not habitable and the residents should not be responsible for lot rent until the park is habitable once more. **Jennifer Packard** stated that the owners do not know what to expect or what is going on at this point. She stated that she cannot tell the residents if they are responsible for lot rent or not at this point. **Jennifer** stated that they are working to rebuild the water house to provide water to the residents and restoring power. She stated that they have provided drinking water and other water to flush toilets to the residents of the park that were not affected by the flooding. **Jennifer** stated that Enpro has been working to absorb the fuel and kerosene that has been spilled. She stated that they are working with the State Fire Marshall to clean the breakers attached to the trailers. She stated that Enpro has been hired by the State to help clean up fuel spills. **Scott Buckley**, Enpro, stated that Enpro is a State spill contractor and are sent out by the State to clean up and prevent fuel spills. He stated that Enpro has been working to determine all of the tanks that have spilled or are still spilling fuel. **Scott** stated that they have blocked up the tanks, but that work is being undermined by receding flood waters and soils, so he will need to go back out and clean up spills and figure out how to keep to fuel from spilling. He stated that the State will pay for removal and disposal of fuel oil and water mixture within the fuel tanks at no cost to the home owner. **Scott** stated that in order for Enpro to remove the mixture, they will need the permission of the property owner. He stated that the home owner would need to contact the fuel companies to reinstall the fuel tanks. **Scott** stated that he works for the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund through the State.

Susan Gretkowski stated that the Emergency Health Order will be in effect until all health issues are resolved and the Vermont Department of Health will make the determination of when to lift the Health Order. She asked how to get in touch with the residents, if the residents were checking their mail, or if the Town could post a notice on the side of the mailboxes? One resident stated that the post office is holding mail on an emergency basis for residents that were flooding victims. **Susan** stated that the Board is asking the Police Chief to increase patrols in the Weston Park area. She stated that Berlin does not have a police presence 24 hours per day. **Chief Wolfe** stated that he has already increased patrols in that area and urged residents to call the police if they see anything out of the ordinary in the park. **Susan** stated that all of the residents of the park will receive a copy of the Health Order in the mail. **Jeff Schulz** stated that approximately 80% of Weston Mobile Home Park is in the floodplain. **Susan** stated that if a home is substantially damaged and the resident wants to replace or repair the home, the owner will need to conduct some flood mitigation. She stated that without this flood mitigation any home being repaired or replaced in a floodplain would endanger the Town's ability to receive flood insurance and FEMA assistance. **Susan** stated that the Health Order is effective immediately and encompasses units 1-74, and asked if that was all of the lots at Weston's Mobile Home Park? **Jeff** stated that this did not include all of the lots in the park, and that there were approximately 9 lots on First Street that were not affected with the flooding. **Susan** stated that the resident may contest the issuance of the Health Order and the Board will hold a hearing on that issue. Motion by **Brad Towne** to institute a temporary Emergency Health Order for Weston's Mobile Home Park. Second by **Nancy Driscoll**. **Roberta Haskin** stated that the motion be amended to state that the residents of First Street will be notified about the water. **Brad Towne** amended the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Miles Silk, Fire Chief, stated that the Red Cross will keep the shelter at the Barre Auditorium open as long as it is utilized and will provide food, water, showers and a place to rest. He stated that the Red Cross is able to provide some resources for residents and will notify the Town when more resources become available. **Miles** urged residents that if they need emergency help to call 911 and to otherwise check in with the Red Cross. **Susan** thanked **Miles Silk**, the Fire Department, **Chief Wolfe**, the Berlin Police Department and the Road Crew for all of the work and help that they have provided. A resident asked about air quality and what they can do to mitigate illness due to the air quality? **Miles** stated that the residents should leave windows and doors open when working inside, take periodic breaks, do not stay inside for long periods of time, wear face masks, and watch your neighbors. **Susan** stated that the Board will put resource information on the Town's website.

Jeff Schulz asked the Board if they want to authorize dumpsters from Casella's for Weston's Mobile Home Park? He stated that he could talk to Casella's about a reduced fee for dumpsters. **Miles Silk** asked if the Town would be able to help the Fire Department buy more life jackets and to give some assistance to put five extra telephone lines in the Fire Department for the Emergency Operations Center? The Board suggested putting an ad in the newspaper to let all residents know that resources are available for flood victims.

Motion by **Brad Towne** to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. Second by **Jonathan Goddard**.
Motion carried 5-0.

For the Select Board:

Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant