



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

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

Special Meeting

**Monday August 8, 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

Susan Gretkowski asked the first responders to give the Board an update on how they received word of the flooding and to bring the Board through the different actions that happened on May 26th and 27th.

Discussion of Recent Flooding – Police, Fire, Highway

Richard Tetreault, Road Superintendent, stated that he received a call from the State Police regarding a tree down and a culvert plugged on Addison Drive. He stated that when he checked it out, there was a stream running down Addison and a tree down. **Mr. Tetreault** stated that he called in some of the Road Crew to help unplug the culvert and get the tree out of the road.

Chief Bill Wolfe, Berlin Police Department, stated that he received a call from **Chief Bombadier**, Barre Police Department, asking to set up a staging area at the Berlin Mall and to assist in evacuating the City of Barre due to flooding. He stated that he also received a call from an officer stating that River Run Manor Mobile Home Park was becoming flooded. **Chief Wolfe** stated that he called in more manpower to assist him, and the Fire Department was involved in evacuating the mobile home park. He stated that the officers were also at Route 302 and Berlin State Highway to redirect any traffic due to flooding on Route 302. **Chief Wolfe** stated that he was very impressed with the Berlin Fire Department and the communications between departments. He stated that he does not know how the different departments could work better together, as he felt that they worked together very well.

Corinne Stridsberg stated that as soon as **Nick Garbacik**, Berlin Fire Dept., called her to apprise her of the situation at the River Run Mobile Home Park, she called **Chris Dodge**, Principal, to advise him to open the Berlin Elementary School as a shelter.

Chief Mile Silk, Berlin Fire Department, stated that anytime there is significant rainfall, the department keeps an eye on the water levels and the areas of Town that are prone to flooding. He stated that the Fire Department had been called out around 8:00 p.m. to assist Barre City with flooding; the department checked on Addison Drive at 9:00 p.m.; conducted a site visit of Junction Road around 10:00 p.m; received word that River Run Manor was flooding and needed to be evacuated around 11:00 p.m. **Chief Silk** stated that they requisitioned a bus from First Student to help evacuate residents and provide transportation to the Barre Auditorium Shelter. He stated that there was assistance from Barre City, Woodbury and Northfield, along with the Technical Rescue Group from Colchester. **Chief Silk** stated that the Fire Department owed a thank you to Jericho/Underhill Fire Departments for sending crews to help relieve the Berlin Fire Department during the flood.

Chief Silk stated that he called **Ture Nelson** to let the Emergency Management Team know about the flooding and evacuations and **Mr. Nelson** contacted the Team to activate the Emergency Operations Center. **Bruce Richardson**, Emergency Management Team, stated that he had been in contact with **Ture Nelson** for most of the evening and **Ture** was keeping an eye on the weather and flooding areas in anticipation for activating the EM Team. He stated that he was called by **Nick Garbacik** to help assist the Fire Department with incoming calls and resources. **Mr. Richardson** stated that he was also in contact with **Corinne Stridsberg** and **Betty Jaworski**. **Corinne** stated that one of the problems was that no one knew what entity they were representing and there was some confusion that did not become apparent until after the event was over. **Chief Silk** stated that anytime you get individuals working together from different communities the lines of responsibility get blurred, because everyone is doing whatever they can to help resolve issues. **Nick Garbacik** stated that part of the problem of confusion was because the event happened so fast. He stated that when the calls were coming in fast and he could not keep up, he called **Ture**, **Corinne** and **Betty** and found that **Ture** and **Betty** were committed in Barre City, he then called **Bruce** who came in and got everything rolling in the EOC. **Chief Silk** stated that the Fire Department would activate the Emergency Management Team whenever an event is of long duration.

Susan Gretkowski stated that the priorities should be to keep the Emergency Operations Plan updated and to keep the Emergency Operations Center fully staffed.

Review of Vermont Homeland Security After Action Report

Review of Emergency Operations Plan

Adjourn

For the Select Board:

Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant