



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

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

**Berlin Elementary School**

**Thursday, September 8, 2011  
6:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Susan Gretkowski, Chair; Nancy Driscoll, Vice Chair; Brad Towne, and Jonathan Goddard. Absent: Roberta Haskin, Secretary. 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** stated that the Board is not going to address the regular Selectboard issues, but devote the entire meeting to the flooding updates and trying to help those residents who need help. She stated that there are a number of representatives from different agencies in attendance and will let the residents talk to those representatives at the end of the meeting. **Jeff Schulz** stated that a representative from Efficiency Vermont will be at the Town Offices next Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to talk to residents.

#### **Old Business**

#### **Flooding Update**

**Jeff Schulz** stated that some roads in Berlin were severely damaged with the flooding. He stated that the Road Crew and contractors have been working around the clock to repair the damaged roads. **Jeff** stated that the only road that is not open at this time is Lovers Lane, and the Road Crew is working to get that road open in the next few weeks. He stated that the Town is working to provide dumpsters at Weston's Mobile Home Park, and currently there are two dumpsters in place. **Jeff** stated that through other funding sources, the Town will be able to increase the number of dumpsters in that area to 4 dumpsters and will be able to keep those dumpsters there for 2-3 weeks and the Town will make sure the dumpsters are emptied on a regular basis. **Ellery Packard** stated that his personnel have been loading the empty dumpsters for the tenants that require this service. He stated that unless the home owner is available to tell the crew what is garbage, the crews will not pick it up. **Susan Gretkowski** stated that the Town will work out a program with Casella Waste Management to get the dumpsters emptied every other day. She stated that Norwich Cadets have volunteered to help residents muck out their homes and **Jonathan Goddard** is organizing the cadets. **Jonathan Goddard** stated that he was at the Mobile Home Park on Saturday to help move damaged goods out of trailers. He stated that it would help to have a list of residents, with contact information, that need the help of the Cadets in mucking out mud or moving out damaged goods from these trailers. **Jonathan** also stressed that everyone should be wearing masks and gloves if they are going to be inside the trailers working. **Alison Joy** from Central Vermont Community Action stated that FEMA strongly encourages everyone to document damages through pictures and lists of damaged goods. **Susan Gretkowski** stated that FEMA has opened an office at the Barre Auditorium, and suggested that residents visit that office to ask questions and receive help to fill out the FEMA forms. She stated that if a property was damaged or destroyed, the owner of the property may request an abatement of the taxes. **Susan** stated

that property owners would need to speak with **Patti Lewis**, Town Treasurer, or **Rosemary Morse**, Town Clerk to fill out the paperwork to explain why the resident wants the taxes abated. She stated that the Flood Center on North Main Street in Barre is open, and will continue to be open for the next few months, to help individuals fill out paperwork and receive the help they need.

Floodplain Discussion -FEMA, State Floodplain Management Coordinator

**Karrie Dolan**, State Floodplain Manager, stated that she works with towns throughout Vermont that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). She stated that when a Town participates in the NFIP, it allows the town residents to gain flood insurance regardless of whether the property is in a mapped floodplain or not. **Ms. Dolan** stated that participating in the NFIP, allows towns access to Federal Grants to help rebuild communities after a disaster. She stated that in order to participate and gain Federal funding, the Towns must manage the floodplains within their communities through a Floodplain Ordinance in the Zoning Regulations. **Ms. Dolan** stated that if the towns do not stay compliant with the Federal regulations, it jeopardizes the communities standing with the Federal Government, and may result in the community not being able to gain flood insurance. She stated that the loss of land through stream diversion is an issue to be looked at to protect, property, bridges, infrastructure and roads, but that is a long term issue to be reviewed. **Ms. Dolan** stated that the flooding in Berlin was not due to anything other than having 8-10 inches of rain fall within a short amount of time. She stated that the flood maps that are available were issued in 1984 and the maps assume that the rivers and streams will not move until another study is conducted. **Ms. Dolan** stated that unfortunately, these flood maps are very difficult to read and make it difficult to find a particular property on the current flood maps. She stated that FEMA is working to update the flood maps and to create a digital version of the maps that may be overlayed onto an orthophoto of a property, making it easier to determine whether the property is in the floodway, 100 year floodplain, or five hundred year floodplain. **Jim Bruni**, FEMA, stated that a common misconception is that an individual cannot receive flood insurance if the property is not in the floodplain. He stated that this is untrue and that 25% of all flood insurance claims were on properties that are not in the floodplain.

**Dr. Richard Downer**, FEMA, HPA Mitigation Engineer, stated that he and a FEMA survey crew collected survey data on the Weston Mobile Home Park and prepared and presented a report to the Town. He stated that the report states that the base flood elevation for the Weston Mobile home Park is 526 feet; the high water elevation for the August 28<sup>th</sup> storm was on average 530 feet; the first floor elevations of all the mobile homes were above the base flood elevation; most of the ground in the park is below the base flood elevation; and all the mobile homes in the park were substantially damaged, having more than 50% damage by experiencing several inches of water on their first floors.

Approval of an Amusement Permit – Walmart

The Board, by consensus, approved the request for an amusement permit to hold a hunting event at the Berlin Mall by Walmart.

Adjourn

For the Select Board:

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Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant