



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

**Berlin, VT. 05602
Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month
Monday August 6, 2007
7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Pat McDonald, Chair; Don Blanchette, Vice Chair; Brad Towne, Laura Plude. Members Absent: Kitty Langlois, Secretary. Times are advisory only. Agenda items may be discussed earlier or later than indicated times.

Approved Minutes

Meeting was called to order by **Pat McDonald** at 7:00 PM.

Public Comment

No public comment

Town Treasurer

Patti Lewis was absent.

Old Business

Crosstown Road Progress Report

Jeff Schulz reviewed the progress on the Crosstown Road Project. Bob Wernecke and Jeff have been working on the Crosstown Road Project. The engineers have completed their work. The contracts are ready for the board to move to advertise and accept bids for reconstruction. Trans-Video has a cable on Crosstown Road and they have acknowledged that the cable must be moved. Some time in August they will be removing the cable and relocating it so that work on the road can be completed. Motion by **Don Blanchette** to advertise Requests for Proposals to complete the reconstruction of Crosstown Road. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

Rowell Hill Road Progress Update

Jeff Schulz reported that there have been concerns about vandalism and speeding on Rowell Hill Road. The Town has put the radar unit on the road that monitors speed and number of vehicles that travel the road. This will give us some preliminary information that we need for a traffic study. The Police Dept. has stepped up presence and enforcement on Rowell Hill Road. This has resulted in some arrests having to do with DUI and driving without a license, etc. We have taken down the one-way sign as it has not been respected. The speed limit is 25mph which is the lowest limit that could be set on a road that is not in the designated downtown area. The Town will look at the cost of upgrading Rowell Hill during the next budget season.

Tax Exemption – Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice

Pat McDonald reported that Patti Lewis had some concerns regarding this matter and she could not attend this meeting. The Town Attorney, Rob Halpert also is not at this meeting so this matter should probably be postponed until such time as these two people could enter the discussion on this topic. Motion by **Don Blanchette** to postpone this discussion. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

Methadone Clinic Update

Pat McDonald reported that Mr. Morse is going before the DRB to erect a building on his property on Route 12 to house the Methadone Clinic Van. There is still some problem regarding the Granger Road site. We will have a report on this for the next Selectboard meeting. **Pat McDonald** suggested that the Town form an advisory board to help with the placement and concerns regarding the Methadone Van.

FEMA Flood Mapping

Pat McDonald reported that she and **Bob Wernecke** attended a FEMA Flood Mapping meeting in Waterbury. She was concerned about the information presented. The new model that FEMA is using was not compared to other models that were used and this is cause for some concern as we have just gone through a flood. Pat wrote a letter to the Secretary of Transportation regarding these concerns. She will send a draft of this letter to everyone on the board.

Pat McDonald also reported that for people affected by the flood that did not qualify for a low interest loan she received information from the Tax Department what the rules are to claim the casualty loss on your income taxes. She then asked **Norb Rhinerson** to put this notice on the Town Website.

Berlin Appraisal

The Reappraisal has started and there have been notices in the area papers regarding this topic. Letters will be sent out to residents as to when the Reappraisal people will be in the area and to make appointments with the appraisers. **Vermont Appraisal Company** has already been out taking pictures of the residences in Berlin.

New Business

Request to Work in Right of Way by Verizon Communications

Jeff Schulz reviewed the permit to work in the right of way by Verizon Communications and recommended that the board approve this permit. Motion by **Don Blanchette** to approve this permit as submitted and to remove the current utility box and to put the new utility box as far back from the road as the existing one. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

High Risk Rural Roads Program

Pat McDonald reported that ~~the intersection of Route 62 and Fisher Road has been accepted into this program~~ VTtrans has accepted Crosstown Road for study into this program. VTtrans will do a safety audit of Crosstown Road and will provide signs to the Town.

Parade and Festival

After meeting with a committee to work on the parade and festival the decision was made to not have the parade and festival in September this year. Instead it will be moved to the Spring. A committee for planning this event will convene in September.

Water Supply Steering Committee

Tom Willard and Pat McDonald met with Dan Bagalio at the hospital to talk about the hiring of Otter Creek Engineering and they will be meeting with the city of Montpelier to introduce Otter Creek Engineering and to let them know what is happening with the water study.

Town Administrator

Jeff Schulz announced the hiring of a new Road Superintendent. The Town has hired Richard (Tate) Tetreault for this position. Tate took Jeff on a tour of the Town roads. The road crew work schedule consists of grading roads for the next few weeks and then working on Scott Hill, Comstock and Granger roads. Jeff reported that the Union negotiations will begin on August 14.

Jeff Schulz reported that he would like to begin work on the Berlin Newsletter. He will send out a memo to the various boards, committees and commissions in Berlin looking for article suggestions.

Jeff reported that the Economic Development Survey has been mailed out. We are looking forward ~~into~~ getting the survey's back. Jeff will be coordinating a quarterly meeting of all board chairs for September. Jeff reported that there are some areas of town that need road markings. He brought this to the attention of the Road Superintendent ~~about this~~ and the road crew will be working on this.

Walmart has donated 4 Liberty Elm trees to the Town of Berlin. The trees will be delivered in the next few days. We will have to come up with areas to plant these trees. It has been suggested that we contact the Boy Scouts and have a planting ceremony. The Conservation Committee agreed to help us with this project.

Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, Applications

After reviewing the licenses, permits, vouchers and applications, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the licenses, permits, vouchers and applications as presented. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

After reviewing the minutes from July 16th, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the minutes as presented. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 3-0, with 1 abstaining.

After reviewing the minutes from July 23rd, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the minutes as presented. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 4-0.

Correspondence

Jeff Schulz reviewed the correspondence. There is a notice from the League of Cities and Towns regarding the Town Fair and they need a voting delegate. Motion by **Laura Plude** to make Jeff Schulz the Town's voting delegate at the Town Fair. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 4-0.

Project Status Report

Jeff Schulz reviewed the progress on the various projects in town. The Town did receive grants for the work to be done on Comstock and Granger roads. Work consists of mainly culvert and drainage work on these roads. The grants were awarded last year with the expectation that the work be done within one year. Therefore the work needs to be done by October. He has instructed the Road crew that these projects are a priority to finish this fall. We can get an extension on these grants if needed.

The other project that is a priority is Scott Hill Road at this point we are scheduled to start the work this fall. The Town received a grant from VTrans for this project. We will meet with the land owners to discuss the impact to them.

Chase Brook Bridge project is slated to be done this year but there are some issues holding this project up. The additional borings needed will hold up this project until next year. We have two years to complete this project.

The Route 62 & Fisher Road Study is underway. This is a high accident area. This intersection is important as it could come up in an ACT 250 government review.

Roundtable

Motion by **Laura Plude** to enter into Executive Session at 8:05 PM. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by **Laura Plude** to move out of Executive Session at 8:40 PM. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 4-0.

Selectboard meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

For the Select Board:

Rebecca Richardson – Administrative Assistant