



**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**

## **Special Meeting**

**Monday, December 28, 2009  
6:00 PM**

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

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Brad Towne** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **FY 11 Budget**

**William Wolfe**, Police Chief, stated that the Police Department has been especially busy this year with increases in both call volumes and work load. He stated that from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup> the Berlin Police Department has received 3214 calls covered by 6 officers. He compared the amount of calls to Williston which responded to 3886 calls with 13 officers. He stated that arrests had increased by approximately 8% and the department has responded to calls at the Central Vermont Medical Center 38% more times than last year. **Chief Wolfe** stated that he is looking to fill the vacancy in the Police Department to help relieve the burden on his current officers. **Susan Gretkowski** asked for the raw numbers of calls from CVH from last year to this year. **Chief Wolfe** responded that last year they received 112 calls from CVH and this year they have had 180 calls. He stated that most of these calls were conducted outside the regular contract hours of 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM. **Chief Wolfe** stated that he is currently proposing a contract increase from \$32 per hour to \$38 per hour with the hospital, which would generate approximately \$17,000 in increased revenue. **Jeff Schulz** asked if the Chief had any figures on the number of calls that other area towns received this year. **Chief Wolfe** responded that Barre Town had responded to approximately 2744 calls with 6 officers; Waterbury responded to 1967 with 4 officers; and Richmond responded to 1044 calls with 4 officers. **Jeff** asked if the Chief expected grant money to decrease in the coming fiscal year. **Chief Wolfe** responded that he did not expect to apply for many grants in the coming year. He stated that he would like to get tasers for the Police Department as the pepper spray could be harmful if used at the hospital. Also, there is money available in reserve to purchase tasers without utilizing taxpayer funds. He stated that he would like to purchase 2 tasers initially, with more to be purchased in the future. He stated that the tasers cost approximately \$800 - \$900 per unit. **Patti Lewis** stated that the Police Department currently has approximately \$6,000 in reserve to be used for equipment purchases. She stated that the Board was still discussing whether to fill the vacancy in the Police Department and if they decide to do that, the current number in the budget for the Health Insurance will increase due to having to budget benefits for a family plan. She stated that the numbers she gave the Board at the last meeting are based on current benefits costs, which do not include the current vacancy. **Susan Gretkowski** suggested adding the health insurance costs for the vacant position and then the Board can determine whether they can still balance the budget. **Patti** reviewed the Police budget as proposed for FY11. **Chief Wolfe** stated that the supply line on his budget is for items to run the office which are continually rising. He suggested they split the difference

in supplies between level funding and what he wanted in the budget and set the amount at \$6,000. The Board agreed with that figure for the supply line item. **Patti** asked whether the Board has thought about security cameras for the Town Office. **Chief Wolfe** responded that he does have someone from Control Technologies coming in to give him a quote on security cameras and a recording medium. **Chief Wolfe** asked when the Board will finalize the FY11 budget. **Patti Lewis** responded that they will need to finalize the budget as soon as possible to meet the statutory deadline for Town Meeting. The Board asked **Patti** to calculate the budget with the current numbers agreed upon to see what the bottom line looks like and where the Board could trim the budget. **Patti** stated that the Board should call together the Capital Budget Committee to work on the FY11 Capital Budget. **Patti** reviewed the FY11 budget with the Board. **Jeff Schulz** stated that after talking with **Tom Willard**, he does not see any need to increase the Water Supply Committee budget. He stated that the money for the Community Water Supply is paid for by the State Revolving Loan Funds.

**Patti** stated that she has received the tax appeal results for the Vermont Mutual Insurance property. She stated that one property was appraised at \$1,354,700 and was reduced to \$1,005,000 for a difference of \$349,700; and the second property was appraised at \$359,100 and was reduced to \$305,000 for a difference of \$54,100. **Patti** stated that we are still waiting on the Tax Appeal results for R & G Development. She stated that the Board should not move forward with the budget until they discuss with **Richard Tetreault**, Road Superintendent, the Highway budget and the Capital Budget requests.

Motion by **Susan Gretkowski** to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:30 PM. Second by **Roberta Haskin**. Motion carried 3-0.

For the Select Board:

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Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant