



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

**Berlin, VT. 05602
Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month
Monday January 21, 2008
7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Pat McDonald, Chair; Kitty Langlois, Secretary; Brad Towne, Laura Plude. Absent: Don Blanchette, Vice Chair. Present: Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator; Patti Lewis, Town Treasurer. All action is unanimous unless otherwise noted.

APPROVED MINUTES

Pat McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Comment

John Hurley commented that Berlin has forgotten to address issues concerning solid waste in the Town Plan. He also commented that there is insurance that you can buy to protect against spikes in fuel prices. **Pat McDonald** stated that the Planning Commission was responsible for addressing issues in the Town Plan. **Jeff Schulz** stated that there is a series of public hearings and votes to make any changes to an adopted Town Plan.

Town Treasurer

Patti Lewis asked if the board had any questions regarding the balance sheets from December. There were no issues with the balance sheets.

Old Business

Special Appropriations Policy

Jeff Schulz stated that at the last meeting the board had asked for a revision of the Special Appropriation Policy. The revision has been completed and set before the board. **Jeff** stated that a line had been included to say 'That an organization or individual has to appear before the Selectboard to request a waiver of the petition requirement'. **Laura Plude** suggested that the line should end in 'for an increase in funding' so that the waiver is specific to increases rather than petitions for first time organizations or organizations that did not get funding the previous year. **Pat McDonald** suggested that the policy read, 'A petition is also required when an organization or individual requests an increase in funding, in this instance the organization or individual must appear before the Selectboard to request a waiver of petition.'

Pat McDonald stated that they had discussed bonuses for the Road Crew at a previous meeting but had not taken a vote on this topic. **Don Blanchette** had brought this topic up initially and he is not present. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve a \$50 bonus amounting to \$200, for each member of the Road Crew in the form of gift certificates. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. **Brad Towne** stated that this bonus would be considered discretionary spending, and as the Board had put a freeze on all discretionary spending, he didn't see why the Selectboard should be exempt from this freeze. **Pat McDonald** **Laura Plude** stated that she didn't have a problem granting the bonuses because it is a small amount of money. Motion carried 3-1.

New Business

Certificate of Highway Mileage

Jeff Schulz stated that each year the Agency of Transportation sends out a Certificate of Highway Mileage to see if the Town has increased or decreased the road mileage. After the board signs this form it is then sent back to VAOT and they base the Highway funding on the highway miles. **Jeff** also stated that the mileage had not changed from last year. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Act 250 Hearing Home Depot

Pat McDonald asked the board how they wanted to approach the Home Depot issue. She had attended the meeting where individuals/organizations were asking for party status. She stated that the Town and Planning commission has automatic party status. There is a deadline of Jan. 16 for submission of requests for party status. Home depot has until Jan. 18 to challenge any request for party status for any individual/organization.

Shirley Fortier and **Tom Willard** addressed the board regarding the ACT 250 permit as it regards the Bike Path Committee. The Selectboard authorized the Bike Path Committee to represent the Town on Criteria #5 as it relates to the Central Vermont Regional Bike Path. **Shirley** and **Tom** would brief the Selectboard on the committee's concerns so that they can address the Act 250 board. The ACT 250 Commission is trying to streamline the permit process as much as possible. **Shirley Fortier** stated that the criteria that the Bike Path Committee were interested in were: #5: Transportation; #8: Scenic Beauty; #9k: Protection of Public Investment; and #10: Conforming to Local Plan. She has no problem outlining these concerns to the Selectboard in order for the Selectboard to address the ACT 250 Board under these criteria. **Tom Willard** reviewed the plans for the Bike Path in Berlin.

Adoption of the Vermont Education Finance and Property Tax Reform Resolution from VLCT

Jeff Schulz reviewed the resolution from VLCT. **Pat McDonald** also reviewed what is in Legislature on this topic. The school boards did not know anything about this resolution. **Pat** gave **Linda Couture** of the School Board a copy of this resolution in order to bring it before the School Board at their meeting to get their input on whether or not the Board should sign the resolution.

Town Administrator

Jeff Schulz reported that **William Wolfe** has accepted the position of Police Chief in Berlin. He starts work on February 18, 2008. **Pat McDonald** suggested that a meeting be set up with **Mr. Wolfe** before Feb. 18 to bring him up to speed on union negotiations and other items he may have questions about.

Jeff reminded the Board that the EDC update on their economic plan is at the Elementary School on Thursday, January 24. He also reminded the board that the meeting regarding Route 62/Fisher Road Intersection is slated for February 6 at the school. Also, there is a Selectboard meeting on Monday, January 28th to sign the warning for Town Meeting.

Jeff stated that the Annual Town Report will be dedicated to **William Jennings**. They had talked about dedicating it to **Ruth Towne**, but the dedication in 2004 was to **Ruth**.

Fire Department Budget Request

Scott Bagg stated that the Fire Department is requesting \$126,000 for their annual budget for 2008-2009 as well as \$55,000 for repairs to the roof of the firehouse at the Four Corners Station. **Brad Towne** asked how old the existing roof is, **Scott** replied that the roof is 17 or 18 years old and it is a metal roof. **Scott** reported that the increase in budget is in part because of insurance increases as well as dispatch increases and fuel increases.

Butch Morrisette from the Fire Dept. asked if there was any way to pool resources to buy fuel in bulk for the Town Offices, Fire Dept., Highway Dept., and Police Dept. use. **Pat McDonald** responded that the board has been having that same discussion. **Pat** suggested that **Scott** meet with **Jeff Schulz** and **Richard 'Tate' Tetreault** regarding this item. **Scott Bagg** asked to have a meeting between Fire Dept personnel and the Selectboard to discuss the direction the Fire Department should be going in and the lack of personnel within the Fire Department.

Water Supply Steering Committee Budget Request

Tom Willard reviewed the Water Supply Steering committee budget request, and that the committee's work will be covered under a grant amendment to the grant that they received this year. The Water Supply Steering Committee requested a budget amount of \$500 for the coming fiscal year.

Budget 2009

Patti Lewis reviewed the working budget with the board. **Patti** stated that she had received a quote on a new postage meter that sticks the envelopes closed as well as putting postage on the envelopes. The quote amount was \$1023 for the year. **Pat McDonald** asked **Patti** to go ahead and make any changes to the budget and come back with the revised totals. **Laura Plude** **Pat McDonald** suggested that the board review the working budget line by line. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 in the amount of \$2,061,116, which is an increase of \$117,891, which is a percentage increase of 6% in overall expenditures. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, 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 review of the minutes from January 7, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the minutes with corrections. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstaining.

Correspondence

Jeff Schulz reviewed the correspondence. **Pat McDonald** read a letter from **Jenn Ingersoll** in gratitude for the large donation that the Recreation Board received for the Skating Rink. The propane to run the warming hut cost \$600. **Bob Felch** approached the gas company on behalf of the Recreation Board and received a \$400 break on the bill.

Roundtable

Pat McDonald stated that the House Transportation Committee met with officials in Barre in discuss the aging infrastructure, bridges and roads. She stated that it was well attended by surrounding towns. **Kitty Langlois** mentioned that on February 12 **there will be a meeting of the membership** at the Montpelier Senior Center to discuss taking over the building in which they reside now.

Motion by **Laura Plude** to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned.

For the Select Board:

Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant