



**Town of Berlin
Municipal office Building
108 Shed Road
Berlin, VT 05602**

**Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month
Monday, July 16, 2007**

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

Minutes (Unapproved)

Call to Order by **Pat McDonald** at 7:00 PM.

Public Comment

Pat McDonald introduced **Jeff Schulz** as the new Town & Zoning Administrator. **Pat McDonald** reviewed the flood evacuation and thanked the volunteers that helped with the evacuation and set up a shelter at the Elementary School.

John Hurley asked about progress on the Chase Road Bridge Project. **Pat McDonald** said that we would go over that when the Project Status Report was given.

Paul Irons asked for approval to include a postage paid envelope with the surveys going out for the Economic Development Commission. There was discussion on what the postage would be and a ceiling of \$130 was proposed by **Jeff Schulz**. Motion by **Brad Towne** for the Town to pay postage up to \$130 for the EDC Survey. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

Pat Flynn reported that since the closing of Crosstown Road, the 35 mph speed limit on Vt. Rt. 12 is being ignored for the most part. **Pat McDonald** said that she would pass that information on to the Police Dept.

Connie Peck voiced a concern about traffic safety on Crosstown Road. **Pat McDonald** suggested she hold her comments until later in the evening when discussion centered on High Risk Rural Roads.

Town Treasurer

Patti Lewis reviewed a summary of the Building Renovation Fund. She also reviewed and asked for acceptance of the ordering of the Truck from Tenco and Clark's. **Patti** also reviewed the results of the banking RFP that was sent out for emergency road repairs. **Pat McDonald** discussed what funds were offered from the state as part of the emergency funds and what it would cover and what we needed to fund later for Crosstown Road.

Patti also reviewed property tax process and adjustments. **Patti** reviewed balance sheets and budget status. **Patti** asked that reserve fund balances from tax mapping for Listers, GIS mapping for Zoning, computer upgrades and guardrails be carried over. **Patti** also stated that there were funds left in the Conservation/Recreation budget. **Jenn Ingersoll** asked that those funds be carried over into their savings account as they had in past years. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the carrying over of funds as presented by Jenn Ingersoll. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Norb Rhinerson asked that the Cemetery fund balance be carried over from last year's budget. Motion by **Laura Plude** reserve balances as presented. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Set 2007-2008 Tax Rate

Discussion ensued regarding the Grand List amount and what to set the tax rate. The tax rate would be set based on 2,585,656 total Grand List. Motion by **Laura Plude** to set the 2007-2008 municipal tax rate at .6346. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

Crosstown Road Progress Report

Pat McDonald reviewed the progress on the Crosstown Road project. Town will get the final design by July 30. She reported that we received a grant from the state for \$226,000 to cover some of the expense of fixing Crosstown Road.

Trans-Video Fibre Optic Cable

George Goodrich from Trans-Video stressed the importance of the fibre optic cable to the town of Berlin and the company. He also addressed the options of moving this cable. **Pat McDonald** suggested that the company along with the town conduct a site visit to address this issue.

Rowell Hill Road Progress Update

Steve Green reported on some of the resident's concern with the opening of Rowell Hill. Traffic has risen quite a bit on Rowell Hill since the closing of Crosstown Road. The traffic has become 60 % downhill (which is legal) and 40% uphill (which is not legal). With the increased traffic comes the speeding of some drivers. There has also been some vandalism of mailboxes along Rowell Hill road. Also that the signs have been removed. **Pat McDonald** reported that with talking to the Police Dept. they have been making more of a presence in the Rowell Hill area. **Steve** suggested that the road be closed to preserve public safety.

Walter Wells recommended closing Rowell Hill road. **Steve Green** recommended at looking at upgrading the road to bring up to Class III Standards.

Methadone Mobile Van Clinic Update

Pat McDonald updated everyone on the Methadone Mobile Van Clinic. There has been a change in venue for this clinic. It will now be stored on Rt. 12 at a garage on the Morse Auto property. Dispensing of medication will be on Granger Road.

New Business

Appointments to Post Office Committee

Motion by **Kitty Langlois** to appoint **Anita Flanagan** and **Carol Lacasse** to the Post Office Committee. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

Riverton Store Letter of Support

Pat McDonald reported that a letter of support might be in order for the Riverton Store as they are facing many challenges on the journey to opening the store. **Pat Flynn** reported on the work she has done and the challenges she has faced to get ready to open the Riverton Store. Motion by **Laura Plude** to write and have **Pat McDonald** sign a letter of support for Middlesex Mills / the Riverton Store. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Request to Work in the Right of Way

After reviewing the application by **Christine Blake** and **Karl Strassberg**, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the application to work in the right of way for **Christine Blake** and to waive the performance bond. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

After reviewing the application by **Andrea Scarborough**, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve this application and to leave the culvert extension there afterwards and to waive the performance bond. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

High Risk Rural Roads Program

Pat **McDonald** reported on this program. The intersection of Rt. 62 & Fisher Road as well as Crosstown and Earhardt Hill will be part of the High Risk Rural Program. We need to send someone from the highway department to one of their programs. **Connie Peck** was concerned about the safety on Earhardt Hill. She lives on one of the sharper curves and has observed lots of accidents from the cars/trucks coming down the hill. Her suggestion is to widen the road as the town looked into 25 years ago. This would help with the 2-way traffic on Earhardt Hill.

Adoption of Irish Hill Management Plan

Jenn Ingersoll reported on the word changes in the management plan. Motion by **Laura Plude** to adopt the Irish Hill Management Plan as presented by **Jenn Ingersoll**. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Water Supply Steering Committee Report

Tom Willard reported on the progress on the Water System Project. **Tom** explained the changes in the contract with Otter Creek Engineering for this project. Motion by **Laura Plude** to accept the amended contract as presented. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Administrator

Jeff Schulz reported on his first week of working with the Town of Berlin. **Bob Wernecke** has been updating **Jeff** on the various projects that the town is involved with. **Jeff** reported on the flood damage reports that are expected.

Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, Applications

Motion by **Laura Plude** to accept all licenses, permits, vouchers, and applications as presented. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by **Brad Towne** to adjourn the Selectboard meeting and convene the Liquor Control Board. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

After reviewing the application to cater the grand opening for McDonald's Restaurant, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve this application. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by **Brad Towne** to adjourn the Liquor Control Board and reconvene the Selectboard. Second by **Laura Plude**. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

After reviewing the minutes from the June 18 meeting, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve these minutes as presented. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

After reviewing the minutes from the June 25 meeting, **Kitty Langlois** noticed that **Jeff Schulz's** name had been spelled wrong and suggested amending them with the correct spelling. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the minutes as amended. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

Correspondence

Jeff Schulz reviewed the correspondence. He noted that there was a letter from **Doug Grout** asking approval to do the roadside mowing for the Town. He has done so in the past and everyone has been

happy with him doing this job. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve contract with **Doug Grout** for Roadside Mowing. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Project Status Report

Jeff Schulz reported that he is updating the Project Report as he gets updates in from the various people involved.

Chase Road Bridge Project is stalled until we get additional boring done. We are currently waiting for the drillers to come back. We have two years to complete this project.

Scott Hill Road some discussion regarding permits. **Gary Dubray**, **Bob Wernecke** and **Jeff Schulz** will be doing a site visit. There will be a public meeting as we move along on this project to let everyone know what will be done. There was some discussion of tying in the Comstock Road project along with Scott Hill Road.

Roundtable

Kitty Langlois welcomed **Jeff Schulz** to the Town Personnel. **Pat McDonald** sent out emails to various people regarding the festival and parade. **Ray Tanguay** had set the date for September 22, 2007. **Pat** has set a meeting for Monday, July 23 for anyone to attend regarding the festival and parade.

Motion by **Laura Plude** to enter Executive Session. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by **Laura Plude** to leave Executive Session. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by **Laura Plude** at 10:05 PM. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 4-0.

For the Select Board:

Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant