



**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  
Monday January 7, 2008  
7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Pat McDonald, Chair; Don Blanchette, Vice Chair; Kitty Langlois, Secretary; Brad Towne, Laura Plude. 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** asked ~~the~~ **Pat McDonald** to attend the Planning Commission Meeting on Thursday at 7:00 PM to discuss some topics.

**Don Blanchette** suggested that they hold a joint Selectboard and Planning Commission Meeting on Thursday instead.

**Kitty Langlois** asked if the agenda could be amended to appoint **Wanda Baril** to the EDC. **Jeff Schulz** suggested that we put this on the next meetings agenda to give **Wanda** time to appear in front of the board.

#### Town Treasurer

**Patti Lewis** handed out W-2 forms to the board. She also reported that the biggest items on the warrants are VLCT Insurance and the Dump Body Bid for the Highway Dept. She reviewed the budget status reports.

#### Old Business

##### Scott Hill Road Reimbursement

**Jeff Schulz** asked the Selectboard to sign off on the request for \$94,000 reimbursement from Vermont AOT. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve ~~that~~ the board sign the reimbursement request from VAOT in the amount of \$94,000 for work done on Scott Hill Road. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### New Business

##### Special Appropriations Requests

**Pat McDonald** ~~reported~~ **recommended** that the board reviewed the policy governing Special Appropriation Requests that was adopted in 2005. **Pat** recommended that the board omit the line that states 'a petition is required when an organization and/or individual requests an increase in funding in this category' and replace it with 'Any organization and/or individual requesting an increase may appear before the board to request a waiver of petition'. Motion by **Laura Plude** to omit the request for increase funding needing a petition and approve the waiver of petition if the organization that is requesting an increase appears before the board. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

##### Annual Report Bids

**Jeff Schulz** reported that we had sent out bid requests for the Annual Town Report. We have received two bids. The bids were from **L. Brown and Sons** and one from **Accura Printing**. **Accura Printing** bid \$2500 and **L. Brown & Sons** bid \$2250. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the bid from **L. Brown & Sons** for \$2250 for the Annual Town Report. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

##### Resolution Honoring William Jennings

**Jeff Schulz** stated that he handed the resolution out at the last meeting and that some changes had been made to the resolution. **Pat McDonald** read the resolution aloud. Motion by **Don Blanchette** to approve the resolution for **William Jennings**. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Petition Request for Re-determination of Equalized Education Property Value

**Jeff Schulz** stated that he had written a petition request for re-determination of equalized education property value. The state has established the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for the Town which has dropped to ~~63%~~ **58%**. After speaking with the Tax Department and the Vermont Appraisal Company, it was determined that it wouldn't do any harm to appeal the CLA. However, the information that was provided is a good base and they are not convinced that we should appeal. **Regardless, the Board felt that it was their responsibility to pursue this opportunity.** Motion by **Laura Plude** to authorize Pat McDonald to sign the petition request for re-determination of the Equalized Education Property Value. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Regional Committee Working Toward Collaborating Services

**Pat McDonald** stated that she has been talking to Montpelier and Barre to see how the three towns may work together on projects, purchasing and other potential items. There have been several unofficial conversations and all three towns would like to have a more formal discussion of this topic. Pat has sent out an email to the city managers and mayors regarding a committee to have more discussion on an official collaboration. There would be 3 people of each town to be the core group and expand it with highway personnel, and people from other boards for their input. This committee would be public and the meetings posted. Motion by **Laura Plude** to appoint **Pat McDonald** to this Regional Committee with other participation by **Jeff Schulz** and others from the Town. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Transportation Committee

**Robert Wernecke** stated that because of the number of projects in the town that are transportation related, he recommends that the Selectboard appoint a Transportation Committee to support the Planning Commission, the Selectboard and the Highway Department. This committee could work on a Capital Budget plan for roads, inventory, etc. They would have input on the Route 62/Fisher Road interchange as well as Route 302 with the Home Depot project.

#### Speed Limit Enforcement on State Roads

**Jeff Schulz** stated that he needed to discuss this with **Rob Halpert**, Town Attorney. **Pat McDonald** stated that the Secretary of State reported that towns may change local ordinances, regarding speed, on State roads in order to retain the funds from fines in Town. **Pat** asked **Jeff** to talk to **Mark Monteith**, Interim Police Chief, regarding this issue.

#### Town Administrator

**Pat McDonald** stated that two of the ordinances are ready to be brought to the board for adoption. The Amusement Ordinance and the Peddlers' Ordinance.

**Jeff Schulz** stated that he had received a letter from GeoDesign regarding amendments to their contract. The Town decided not to accept any amendments and GeoDesign wants to meet with the Board at some time to discuss other options.

**Jeff** reported that there is a Public Hearing on January 24, 2008 at 6:30PM at the School. This Hearing is being held by the EDC, and **David Versel** from Devonomics will present the final draft of the Economic Development Plan.

#### Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, Applications

**Patti Lewis** reviewed the licenses, permits, vouchers and applications. Motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the licenses, permits, vouchers and applications as presented. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

After review of the minutes from 12/17, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve the minutes of Dec. 17 with changes. Second by **Kitty Langlois**. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstaining.

After review of the minutes from 12/18, motion by **Laura Plude** to approve these minutes as presented. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence

**Jeff Schulz** reviewed the correspondence.

Roundtable

**Pat McDonald** brought up the Special Meeting for the Post Office. **Jeff Schulz** reviewed the warning for the Special Town Meeting on January 21 for the Post Office.

Executive Session anticipated – Personnel and Contract Issues

Motion by **Laura Plude** to enter into Executive Session. Second by **Don Blanchette**. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by **Laura Plude** to exit out of Executive Session. Second by **Brad Towne**. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

For the Select Board:

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Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant