



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

**Berlin, VT. 05602
Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Thursday of Each Month**

**Monday, July 6, 2020
7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Bradley Towne, Chair; Flo Smith, Co-Vice Chair; Justin Lawrence, Co-Vice Chair; John Quinn III, Secretary; Angelina Capron. Present: Dana Hadley, Town Administrator; Diane Isabelle, Town Treasurer. All items are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

APPROVED MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Towne called the meeting to order. Quinn and Capron absent.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Treasurer's Report

Town Treasurer Isabelle discussed the annual forgiveness of accounts under \$5.00 and presented the board with a list of 20 such accounts, totaling \$15.21. Lawrence moved to forgive the \$15.21 balance on property taxes. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously. Isabelle then discussed paperwork that will be available at the next meeting for funding the Paine Turnpike project. Community Bank NA called Isabelle to inform her that the rate was reduced from 1.85% to 1.6%, a savings of approximately \$5,000.

Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, and Applications

Smith moved to approve general fund accounts payable warrant number 20g24 with checks 20229-20346 in the amount of \$59,322.22; also payroll warrant 20-26 for payroll from June 7, 2020 – June 20, 2020, paid June 24, 2020, in the amount of \$38,398.15; payroll warrant 21-01 for payroll from June 21, 2020 – July 4, 2020, paid July 8, 2020, in the amount of \$49,639.63. Seconded by Lawrence. Passed unanimously.

Tax Rate Calculation

Town Administrator Hadley announced the rate of .6162 per hundred. Hadley reviewed the items that contribute to calculations. The amount the town must raise through taxes is \$3,133,596. The grand list is 508,519,800. Predetermined calculations produce the tax rate. Utilizing \$100,000 would lower the rate by 2 cents. Last year's rate was 5664. Lawrence moved to use \$101,600 from the fund balance to reduce the tax rate by approximately 2 cents. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

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Tim Davis – Estimate from Milton-Cat for Road Grader

Davis reviewed information known at this point – the cost of tires, being about \$10,000, and the oil test which came back high in copper. The grader has not reached the number of hours to retest. Davis discussed the cost of repairs the machine may need, being close to \$95,000 depending on the oil sample and if the motor needs work. A representative of John Deere looked at the grader and it was determined that the trade in value would be close to the cost of possible repairs. More immediate repairs total \$41,000 in necessary repairs. There was brief discussion of leasing. Lawrence moved to put out RFP for a grader with 400 hours or less. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

At one point the Foreman who lived in Berlin would take home a pick up truck. There was a brief discussion of whether he is able to take the truck home as he is essentially always on call. The board asked to wait for the full board to discuss.

Letter Received from Berlin Conservation Commission

The letter asked that the bridge be repaired due to public safety concerns. They expressed appreciation that the snowmobile club may help but the commission expressed the urgency of need for repairs. Discussion of the bridge and expressions of willingness to assist in the repairs continued along with discussion of access to the trail. Lawrence moved to encourage the Conservation Commission to speak with VAST and emergency services, specifically emergency services, to determine what they would use as a rescue vehicle should they need to get to the area, and plan to accommodate. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

Letter Received from Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Hadley discussed the annually received letter asking for nominations to the VLCT board.

Bid Opening Roadside Mowing

One bid was received and opened.

Donnell Dexter, of Williamstown, submitted a bid for single pass mowing on all class 2 and 3 roads of \$5,000. A second pass on paved roads adds \$400 to the bid.

Smith moved to accept the bid from Donnell Dexter as outlined. Seconded by Lawrence. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Selectboard Minutes – 06/15/2020

Smith moved to approve the Monday, June 15, 2020 selectboard minutes as presented. Seconded by Lawrence. Passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Report

Hadley received an updated memo from the consultant for the town center designation and provided that to the board. There is a meeting scheduled for July 22 at the Grange to discuss updates.

Hadley has been working on project bids (including paving which will be opened at the next meeting), pricing on Lover's Lane bridge and the Clerk's office wall.

In prepared materials, Hadley updated the board on storm water projects. The town received a grant for much of the cost to construct the stormwater ponds and strips as outlined in the plan. The grant is managed through the Regional Planning Commission. The grant is for about \$60,000 with a required match of \$980 and in-kind services are acceptable.

Hadley is still working on the road policy, incorporating provisions from other towns.

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Liquor Control Board

Lawrence moved to recess the select board and convene the liquor control board. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

Twin City Lanes applied for a class 1 and 3 licenses. Class 1 allows beer and wine; class 3 covers spirits. Lawrence moved to approve the liquor license application for Twin City Lanes. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

Lawrence moved to adjourn the liquor control board and reconvene the selectboard. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

Roundtable

None.

Executive Session

For the Select Board:

Bethany A. Towne