



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

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

**Monday, March 19, 2018
7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Bradley Towne, Chair; Jeremy Hansen, Vice Chair; Wayne Lamberton, Secretary; Pete Kelley and Angelina Capron. Present: Dana Hadley, Town Administrator; Diane Isabelle, Town Treasurer. All items are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

APPROVED MINUTES

Reorganization and Election of Selectboard Officers – 2018-2019

Vice Chair Hansen opened the floor for nominations for chair. Kelley nominated Towne. Seconded by Lamberton. There were no additional nominations. Passed unanimously.

Towne asked for motions for Vice Chair. Lamberton nominated Hansen. Seconded by Kelley. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Towne asked for nominations for secretary. Kelley nominated Lamberton. Seconded by Hansen. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Treasurers Report

Town Treasurer Isabelle provided the February delinquent tax reports, budget status report, and trial balance to the board. Four of five people who she sent tax sale letters to want to go to board of abatement. There will be an upcoming meeting for that. Nine of the people that she sent tax letters to have made payment arrangements and some are paid in full. Seven have not made payments and their information is going to the attorney.

Approval of Licenses, Permits, Vouchers, and Applications

Hansen moved to approve the General Fund Payable warrant 18G18 with checks 17924-17965 in the amount of \$103,129.21. General Fund Warrant NSB02 for Truck Payment to Northfield Savings Bank in the amount of \$5,970.53. Also payroll warrant number 18-19, covering March 4, 2018 – March 17, 2018, in the amount of \$42,850.83. And reconciled bank statements for the water division, the sewer division, and the general fund. Also the tax admin adjustments for February, 2018, and the journal entries for February 2018. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

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Chuck Storrow – Berlin Mall Road

Storrow, lawyer for the Berlin Mall, attended to follow up on the March 5 meeting to bring resolution to the issue of ownership of the Berlin Mall Road off Route 62. The board previously voted to take over a 50 foot stretch of that road. Hadley sent the proposal to the town attorney who said that a public hearing is not a requirement and he had no objections to it but had not seen the map. A map was viewed at the meeting by the board. The town will take over the section as a class 4 road. Hansen voiced concern, which he had also heard from residents, about the rural character of the town and a worry that this area will become more commercial and akin to other towns such as Williston. Hansen asked if the main purpose of the town taking over part of the road is mainly so that trees can be cleared so people can see a planned restaurant from the road. He asked if this is an accurate summation of the purpose. Storrow replied yes and no. There is currently a restaurant project started but explained that it is an issue that has come up from changing the sign and Act 250 telling them that it is supposed to be town road. Kelley explained that he is in favor because he would rather that businesses be centered around the mall instead of sprawling. Lamberton expressed a desire not to take over the road but to follow through on an agreement from the 1970s in which the town had agreed to take over the road but did not follow up on it. Lamberton moved to accept the agreement. Seconded by Kelley. Passed 3-1 with Selectboard Member Capron abstaining.

Tina Bohl – Vermont Agency of Transportation – Exit 7 Park and Ride Plans

Representatives from the Agency of Transportation presented a slide show to the board outlining alternatives available for the park and ride at the intersection of Paine Turnpike North and Route 62. There is currently space for 76 vehicles. Two busses use the site and have expressed concern regarding accessibility for buses when picking up riders and navigating the park and ride. Six alternatives at the location and three alternatives in other locations have been considered. Alternative A is behind the library. There would be 142 spaces, 6 accessible, but there would not be visibility from the road and safety concerns because of that. The distance from I-89 is also a concern. Alternative B is between the driveway to Shaw's Plaza and Comstock Road. It would be difficult for permitting because of the wetlands. It is not owned by the state so there would be a purchase required. Alternative C is between the entry to the Shaw's Plaza and the Honda dealership and also is not owned by the state. These three alternatives have not been deemed to be the best option. Alternative 1 is the first located at the existing facility. Minor changes would be made within the existing space – such as re-striping and new lighting. It would not help with providing additional parking or navigability for buses. All other alternatives are lumped together because they are similar, they just have different access points for driveways. They would provide 135 spaces with 5 being handicapped accessible. The pavement limits line up closely to a residential home. An exit only access point would exit onto Route 62 in one of the alternatives. In another, there would be a right turn only exit instead. All alternatives were presented at a public hearing. Alternative 6 is being presented as the preferred alternative. It provides 110 spaces, there is an exit onto Route 62 and a right turn only from Paine Turnpike to Route 62. A landscaping would be erected to screen the park and ride from the private residence. Robert Clark, a Berlin homeowner, who owns the home nearest the park and ride, was present at the meeting and asked about a berm which had previously been discussed at a private meeting. He was told it would be 3-4 feet high, with about 2 feet of that being an elevation of the ground and additional height from greenery. The plan also entails lowering the grading of the lot. He asked about a retaining wall and then berm. There was concern expressed that it would require maintenance and a risk of vandalism by graffiti. He was not of the opinion that a 3 foot berm would give privacy and preservation of his land value. They believe that with a combined landscaping and berm there will be enough screening, about 7 feet. Storm water is also being addressed in the plans. Soils have been evaluated; it is type b which is well draining. Space to allow for infiltration is in the plan and will lead water to a catch basin.

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Laura Stone – Vermont Agency of Transportation – US Route 302 – Bridge Replacement

This meeting served as the regional concerns meeting for bridge 3, over the Stevens branch on Route 302. A presentation was given on details of the plan. They outlined the project development process. A history was given of the 90-year-old bridge. Specifications of the bridge were given and issues outlined. Though some components are sufficient, it rates poor or is out of regulations in other criteria. The bridge exists in a high traffic area. Alternatives were considered. One is a deck replacement and superstructure replacement. Both have a 40-year design life. A full bridge replacement was considered which would match a wider width and leave space for a side walk. It would have an 80-year design life. This is the preferred alternative. The bridge is at the end of its intended design life and a replacement would allow widening to match the travel corridor needs. The work would not start until 2022 approximately. A temporary bridge would be required during construction of the permanent bridge. A temporary easement will need to be negotiated with the landowner of the adjacent parcel.

Appointments to Boards, Commissions, or Other

One-Year Terms: Matt Levin as representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District, Bob Wernecke to the Regional Planning Commission, Karla Nuissl as the alternative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Bob Wernecke to the Transportation Advisory Committee at Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and Ellen Drysdale to the Conservation Commission Recreation Committee. All parties involved would like to be re-appointed. Hansen moved to re-appoint all the aforementioned volunteers to those committees. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

Two-Year Terms: Beth Daut to the Conservation Recreation Committee, Phil Gentile to the Conservation Commission Recreation Committee, and Henry Lague, Jr. to the Public Works Board. Hansen moved to appoint all three to their respective boards as noted. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

Three-Year Terms: Robin Allen to the Public Works Board, Wayne Lamberton to the Public Works Board, Gary Laroche to the Public Works Board, and Ellen Sulick to the Conservation Commission Recreation Committee. Hansen moved to appoint all to their boards as stated. Seconded by Kelley. Passed 4-0 with Selectboard Member Lamberton abstaining.

Four-Year Terms: John Fitzhugh to the Development Review Board, John Friedrich to the Development Review Board. Hansen moved to appoint both of them to the DRB. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

Hansen moved to have Chair Towne sign Matt Levin's appointment to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

Appointment of Town Representative to Central Vermont Internet

The position will be posted before an appointment can be made.

Approval of Special Event Permit – Central Vermont Runners: 4/28/18 Paul Mailman 10-Miler and 5k Road Race, 06/09/18 Capital City Stampede 10k Road Race and 08/16/18 Berlin Pond 5-Miler, AI Certificate – Town of Berlin

Representatives of Central Vermont Runners were present to discuss the events and answer questions from the board on the annual events. Hadley discussed the events with the police and they are comfortable with them. Hansen moved to approve the event permits for the Paul Mailman, Capital City Stampede, and Berlin Pond races. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

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Vermont Agency of Transportation "Certificate of Highway Mileage"

This certificate is completed every year so the state knows the amount to give in the highway grant. There was no change in mileage this year. Hansen moved to approve the certificate of highway mileage for the year ending February 28, 2018. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes- 2/21/2018 & 03/05/18

Hansen moved to approve minutes for the Wednesday, February 21, 2018 meeting with the previously noted addition. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed 4-0 Selectboard member Capron abstained. Hansen moved to approve the minutes for the Monday, March 5, 2018, pre-town meeting and selectboard meeting. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed 4-0 with Selectboard Member Capron abstaining.

Town Administrator Report

Hadley thanked the board for their help during town meeting which went smoothly. Hadley also let the board know that he would be gone until the 29th.

Round Table

Hansen mentioned, pertaining to Central Vermont Internet, that the town of Elmore is having a special meeting and will hopefully be appointing a representative as well so there may be 13 at Central Vermont Internet meeting.

Hanen moved to adjourn. Seconded by Lamberton. Passed unanimously.

For the Select Board:

Bethany A. Towne