



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

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

**Thursday, September 5, 2019  
7:00 PM**

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

### **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

Selectboard Member Capron Absent

7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

To hear input regarding a classification change for two town roads.

Coos Trail-Class 3 to 4

Black Road-A portion of the class 4 road to class 3

Board Chair Brad Towne opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Coos Trail**

He started discussion on Coos Trail. He said that the intent of the Board is to discuss curtailing winter plowing operations on the road rather than a total reclassification. There are no residences beyond the first house. The meeting was attended by the owners of properties on Coos Trail.

Henry "Chip" LaGue spoke and said he was not opposed to curtailing winter maintenance. He is not in favor of a reclassification

Steve Morse agreed that he was not opposed to curtailing winter maintenance. He is not in favor of reclassification to a class 4. He asked if winter maintenance was discontinued would there be a maintenance issue in the spring.

An attorney attending with Steve Morse said that the Selectboard has the authority to not plow a class 3 road in the winter. 19 V.S.A. §310

Tim Davis, the Highway Superintendent, stated that the roads currently closed in the Winter Months such as Gun Club Road and Rowell Hill Road do not present an issue in the spring.

Mr. Morse asked if they needed to have access for forest management such as a logging operation, would that be possible? Selectboard member Towne said that a logger would have the equipment to open the road up in the winter.

The property owners informally agreed to a trial of not maintaining the road for winter.

### Black Road

Josh Walker is asking for the Town to plow from Crosstown Road to his driveway. He expressed that he is developing another residential unit. He mentioned that people often use that road by error as they follow GPS directions and sometimes get stuck. He hopes that if the Town maintains the road the issue of people getting stuck will be solved. He is asking for .1 of a mile to be plowed. Selectboard member Lawrence stated that he has been reviewing town roads and feels that the roads need to be inventoried and would have a better understanding of them.

Diane Colgan said that she is an abutter of Black Road and agreed that it is a problem with people getting stuck on Black. Bruce Colgan said that he had no objection to a change on Black Road.

Dave Daut said that he was strongly against the idea. He noted the road stated to be used after the construction of the Walker residence with the understanding that Mr. Walker maintain the road. Mr. Daut asked what the smallest plow used by the town? He is concerned about large trucks turning around and making noise at night. He is concerned if the Town upgrades the road that it would negatively impact his home. He does not agree with the idea that the cost savings from Coos Trail should be transferred to Black Road. Selectboard Chair Brad Towne stated that his concern would be if properties are developed on this portion of Black he is concerned about public safety. Beth Daut asked if this was for plowing only. Selectboard Member Hansen asked Mr. and Mrs. Daut how they felt about plowing only. Mr. Daut said that if the road remained as it is and a smaller truck were used they would be agreeable. They are concerned about the road getting bigger.

Josh Walker said that he thought that sounds reasonable.

Selectboard Member Hansen said he felt that this is a reasonable solution.

Selectboard Chair Towne said he would like to see what the increased assessment would be for the new residence.

The public hearing was closed with a continuance in the future.

Motion: Hansen/Smith to cease considering changing the classification of Coos Trail.

Motion::Hansen/Smith to adjourn the Public Hearing and convene the Selectboard.

#### Call to Order

Selectboard Chair Towne called the meeting to order

#### Changes to Agenda

Add reappointment of Nick Garbacik as the Town Fire Warden  
Add Resolution to promote small growth  
Add Convene Liquor Board

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Treasurer's Report

Town Treasurer Isabelle reported that the auditors were here to to the preliminary audit. They will be here for the full audit in October.

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

Hansen/Smith moved to approve general fund accounts payable warrant number 20g04 with checks 19506-19565 in the amount of \$102,272.91. Payroll warrant number 20-4 for payroll from August 4, 2019 – August 17, 2019 in the amount of \$43,687.65 and payroll warrant 20-5 for payroll from August 18, 2019 to August 21, 2019 in the amount of \$41,366.58

#### Conservation Commission

Phil Gentile from the Conservation Commission advised the Board that they have been approached by the Cross Vermont Association. Greg Weston and Kim McKee also attended the meeting. He spoke about the progress that was being made of the trail in Montpelier. He asked for \$15,000 from the Bike Path Fund for the purpose to donate it to the Cross Vermont Trail. The Town previously donated \$3,000 from the Bike Path Fund in 2015. Mr. Weston spoke about the advantage of having these funds to provide a match for further grants.

Motion: Hansen/Smith to donate \$15,000 to Cross Trail using funds in the Bike Path Fund.

Signatures of Resolution for Grant from Vermont Housing and Community Development

Motion: Hansen/Smith to appoint Dana Hadley as the Grant Administrator for the grant from Vermont Housing and Community Development

Declaration of Official Intent for Sewer Extension Project

Motion: Hansen/Smith to approve the declaration of official intent for the USDA Loan

Option Agreement

This is an option agreement from the Berlin School District to allow the Town to purchase the school property for \$1 should the school cease to be used as a school.

Motion: Hansen/Smith to accept the option agreement.

Approval of Selectboard Minutes

Motion: Smith/Lawrence to approve the Selectboard Minutes of August 1, 2019 and August 15, 2019

Reappointment of Fire Warden

Motion: Hansen/Smith to reappoint Nick Garbacik as Fire Warden for the Town of Berlin

Resolution to Promote Smart Growth.

Motion: Hansen/Smith to sign Smart Growth resolution.

Town Administrator Report

The Planning Commission will be visiting South Burlington to view their new town center.

Renewed interest in Extension of the Route 12 sewer project.

The Economic Development Council needs to be organized

Motion: Hansen/ Smith to adjourn the Selectboard meeting and convene the Liquor Board

Motion: Lawrence/Smith to approve the catering permit for Woodbelly Pizza-87 Barre Street, Montpelier, for retirement party at the grange.

Motion: Smith/Lawrence to approve the catering permit application for Woodbelly Pizza.

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Motion: Smith/Lawrence to adjourn the liquor commission and reconvene the Selectboard.

Round Table

Selectboard Member Lawrence discussed about how to inventory town roads.

Executive Session

None.

Lawrence moved to adjourn. Seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.

For the Select Board:

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Dana Hadley