



TOWN OF BERLIN
108 Shed Rd
Berlin, VT 05602
802-229-9298
townclerk@berlinvt.gov

November 14, 2022

Dear Secretary of State/VSARA,

Please see the enclosed documentation regarding the Town of Berlin's proposed charter change. The documentation includes the charter proposal as filed by the town clerk, copies of the warnings and public notices of hearings, minutes from each public hearing, warnings for the election to vote on the charter proposal, and copies of the ballot and results of the vote in regards to the proposed charter change. Please let me know if you need any additional documentation.

Thanks in advance,

Rachel Giroux
Berlin Town Clerk



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT

Washington County

Selectboard:
Brad Towne, Chair
Florence Smith, Vice Chair
Carl Parton, Secretary
Joe Staab
C. David Sawyer

Municipal Offices
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vermont 05602
Telephone: 802-223-4405
Fax: 802-229-9530

Vince Conti
Town Administrator

WARNING
TOWN OF BERLIN First PUBLIC HEARING
September 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Berlin are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Berlin Town Office in said Town on September 1, 2022, at 6p.m. to discuss and be informed of the following business related to proposed Town Charter Changes:

6:00 Meeting-Call to Order
6:01 Addition or Changes to Agenda
6:02 Public Comment

6:05 Article 1: Local Option Tax

On page 2 addition of paragraphs as follows:

(d) Upon resolution of the selectboard, or upon receipt of a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters of the town, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the voters of the town may vote, by a majority of those present and voting, to assess any or all of the following:

- (1) A one percent sales tax
- (2) A one percent rooms tax
- (3) A one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax

(d2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 VSA section 138.

(d3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designated for capital projects within the town.

6:20 Article 2: Elected to Appointed Clerk

Under Subchapter 4 section 4-2 Elected Officers:

Item (2) Town Clerk, Removal of “a Town Clerk, for a term of three years”

Under Subchapter 4 section 4-4 Appointed Officers:

Section (b) addition of item (5) Town Clerk

6:35 Article 3: Addition of personal property/Inventory taxation waiver.

Under Subchapter 7 section 7-3 addition of:

Penalty for Delinquent Installments **add following** and Personal Property/Inventory taxation.

Add paragraph (c) When the total assessed value of personal property/inventory taxation is equal to or less than \$1650.00, the Town Treasurer may, after approval of the Selectboard, waive the personal property/inventory taxation.

6:50 Round Table

7:00 Adjourn

Times are advisory only

Topic: Special Meeting for Charter Change

Time: Sep 1, 2022, 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87615138146?pwd=QIU5a2V6QngzdTQ2QUxVMHBzMkFzZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 1513 8146

Passcode: 826050

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87615138146#,,,,*826050# US (New York)

+16469313860,,87615138146#,,,,*826050# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US



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

First Public Hearing

**Thursday, September 1, 2022
6:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Brad Towne, Chair; Flo Smith; Joe Staab; C. David Sawyer; Carl Parton. Present: Brad Towne, Chair; Flo Smith; Joe Staab; Vince Conti, Town Administrator, Ture Nelson; Janet Richardson; Susan Rich; and Frank and Louise Mier. Not Present: David Sawyer and Carl Parton.

APPROVED MINUTES

Berlin Selectboard meetings are recorded and available at ORCA Media for public review:
<https://www.orcamedia.net/series/berlin-selectboard>

Meeting Call to Order

Chair Towne called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None

Public Comment

None

Hearing on Charter Change

Vince Read the charter change in regard to the 1% local options tax. This was as follows: **On page 2 addition of paragraphs as follows: (d) Upon resolution of the selectboard, or upon receipt of a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters of the town, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the voters of the town may vote, by a majority of those present and voting, to assess any or all of the following:**

- (1) A one percent sales tax**
- (2) A one percent rooms tax**
- (3) A one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax**
- (d2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 VSA section 138.**
- (d3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designated for capital projects within the town.**

A community member asked why the town was looking at this. Chair Towne stated that the town had capital projects coming up and this local options tax would help support these projects and not have it fall solely on taxpayers as nonresidents would be paying this as well. Vince shared that we got 134,000 for the pilot program. If we had the local options tax, we would have received over half a million dollars. There was a concern about businesses going out of business. Flo stated the hope was new businesses would come

into town. Barre and Montpelier have a local options tax. Montpelier has rooms and meals as well as alcohol, Barre also included merchandise. Berlin has four times the amount of people in town over residents daily. Meals rooms and alcohol would have been \$138,868 in 2019. There was discussion on the new town center. There was discussion on the new housing development and the potential for Starbucks to move in. Ture Nelson brought up the language in the wording. The revision to the language will be coming out and Vince is working on that. Ture asked what the projects would be. Chair Towne stated that the main one would be the Richardson Road project. This project is going to be similar to the Fisher Road project. There is also equipment coming up such as the loader, trucks, and police cruisers. Vince stated the state was looking at doing a one percent local options tax for towns that did not have it and would be placed in a pool for those towns to use. If the local options tax is in place, then towns could keep that. The town would get to keep 70% of the local options tax. Berlin staff would not have to manage this, the state would and would send payment to the town.

Article 2 – Elected to Appointed Town Clerk

Vince read the changes to the article. These were as follows **Under Subchapter 4 section 4-2 Elected Officers: Item (2) Town Clerk, Removal of “a Town Clerk, for a term of three years”**

Under Subchapter 4 section 4-4 Appointed Officers: Section (b) addition of item (5) Town Clerk.

Chair Towne stated that community members have asked about this, and the best way to find the answer is to put it on the ballot. This would be put through the charter change and if it passes then the town could appoint a town clerk and if it did not then it would be elected. Chair Towne stated that the records were not computerized. If the records had been computerized there would not have been concern about COVID in the vault. There were concerns about vault availability and the office being closed on Friday. There was a question about why the software was not used, there could be multiple reasons why. There was a question about Diane needing an assistant. The Assistant supports Diane and Vince and has been helping digitize treasurer records as well as water and sewer billing. The town clerks job description is in state statute. It is in statute we must have an assistant town clerk. Chair Towne stated that they had an expectation that office would be open five days a week. Currently the selectboard does not have much say in the town clerks duties until it is appointed. There was a question about adding the assistant town clerk to the charter change. Even with the charter change the town clerk would be responsible for appointing the assistant. Chair Towne stated he would rather have the town clerk hire the assistant than the selectboard. There was a question about having a town manager system. At the time this came up the selectboard did not see a need to do this.

Article 3 – Addition of Personal Property Taxation Waiver.

Vince read the Article. These were as follows **Under Subchapter 7 section 7-3 addition of: Penalty for Delinquent Installments add following and Personal Property/Inventory taxation. Add paragraph (c) When the total assessed value of personal property/inventory taxation is equal to or less than \$1650.00, the Town Treasurer may, after approval of the Selectboard, waive the personal property/inventory taxation.** There was a question about what personal property tax. This is only related to businesses. This would potentially exempt the small amounts on personal property taxes.

Flo made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Seconded. Motion Carries.



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT

Washington County

Selectboard:
Brad Towne, Chair
Florence Smith, Vice Chair
Carl Parton, Secretary
Joe Staab
C. David Sawyer

Municipal Offices
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vermont 05602
Telephone: 802-223-4405
Fax: 802-229-9530

Vince Conti
Town Administrator

WARNING
TOWN OF BERLIN Second PUBLIC HEARING
September 8, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Berlin are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Berlin Town Office in said Town on September 8, 2022, at 6p.m. to discuss and be informed of the following business related to proposed Town Charter Changes:

6:00 Meeting-Call to Order
6:01 Addition or Changes to Agenda
6:02 Public Comment

6:05 Article 1: Local Option Tax

On page 2 addition of paragraphs as follows:

(d) Upon resolution of the selectboard, or upon receipt of a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters of the town, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the voters of the town may vote, by a majority of those present and voting, to assess any or all of the following:

- (1) A one percent sales tax
- (2) A one percent rooms tax
- (3) A one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax

(d2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 VSA section 138.

(d3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designated for capital projects within the town.

6:20 Article 2: Elected to Appointed Clerk

Under Subchapter 4 section 4-2 Elected Officers:

Item (2) Town Clerk, Removal of “a Town Clerk, for a term of three years”

Under Subchapter 4 section 4-4 Appointed Officers:

Section (b) addition of item (5) Town Clerk

6:35 Article 3: Addition of personal property/Inventory taxation waiver.

Under Subchapter 7 section 7-3 addition of:

Penalty for Delinquent Installments **add following** and Personal Property/Inventory taxation.

Add paragraph (c) When the total assessed value of personal property/inventory taxation is equal to or less than \$1650.00, the Town Treasurer may, after approval of the Selectboard, waive the personal property/inventory taxation.

6:50 Round Table

7:00 Adjourn

Times are advisory only

Topic: Second Public Hearing for Charter Change

Time: Sep 8, 2022, 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89122736663?pwd=Yjg2VXpZYlFHakVPd1FpbCt4dVlTUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 2273 6663

Passcode: 752794

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89122736663#,,,,*752794# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,89122736663#,,,,*752794# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US



Town of Berlin
Municipal Office Building
108 Shed Road
Berlin, VT 05602

Second Public Hearing

**Thursday, September 8, 2022
6:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Brad Towne, Chair; Flo Smith; Joe Staab; C. David Sawyer; Carl Parton. Present: Flo Smith; Joe Staab; Vince Conti, Town Administrator, . Remote: David Sawyer and Brad Towne. Not Present: Carl Parton.

APPROVED MINUTES

Berlin Selectboard meetings are recorded and available at ORCA Media for public review:
<https://www.orcamedia.net/series/berlin-selectboard>

Meeting Call to Order

Flo Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None

Public Comment

None

Hearing on Charter Change

Vince Read the charter change in regard to the 1% local options tax. The changes are as follows

On page 2 addition of paragraphs as follows: (d) Upon resolution of the selectboard, or upon receipt of a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters of the town, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, the voters of the town may vote, by a majority of those present and voting, to assess any or all of the following:

- (1) A one percent sales tax
- (2) A one percent rooms tax
- (3) A one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax

(d2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 VSA section 138.

(d3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designated for capital projects within the town. There was no discussion. David made a motion to close the hearing, Joe Seconded.

Article 2 – Elected to Appointed Town Clerk

Vince read the changes to the article. The changes are as follows Under Subchapter 4 section 4-2
Elected Officers:

Item (2) Town Clerk, Removal of "a Town Clerk, for a term of three years"
Under Subchapter 4 section 4-4 Appointed Officers:
Section (b) addition of item (5) Town Clerk. There was no discussion. David made a motion to close the hearing, Joe Seconded.

Article 3 – Addition of Personal Property Taxation Waiver.

Vince read the Article. The changes were as follows Under Subchapter 7 section 7-3 addition of:
Penalty for Delinquent Installments add following and Personal Property/Inventory taxation.
Add paragraph (c) When the total assessed value of personal property/inventory taxation is equal to or less than \$1650.00, the Town Treasurer may, after approval of the Selectboard, waive the personal property/inventory taxation. There was no discussion. Joe made the motion to close the article. David Seconded.

Round Table –

Brad reminded to close the hearing with a vote. Flo asked for a vote, all were in favor.

David made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Seconded. Motion Carries.



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT

Washington County

Selectboard:
Brad Towne, Chair
Florence Smith, Vice Chair
Carl Parton, Secretary
Joe Staab
C. David Sawyer

Municipal Offices
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vermont 05602
Telephone: 802-223-4405
Fax: 802-229-9530

Vince Conti
Town Administrator

WARNING
TOWN OF BERLIN Revision Notice to Proposed Charter Change
September 15, 2022

**The legal voters of the Town of Berlin are hereby notified
of the following revision related to proposed Town Charter Changes:**

Article 1: Local Option Tax

On page 2 addition of (d) paragraph revised to read as follows:

(d) The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent sales tax. The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent rooms tax. The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent meals and alcohol tax.

No Other Revisions.



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT

Washington County

Selectboard:

Brad Towne, Chair
Florence Smith, Vice Chair
Carl Parton, Secretary
Joe Staab
C. David Sawyer

Municipal Offices
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vermont 05602
Telephone: 802-223-4405
Fax: 802-229-9530

Vince Conti
Town Administrator

Notice to Residents of the Town of Berlin

On October 20th, the Berlin Selectboard will be holding an in person only regular selectboard meeting from 6-630pm followed immediately by an open forum for the resident public to meet the board, the new staff, and discuss town issues with them from 630-8:30pm at the Capital City Grange Hall located on Route 12.

The Selectboard is looking forward to meet and hear from many of you so please come and participate in the conversation with your selectboard. Refreshments will be available.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM MEETING AGENDA:

6:30 **Public Forum-Call to Order**

6:31 Introduction of new Town Staff

6:35 Introduction of each Board and Commission (Each Rep. to say a few words)

6:55 Open the floor to residents for discussion and feedback on:

- Town Vision
- Fire Department Merger
- Town Office Building requirements as we grow
- Highway Garage needs
- Police Department growth
- Overall Town development and Growth opportunities
- Connection of CVMC to Berlin Municipal Water
- Addition of a 600,000Gal Fire Protection Storage Tank
- Completion of Scott Hill Road Water Loop
- Addition of additional Water Source Well
- Connection of Berlin Corners to Municipal Wastewater system
- Construction of Riverton Community Wastewater system
- Construction of Berlin Common Recreation Path
- Construction of Fisher Road Diet study recommendations
- Procurement of land to establish "Berlin Park"
- Proposed Charter Changes
- Any other resident concerns or comments

8:19 Close open floor discussion

8:20 Board Roundtable

8:25 Final word from the board

8:30 Adjourn

Times are advisory only.



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

Public Forum Meeting

**Thursday, October 20, 2022
6:30 PM**

Selectboard Members: Brad Towne, Chair; Flo Smith; Joe Staab; C. David Sawyer; Carl Parton. Present: Brad Towne, Chair; Flo Smith; Carl Parton; Joe Staab; Vince Conti, Town Administrator; Rita Towne; Matthew Romei; Robert and Judi Wernecke; James Pontbriand; Geoffrey Farrell; Brian Bailey; Tony Snow; Tom Badowski; Jimmy Ryan; Valeromeo Cyr; Frank and Louise Mier, Rob Allen; Ken Goslant; Cathie Powers; Donna French; Liz and Jerry Sojourner; Janet Richardson; Corinne Cooper; Tom Willard; Anne Donahue; Kay Nuissl; Mark Laperle; Josh Walker; Theron Lay-Sleeper, Brian Greason; Bruce Richardson; Ron Lyon; Racheal Giroux, Town Clerk; Chelsea Maguire, Assistant Town Clerk; Callie Streeter, Assistant Town Treasurer. Not Present: C. David Sawyer

APPROVED MINUTES

Berlin Selectboard meetings are recorded and available at ORCA Media for public review:
<https://www.orcamedia.net/series/berlin-selectboard>

Meeting Call to Order

Chair Towne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Introduction of New Town Staff

Chair Towne introduced Rachel Giroux as our new Town Clerk. Rachel introduced her Assistant, Chelsea Maguire. Chair Towne introduced the new Assistant Treasurer Callie Streeter.

Introduction of Board and Commission

Tony Snow introduced the Planning Commission. The commission includes Tony Snow, Kay Nuissl, Pauline McMurtry. Dave Huber stepped off the commission and have added two new members Amanda Smith and Theron Lay-Sleeper. Tony will go into more projects the planning commission is working on later in the Forum.

Development Review Board – Robert Wernecke is the chair of the DRB. Kay Nuissl, Pauline McMurtry, John Ferichc and Ture Nelson is an alternate. Bob did state that they are looking for another alternate to join the DRB. The DRB enforces regulations the town sets. Bob feels their goal is to help support developers in constructing their projects.

Public Works Board – Rob Allen is the chair. Ted Long, Ture Nelson, and Bob Mungeon are members of the board. They are looking for another member. Tom Badowski is a part time assistant to the board. Public works is water and sewer in Berlin. There is a 425,000 Gallon tank at the Dodge Farm. There are also 4 wells. The sewer system in Berlin is a collection system. There is a pump station across from Pizza Hut and is pumped to Montpelier for treatment.

Conservation Commission – Tom Willard, Wendy Bowles, Phil Gentilly, Ellen Sulick, and Sister Lauren are members. The conservation commission is also looking for members. Conservation commission is created by state statute and are a party to Act 250 Applications. They inventory natural resources in town and protect those natural resources. They have purchased 6 acres of land to protect natural resources. This includes Darling Trail on the ridgeline. They work with VAST and the mountain bike group to protect

trails. There is a report on Berlin Pond. They are talking about having a speaker's program to talk about different topics such as climate change and wildlife. They are currently working on planting Chestnut trees. They work on invasive species removal. The Berlin Conservation commission was the Conservation commission of the year by the state previously. They have conserved about 800 acres. There was a question on the south end of Berlin Pond. The conservation commission is looking at purchasing land owned by the Crandall's as land they want to preserve. The Crandall family has first right of refusal, and they are working on this to be able to purchase it.

Recreation Committee – Tim Shea, Hannah Connor, Jeff Farrell, Kristin Zabinski, and Mike Noyes. The recreation committee works with the school to enhance, develop, and better youth recreation opportunities. They also are working on developing adult activities such as broom ball. They also manage the Ice rink that is next to the town office and police station. This is also a lighted rink. They collaborate with the conservation commission so ensure users of the public lands are being respectful of the land. They did get a new scoreboard at the elementary school.

Emergency Management – Bruce Richardson is the emergency management coordinator. This is a group of volunteers to help the first responders in the town in case of a major disaster. The emergency management director is Chief Pontbriand. The team also includes Val Cyr, Ture Nelson, and a number of members who also Volunteer. They also have liaisons with the Red Cross and CVMC. The team can also send out VT alerts to the town in case of emergency. The chief stated that the plan this group had to create was one of the best the state has seen.

Discussion on Town Vision

Tony stated that the new town center has a town center designation. The new name for the town center is called the Town Common with the street being called Gateway Avenue. They have also been working with the school on a land transfer. The transfer should be taking place soon. This is the property near the Berlin Mall behind the school. This is 3.8 acres and will make the road going into the town center safer for people using it. They are also working on a community recreation path. This would possibly be wrapping around the entirety of the new town center. They have recently been approved for a neighboring development area. This includes the new town center and a ¼ mile radius around it. This allows developers, especially those doing housing tax credits and support with Act 250 requirements. The community was approved to be included in the Community Visit Program through Rural development. This will be an opportunity for people to come together to discuss projects in the community going forward. There was a question about affordable housing and if that was included. The newest development will have some affordable housing along with a town green, shopping and restaurants. Tom Willard would like us to not forget the four corners area and protecting the historical aspect of the area. Tom Badowski stated that in 2018 the was a village center designation and one was the four corners area, the other is in the village of Riverton. This opens for more tax credits and grants for improvement. There is a struggle to find people to do the work. With the town center the area they are developing is a parking lot. Tony stated that four corners work would be great to bring up with the Community visit program.

Fire Department Merger –

The fire department has 27 volunteers who work in the community. The concern is daytime coverage, as there are only a few people who can leave work early or are semi-retired to answer calls during the day. Joe is not sure if merger is the right term for this discussion. The fire department needs to grow. The fire department has 6 to 8 people from Norwich, members who are completing fire 1, there are 7 who are EMS 1 and 13 who have a lower EMS certification. In the last 6 months there was three structure fires in West Berlin. It takes 13-15 minutes for the department to have a fire truck on the road headed to a fire call. At the end of September, they had 208 fire calls and 444 EMS calls. Merging with the town would reduce the administrative work and have more time for trainings for volunteers. Matt shared that there are two fire stations in Berlin, one by Applebee's and one in Riverton. Both stations are operational. The fire department has two fire trucks, ladder truck, utility truck, and a rescue truck. It is hard to recruit and retrain volunteers. Berlin is also does work with Hazardous materials and responds to calls in other towns to handle hazardous materials. There was discussion about backcountry rescues and the increased need for these with more trails opening up. The ISO rating for the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department affects insurance rates for residents in the town. The Fire department was forecasted to lose a rating and they are working to not lose the rating. The fire department recently bought a used ladder truck to have the equipment needed to meet ISO regulations and the needs of the towns. The main reason for this potential

merger is so the fire department can focus on trainings and not so much on the administrative budget. six years ago, the fire department outsourced the accounting instead of having the volunteers do it. The fire department is paying \$1200 a month to have the accounting done. Joe stated that managing the money is a big part of the administrative tasks. There was discussion on impact fees for big business and if Berlin had these; they currently do not, and funding comes from the Grand List.

Town Office Building Requirements as we grow-

The town has had to rent a job trailer for the assessors. The town offices are getting tight for staffing. There was discussion about having the land behind the school for the town presence in the Town Center. There was a question about being in the building at the mall. It would still cost the town to be there. There was discussion about where the police would go and if they would take over the town office and the office staff would have a new building. There was a discussion about building on to the fire station and having the police be a presence there with it being a public safety building.

Highway Garage Building Needs

The highway garage does need some repairs. In the near future there will need to be money invested in the Garage. In the last 10 years Efficiency Vermont has been in there and upgraded the insulation and the windows. As energy prices go up the cost increase for the building goes up as well.

Police Department Growth

Chief Pontbriand discussed the department when he came, officers who did not have certifications without restrictions and the department was not fully staffed. The department is currently fully staffed with all officers at a level three certification. The police department has gone through a great deal of reform, mostly internal reform on processes, software, and training. The Good Samaritan Haven and The Hilltop have increased the call volume significantly the police department. The chief spoke of the facilities and they are in need of a new facility to keep up with growth and requirements by the state. There was a question about the state police being a help. The chief stated it has made more work for them as there is confusion about Berlin police and the state police. Berlin police are getting questions that are state police matters as well as receiving mail for the state police. The state police are also not fully staffed and have not been able to support the department with the call volume increase. There was a question about the police taking over the town office, the chiefs concern is it is an older building it would need repair. There was a question about the police department being in the new town center, the chief would like to see, if possible, to be attached or adjacent to the fire department as a public safety building. The fire department is currently on leased land and instead of buying the 2-acre parcel from the school they continued to lease the land. Even though there are 2900 residents they daytime traffic of people in Berlin increases the call volume.

Overall Town Development Opportunities

The town is trying to get businesses in the town to add the Grand list to keep residents' taxes down. It is hard to get brick and mortar stores in with online sales. The Mall is looking at smaller or boutique type stores with apartments on the second floor. The growth is mostly kept to the Barre Montpelier Road and the plateau area. There was a question about tax credits for businesses and that after 10 years they would pay more in taxes. This is in place in town, the issue is that the expenses grew with the tax revenue. There has not been that many businesses that have taken advantage of the tax credit available.

Connection to CVMC Water System

CVMC buys their water from Montpelier. CVMC would like to buy their water from Berlin. A consulting engineer has looked at the water to see if it could support it and it appears it could but would be better with more infrastructure. CVMC's water gets pumped to a 300,00-gallon storage tank. They are classified as a consecutive water system. They have more requirements from the state because of this. The 300,000-storage tank they use is at it useful life, so CVMC is looking at replacing the tank or other options. If the

tank is removed, it would not affect the hydrants being served by that tank. Montpelier has a line to the hospital and would this effect Berlin's water. If CVMC disconnected from Montpelier that line would be closed off. There was a question about the water system supporting the hospital. There may be a need for a 5th well. The town does add some chlorine to the water and Berlin would not have to do any additional testing for the hospital. There was a question about the Berlin well system and private wells in the area struggling. Tom stated we are in a drought and that does have an effect of the wells.

Addition of the 600,00-fire protection storage tank

This would be up on the Dodge farm in addition to the 425,000-storage tank. The consulting firm stated it would be best to have additional storage for water. This would eliminate the 300,000 tank CVMC uses if they join the water system, as well as future growth of the town. There was a question about the water lines being designed to not interfere with potential new sewer lines that may be placed underground. This would be for storage of water and may potentially not support firefighting needs depending on the call per Chief Staab. For the ISO the fire department needs 3500 gallons a minute and the town is currently 800 gallons a minute. Deputy chief Romei stated the ISO was happy with the water supply in the town at the hydrants.

Completion of the Scott Hill Road Water Loop

There is one line from Dodge Farm to Airport Road. The loop would be coming down Scott Hill Road to Berlin Corners so if water needed to be shut off in case of emergency it there could still be some water service. This project would be \$4.2 Million. This would be a 12-inch line. This would also allow some people on Scott Hill Road to connect if they wanted to. There was a question about the water issue on Granger Road, but there is loops there for shut offs. The 4.2 million is a rough estimate for cost.

Additional Water Source Well

If the town is adding another tank, they would need to drill an additional well. They would go to consulting to determine the best place to drill the well. When the wells were originally drilled that was the best location for them. A new well may not be right there but would be closer to the other 4 wells so water did not need to be pumped.

Connection of Berlin Corners to Municipal Wastewater

This would be a gravity system from the corners to Crosstown Road to down by Berlin Pond area. There would need to be a pump station to pump it back up Crosstown Road. The town applied for a clean water SRF. This program will help fund planning for a project and at the end of the project they will grant the town back 50% of the 100,000 grant.

Construction of Riverton Community Wastewater

This would be an onsite wastewater project and would include multiple houses. There has been a feasibility study completed. This would be a collection system and it would need to be pumped. This would serve 15-16 homes and could be expandible if there is the land available for the leach field. This project would allow for more building in the Riverton Area. Current residents would not be able to connect to this system. The biggest concern was finding the land to support it. A resident partnered with the town to be able to investigate this project. This would be like a large home system.

Construction of the Berlin Common Recreation Path.

The town is looking at a Recreation Path around the new Town Center. A report coming out will show costs of the project. The planning commission is looking at this in segments. This project grant funding is coming through the Agency of Transportation. This would be a minimum 4-5 years before construction would take place. This would be right across the street from the Housing coming in. It would be about 200 feet from the new housing.

Construction of the Fisher Road Dye Study

There is a scoping study being done to look at safety for pedestrians and bicycles on Fisher Road. On the 25th there will be a zoom meeting to present different alternatives to the town. The meeting is at the Chamber of Commerce building at 6pm. There are around 12,000 vehicles on Fisher Road for a traffic count. The road is currently not very pedestrian friendly.

Procurement of Land to establish A Berlin Park

There was recently an application to the planning commission to work with the town of Berlin to share some land to create Recreation opportunities. This is in the planning phase and the location of the land cannot be shared at this time. This is specifically for a park and trail network. This is not in the new town center.

Historical Society

Corrine shared information about the Historical Society. The historical society is located in the town office. Though the pandemic slowed work in the historical society things are picking back up. There is a program coming up on November 12th. There is a great deal of information in the historical society and if anyone has information to share with the historical society that would be great. There will be a display at Town Meeting the Saturday before Town Meeting.

Proposed Charter Changes

There are three proposed charter changes. There have been two public hearings on these. The first is a 1% local options tax for the town of Berlin. The funds the town receives from this would go to capital projects going forward. There are a lot of workers and shoppers coming in. The revenue from this would be about \$600,000.00 based on 2019 numbers. These funds would help fund things such as trucks, graders, loaders, paving, road maintenance. There are surrounding towns that have this tax as well. The state may be implementing this tax for all towns. This would pool the money for those towns to use. If towns already have a local options tax would be able to keep the funds.

The next article is about the elected to appointed clerk. This would make the town clerk position an appointed position by the selectboard. There are other towns that are appointed now. With an election you are restricted to people who live in the town of Berlin. If it is appointed, it allows the town to look at people outside of town. This does not give the selectboard more control, the town clerk is still separate from the selectboard. It will give the town a broader selection to pick from. It would still be a three-year term.

The last one is about Personal Property taxation waiver. If the personal property in a business is equal to or less than \$1650.00 the treasurer would have the ability to waive the personal property tax with the approval of the selectboard. The administrative costs to bill for these would be more than the cost of them. In running the rates for the \$1650.00 would be about \$25.00 and this would be across the board for anyone equal to or less than the \$1650.00.

Roundtable

- Smith wanted to check on the status of the Lovers Lane bridge. Conti spoke with a gentleman from the state, and it has passed through legislation. The study may happen this year, but it could take 3-5 years to finish the project. Conti will check in Quarterly for status updates.

Executive Session

None

Staab made a motion to adjourn. Smith Seconded - Motion Carries.

019033
BERLIN
WASHINGTON 1

OFFICIAL VERMONT GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

OFFICIAL STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT NOVEMBER 8, 2022	FOR U.S. SENATOR Vote for not more than ONE	FOR STATE TREASURER Vote for not more than ONE
<p>PROPOSAL 2</p> <p>To see if the voters will amend the Vermont Constitution by amending Article 1 of Chapter 1 to read:</p> <p>"Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery and indentured servitude prohibited] That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety; therefore no person born in this country; or brought from over sea; ought to be holden by law, to serve any person as a servant, slave or apprentice, after arriving to the age of twenty-one years, unless bound by the person's own consent, after arriving to such age; or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs; or the like slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited."</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>MARK COESTER WESTMINSTER INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NATASHA DIAMONDSTONE-KOHOUT DUMMERSTON GREEN MOUNTAIN <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>H/BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>MIKE PIECIAK WINDSOCKI DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>STEPHEN DUKE CALAIS INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>DAWN MARIE ELLIS BURLINGTON INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>MS. CRIS ERICSON CHESTER INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>FOR SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than ONE</p>
	<p>GERALD MALLOY WEATHERSFIELD REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>KERRY PATRICK RAHEB BENNINGTON INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>PETER WELCH NORWICH DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>SARAH COPELAND HANZAS BRADFORD DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p> <p>H. BROOKE PAIGE WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS Vote for not more than ONE</p>	<p>FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS Vote for not more than ONE</p>
	<p>BECCA BALINT BRATTLEBORO DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p> <p>MATY DRUZBA BURLINGTON INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>LIAM MADDEN ROCKINGHAM REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>ADAM ORTIZ RUTLAND CITY INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>ERICKA REDIC BURLINGTON LIBERTARIAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>LUKE TALBOT BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>DOUG HOFFER BURLINGTON DEM/PROG <input type="radio"/></p> <p>RICHARD "RICK" MORTON BRATTLEBORO REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>FOR GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE</p>	<p>FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than ONE</p>
	<p>PETER DUVAL UNDERHILL INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>KEVIN HOYT BENNINGTON INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>BERNARD PETERS RASBURG INDEPENDENT <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>CHARITY R. CLARK WILLISTON DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p> <p>MICHAEL TAGLIAVIA CORINTH REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>PHIL SCOTT BERLIN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>BRENDA SIEGEL NEWFANE DEM/PROG <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>PAUL MATTHEW BEAN NORTHFIELD REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>ANN CUMMINGS MONTPELIER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DEXTER LEFAVOUR MIDDLESEX REP/LIBRT <input type="radio"/></p>
	<p>FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE</p>	<p>ANDREW PERCHLIK MARSHFIELD DEM/PROG <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DWAYNE TUCKER BARRE TOWN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>ANNE WATSON MONTPELIER DEM/PROG <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>JOE BENNING LYNDON REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>IAN G. DIAMONDSTONE PUTNEY GREEN MOUNTAIN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DAVID ZUCKERMAN HINESBURG PROG/DEM <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	
<p>FOR STATE SENATOR Vote for not more than THREE</p>	<p>FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Vote for not more than TWO</p>	
<p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>ANNE B. DONAHUE NORTHFIELD REP/DEM <input type="radio"/></p> <p>KENNETH W. GOSLANT NORTHFIELD REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>LAURA HILL-EUBANKS NORTHFIELD DEM/PROG <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

FOR PROBATE JUDGE Vote for not more than ONE	FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE Vote for not more than TEN	ARTICLES
JEFFREY P. KILGORE WATERBURY DEM/REP <input type="radio"/>	ZACHARY COCKRUM DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	Article 1: Shall the Berlin Town Charter be hereby amended as follows: Section 3-2 Powers of the Town Addition of paragraph (d) as follows: The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent sales tax The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent rooms tax The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax (d.2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. section 138. (d.3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designated for capital projects within the town.
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	ROBERT "JOEY" CONNER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	
FOR ASSISTANT JUDGE Vote for not more than TWO	MATTHEW LEVIN DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/>
ELIZABETH BATTEY MONTPELIER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	MARILYN MILLER REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	
RONALD CUSHING JR. BARRE TOWN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	MARGARET MONLEY DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
LEAH MURPHY JONES MONTPELIER DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	MURIEL MORSE DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	
BRET MEYER BARRE TOWN REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	COLETTE PAGE REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	Article 2: Shall the Berlin Town Charter be hereby amended as follows: Section 4-2 Elected Officers Removal of Item (2) "a Town Clerk, for a term of three years" Section 4-4 Appointed Officers Section (b) addition of item (5) Town Clerk
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	GUY PAGE REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	SUSAN RICH REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/>
FOR STATES ATTORNEY Vote for not more than ONE	JUDITH WERNECKE REPUBLICAN <input type="radio"/>	
MICHELLE DONNELLY BARRE CITY DEMOCRATIC <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	
FOR SHERIFF Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	Article 3: Shall the Berlin Town Charter be hereby amended as follows: Section 7-3 addition of "Penalty for delinquent Installments and Personal Property/Inventory taxation" Add paragraph (c) When the total assessed value of personal property/inventory taxation is equal to or less than \$1650.00, the Town Treasurer may, after approval of the Selectboard, waive the personal property/inventory taxation.
MARC POULIN BARRE TOWN DEM/REP <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/>
FOR HIGH BAILIFF Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	
SHAWN M. MCMANIS WORCESTER DEM/REP <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		

SAMPLE

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

Election	GENERAL ELECTION	Town	BERLIN
		District	

Name on Ballot	Party	Town of Residence	Vote Cast
----------------	-------	-------------------	-----------

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE			Vote for not more than TEN
ZACHARY COCKRUM	DEMOCRATIC	BERLIN	632
ROBERT "JOEY" CONNER	DEMOCRATIC	BERLIN	628
MATTHEW LEVIN	DEMOCRATIC	BERLIN	641
MARILYN MILLER	REPUBLICAN	BERLIN	602
MARGARET MONLEY	DEMOCRATIC	BERLIN	621
MURIEL MORSE	DEMOCRATIC	BERLIN	686
COLETTE PAGE	REPUBLICAN	BERLIN	573
GUY PAGE	REPUBLICAN	BERLIN	591
SUSAN RICH	REPUBLICAN	BERLIN	617
JUDITH WERNECKE	REPUBLICAN	BERLIN	587
TOTAL WRITE IN COUNTS			13
OTHER WRITE IN COUNTS			13
OVERVOTES			0
BLANK VOTES			6,309
TOTAL VOTES COUNTED			12,500

ARTICLE 1:

SHALL THE BERLIN TOWN CHARTER BE HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 3-2 POWERS OF THE TOWN

ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH (D) AS FOLLOWS:

THE TOWN OF BERLIN SELECTBOARD MAY ASSESS A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX

THE TOWN OF BERLIN SELECTBOARD MAY ASSESS A ONE PERCENT ROOMS TAX

THE TOWN OF BERLIN SELECTBOARD MAY ASSESS A ONE PERCENT MEALS AND ALCOHOL BEVERAGE TAX

(D.2) A TAX IMPOSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE COLLECTED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH 24 V.S.A. SECTION 138.

(D.3) REVENUES RECEIVED THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE DESIGNATED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN.

			Vote for not more than ONE
YES			556
NO			627
OVERVOTES			0
BLANK VOTES			67
TOTAL VOTES COUNTED			1,250

Election	GENERAL ELECTION	Town	BERLIN
		District	

Name on Ballot	Party	Town of Residence	Vote Cast
-----------------------	--------------	--------------------------	------------------

Vote for not more than ONE

ARTICLE 2:
SHALL THE BERLIN TOWN CHARTER BE HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 4-2 ELECTED OFFICERS
REMOVAL OF ITEM (2) "A TOWN CLERK, FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS"
SECTION 4-4 APPOINTED OFFICERS
SECTION (B) ADDITION OF ITEM (5) TOWN CLERK

YES			568
NO			543
OVERVOTES			0
BLANK VOTES			139
TOTAL VOTES COUNTED			1,250

Vote for not more than ONE

ARTICLE 3:
SHALL THE BERLIN TOWN CHARTER BE HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 7-3 ADDITION OF "PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT INSTALLMENTS AND PERSONAL
PROPERTY/INVENTORY TAXATION"
ADD PARAGRAPH (C) WHEN THE TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY/INVENTORY
TAXATION IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN \$1650.00, THE TOWN TREASURER MAY, AFTER APPROVAL OF THE
SELECTBOARD, WAIVE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY/INVENTORY TAXATION.

YES			784
NO			354
OVERVOTES			0
BLANK VOTES			112
TOTAL VOTES COUNTED			1,250

WARNING – VERMONT GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The polls will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. The polling place(s) is/are located at:

Berlin Town Office

Pauline Spivey
Town (or City) Clerk

A statewide General Election will be held on **TUESDAY, November 8, 2022**, to vote on two proposals of amendment to the Vermont Constitution and to vote for candidates for the following offices:

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| U.S. Senator | Governor | State Treasurer | Auditor of Accounts | State Senator(s) | Probate Judge | States Attorney |
| U.S. Representative | Lieutenant Governor | Secretary of State | Attorney General | State Representative(s) | Assistant Judge | Sheriff |
| | | | | | High Bailiff | |

To see if the voters will vote to accept or reject the proposed articles of amendment to the Constitution of Vermont.
Proposal 2 To see if the voters will amend the Vermont Constitution by amending Article 1 of Chapter 1 to read:
"Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery and indentured servitude prohibited] That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety; therefore no person born in this country, or brought from over-sea, ought to be helden by-law, to serve any person as a servant, slave or apprentice, after arriving to the age of twenty-one years, unless bound by the person's own consent, after arriving to such age, or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

Proposal 5 To see if the voters will amend the Vermont Constitution by adding Article 22 to read:
"Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty] That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

VERMONT NOTICE TO VOTERS AND VERMONT VOTER RIGHTS

EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You can request early/absentee ballots at any time during the election year. The latest a ballot can be requested in Berlin is 11/7/22 @ 3:30 pm (Town) (date and time office closes prior to election)

You or a family member can request early ballots in person, in writing, by telephone, or on your My Voter Page at mvp.vermont.gov. An authorized person can request ballots for you in person or in writing.

CHECKLIST: posted at town clerk's office by Sunday, October 9, 2022. If your name is not on it, then you must register to vote.

SAMPLE BALLOTS POSTED: Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. **Please register early** by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

Methods of voting early/absentee in the 45 days before the election (ballots available by September 24, 2022).

- THE LAW PROHIBITS THE FOLLOWING--DO NOT:**
- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
 - Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's eligibility to vote.
 - Socialize in a manner that will disturb other voters.
 - Offer a bribe, threaten, or intimidate a person to vote for a candidate.
 - Hinder or interfere with the progress of a voter going into or out of a polling place. Vermont law provides that a person cannot campaign within a polling place but does NOT specify any number of feet that campaigners need to be away from the polls outside. The presiding officer will set reasonable rules for where campaigners can stand.

The Election Officials at the polling place are here to serve you. If you have any questions, or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.
If you do not understand something, or you believe a mistake has been made, that's okay. Just ask for help.