

City Council Work Session  
March 15, 2021

At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Grenier opened the meeting. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;*

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656, meeting ID 864 8873 5437; Passcode 720475, or by clicking on the City Council agenda on the City's website, [www.berlinnh.gov](http://www.berlinnh.gov).

- b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have been provided on the City of Berlin's website of the Council at City Council-agendas

- c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:*

If anybody has a problem, please call Pam Laflamme at 603-752-8587 or e-mail at: [plaflamme@berlinnh.gov](mailto:plaflamme@berlinnh.gov)

- d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting*

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. By roll call, each member is to state their presence, and whether there is anyone in the room during this meeting, which is required under the Right to Know law.

Present at roll call were: Councilors Remillard, Higbee, Eastman, Theberge, Berthiaume, Morgan, and Otis who acknowledged that they were alone in their respective rooms; Mayor Grenier was at City Hall. Councilors Rozek was absent at roll call; however he entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Others present: Community Development Director Pam Laflamme, Finance Director Holly Larsen, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Deputy Chief Dan Buteau

### **Police Department Grants**

Dan Buteau reported that these are the recurring grants from Fish & Game for OHRV patrols; Highway Safety grants are: speed patrols, bicycle patrol and dwi checkpoints. From Homeland Security, there is a grant for an Intelligence liaison officer for the North Country. The Byrne JAG drug task force money will cover two people for two years. Assistant Chief Buteau asked to withdraw the LETPA grant resolution until more information is added. Mayor Grenier noted that the grant will be removed from the agenda.

### **TAP Funds for Hutchins Street**

Ms. Laflamme explained that the grant will extend sidewalk for 7600 feet along Hutchins Street. It requires a resolution of the Council. The resolution is on the agenda for first reading tonight and there is not enough time for the regular process. The public hearing has been noticed for Wednesday 3/17/21 on the assumption that Council would allow a second reading and passage on that night. The grant is due Friday 3/19/2021.

### **USDA RDBG for Broadband Feasibility Grant**

The second grant is in tandem with the County for USDA RDBG money to work on broadband. It requires a resolution of the Council and public hearing.

The TAP funds are the same grant submitted in 2018 for \$758,000 for the sidewalk project. The RDBG Grant is a planning grant for 30,000 to study how to best deploy broadband in Coos County.

Councilor Eastman asked if there are matching funds and Ms. Laflamme confirmed that \$150,000 is needed for matching funds. She added that the timeline from approval to grant construction is no less than four years so if awarded, construction would be in 2026.

Councilor Eastman asked if we can get another grant for the match. Ms. Laflamme stated that not many pools of money other than Northern Borders allow match to federal money. Ms. Laflamme noted that if Northern Borders is used the grant will have to be 75% spent down. Councilor Eastman asked if this grant would interfere with the 110 grant and Ms. Laflamme stated that the timing should work out.

### **White Mountain Paper Company**

Ms. Laflamme went through a Power Point presentation of the Gorham Paper Mill. The new team has developed a plan to stabilize the operation.

Councilor Remillard moved to approve a letter of support and to submit as they seek new market tax credits; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call. Councilor Rozek entered the meeting prior to the roll call at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Grenier indicated that Price Howard, CEO of White Mountain Paper Company has been invited to address the Council once the meetings occur in person.

### **Position Request**

Ms. Larsen asked to replace a dmv clerk position that will be open March 29<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Rozek confirmed that there are two clerks. Councilor Remillard moved to approve hiring a replacement clerk; Councilor Higbee seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

**Adjournment**

At 7:05 p.m. there being no further business in Work Session, Mayor Grenier moved on to the Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant

\*Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the City Council by motion