

**City Council Work Session
February 17, 2020**

Present were: Mayor Grenier, Councilors Rozek, Higbee, Eastman, Otis, Theberge, Remillard, Morgan and Berthiaume

Others present: City Manager James Wheeler, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Richard Laflamme, Gina Welch, and Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Mayor Grenier opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Assessing Coordinator Hire

City Manager Wheeler advised that they have had a resignation in the Assessing Department and will begin advertising for the position. City Manager Wheeler advised that the Council had discussed the idea of hiring an Assessor in the past, but from a practical standpoint it would be difficult and the cost would be significantly higher than what the position currently pays. Councilor Theberge asked what the current pay is, and was advised it is \$20 per hour. Councilor Rozek suggested training someone new in the position. Councilor Eastman also felt it was a better idea to hire and train someone, as the position is also the Deputy City Clerk, and if an assessor was hired you would also need to hire for the clerk position. Councilor Rozek stated he would like to see someone in the position that is familiar with Berlin. Mayor Grenier noted it would be nice to have someone young to be there for a while, and Councilor Remillard pointed out that age cannot be a factor, and that someone older may bring more experience to the position.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Theberge, to allow the City Manager to advertise and hire a new Assessing Coordinator.

Mayor Grenier asked about the interview process and City Manager Wheeler advised it will be a committee, which will include a Board member.

So moved, the motion carried.

Non Public Session

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II(d) consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Mr. Wheeler presented the Council a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between the City of Berlin and North Country Growers, LLC.

Councilor Higbee moved to come out of non-public session; Councilor Rozek seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Rozek moved, with a second from Councilor Remillard, to authorize the City Manager to make any needed revisions to the North Country Growers Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement with advice of the City Attorney, and per RSA 72:74 schedule and notice a public hearing on February 24, 2020. So moved, the motion carried.

Non-meeting

Councilor Higbee moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to go into non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) collective bargaining. So moved, the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Councilor Rozek moved to adjourn; Councilor Berthiaume seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelli Fortin

City Clerk

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