

SELECTBOARD REPORT

2023 was an extremely difficult year for the residents of Berlin. Flooding in July greatly impacted several neighborhoods in town and damaged several roads. Thanks to the road crew most of the roads have been repaired, with a few major repairs continuing into 2024. However the impact on our residents may never be repaired with some of the areas not able to be rebuilt their lives will never be the same.

Three members of the Selectboard were elected in March of calendar year 2023. Both Ture Nelson and Joe Staab were elected to one-year terms and Florence Smith to a 3 year term. In October C. David Sawyer resigned from the board as he moved out of town. Karla Nuissl was appointed to fill the open seat.

The selectboard conducts their annual reorganization of the board at their first meeting following Town Meeting Day. The following current elected officers are Brad Towne, Chair, Florence Smith, Vice Chair, and Joe Staab, Secretary.

Town Audit:

The independent audit, ending June 30, 2023, is being completed by Sullivan and Powers, CPA's of Montpelier. The audit report once completed, will be available on our Town website.

2023 Town Meeting:

A municipal budget of \$4,086,951, was approved at the March 2023 Town Meeting. Voters also approved \$471,272 in special appropriations that included \$387,109 for the Berlin Fire Department. The Grand list total is \$5,349,927. The Selectboard set a municipal tax rate of \$0.7574 per \$100 of valuation. The current Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 72.29%.

A history of Berlins property tax rate follows:

Year	Town Rate	Local Agreement	School Residential Rate	School Non-Residential Rate	Total Residential	Total Non-Residential
2012	0.4116	NA	1.3748	1.3329	1.7864	1.7445
2013	0.4297	0.0009	1.4537	1.4123	1.8843	1.8429
2014	0.4706	0.0006	1.5219	1.4383	1.9931	1.9095
2015	0.463	0.0008	1.5982	1.4727	2.062	1.9365
2016	0.4629	0.0008	1.5966	1.474	2.0603	1.9377
2017	0.467	0.001	1.6219	1.4503	2.0899	1.9183
2018	0.5508	0.0015	1.6683	1.5422	2.2206	2.0945
2019	0.5664	0.0012	1.7155	1.5606	2.2831	2.1282
2020	0.5962	0.0012	1.7227	1.5792	2.3201	2.1766
2021	0.5917	0.0023	1.5772	1.4820	2.1712	2.076
2022	0.6323	0.0011	1.6144	1.5446	2.2478	2.1780
2023	0.7574	0.0011	1.7343	1.5943	2.4928	2.3528

Town Staff

Town Treasurer Diane Isabelle retired in October. Assistant Treasurer Callie Streeter was appointed as her replacement. A search is ongoing for a new assistant treasurer.

In July, Town Administrator Vince Conti was granted an extended unpaid leave of absence. We anticipate him returning in July 2024 if not before. In his absence, Ture Nelson was appointed as interim Town Administrator.

Once again, 2023 has been another year of continued growth and development for the Town of Berlin. The board would like to extend its gratitude to the entire staff, highway department, police department and the Berlin Volunteer Fire department for their selfless dedication and the work they have accomplished during this continued growth period.

Citizen Participation:

The board continues to meet at 6:00 PM on the first and third Monday of the month. We welcome residents to attend our meetings, held at 108 Shed Road, our Municipal building. Please note there is always an opportunity to speak during the public comment part of the meeting. If you would like to discuss an item in detail, and be included on the agenda, you may contact the Town Administrator, at townadministrator@berlinvt.gov or by phone at 802-552-8801. Our agendas and minutes are available on our Town website. In addition, Berlin board meetings are broadcast on Comcast Cable channel 1085 and ORCA Medias website <https://www.orcamedia.net>. Meetings are streamed live using the ZOOM platform. The link for each meeting is located at the bottom of the agenda.

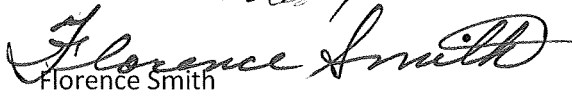
The Town continues to thrive and grow based on all the committed volunteers who serve on Berlin's various boards. We are continually grateful for the unending time and attention you give to your roles.

Should you have any interest in volunteering on one of our boards, we would welcome you to reach out and let us know. Just contact the Town Administrator at townadministrator@berlinvt.gov or by phone at the office at 802-552-8801 and he will help you through the simple process.

In closing, we thank you, our fine citizens, because Berlin is better through your ongoing involvement and the overall sound interest in each other and our town. It is evident that Berlin is growing and thriving, because of all of you. Let us continue to look favorably on the future good coming to Berlin.

Respectfully submitted:

Brad Towne

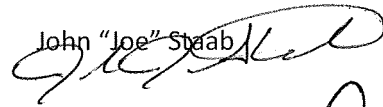


Florence Smith



Ture Nelson

John "Joe" Staab



Karla Nuissl

