

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes March 17, 2015

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2015**

Present: Chairman Danforth, Selectman Folsom, Selectman Glemmo, Selectman Drew, Selectman Cowan

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

Chairman Danforth opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of March 3, 2015

Dwayne Morin stated that he made one change. On Page 4 of the packet, in the last paragraph, the last time originally read, "He also told them that they will have a \$500 budget to work with after April 1st." He changed it to read, "He also told them that they will have a \$500 budget to work with after Town Meeting."

Selectman Glemmo motioned to accept the minutes of March 3, 2015 as amended. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0 Abstain: 1

3. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Budget FY16: Continuing Discussions on Budget – Review Recommendations

Dwayne stated that the Budget Committee had finalized the Budget. He stated that there was one thing that came up at the meeting last night that he needs to discuss with the Selectmen. He stated that it relates to the bike trail that they were talking about doing at the Community Center. Dwayne stated that after the Board had discussed the bike trail, he had given a copy of the map to Kristie Michaud from Parks and Rec in January so she could go over it with the Parks and Rec Board at one of their meetings. He said that they cancelled their meetings in January because of

a snow storm and then Kristie got sick. Unfortunately, they just discussed it for the first time two weeks ago. Dwayne stated that some of the members have some concerns in regards to the bike trail. He said that these concerns were just brought to his attention yesterday about a half hour before the Budget Committee meeting. Dwayne stated that this was discussed at the Budget Committee meeting last night. Dwayne stated that his concern is going into the Town Meeting and having the Parks and Recreation Committee against it. He stated that the Parks and Rec Committee had not voted on it yet but a significant amount of the members had some concerns. They would like to see their concerns addressed and Dwayne does not think that they will have time to do that before the Town Meeting.

Chairman Danforth asked Dwayne what some of the concerns were. Dwayne stated that there was a letter on Page 9 of their packets from one of the committee members that listed their concerns. The first concern is that the trail could be utilized for something other than walking such as ATV's. Dwayne stated that he doesn't feel that this one would be a big problem. The second issue had to do with safety and the interaction between the people using the trail and the other activities that are going on like soccer. He stated that the third concern was that the trail would not provide a practical use for the sports that will be played on the field. The athletes wear cleats and it would be unsafe on the trail. The fourth issue was in regards to the stone dust creating dusty conditions. Dwayne stated that once the stone dust is packed down this would not be an issue. They also are concerned about the space of the trail and the maintenance of it. They are concerned with the width of it. It was proposed that it be 8 feet wide and they feel that this may be excessive.

Dwayne stated that his concern is that they go to the Town Meeting and have the Parks and Rec Committee not be in agreement with it. Selectman Cowan recommended that they have them in to discuss it. Dwayne stated that they could do that but there is no time before the Town Meeting to do so. Dwayne asked the Board if they wanted to move forward with it or postpone it for a year. Chairman Danforth stated that they should probably put it off for a year. Selectman Cowan stated that she is fine with postponing it but suggests that they come in discuss it with the Board within the year. Dwayne stated that the Budget Committee did go ahead and approve it but left it up to the Selectman as to whether it goes forward or not.

Selectman Cowan motioned to withdraw from the Warrant the proposal for the Walking/Biking Trail. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne stated that technically, the budget is a little over 6% increase, but when you take out the old money which is the designated surplus, it works out to be a 5.9% increase. He stated that some of this is planned capital that pumps up the number. It really is at about a 4% increase. He stated that the Budget Committee was fine it. They had good discussions about it. He stated that the big number is the taxation number. It is up \$118,000. He stated that we knew going in that we had \$70,000 set aside last year. We bumped up our surplus so we are going to use that this year. So it works out to be a \$48,000 increase. When all is said and done it would be a \$.05 increase in the mil rate but because we have new value coming in, it should be no increase. However, he said that this is before we know what is going on with the school budget. He stated that he knows that they have lost a half a million dollars from the State. He stated that unless

they cut the budget, they are looking at about a half a million dollars increase for the three towns to absorb. He stated that it would be about \$170,000 for North Berwick to absorb.

B. Zoning Changes: Review Final Zoning Changes for Public Hearing on April 7

Dwayne stated that he had included in their packets, the Public Hearing announcement for the Referendum Questions that will be voted on at Town Meeting. This has been in the newspapers. He stated that there are 5 questions. Dwayne said that the petition regarding allowing Auto Repair in the Residential District never materialized. He stated that they will have a Public Hearing in three weeks at the next Board meeting regarding these questions.

C. Canoe Launch: Brezak Proposal

Dwayne stated that he did hear from the Brezak's and they have accepted the proposal and given him a check. Dwayne just needs Chairman Danforth to sign agreement.

D. Police: Cruiser Repair Update

Dwayne stated that the cruiser is now repaired and it turned out to be better than they had anticipated. He stated that there was a concern that after the engine was installed, there would still be some issues. However, the car started on the first try and it is running better than it was before.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – April 7, 2015 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

5. New Business:

A. Town Meeting: Review and Approve Final Warrant for Town Meeting, Ballot Clerks

Dwayne stated that the Selectmen need to approve the Warrants to have at Town Meeting. Dwayne stated that there were a couple of things that he wanted to discuss with them. He stated that they do not currently have a moderator. He stated that they thought of Tim Kezar and he will be asking him this week if he can do it. Everyone that they have asked so far cannot do it or don't want to do it. He stated that they also thought about asking Mr. Reid, who was the President at Kennebunk Savings Bank. He may also check with him.

Dwayne reviewed some of the Articles. He stated that the first 4 Articles are just the regular ones. Article #5 is the Collector Article and Article 6 is the date one. Articles #7 is for the Fire Department Operation Budget, Article #8 is for the Fire Pumper payment and Article #9 is for the Fire Tanker payment.

Dwayne explained how he listed Articles #10 and #11 which are for the purchase for a Tanker. He stated that the Budget Committee voted that they ought to pass and that the Board of Selectmen should choose which the best financing method is at the time of purchase. The idea is that we either look at a lease agreement or we look at a Bond. In order to save time and avoid

going back to Town Meeting, we thought we would do it all at one time. He stated that there may be some confusion regarding this at Town Meeting but we will try and explain it.

He stated that Article #12 is regarding the SCBA Bottles, Article #13 is regarding Police Operational budget, Article #14 is regarding the Police Cruiser and Article #15 is regarding Protection Services.

Article #16 is regarding the Rescue Squad. Dwayne stated that the Rescue Squad had asked for \$243,618.00. He said that through compromising, they have reduced it to \$194,597.00. He asked the Selectmen if they want to change the number in the Article to \$194,597.00. The Board agreed to change the amount from \$243,618.00 to \$194,597.00. Dwayne will change it.

Article #17 is for the Transfer Station, Article #18 is for Transfer Station-Capital Improvements, Article #19 is for Highway, Article #20 is for Road Bonds, Article #21 is for Roads – Capital Improvements and Article #22 is for Public Work Improvements.

Article #23 is for General Government Expenses, Article #24 is for Town Reports, Article #25 is for Municipal Building Bond, Article #26 is for the Insurances, Article #27 is for General Assistance, Article #28 is for Unanticipated expenses, Article #29 is for Town Boards and Article #30 is for Parks and Recreation.

Dwayne stated that the amount for Article #31 for Mill Field will be changed to \$5,000. He stated that we had put in a \$15,000 place holder but it will be changed to \$5,000. This is for the building of the horseshoe pits. He stated that Article #32 for Community Center will be removed as stated previously.

Dwayne stated that Article #33 was for Cemeteries. He said that they had asked for \$20,200 but they brought it down to \$15,800. Dwayne asked if the Board wanted to change the amount on the Warrant and the Board said to change it.

Article #34 is for Cemeteries and Historical Society. Article #35 is for the Library. Dwayne stated that they had asked for \$231,824 and they reduced it to \$218,000. Dwayne asked the Board if they wanted to change the amount on the Warrant. They said to change it.

Dwayne stated that Article #36 is for the Social Services, Article #37 is for Outside agencies, Article #38 is for Equipment Fund, Article #39 is for unforeseen purchase and Article #40 is for voluntary gifts. Article #41 is for the Eastern Trail and the Budget Committee voted to not put any money in. Dwayne said that he wasn't sure if the Selectmen wanted to continue to keep this on there. Selectman Galemme stated that if we are not putting any money into it than why is it even there. Dwayne stated that it was up to the Board as to if it should stay on or not. Selectman Galemme motioned to remove Article #41 from the Warrants. Selectman Drew seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne stated that the last two Articles #42 and #43 are in regards to Canal Street housing and TIF.

Selectman Galemme motioned to approve the Warrant as amended. Selectman Drew seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne stated that they need to approve the Ballot Clerks for the Town Meeting. Chris Dudley is recommending Sharon Litvinchuk, Lorinda Hilton, Susan Caler, Rebecca Carter and Claudy Boy.

Selectman Cowan motioned to accept the proposed Ballot Clerks as mentioned above. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

B. Dispatch: Discuss the 14 Town Communication Group Issues

Dwayne stated that we knew last summer that Alfred and Waterboro were leaving the Sanford Dispatch Center so we knew that those costs were going to be decimated among the remaining towns. We have also been informed that Hollis will be leaving also and going to Buxton. Dwayne stated that they have found that things that have needed to be addressed within the Communication Group have not been. He stated that they are meeting next Thursday to clear some of these things up. He said that there were a couple Capital improvements that were supposed to be done and they haven't been and were never authorized by the group. Everything was done by verbal instead of written communication. They have decided that it would be a good idea to have a written agreement which would state how they are going to move forward in the future.

One of the things that needs to be addressed is when they did narrow banding, it had to be in place by January, 2012. They hired a company to go in and put in a dual system. They kept the old system running and installed the new narrow banding. They were supposed to remove all of the equipment but they were never authorized to remove it so it is still there. It will cost about \$1,000 to remove it. He stated that the group would state what needed to be done but nobody ever followed through with getting it done.

Another example, is the repeater on our water tower. When we put our police repeater down, the fire and rescue repeater sits down in the Water District's pit where it is very humid, wet and damp. This was supposed to be moved into our building. They talked about it but nobody every authorized to have it done. The cost for this is \$800.

Somebody had said that the one on Hosac Mountain wasn't working. Someone went up to look at it and the antenna is laying on the ground. The contract that they have for this gentleman is that he maintains the repeaters so the antennas are separate. The gentleman said that he taped it up with electrical tape and contacted the person that was supposed to be checking on all of these things. He said that approval will be needed to repair it because there will be a cost.

Dwayne stated that we have six towers that we share and one of the towers is on Blueberry Hill in Acton. The tower is owned by the City of Acton and they had got a 20 year lease from the person that owns the property for no charge. The 20 year lease is done and the owner passed away. It is now owned by the original owner's son and he now wants \$500 per month rent. Dwayne stated that, as a group, they cannot absorb that \$500 per month. Dwayne stated that we

don't use Blueberry Hill because it doesn't come in for us. He stated that it actually is only used by Acton.

Dwayne said that we also have repeaters on Ossipee Hill. When we left Gray, they decided to leave the repeaters on Ossipee Hill so in case Sanford goes down, State of Maine could take over and dispatch for us. Since that time, Sanford has built a new dispatch facility and it completely backed up with generator power so it is unlikely that they will go down. Dwayne stated that in the 7 years that we have used them, they have never gone down. We are paying \$2,400 per year to have those repeaters up there and we are not using them.

Dwayne stated that it looks like our costs will go to \$4,000. He is having a meeting with the group next Wednesday so he will have more info at the April 7th Board meeting.

C. FEMA: York County Declared for Juno Blizzard

Dwayne stated that we were declared for the Juno Blizzard that happened in January. He said that our initial costs are between \$30,000 to \$40,000 which we will be getting reimbursed for. He said that this will help with the Winter Highway budget.

D. Town Manager Group: Update on Town Manager Group Initiatives

Dwayne stated that the Town Manager Group meets on a monthly basis and he wanted to let the Board know about some of the things that they are working on. They have been looking at issues that the whole County can benefit from. One of the items is the EB-5 Declaration. The EB-5 is an immigration program that allows foreigners to invest in the local economy through venture capital. It allows foreigners to invest \$1 million dollars into the County, create at least 10 jobs for a 5 year period and the people that invest the money will get an EB-5 Visa for their family. He stated that there are a lot of foreign nationals that go to Thornton Academy and some of the other private schools in York County. These people have expressed an interest in investing in York County but will not do it without the EB-5 designation. Dwayne stated that it is a great economic development tool, but would North Berwick use it? He doesn't know if we would use it but it could help the rest of the county which would help us in some respect. The cost to get an EB-5 designation is about \$100,000 because you have to hire an immigration attorney and it takes about two years to accomplish. He stated that they are meeting tomorrow with an immigration attorney who has actually done this in other areas of the country. They will ask him if our area is even viable for this and what some of the benefits are that they could recoup. Dwayne stated that he voted with the group to move forward and explore it to find out if it would make sense to do. Selectman Cowan asked who does the monitoring of this program. Dwayne stated that it is all handled by immigration and it is extremely scrutinized. Selectman Cowan asked if this was done in other countries and Dwayne stated that it was not but was done quite a bit in our country. One of the biggest ones is the ski resort in Stowe, Vermont. Selectman Cowan asked who determines what kind of business is to be invested in. Dwayne stated that it would be up to us. The County would indicate what kind of business they are looking for investments in. Dwayne stated that the towns that are pushing for this are Saco, Sanford, Biddeford and Kennebunk because they have industrial parks.

Dwayne stated that the other thing that they have been talking about is broadband internet. He stated that we do have broadband internet in North Berwick. Dwayne stated that several years ago the State of Maine decided that we were derelict in our duties in having high speed internet in the State so they created the three ring binder. This is three rings of dark fiber that circle the State of Maine. Dark fiber is the highest speed of internet. This was finished being constructed last year. Our closest connection to the three ring binder is in Wells. He stated that the backbone is there but anything off of the backbone is at a tremendous cost because you have to run lines. There are a lot of areas in the State that do not have broadband. Sanford has no broadband. They only have DSL. Time Warner did install fiber optic in our town but it is clear fiber optic not dark. The question is how to get broadband internet to different areas of the state now that this has been built. What the group has been looking at is if it makes sense as a County to build out this infrastructure. Dwayne stated that there is a bill before the State right now that would allow municipalities to create utility districts. The towns could actually go out and bond the construction of putting out the lines and then we would run it. If somebody wanted to be hooked up to that dark fiber, there would be a cost associated with that and you would pay that to the utility. Dwayne stated that the current internet providers are not real happy with this idea.

E. Fire Department: Red Light Authorization for Daniel Dugal

Selectman Folsom motioned to accept the application for a red light for Daniel Dugal. Selectman Drew seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

6. Other Business:

Dwayne stated that they will have a short executive session tonight.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	March 9, 2015	- \$ 33,779.40
Warrant:	March 17, 2015	- \$ 525,198.90

Selectman Galemme motioned to approve the Warrant of March 9, 2015 for the amount of \$33,779.40 and the Warrant of March 17, 2015 for the amount of \$525,198.90. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Galemme motioned to go into Executive Session from 8:10 pm to 8:25 pm and adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Respectively submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Wendy Cowan