

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: April 21, 2009

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES APRIL 21, 2009

Present: Chairman Folsom, Selectman Danforth, Selectman Bourbon and Selectman MacDougall.

Absent: Selectman Drew

Also Present: Kerri Janocha, Dorothy Linscott, Chuck Marvin and Dwayne Morin.

Chairman Folsom opened the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 6:36 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of April 7, 2009

Selectman Danforth moved to accept the Minutes of April 7, 2009 with one minor correction, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

3. Public Input: No Public Input

4. Unfinished Business:

A Dispatch: Discussion on Dispatch Services

Dwayne updated the Board on the process to date on moving dispatch services to Sanford as of July 1st.

The transition for the Fire Department and the Rescue Department to Sanford is moving along with the help of the Radio Technician.

The difficulty will be the transition to Sanford for the Police Department. The Town is still waiting for the FCC to amend out current license and give an input license for our frequency to be repeated.

The town is looking for a shed to house the equipment near the water tank. The costs of a sheds that have been view to date are approximately \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00 and are not designed to serve the town's needs to house the equipment. The antennae equipment is ready to be set up as soon as a shed is placed near the water tank.

The other big issue we are having right now is on the IMC connection between North Berwick and Sanford. We had received a quote from IMC through our Computer Consultant, 2-Way Communications, to tie into Sanford and that quote was about \$13,500.00 it is now approximately \$45,000.00. Our Computer Consultant talked with the IMC sales representative who sold us the product less than one year ago and he gave a verbal quote to our Computer Consultant on the transition costs for the IMC product. The Computer Consultant placed IMC numbers and the work he had to perform in a quote to us. The quote of \$13,500.00 included \$8,000.00 for IMC software. IMC is now saying that \$8,000.00 was an incorrect quote. We have two options; one we merge our 1 year worth of data on IMC with Sanford and the cost will be about \$43,000.00. Option two is to archive that data. The Police Chief does not consider it is a big deal to archive the data. If we archive the date then we would have to repurchase the software license at a cost of \$11,000.00 which we have owned for a little more than 8 months. Dwayne spoke with the Senior Vice President who was actually part of the sale when the Town purchased the IMC software. He will be going to the General Manager of the Software Company on Thursday on our behalf to see if they will honor the quote in which they gave verbally.

There will be two other things that we will have to purchase now that we are merging with Sanford. Sanford does have the IMC mapping software. North Berwick will have access to that mapping so we have to pay the licensing fee on that mapping as well as a program called Quest which is basically an electronic rolodex that Sanford owns and we do not have a license to utilize. The cost for these licenses are \$3,000.00.

The Town is looking at making the transition to Sanford the last week in July.

Fire and Rescue Department should be ready to go in the beginning of June.

The Police Department will take a little longer because of the hurdles we are faced with getting the frequency active and the IMC software connection.

The State dispatch has already said they are going to work with us even if we don't meet those dates, they will continue to dispatch our police. Sanford dispatches State Police so they are equipped with Regional One and call sharing which should make the transition easier for the North Berwick's Police Department

PUC still has not affirmed our PSAP destination change and they will not flip the switch for the PSAP until the end of June.

The Town of North Berwick will add a separate link to Sanford's dispatch and keep the State dispatch which will be the towns back up.

Chairman Folsom asked if the town has contracts which states that. Dwayne answered that is part of our agreements with Sanford. The \$17,000.00 that the Town of North Berwick is spending for the 8 Towns to switch over is all the hardware that is necessary to make that operate.

A letter was sent to Chief Lajoie of South Berwick Police Department:

The Town of North Berwick would like to thank you for your efforts in extending an invitation for the Town to join South Berwick and Berwick in a consolidated dispatch center. Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Town Manager and Police Chief to discuss the various options available to the Town of North Berwick. Unfortunately, after reviewing all the areas of concern, the Town of North Berwick has decided to enter into a contract with the Town of Sanford for dispatching services. At this time, it was felt that this was the better short term and long term solution to the Town of North Berwick's dispatching needs. Should you wish to discuss the decision further, please feel free to contact Dwayne Morin, Town Manager at 676-3112 ex 4.

Sincerely,
North Berwick Board of Selectmen

B. Mill Field: Electrical Repair

The Mill Field electrical repair on the gazebo has been completed.

Dwayne is still working on getting quotes to have the gazebo repaired.

C. Ice Storm: Tree Debris Clean Up

Dwayne explained to the Board that town has met with FEMA to talk about the tree debris clean up and that the town is waiting for their determination on the road side wood debris clean up from December's ice storm. Mike Dunn and Dwayne have put together a plan that will be similar to what we did 2 years ago where we divide the town into quadrants. The town will contact contractors and ask them to bid on a section of the town. The town crew will also be working on various sections in town cleaning up wood debris. A newsletter will be sent to the citizens once this plan is approved so that the clean up can be complete by June.

The newsletter will state that the Town of North Berwick will be hiring contractors to assist the town with the roadside wood debris clean-up as a result of last December's Ice Storm. The map indicates the week that the town will be in each area cleaning up the debris. Residents may bring the woody debris (trees and branches) to the side of the road for clean-up prior to the beginning of the week for that area. Please pile the woody debris in piles for easy handling. *This clean-up is only for woody debris from the Ice Storm. Do not place garbage, bulky items, metal, etc. along the roadside.*

Dwayne provided the Board with a visual screen display of the street map of North Berwick that indicates the week that the Town will be cleaning up the debris.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting - April 28, 2009-6:30 p.m. Municipal Building
 Pratt and Whitney April 28, 2009 - Noon at Pratt and Whitney
 Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – May 5, 2009-6:30 p.m. Municipal Building

5. New Business:

A. Board Application: Planning Board, Zoning Board Applications Interviews

Chairman Folsom asked Mr. Charles M. Marvin why he would like to be on the Planning Board. Mr. Marvin replied that he has been studying the Zoning Ordinance but would like a better understanding of the ordinance and how to apply them.

Chairman Folsom recommended to Mr. Marvin attend SMRPC workshops and Planning Board meetings for an introduction on the role of a Planning Board Member. Mr. Marvin agreed and will reapply if he is still interested in becoming a Planning Board Member.

Chairman Folsom asked Kerri Janocha why she would like to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals Board. Kerri Janocha replied that she is new to the town and would like to become more involved in town issues and thought this would be a good place to start.

Selectman MacDougall moved to appoint Kerri Janocha to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of 3 years, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Chairman Folsom spoke that Dorothy Linscott is here this evening to be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Selectman MacDougall moved to reappoint Dorothy Linscott to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of 3 years, Selectman Danforth seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

B. Road Projects: Canal Street

Dwayne updated the Board on the Canal Street project. On town meeting day, an eight foot section (approximately) of the canal collapsed, the State has repaired the collapsed section.

Dwayne had contacted the State and informed them that the canal had collapsed and this is the second collapse in three years. After reviewing the canal collapse, the State has agreed to perform the canal filling with the town at the end of May or the beginning of June. The town plans are to start the Canal Street project at the end of May or the beginning of June. The State will supply trucks, excavators to fill the canal. The town will supply the material excavated from the Canal Street project and a couple of trucks to help fill the canal. The State will supply the flaggers that will be needed to get us across the road. The State will put the concrete plug in at the dam to stop

the flow of water and place a pipe into the sluiceway for their storm water from the storm drains on Route 9.

The town will box cut Canal Street approximately 12 inches and utilize the material to fill the canal, all the surplus material will be transported to PIKE Industries. The town will utilize inch and a quarter crushed gravel to fill the box cut.

Dwayne explained that a problem arose this week when we started talking about filling the canal. The town and the Caleb Foundation have the same contractor so that the projects can be completed more efficiently. When the project details were reviewed, the town's road elevation was found to be basically level with Caleb's first floor elevation. Caleb Foundation has a concern of how they going prevent the water from entering into the building. The project has been redesigned to utilize the existing catch basin on the easterly side of Canal Street with the addition of another catch basin on the westerly side to capture the storm water. Caleb will install structures on their property to prevent water problems for their building. In addition the parking area on the easterly side of the street will have three parking spaces eliminated due to the change in the electric utility plan.

Selectman Danforth asked is there a down side with putting those three parking spaces at the other end.

Dwayne explained that this is the entry way onto and we do not want to narrow it to much because that is how we gain access to the Mill Field. The plan will still give us sixteen parking spaces in addition to the twelve parking spaces along the curb on the mill side and we have doubled our parking spaces by doing that road project.

C. Fiscal Year 2010: Ratio and Declaration Application, County Tax Certification

Dwayne explained to the Board that every year sign a Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application stating what we say is our Certified Ratio. The State last year certified the Town at 92% and we are allowed to go within 10% of that. The Town Assessor is suggesting 100% Certified Ratio. The Town needs to report Homestead Exemptions because we get reimbursed for that Homestead Exemption.

The State has certified the Town at 97% of market value with a quality rating of 6. This will actually drop our State Valuation for next year by approximately \$19.5 million.

Selectman Danforth moved to accept Craig's recommendation of a 100% for the Certified Ratio for FY2010, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

The York County Commissioners for the County of York have assessed the Town of North Berwick for County Tax for the up coming year for the sum of Two Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Three Cents (\$297,159.03)

The Board of Selectmen will sign the Assessors Return saying that we have received their commitment and that we owe them \$297,159.03 prior to the First Day of September, 2009.

Taxes not paid by the Thirty-First of October, 2009 will be considered delinquent and will be assessed interest at the rate of 9% compounded annually.

Selectman Danforth moved to make our payment to the County for our budget commitment of \$297,159.03 and we make that according to Dwayne's scheduled payments, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

6. Other Business:

SAD 60 will hold their Budget Hearing on May 7th and their Budget Election on May 14th and the Board of Selectmen need to sign the school returns for their Warrant and Notice of Election.

The Board of Selectmen will appoint two Ballot Clerks.

Selectman Bourbon moved to sign the School District Warrant as presented, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Voter, 4-0

Selectman Bourbon moved to appoint Louise Coffin and Sharon Litvinchyk as Ballot Clerks, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Chairman Folsom was given a letter to show the Board of Selectmen by the new Chairman of the Friends Library to show what they are doing and the courses that they are going to have.

Dwayne explained that two meetings ago the Board voted to allow Mike Ryan to redeem his property. He has come in to pay his property taxes and all the fees associated with it and the Board needs to sign a release deed giving the property back to Mr. Ryan.

The Board of Selectmen sent thank you letters to Cockpit Café and Carpe Diem Coffee Roasting Company for their work they did for the Town Meeting Breakfast.

Dwayne explained that two meetings ago the Board voted to accept the new General Assistance appendices B Ordinance. The Board resigned the new General Assistance appendices B Ordinance.

Selectman Bourbon asked if at some point if we could have a discussion and do some research on the people that are getting along in years. The people that are 65 years old and older had have been in the community for 10, 15 and 20 years that have significantly given to the community and want to remain on their property. Is there any way we can cap them out at a tax rate.

Dwayne will do research on capping property tax for seniors.

Selectman Bourbon spoke that I would be looking at them not having to work at 65 years old. I was told a long time ago that you can really tells a lot about a community and it talks about how you take care of your children and how you take care of your elders. I think we need to give that some consideration.

Selectman MacDougall spoke that it has been many years since I was in Augusta but there were always Legislation to try to mediate for seniors. It is a simple but it isn't that simple to do as I recall.

Dwayne spoke that I know that when ever legislation talks about it, it comes down to what they consider fair and natural taxation. They look at it on yearly bases not just on a life time bases.

Selectman Bourbon spoke that you are talking about you're marking a certain percentage of unappropriated surplus and could that be a way that; you take X% and equitably divide it out amongst those folks that are 65 years and older and fit a criteria and have been a part of the community for X amount of years to be determined. I think we owe them something. I hate to see them continue to struggle and worry about that tax bill, they have enough to worry about.

Selectman Danforth spoke I think that is a great idea.

Dwayne will perform some research and see what is available and we can get Mark Eves involved.

Dwayne informed the Board that he received a letter from a citizen inquiring about the Police Department and its cost. Dwayne responded with a letter outlining the Police budget, some of the things we have done in the past, what our Police Department actually does.

The County Manager wrote a letter asking if the Board would like to have our County Commissioner come meet with them.

Chairman Folsom spoke that the County Commissioner is probable busy so we can adjust our agenda to his time table and we will go from there.

Dwayne provided the Board with a packet on the results from the town meeting.

7. Executive Session – 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) Personnel

Selectman MacDougall moved to go into Executive Session - 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) Personnel at 8:26 p.m. to 9:03 p.m., Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

8. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant: April 14, 2009 - \$12,716.13

Warrant: April 21, 2009 - \$449,628.05

Selectman MacDougall moved to accept the Warrants of April 14, 2009 for \$12,716.13 and April 21, 2009 for \$449,628.05, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

9. Adjournment:

Selectman MacDougall moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m., Selectman Danforth seconded a motion.
Vote, 5-0

Respectively Submitted:
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Jay MacDougall