

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: April 15, 2008

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES APRIL 15, 2008

Present: Vice Chairman Danforth, Selectman Whitten, Selectman Bourbon Selectman Folsom and Selectman Drew.

Also Present: Nancy Moulton, James Moulton, Pat McLaughlin, Reggie Toussaint Jr., Ryan McCabe, Barry M. Stevens, Paul Andrade and Kerry Briggs.

Vice Chairman Danforth opened the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome New Selectman-Gregg Drew

3. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Selectman Whitten moved to elect Paul Danforth as Chairman, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Selectman Bourbon motioned to cease nominations, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0 Vote to elect Paul Danforth as Chairman, Vote, 5-0

Selectman Danforth moved to nominate Anne Whitten as Vice Chairman, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

4. Review and Approve Minutes of April 1, 2008

Selectman Whitten moved to accept the Minutes of April 1, 2008 as amended, Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. Vote, 4-0-1

5. Public Input:

Pat McLaughlin, Reggie Toussaint Jr. and Barry M. Stevens addressed to the Board of Selectmen their concerns and suggestions for the Public Appreciation Party that was voted in at Town Meeting

Pat McLaughlin was distraught about the passing of the warrant article, he stated that he wanted to make it very clear that his concerns have no reflection on the appreciation on the job that the people of this town do.

He stated that he does not believe that fiscal responsibility was exercised by the warrant of \$5000.00 to throw a party. He also stated that he believes that anyone who had anything to do with the party being suggested, or anyone one who voted to it's conclusion is neglectful in their approach to how they handle the towns money. He believes there are other places that we could spend the money. He would like to see that the people who lead this town, would be looking to try to cut taxes, and not raise taxes. He believes that is the job of the selectmen and how they should approach it. That is what he expects from the selectmen. He believes that a 10% cut in taxes is realistic and that money could buy a lot of gas and groceries and people would appreciate that behavior.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the money has to be spent. Chairman Danforth stated that was the wishes of the towns' people during the vote, if we can reasonably organize it, it will take place. Mr. McLaughlin asked again if it has to be spent. Chairman Danforth stated that the money raised is a maximum and the full amount does not have to be spent.

Selectman Bourbon stated that the Board did not take a vote on this article, deciding to leave it up to the voters of the town. That there are a lot of people in this town that we ask a lot of and the Board put this up for a vote for a nice gathering and to recognize those people for \$5000.00 or less. He thinks this is the minimum this community could do.

Nancy Moulton stated that she was the one who brought this up to the board for consideration. She was not sure how it would have been received, but believed that the volunteers of this community are essential and it is essential to recognize them.

Selectman Drew stated that when the article was brought before the budget committee there was much discussion and the budget committee agreed to bring it to the discretion of the voters. Of the 85 or so people at the Town Budget Meeting, it was an overwhelming favorable vote.

Selectman Whitten stated that she read Mr. McLaughlin's article in the newspaper and wanted to tell Mr. McLaughlin that it is for volunteers, not for the town employees. Mr. McLaughlin disagreed and stated that Dwayne informed him it was for 300 employees, volunteers and their spouses, or significant other. Selectman Bourbon read the article and it stated, "To see what sum the town will vote to raise in or appropriate for Committee Appreciation."

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he believes that if you polled any volunteer that they would say they volunteer for the many reasons, and don't expect anything and believes that a Thank You note,

or a certificate is a nice way to show your appreciation. Why spend five grand on that when it could go to the health and welfare, or the general assistance fund, and help some people out who are struggling.

Mr. McLaughlin believes it is wrong for the Selectman to promote this type of behavior. He thinks the Board should consider pursuing this with the recipients of this party to see if they agree.

Selectman Bourbon asked why is this article different then any other article? If it is voted up or down, then you live with it. A new truck was voted down a few years ago.

Selectman Whitten stated that this is a town of over 4700 people, \$5000.00 was raised, that is a little over \$1.00 a person. Our fire department, rescue, budget committee, planning board, ZBA, they are all people who volunteer. She stated that she volunteers for the town and does not expect the town to buy her dinner, but she also believes that if the towns people voted to offer this she doesn't think the town has a right to say no we are not going to do this. It is \$1.00 for all the hours, for all the volunteers. Selectman Whitten asked Mr. McLaughlin how many hours he has volunteered. He said he has put in many hours and not to question his volunteerism. He said that it is irrelevant and it shouldn't count the children who go to bed hungry, the senior citizens who can't pay their oil, can't pay their rent. He does not believe they would want their dollar spent that way.

Reggie Toussaint Jr. stated that he had questions too. He asked if this thing includes town employees? The Board answered Town Committees. He stated then there will be no employees involved here? The Board answered, that's correct. Selectman Whitten stated that if an employee volunteers their time they would be asked.

Mr. Toussaint asked where and when this is supposed to happen and the Board replied that it has not been determined yet. Approximately how many people? Selectman Whitten replied that the Board sends out between 150-175 thank you cards to volunteers. Mr. Toussaint asked why not show your appreciation with a certificate and a BBQ right out here in the parking lot? The Board said that could be a possibility.

Mr. Toussaint spoke of his issues with past town meetings and how he has been laughed out of the meeting from others who just wanted to pass something. Chairman Danforth stated that that was not right. If you want to be a part of the vote you need to be at the town meeting.

Mr. Drew stated that he has been on the budget committee for three years and has not seen but one person at the meetings to discuss the budget. Mr. Toussaint said that he did not hear of this matter until after the fact. Selectmen Drew stated that the Board advertises wherever it can.

Selectman Bourbon explained that the Board does what it can to be sure the public has a chance to speak on these matters at budget hearings. That budget books are sent out well before the town meeting. We advertise to let you know what is coming down the pike, if there is anything on the warrant that you want to speak about then there is the opportunity to come to town meeting.

Selectman Bourbon told the speakers that what they are saying will not fall on deaf ears and as we prepare for this party we will take your thoughts into consideration.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the Board knows of any clean up the town has plans for to clean up the streets and the general condition of the town. Cleaning up the garbage on the sides of the streets.

Selectman Whitten stated that the town has Earth Day in April each year. Mr. McLaughlin stated that it did not happen last year. Selectman Whitten said it was because no one stepped up to volunteer.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he asked Dwayne to contact Sanford's town manager for clarification on a day that any town employee, any school teacher, any groups of students, can volunteer to pick up the streets. The town crew then can go out and pick up the bags. But, they have an appreciation day. That's how they use their money. They have an appreciation day and they sponsor a dinner or they sponsor a cookout and everybody gets to go out to the cookout who donated their time. They still get their pay for working their normal job and everything else, but they went over and above and the town shows their appreciation to these volunteers with a cookout. But they get something back for it. And quite frankly a lot of pride is involved, pride in the town, pride in volunteering. It is quite something to see. Mr. McLaughlin thinks this is a good idea and would like the Board have Dwayne pursue this. Because Dwayne told Mr. McLaughlin Monday that anything the Board tells him to do, he does. So please tell him to do that.

Selectman Drew explained that for 3 years he volunteered to pick up trash, and that is was always the same people who volunteered and that when those people are not volunteering any more, there is no one taking over to volunteer. Mr. McLaughlin stated that if someone organizes this he will be there.

6. Unfinished Business:

A. Town Meeting FY09: Minutes and Spreadsheet of Results

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Town Meeting Results of North Berwick, Maine of April 5, 2008-County of York-State of Maine.

B. County Budget: County Budget

The County will hold a Public Hearing on April 23rd, 2008 at the County Jail at 7:00 p.m.

The County Budget increased by 2.7 percent. The Municipalities increased by 4.18 percent.

The North Berwick share will increase by \$11,641.50 over last year.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting-May 6, 2008-6:30 p.m. Municipal Building
Public Hearing-Caleb Foundation Update on May 6, 2008-6:35 p.m.

7. New Business:

A. MSAD60: Superintendent Andrade Presentation of MSAD60 Budget

Superintendent Paul Andrade presented to the North Berwick Board of Selectmen the MSAD #60 Annual Reports for FY'09. (7/1/08 to 6/30/09)

District Budget Meeting: May 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. – Noble High School, 388 Somersworth Road, North Berwick, Me.

District Budget Validation Referendum – Vote: May 13, 2008

Berwick: Berwick Town Hall: Polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Lebanon: Lebanon Elementary School: Polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

No. Berwick: No. Berwick Primary School: Polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Offices in each town.

The North Berwick Board of Selectmen signed the School Warrants.

Selectman Folsom moved to approve the Warrant for the Budget for SAD#60 2008/2009, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion, Vote, 5-0

Selectman Folsom moved to accept Warrant and Notice of Election Calling Maine School Administrative District No, 60 Budget Validation Referendum (20-A M.R.S.A Section 1305-B), Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Superintendent Paul Andrade met with their attorney on the Warrants and the attorney informed him that that the Town Clerks of our District are the best Town Clerks in the State.

B. Parks and Rec: Application for Commission

The Board of Selectmen asked that Lincoln Harrison come in on the May 6, 2008 for the position as a committee member on the Lands Parks and Recreation Commission.

8. Other Business:

9. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant: April 8, 2008 - \$8,264.17

Warrant: April 15, 2008 - \$484,822.66

Selectman Whitten moved to accept the Warrants of April 8, 2008 for \$8,264.17 and April 15, 2008 for \$484,822.66, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

10. Adjournment:

Selectman Whitten moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., Selectman Drew seconded a motion.
Vote, 5-0

Respectively Submitted:
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Vice Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anne Whitten

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew