

**North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: December 2, 2008**

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 2008**

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

**Also Present:** Robert Cole Jr., Dianna Cole, Jason Claffey, (Fosters) Paul Johnson, Jennifer Carson, Lorrinda Hilton, Roland Jacques, Dick Wood, Del Wood, Linda Amerman, Katie Jacques, Janet Belmain, Dick Belmain, Timothy Kezar, Beth Moore, Susan Linscott, Helga Rollins, Madeline Blaisdell, Lincoln Harrison and Dwayne Morin.

Vice Chairman Whitten opened the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Danforth arrived at 6:40 p.m.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Review and Approve Minutes of November 18, 2008**

Selectman Folsom moved to accept the Minutes as presented for November 18, 2008 as amended, Selectman Bourbon seconded the motion. Vote, 5-0

**3. Public Input:** No Public Input

#### **4. Unfinished Business:**

##### **A. Maine Labor:** Inspection of Transfer Station

Dwayne explained that we have yet to receive our letter from the Maine Labor.

The Town has addressed concerns that Maine Labor had with the Transfer Station. Richard Anderson will be trained on December 8, 2008 to operation a fork lift. The OSHA Safety Training will allow Mr. Anderson to train other employees to operate the fork lift.

Richard Anderson will also complete a PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) Assessment Training. This training is geared towards the employee's personal safety and protection; such as wearing goggles, safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, head gear and steel toe boots.

The Transfer Station Employee Safety Handbook has been completed and distributed to employees.

The Town Manager needs to trim \$7,500.00 out of the budget.

##### **B. Personnel Policy Change:** Day after Christmas and New Years

Selectman Drew moved to accept the new proposal for the Holiday Schedule draft as written, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Richard Anderson suggested the Transfer Station stay open due to the high demand on the following Saturday.

Selectman Bourbon commented that the Transfer Station employees have the same option as the other employees of the Town; if they need and want the time.

Dwayne will let the Board know what the Transfer Station wants regarding the Holiday schedule.

##### **C. Transfer Station:** Fees, Recycling Rates

Waste Management will be honoring the Recycling Contract for North Berwick.

Waste Management will start negotiation a new contract in January, 2009.

##### **D. Roads:** Road Cost for Construction Season

Dwayne explained to the Board the Direct Road Cost Summary. The remaining budget balance of \$27,520.51 will be used to do the cul-de-sac on Sidhall Drive.

In the spring the road plans are to finish the surface coat on Beech Ridge Road and Linscott Road. Canal Street will be constructed with the proposed scaled down scope. On Nowell Street a catch basin will be added and the street will be shimmed and paved.

**Reminders:** Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting-December 16, 2008-6:30 p.m. Municipal Building  
December 16, 2008-Public Hearing-Junkyards

## **5. New Business:**

### **A. Craft Fair: (moved)** Presentation by Craft Fair Committee

Dwayne introduced Katie Jacques, Lorrinda Hilton, Janet Belmain and explained that these three ladies had an idea to put a craft fair together in conjunction with our tree lighting festival, to raise money for the fuel assistance program and food pantry. Katie Jacques, Lorrinda Hilton, Janet Belmain presented the Board of Selectmen with a check for \$4,843.00. Pastor Paul Johnson stated that the four churches in North Berwick contributed \$5,000.00, matching what the fair had raised for the fuel assistance program and the food pantry.

Katie Jacques spoke that she and numerous volunteers from North Berwick came together with their arts and craft ideas. They put together over 50 tables to raise money for the fuel assistance program and the food pantry. There were also many businesses in North Berwick that contributed to the fuel assistance program and the food pantry.

The Food Pantry and the Fuel Assistance program received donations of \$9,843.00.

### **B. Comprehensive Plan:** Consistency Review from State

Dwayne explained to the Board that the Town received a letter from SPO with a very favorable review on the Comprehensive Plan. There were no changes to the Comprehensive plan, they did make some suggestions. The Comprehensive Plan meets State rules and regulations.

Public Hearing - January 20, 2008 – Comprehensive Plan Approval

### **C. Assessing:** Memo from Assessing Agent on Lower Homes Values

The Board of Selectmen received a Memo from the Assessing Agent regarding lower home values verses tax relief.

If local real estate values drop dramatically in the coming months, the impact would likely be shared across all property within the town. A resident who perceives or possesses information indicating that their actual value is less than the town's taxable value who may be seeking relief should understand that little would be accomplished by lowering property values in North Berwick.

Adjustments to assessments would not likely result in tax savings because the tax rate is based on the total tax dollar to be raised divided by the total value of the town. For the current tax year the total taxable value was \$578,658,414.00. The total amount to be raised from taxes was \$6,307,376.71. The tax rate was calculated as follows:

$$578,658,414 \div \$6,307,376.71 = .0109 \quad (\$10.90 \text{ per thousand})$$

An example of the impact on a property owner before and after the adjustment would be as follows:

Current Value:  $\$400000 \times .01090 = \$4,360.00$

Adjusted Value  $\$360.000 \times .012111 = \$4,359.96$

If actual sales of property indicates a sizable drop in value, property owners may struggle with the reality of taxable value being higher than their estimated market value yet, as seen in the illustrations above, a reduction of assessed values would not change the amount of taxes paid by individual property owners.

#### **D. William Hill Firefighters Association: Bingo Approval Letter for 2009**

Selectman Whitten moved to approve the Bingo operations of the William Hill Firefighters Association, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

#### **E. Stimulus Grant: Discuss Possible Projects**

Dwayne discussed that President Elect Obama has stated that he is going to put together an economic stimulus package once he gets into office. And part of that economic stimulus project is going to be grant money to local governments and of what kind of projects do you have available to spur on jobs within America.

Dwayne discussed with the Board projects list for the economics stimulus in North Berwick.

Dwayne has contacted the Sanitary District and the Water District for a list of projects that would be needed in these Departments. Dwayne has received a list from the Water District.

Dwayne has put together an economics stimulus project list for the Board to review; Library Expansion project, full Canal Street project, full Main Street project, Governor Goodwin Road.

Selectman Folsom suggested the Substation on Morrells Mill Road for the economics stimulus project list.

Dwayne asked the Board for project input that they would like to see completed in North Berwick and to get back to him by Friday.

**F. Rescue:** Appointment of Cathy Babcock as Auxiliary Member

Dwayne recommended to the Board to recommend Cathy Babcock as an Auxiliary Member of North Berwick Rescue.

Gregg Drew moved to accept Cathy Babcock as an Auxiliary Member of North Berwick Rescue, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Selectman Whitten moved to accept Paul Costello as the new Assistant Chief for Rescue Squad, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

**8. Other Business:**

Selectman Whitten will move forward with the Christmas Party for January 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

The State is trimming State Aid General Purpose Aid for Local Schools this year by 27 million dollars. The effect for MSAD#60 this coming year will be \$379,224.00.

Officer Dan Pelkey was elected Treasure of the 15<sup>th</sup> Basic Law Enforcement Training Program.

**9. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:**

Warrant: December 2, 2008 - \$13,053.75

Selectman Drew moved to accept the Warrants of December 2, 2008 for \$13,053.75, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

**10. Executive Session:** MRSA 405 6A – Personnel

Selectman Whitten moved to enter Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., to end Executive Session at 9:00 p.m., Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

**11. Adjournment:**

Selectman Whitten moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m., Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Respectively Submitted:

Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anne Whitten

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew