

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: December 4, 2007

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES DECEMBER 4, 2007

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

Absent: Chairman Moulton

Also Present: Kerry Briggs, John Andrews, Larry Cilley (ETMD, Executive Director), Dana Scott, Clark McDermith, Chris Mende, Todd Hoffman, Lincoln Harrison, Jason Claffe (Foster's) and Dwayne Morin.

Vice-Chairman Danforth opened the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 6:34 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of November 20, 2007

Selectman Whitten moved to accept the Minutes of November 20, 2007 as amended, Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. Vote, 4-0

3. Public Input:

4. Unfinished Business:

As a part of the minutes Dwayne asked the Board to sign the McLaren finding of fact issued.

A. Fire Department: Engine, #4

Chief Moore was unable to attend the meeting. Fire Department engine #4 frame rail is in need of repair. Dwayne and Chief Moore sent the truck to Dover Motor Mart for an estimate for the repairs. The estimate came in at \$606.00 per frame rail with the total cost to be \$1,012.00 to remove and install four sets of U-bolt and remove the rust from the frame rail.

The radiator cooling fins are falling out but the radiator needs to be replaced. The estimate to recore the radiator is \$1,200.00.

The estimated cost for Engine #4 is \$2,212.00.

Dwayne recommended that the Board approve the funding of the \$2,212.00 and the funds to come out of the Emergency Equipment Fund.

Selectman Bourbon made a motion to accept the estimate of \$2,212.00 to repair engine #4. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. Vote 4-0

B. Capital Improvement Plan: Draft 2008 Five and Ten Year Plan

Dwayne wanted the Board to know that he will readjust back to the original Capital Improvement Plan because of the frame rail was not as serious as originally thought and we will not need to replace the truck until the original replacement date of 2013.

C. Canal Street: (moved) Review Engineering

Dwayne brought before the Board a Letter of Intent to Apply for the Canal Street Project. The Engineers are finished with the estimate to construct Canal Street at approximately \$210,000.00. With the State's Grant Program the town needs to submit 25% cash match. The Caleb Foundation is writing a letter to the State stating that they are in support of the project and stating that they have their \$8.3 million dollars.

Dwayne read the 2008 CDBG Public Facilities Letter of Intent to Apply Application for the State Grant Program and the Board signed and voted on the letter.

Selectman Folsom moved to approve the application and signing of the letter, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

D. Fiscal Year 09: Discuss Budget Items

Dwayne contacted Holophane and found that the original lamps that were at the corner of Lower Main and Market Street were invented and manufactured by that company. They no longer manufacture the original lamps because they couldn't get them not to leak. The globes have the same configuration except for the globes are pointed upward.

Before Holophane priced out the job they asked to see if the Board would approve the lamps. The Board agreed to have Dwayne provide the Board with the cost of the lamp.

Dwayne will ask Hussey if they can repair the light post by stripping and painting it.

E. Municipal Building: Awning Complete

The Municipal Building Awning has been primed but because of the cold weather setting in the finish coats will have to wait for warmer weather.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting-Dec. 18, 2007-6:30 pm Municipal Building
Pratt Meeting – December 10, 2007-Noon Pratt
Regional Efficiency Meeting- December 12, 2007-6:30 pm-So. Berwick

5. New Business:

A. Eastern Trail: Discussion with Eastern Trail Representatives and Supporters

John Andrews and Larry Cilley, Exec. Director from ETMD came in to give the Board a presentation of the Eastern Trail and what it is trying to do. Clark McDermith presented the Board with a list of business owners who signed a paper stating that they would like to see the Town be reinstated into the District Management and be brought to the Annual Town Meeting.

John Andrews told the Board what ETMD has done over the years. They has crossed the Scarborough Marsh, made a mile of trail along the None Such River, that Portland, using their own money, has finished the Greenbelt trail in South Portland.

John stated that Saco put a half million-dollar trail bond on its ballot and it was voted in by 64% of the voters. This trail will join the eastern greenbelt if funds are raised.

John also stated that the Turnpike Authority has told him that they have put into their long-range budget funds to make a bridge to cross the turnpike.

Congressman Tom Allen was able to get them a million dollar earmark fund for construction to connect Southern Maine Medical Center with West Kennebunk, to be completed in 2010.

Larry Cilley, the new Exec. Director from ETMD since last March gave the Board a presentation on what the Eastern Trail is, what it has accomplished, what they hope to accomplish, what they need to do that with and what they are asking the town to do to be part and why they should.

Larry continued to say the Eastern Trail ideally lays on what use to be the old railroad bed for the Eastern Railroad that traveled from Portland to Boston. The corridor now has a natural gas pipeline.

The vision of the trail was to be off the main roads and on back roads, but not totally because it is good to go through towns and residential areas.

The vision for trails is good for a greener Maine, good for exercise.

A portion of the money Congressman Allen found for the trail is earmarked to a crossing over the Saco River, in Kittery on the Dennett Road, and to build the approaches to the turnpike bridges. For 2009 the ETMD is looking for 5 million dollars to make these projects a reality.

It is the hope of ETMD to find corporations to fund some of the cost of the Eastern Trail. Until then it is the towns that put in \$5000.00 a year that are funding the project.

Dwayne stated that the Town has been out of the district since 2003 and the by-laws, which he helped to write, stated that if a town failed to raise their funding and would need to get out, if the town wanted to get back in then the dues owed to the district, which would be \$30,000.00 to the Town of North Berwick, would have to be paid back. Larry Cilley stated that that has changed. The district had to grant forgiveness if they ever were to pull towns back. The town could come back in for \$5000.00 and have a seat on the district board to make plans and decisions.

Selectman Folsom mentioned that the trail does not go through North Berwick. John Andrews answered that the Board of North Berwick, a few years back, changed the route to go down Knights Pond Road. If the trail were to follow the gas line then a bridge would need to be built over the Great Works River.

Selectman Bourbon asked if Eastern Trail had a chance to go under the road instead of building a bridge. And that Eastern Trail had decided to build the bridge instead of going under it. After some discussion it was decided that the issue of a tunnel was for the turnpike bridge. Selectman Bourbon asked if those types of crossings already exist he questions the expense of doing overpasses. John Andrews stated that he didn't believe families would travel under roads using tunnels.

Selectman Whitten stated when the town first was in the district she was the one who sat on the District Board. She went to every meeting except for the first five because the district did not inform her of their meetings. When she finally did get to a meeting a lot of things had already been settled and decided. Steve Workman was the Executive Director at the time. Selectman Whitten had asked several times for a financial report, wanting to know where the town's money was going. She never received a financial report from Steve Workman and was told she would get what everyone else gets. Selectman Whitten stated that she has never received a financial report.

Selectman Whitten stated tonight that if she did not receive financial reports, from the beginning of the project to today, from Eastern Trail that she would not support this project for Town Meeting. John Andrews stated that he could not understand Steve Workman's paper trail. They now have an accountant but they are not sure if he could give her a report from the beginning. She stated that if she asked Dwayne for a report he could go back years, and occasionally does.

Larry Cilley at this time stated that he would give to Selectman Whitten a financial report, but could not promise how far back he could go, but not sure if it exists.

Selectman Whitten asked about the natural gas line and if, after all these years, does the trail have permission to use it yet?

After much discussion it was found that the trail, after threatening to take political action against the gas company, that they decided to open the doors to conversation. They now have good relations and have agreed in concept to allow the air rights to go over their land at the turnpike. Selectman Whitten said that when she was on the District Board that they had permission to the Scarborough Marsh. She asked if they had permission to use any land south of that. John Andrews never answered her question. If the district does not receive permission to use the pipeline then all the trails will remain on the road. John Andrews stated that this was correct. He is in hopes to have political figures put pressure on the gas companies at the highest levels. Larry Cilley added that they would threaten them with political action.

Selectman Whitten asked what they would do about the town's sanitary system that is on the gas line. The road is gated and is locked everyday at 4 PM because there is 3 million gallons of raw sewage sitting there at the lagoons where this line goes by. EMTD gave suggestions as to how to keep travelers away from the lagoon but never answered how to arrange the trail.

Larry Cilley will send Dwayne a letter summing up the meeting and requesting that their request be put on the ballot.

Chris Mende asked that the town look into this dispersed trail. He stated that the town spends a lot of money on recreation that he doesn't use. He doesn't play ball, sports, his kids don't play sports either but they do ride bikes, cross-country skies, and hike.

Dwayne mentioned that the Town Meeting decided not to spend the money, not this Board.

Kerry Briggs stated as a citizen we should stand up to the plate to support recreation of a trail that will go from Kittery to Portland. We have spent a lot of money on recreation and he believes we should support this recreational activity. He believes that the transparency of the finances is important.

Selectman Whitten stated that the gas line is a big part of this plan and the gas line is at the same place it was when we left in 2003, she wants to be sure some of that is going to move, or what the safety of riding on RT 9 is. There has to be a balance there.

B. Rescue Building: Damage to Files and Records due to Flooding

Dwayne discussed with the Board that the basement of the Rescue Building had flooded and some of the Town's records were ruined.

The town lost a significant amount of files. The files that were lost were computer generated so the town can regenerate those files if needed. The town did loose some important files.

C. Maine Power Reliability Program: Update and Discussion

Dwayne explained to the Board that the Central Maine Power (CMP) is planning now to ensure that the State's electrical power system can continue to reliably deliver electricity to Maine businesses and homes in the future. CMP is working with ISO New England, the operator of New England's transmission grid, to study the system and to identify its critical needs. The study and all its related components is an initiative that CMP has named the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP).

Dwayne presented a slide show of the Maine Reliability Program.

D. South Berwick: Proposed Road Name Change

Dwayne discussed with the Board that North Berwick has been notified that South Berwick will be holding a Public Hearing on a proposed road name change to the Knight's Pond Road.

The Board of Selectmen asked if there is a reason why South Berwick is changing names of roads.

Dwayne will contact South Berwick and provide the Board with an answer as to why South Berwick is changing their road names.

E. Surplus Equipment: Bid Results

Dwayne discussed with the Board that the town received four bids for the Ford F-350 Surplus Equipment Sale.

Dwayne recommended to the Board that the bid be awarded to Southern Maine Equipment Sale for \$7,750.00.

Selectman Whitten moved to accept the bid from Southern Maine Equipment Sale for \$7,750.00, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

F. Transfer Station: State of Maine request for participation in Grant Proposal

The State contacted Dwayne and asked that the Town of North Berwick be part of a Grant Project.

There will be no cost to the town. The town will be dedicated to provide training to the town staff. It will be for Construction Demolition and Debris Management after storms.

Dwayne asked the Board that he move forward with the State of Maine Solid Waste Management Program.

Selectman Whitten moved to approve that Dwayne moves forward with the State of Maine Solid Waste Management Program, Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

G. William Hill Association: Bingo Approval

The William Hill Association would like to have a license signed to run Bingo through the end of this year and a blanket letter to run Bingo all of next year at the Community Center.

Selectman Bourbon moved to extend the Bingo approval for the William Hill Association through the end of December 2007, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Selectman Bourbon moved to issue a Blanket Permit to the William Hill Association to allow them to have Bingo through the 2008 year, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

6. Other Business:

Dwayne received a letter from York County Communications trying to get towns back into communications.

Dwayne discussed with the Board that on December 13, 2007 the Planning Board will be voting on changes to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant: November 27, 2007 - \$9,773.44

Warrant: December 4, 2007 - \$53,111.04

Selectman Whitten moved to accept the Warrant for November 27, 2007, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Selectman Bourbon moved to accept the Warrant for December 4, 2007, Selectman Whitten seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Folsom moved to adjourn at 9:18 pm, Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion.
Vote, 4-0

Respectively Submitted:
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Nancy Moulton

Vice-Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anne Whitten

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Elaine Folsom