

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes January 19, 2021

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021**

Present: Chairman Cowan, Selectman Hall, Selectman Johnson, Sr.,
Selectman Johnson, Jr.

Absent: Selectman Galemmo

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of January 5, 2021

Chairman Cowan stated that on page 2, the 1st sentence in the 2nd paragraph under the section Water District Trustees currently reads, "...for the amount of \$1 million.". It should read, "...for the amount of \$1 million for an additional water tower.". Also on page 3, the 4th sentence in the 1st paragraph currently reads, "...owe this money because of the main replacement that they did this summer.". It should read, "...owe this money because of the water main replacement that they did this summer.".

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned to approve the minutes of January 5, 2021 as amended. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

3. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. COVID-19: Updates, Town Hall Entrance Canopy

Dwayne Morin stated they had a little scare a couple of weeks ago. One of our Police Officers tested positive. They tested the whole Police Department and luckily nobody else tested positive. The Officer is still in quarantine and has had mild symptoms. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked if the protocol to come back to work was 10 days and a negative test. Dwayne stated that it was 5 days and a negative test.

Dwayne stated that he met with the manufacturer of the canopy today and he will start working on it soon.

B. Linscott Road Intersection: Discussion on Progress

Dwayne stated that the Weaver's are now in the house. They should be turning the old house over to us by the end of the month. If the weather holds out, they will take the old house down now. If not, it will be done in the spring. He did state that once they take it over, they will go in and turn water off and shut the power off.

C. Budget FY22: Discussion on FY22 Budget Submissions

Dwayne stated that he has been working on the budget and he is at about a 3.76% decrease from last year's budget. If everything holds true, the budget will result in a \$0 tax increase. There is some increase in operational budgets, but we are offsetting that with less capital. Dwayne stated that this includes a 3% increase in wages. He stated that the biggest thing is the decrease in our capital. Our capital last year was \$998,000. This year, we are looking at about \$598,000. We are not buying a few things like a Police Car.

Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked if we were still saving for things like the Fire Station. Dwayne said that they are still putting money aside for the Fire Station. He said that he just received the numbers this week. He said that the estimate was \$4.4 million. He said that they are probably going to hold off on the Fire Station for a little bit. Dwayne said that he asked how much it was going to cost to do the engineering so they put together a bid package. He said the engineer's cost would be almost \$300,000. We only have \$180,000 in the bank. He stated that we are going to have to hold off on the engineering as well. He said that architects have changed the way they do business. We used to hire an architect and they would draw up the plans. Now they estimate the cost of the project and pay them 8% of the estimated cost. He stated that most architects charge 10% but our architects will charge 8% because it is for a municipality project.

Dwayne stated that the goal for the auditors to come in is at the 2nd meeting in February. Everything has been pushed back because of COVID.

Dwayne said that they received an estimate for the Transfer Station paving which was high. It came in at about 4 times what he thought it would cost. He stated that the area is starting to heave pretty badly so they cannot just pave over it. They are going to have to dig everything out and repave it. The plan is to do it in a 3-year period at a cost of about \$40,000 for the next 3 years. They will do the worst part this year which is where everybody drives. The following year they will do the paving on the hill and then do the entrance paving on the 3rd year. He had Libby Scott give him an estimate and it will be about \$45,000 the first year, \$45,000 the second year and \$35,000 the third year. Selectman Hall asked if they will have to shut the Transfer Station down while working on the paving. Dwayne said that they would not. He stated that people may be driving on dirt for a couple of weeks. He said that they are closed on Mondays and open late on Tuesdays so they should be able to get a lot of digging and grading done. They will do it so it is still workable for people to use. Selectman Hall asked if the 1st phase will be this year and Dwayne said that it will be.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – February 2, 2021 – 6:30 pm

5. New Business:

A. ZBA: Reappointment of Norm Clough to Board

Dwayne stated that he did hear back from Norm Clough and he does want to stay on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Selectman Hall motioned to appoint Norm Clough to the Zoning Board of Appeals with his term expiring on 12/30/2023. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

B. Liquor License: Review Liquor License for Johnson's Seafood and Steak

Dwayne stated that the Board needs to review a Liquor License for Johnson's Seafood and Steak. He said that he sees no reason to grant them a Liquor License. They have not done anything that would prevent them from getting one. There have been no issues.

Selectman Johnson Hall motioned to approve the Liquor License for Johnson's Seafood and Steak. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

C. Sanitary District: Review Request from Trustees to Increase Compensation

Dwayne stated that there is a clause within the Sanitary District Charter that allows the Board of Selectmen to determine how much the Sanitary District gets paid. It states that the rate of pay for the Sanitary District Trustees and the Treasurer are established by the Board of Selectmen. The last time that they did an increase was 10 years ago. They went from \$50 per meeting for the Trustees and \$82.50 for the Treasurer. They have done a study of the area and found that the costs for Trustees are about \$100 and \$125 for the Treasurer. The Sanitary District would like to increase their rates from \$50 to \$75 for the Trustees and from \$82.50 to \$107.50 for the Treasurer. Selectman Hall asked how often the Trustees meet. Dwayne said that it was once a month.

Selectman Hall motioned to increase the stipends for the North Berwick Sanitary District from \$50 to \$75 for the Trustees and from \$82.50 to \$107.50 for the Treasurer. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion.

Chairman Cowan asked how their current rate matches up to against other areas. Dwayne said that they are on the low end. Selectman Hall asked how many Trustees there were. Dwayne said that there were 5 of them.

VOTE: 4-0

D. Tax Commitment FY21: Howarth Abatement

Dwayne stated that the Board has one Abatement to review tonight. It is for Rosanna Howarth at 48 Ford Quint Road. When we valued the property she provided a survey that showed that a lot size was in error. Craig is recommending an abated value of \$4,400 on her property value for a full abatement of \$52.36 for this year.

Selectman Hall motioned to approve Abatement #5 for Rosanna Howarth Account #266 for the amount of \$52.36 for FY 2021. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Dwayne stated that the Board also had to review a Supplemental Tax Warrant tonight. It is for Geoffrey Howe at 468 Turkey Street. He has removed some land from Tree Growth, so the Tree Growth Penalty is \$3,270.20.

Selectman Hall motioned to approve Supplemental Tax Certificate #2 for Account #1178 for the amount of \$3,270.20. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

6. Other Business:

Dwayne stated that they hired someone for Public Works. He starts next Monday.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked about when the Town Meeting will be held this year. Dwayne stated it would be in June. He said that the School is planning on holding their open Town Meeting the last week of May with a June 8th vote. This would also be the State Primary Day. Dwayne said that if we are not able to meet the 8th is what we would have to shoot for. If we are able to meet, he is looking at June 12th to have an open Town Meeting.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	January 12, 2021	- \$	0.00
Warrant:	January 19, 2021	- \$	865,166.37

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of January 19, 2021 for the amount of \$865,166.37. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Respectively Submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Charles Glemmo

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.