

# **NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**

## **AUGUST 2, 2022**

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

**Also Present:** Dwayne Morin, Jeannie Provencher

Chairman Galemmo opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2022**

The Minutes will be tabled until next meeting

### **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Jeannie Provencher inquired about the freezing of taxes for people 65 years and older and had several questions regarding same. Dwayne indicated that all information regarding the Property Tax Stabilization Program is located on the Town's website including the application. Dwayne stated he put it on the Town's website last Thursday and everything you need to know about the tax freeze is on there.

### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **A. COMMUNICATION TOWER: Update on Plans**

Dwayne stated that this was brought to the Planning Board last Thursday and the Public Hearing will be on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **B. ROAD PROJECTS: Update**

Dwayne indicated that there is nothing to report at this time other than they are starting to get the Madison Street project started.

**C. BERWICK RANGE: Updates on Communications with Berwick Town Manager**

Dwayne stated that he received an email from the Berwick Town Manager and it appears they had a good meeting with the President and Treasurer of the Range and they are discussing reducing the hours 2 to 3 days per week this year and next year they will possibly modify the hours for Sundays.

**Reminders: Next Board of Selectman's Meeting – August 16, 2022 – 6:30 pm**

**A. COMMITMENT FY23: Update on Assessments**

Dwayne stated nothing has changed on the numbers and Verna will continue to fine tune her assessments. He stated everything seems to be tracking 11.15 or 11.20 tax rate. Dwayne stated again that it is not as bad as he thought it would be but not as great as he would like it to be.

**B. POLICE: Request to Keep Replaced Cruiser as Detail Car**

Dwayne stated that the Police Chief would like to keep the cruiser that we were going to get rid of as a detail car and spare car. Dwayne indicated that there was an accident involving one of the cruisers a few weeks ago and given the new schedule and work details that we have, it would have been difficult without the additional cruiser. The Chief would like to take the extra car that we were going to get rid of and keep it as an unmarked detail car. Dwayne indicated it will only run when necessary and it is in very good condition.

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned that we keep the extra cruiser as a spare car. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

**C. MS CYCLING EVENT: Request to Use Parking Lot on August 6, 2022**

Dwayne stated that the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation run a cycling event through Southern Maine every year and North Berwick is part of their route. He said that historically they use the Bethel Christian Church parking lot for their water/refueling station but there is a wedding going on that day and the parking lot will be unavailable. Dwayne stated they would like to use the Town Office parking lot for their water/refueling station this year.

Selectman Cowan motioned that we give permission to the MS Foundation to use the Town Office parking lot for their cycling event on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

**D. VETERAN'S CEMETERY: POW-MIA Dedication Ceremony  
September 24 at 11:00 a.m.**

Dwayne stated that we had donated money to the POW-MIA Memorial a few years back and they are inviting us to the dedication ceremony on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Cemetery in Sanford.

**E. WILLIAM HILL FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION: Request for Blanket Bingo Letter**

Dwayne stated typically this request is done in the January/February timeframe but due to COVID, the Fire Department has not been running BINGO. He stated this year they will be running BINGO for the Millfield Festival in September and they will start up in January of 2023 with the regular BINGO games at the Community Center. They need permission to run BINGO within our community for the rest of this year.

Selectman Hall motioned that we approve the North Berwick William Hill Firefighter's Association to run BINGO for the rest of the year. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Property Tax Stabilization Program:** Dwayne stated that all the information on the Tax Stabilization Program is up on the website. He stated the Application is on there as well and is available to submit from August 8, 2022 through December 1, 2022. Dwayne indicated that the Town will have a significant paperwork load for our office staff. Dwayne stated he is a fan of the intent of the program but is not a fan of how it is structured. He would like to see as many seniors as possible to take advantage of this program. This will be for the 2024 tax year and they have to apply every year. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked if every year will require the same paperwork load and Dwayne confirmed that we will. Dwayne stated he is anticipating hundreds of applications due to the age of the community. Selectman Cowan inquired if a reminder could be sent out to seniors so they do not miss the December 1 deadline. Dwayne stated if he is able to put a reminder on the tax bill, he will. Otherwise, he stated it would be in the November newsletter.

**7. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Warrant: August 2, 2022 - \$ 103,211.12

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of August 2, 2022 for the amount of \$103,211.12. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**8. Adjournment:**

Selectman Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Respectively Submitted,  
Jennifer Berard, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.