

# **NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**

## **AUGUST 16, 2022**

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

**Absent:** Selectman Cowan

**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 AUGUST 2, 2022**

Selectman Hall motioned that the August 2, 2022 Minutes be accepted as written. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the Motion. VOTE: 4-0

### **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

N/A

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

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

Dwayne stated that there is nothing new to report on the Communications Tower. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for next Thursday.

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

Dwayne indicated that the next project is going to be Madison Street and that the hold up right now is actually the Sanitary District. He stated that they have three manholes that they need to deal with first.

Dwayne stated that there is a build date on the truck now. The original build date was October 13 and it is now December 16. They are anticipating the truck being in Westbrook the second week in January.

**C. BAUNEG BEG MOUNTAIN: Update on Project**

Dwayne stated that the grant was rejected at the federal level and they want more work done. The project was to buy the land and to build the trails but now before they will approve it, they want all the trails and all the parking lots completely engineered, designed and an environmental assessment done on the property. This is new this year and all the grants that had infrastructure as part of the grant has been rejected by the federal government. The Great Works Land Trust is in the process of going out to bid for those projects. Dwayne stated that there will be reimbursement for anything that is spent within three years after approved.

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

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. COMMITMENT FY23: Establish Tax Rate and Commit Taxes**

Dwayne stated the Board has the opportunity to select the tax rate from 10.90 to 11.40. Dwayne said his recommendation would be 11.20 and that is a 3% overlay. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how much difference that made in taxes from 11.15 to 11.20. Dwayne stated there would be a \$20.00 average difference. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked what the average home price is and Dwayne stated it was \$304,000.00. Dwayne stated that he has always tried to keep a 3% overlay. Chairman Galemмо stated that would mean that next year, there would be more to absorb any increases and Dwayne agreed.

Selectman Johnson motioned to set the tax rate to 11.20. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded that Motion. VOTE: 4-0

Chairman Galemмо opened it up to discussion.

Selectman Hall stated he personally would favor 11.15 due to the fact that it is a tough year for people. Dwayne stated that would leave a 2.63% overlay, which is doable, however the sole reason he is recommending 11.20 is to have a 3% overlay. Dwayne stated we still have a significant surplus within our budget. He is anticipating that we will add to that this year when the audit is done. They had a very good financial year last year in terms of revenue and they took in revenue that they did not anticipate and a lot of that was code enforcement. He indicated that they took in \$160,000.00 more than budgeted. Dwayne stated a lot of those funds were permit costs for solar farms and apartment complexes.

Selectman Hall asked what our current rate is and Dwayne stated it is 10.90. Dwayne indicated that the majority of tax increases would be between \$100.00 to \$250.00. Dwayne indicated that by adding the rescue department, it increased our mill rate by 30 cents.

Selectman Johnson amended the previous motion to now set the tax rate to 11.15 instead of 11.20. Selectman Hall seconded that Motion. VOTE: 4-0

**B. FIRE: Miscellaneous Equipment Purchase Request**

Dwayne stated that all of the equipment that was needed off one of the old firetruck has now been stripped. They are in the process of obtaining a loaner firetruck for the time being while our firetruck is being built. Some equipment that we are not going to keep such as two ladders that did not pass the fire test. There is a fireman that is interested in two of the ladders and they would like to know if they could buy them from the town without going out to bid. There is no price set at this time but any money received would go back into the Fire Department.

Selectman Hall motioned to allow the Fire Chief, at his discretion, to sell the miscellaneous fire equipment that has been taken off the old firetruck. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the Motion. VOTE: 4-0

Dwayne stated there are two vehicles that are going out to bid. He stated one was the old firetruck. He stated that it is a 1986 firetruck and they would most likely get salvage cost on that. Dwayne stated the other vehicle is an old police cruiser that has been sitting for over two years. He indicated he will put the paperwork together to start putting that out to bid and will have that completed for the next meeting.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

N/A

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

Warrant: August 9, 2022 - \$ 15,857.40

Warrant: August 16, 2022 - \$649,044.97

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of August 9, 2022 for the amount of \$15,857.40 and the Warrant of August 16, 2022 in the amount of \$649,044.97. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**8. Adjournment:**

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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.