

# **NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**

## **NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

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

**Also Present:** Dwayne Morin

Chairman Galemmo opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2022**

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of October 18, 2022, as written. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-1

**3. PUBLIC INPUT N/A**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. COMMUNICATION TOWER: Update on Project**

Dwayne indicated that we received the Communications Tower today. It will be put up in the Spring. It came from Texas and the driver arrived last night after traveling 1,900 miles to deliver it. All the legs are solid steel and not hollow tubes, and the entire tower is solid galvanized steel. Dwayne stated that the shed construction started today and the shed should arrive in about 6 to 8 weeks. The goal is going to be get it erected sometime in April or May.

**B. BUDGET FY24: Budget Considerations**

Dwayne indicated he is keeping budget considerations open on the agenda as a standing item through budget season for open discussion.

**Reminders: Next Board of Selectman's Meeting – November 15, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. PHONE SYSTEM: QUOTE FOR NEW SYSTEM**

Dwayne indicated that they have a quote for the new system and the quote is a little less than what he had originally anticipated. The quote is for \$28,376.00. He stated that he has sent this off to the insurance company and he should hopefully know tomorrow what portion of the system they will cover. He knows they will not cover it all but believes they will cover something. Dwayne stated that there were significant savings due to the fact that this building is wired with Cat 6 cable. Dwayne indicated that we have \$40,000.00 in our undesignated fund and we will use that money for the phone system. Dwayne feels the Board should at least vote to proceed with the project as we have the funds in the emergency fund to move forward with the project with any insurance money we receive offsetting that amount.

Selectman Hall motioned that \$28,376.00 be used from undesignated funds, less whatever we receive from insurance, for the new phone system. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 5-0

### **B. ELECTION: APPOINTMENT OF BALLOT CLERKS**

Dwayne stated that the Board will need to approve the ballot clerks for the November 8 election. Selectman Cowan inquired about ensuring the safety of the ballot clerks and wanted to make sure that there will be a police presence. Dwayne indicated there will definitely be a police officer at the polls and there is one there at every election. Normally it is the Chief. Dwayne indicated that safety briefings are held before every election. Selectman Hall asked if the school policy would be followed regarding no weapons on school property. Dwayne indicated there is a no weapon policy and that it is a state law.

Selectman Cowan motioned that we approve the ballot clerks which are Susan Caler, Joanne Foster, Linda Dutch, Stephanie Camire, Nancy Guptill, Patricia Herrick, Linda Pedersen, Daniel Baker, Shirley Patstone, Nancy Dennett, Brenda Gagne, Cheryl Hoffman, Charles Noble, Bret Little and Caleb Mende for the upcoming election. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 5-0

### **C. POLICE NEGOTIATIONS**

Dwayne indicated that our current contract expires on June 30, 2023 and they would like to start negotiations and they have provided two dates (November 29 and December 13) to meet. Selectman Hall indicated that November 29<sup>th</sup> would work for him. Chairman Galemme inquired as to where our police rank in the pay area compared to other towns. Dwayne indicated they are in the middle of the pay area at this time. Dwayne stated he will reach out to other towns in the area to get a copy of their police contracts before negotiations begin.

**D. LITTERING: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LETTERS**

Dwayne provided the Board with 15 letters from the North Berwick Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on the topic of littering. He indicated that the Board should send a response to these letters and Chairman Galemme stated he would write up a draft letter and send it to the Board members to look at. Selectman Hall inquired if we could have a local law enforcing someone from littering. Dwayne stated there is a state law but perhaps having a local law would help.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. Holiday Schedule**

Dwayne stated that before the Town switched over to a four-day week, if a holiday fell on a Saturday, then Friday was the day off and if a holiday fell on a Sunday, then Monday would be the day off. Under the new schedule, Veteran's Day falls on a Friday this year, and the question is if the town staff would take Thursday as their holiday day off. Dwayne stated we need to look at the schedule from a global perspective because going forward, there may be other holidays that presents this issue. Dwayne indicated that for the next five years, Christmas and New Years because they are going to be from Sunday through Thursday so this would not be a problem. Right now, Veteran's Day is the only issue that is presenting this issue. Dwayne indicated that the Board would need to agree to give the staff the Thursday before Veteran's Day off this year and then decide if we want to change the policy going forward.

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

Warrant:	October 25, 2022	- \$ 30,122.35
Warrant:	November 1, 2022	- \$100,659.57

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of October 25, 2022, for the amount of \$30,122.35 and the Warrant of November 1, 2022, for the amount of \$100,659.57. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

**9. Adjournment:**

Selectman Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Respectively Submitted,  
Jennifer Berard, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk  
Chairman: Charles Glemmo

Selectman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.