

NORTH BERWICK SELECT BOARD MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2023

Present: Chairperson Galemmo, Selectperson Johnson, Jr., Selectperson Cowan, Selectperson Johnson, Sr., Selectperson Hall

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Stephen Peasley, Cristina Brown, Derrick Brown, Ella Brown, Max Brown, Lucille Brown, Carter Brown, Ann Brown, Gary Brown, Don Menard, Michelle Menard

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2023

Selectperson Cowan motioned to approve the Minutes of June 6, 2023, as written. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

3. PUBLIC INPUT N/A

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. LEGISLATURE: Update on Legislation

Dwayne indicated that the legislature is quickly coming to an end as they are trying to be completed by the end of June. The Housing Bill actually passed by the legislature on the 16th. The best thing is that it gives us until July 1 of next year to pass the LD2003. It does change a few things from the LD2003, the most notable being that if someone built an ADU and could have obtained a permit but did not, there are no penalties. The senior property tax stabilization bill, which was thought to be moving to a homestead exemption, has taken a U-turn to a property tax fairness credit program through Maine Revenue, which will be filed with your income tax filing.

B. COMMUNICATIONS TOWER: Update on Progress

Dwayne indicated that the first 20 feet is installed, along with the building, and the electrical conduits. It is hoped to have the crane here within the next few weeks to raise the entire tower, which will only take about a half a day. Once the electricity is installed in the building, we can have the heat pumps and generator installed as well, then we need to get our licenses amended so we can move antennas onto new tower. He stated that if everything goes well, there will be power in the building by Thursday night. Things are progressing nicely.

Reminders: Next Select Board's Meeting – JULY 18, 2023– 6:30 P.M. - Room 212

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT: Presentation to Christina Brown

Chief Peasley would like to recognize Christina Brown at tonight's meeting. He stated that the town has two crossing guards, Wendy Daudelin and Christina Brown, who are extremely reliable. The Chief stated that in regard to crossing guards, it is often difficult to find someone responsible as the "Old Corner" intersection is very dangerous and busy. He indicated have been numerous accidents and incidents throughout the years and the crossing guards play a major role in keeping the children safe there. The Chief stated that there was an incident in May and wanted the family of Christina to know the magnitude of the situation and wanted to recognize her for it.

He stated that on the afternoon of May 10, 2023, Christina Brown was engaging in her daily responsibilities as a North Berwick Police Crossing Guard. Christina walked down towards the intersection of High Street and Wells Street and was waiting for other children to arrive before crossing them as a group. This is a busy section of roadway, with nearly 35,000 vehicles a day passing through the intersection. Suddenly and without warning, one of the children began running down a path from the school. The child, failing to have any sense of danger relating to vehicle traffic, went off the sidewalk and was nearly struck by a motorist. Christina, without regard for her own safety, grabbed ahold of the child and pulled them back. Without the meritorious actions by Christina Brown, the involved child would have suffered serious bodily injury or death. Christina's quick decision making and willful disregard for her own personal safety assured that the involved child was not injured or worse. Christina Brown's actions exemplify the traits and characteristics of the thousands of men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis in service of something greater than themselves. While some may underestimate the important role our Crossing Guards serve, it is critical to acknowledge the role they play in keeping our children safe. The dedication to duty displayed by Christina goes to show that no matter the size of an Agency or the population of a Community – heroes exist all around us.

The effect of the incident has had an impactful effect on Christina as she sees the child daily and has caused emotions which has led to her resigning her position as of the end of this school year. This presentation represents a bitter sweet moment as her efforts saved a child, unfortunately, it also impacted her as well.

The Chief also stated that next Wednesday, Leo Harriman, who has been on the force for 40 years, is retiring and tomorrow there will be an open house for anyone who would like to attend. They will be in this Room from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

B. 2023 BONDING: Approve Resolutions for use of Town's Funds to be Reimbursed

Dwayne indicated that as a result of the Town Meeting approval of the bonding of the roads and SCBA equipment, and the beginning of our fiscal year, in which work will begin before we have the bond proceeds, as they cannot be applied for until the fall and bond proceeds received sometime in the early winter, the Board needs to approve resolutions that allow the town to utilize our cash reserves and have them reimbursed by the bond proceeds. Since the road

projects will begin in July, the board will need to approve the resolution prior to the work beginning. He stated that our attorneys have drafted the resolutions and the Board needs to vote on them.

Selectperson Hall motioned that the resolution entitled “Resolution to Authorize Issuance of \$265,000 in General Obligation Bonds to Finance SCBAs and Accessories for the Fire Department”, be adopted in form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of said Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Selectperson Hall motioned that the Resolution entitled “Resolution to Authorize Issuance of \$1,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds to Finance Road Improvements in the Town of North Berwick,” be adopted in form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of said Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. SELECT BOARD: July Schedule

Dwayne stated that the Select Board is scheduled to have their first meeting in July on July 4. Since this is a holiday, the Board will have options for the meeting schedule: have only one Board meeting in July on July 18; move the first meeting to July 11, which could include moving the second meeting to July 25, either way this will result in meetings on back-to-back weeks as the first meeting in August is August 1. Dwayne stated if there is an emergency, he will notify the Board.

Selectperson Hall motioned that the July schedule be amended to have one meeting in July, on July 18, 2023. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

D. CEMETERY TRUSTEES: Dale Clock Resignation

Dwayne indicated that this afternoon, Dale Clock came into his office and submitted a letter of resignation on the cemetery trustee board.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Dwayne indicated that Nautilus Solar has invited the Board to its ribbon cutting at the Community Solar project on Route 4, the previous Goldmark Gravel project location, on Wednesday June 28, 2023, at 11:00 am. They would like an RSVP by Monday June 26. He has already let them know that he will be on vacation that week and will not be present for the ribbon cutting ceremony. He stated that he had included the invitation in the packet.

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Warrant:	June 13, 2023	- \$ 20,702.89
Warrant:	June 20, 2023	- \$807,069.50

Dwayne wanted to clarify the Warrant for today, June 20, 2023, there will be a printed total of \$800,791.50 but he is asking the Board to vote for \$807,069.50 because Rescue notified him that they had forgotten to get a bill paid, as it should have been paid on April 12th. It is for their liability insurance for the Rescue. He stated they came in with this after the Warrant was done.

Selectperson Hall motioned to approve the warrant for June 13, 2023, in the amount of \$20,702.89 and the warrant for June 20, 2023, in the amount of \$807,069.50. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectperson Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Selectperson Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Respectively Submitted,
Jennifer Berard, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairperson: Charles Galemmo

Selectperson: Jonathan Hall

Selectperson: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectperson: Wendy Cowan

Selectperson: Michael Johnson, Sr.