

**NORTH BERWICK SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2024**

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Rebecca Reed, Mark Reed, Jeannie Provencher, Tom Komola, Michael Wormwood, Andrea Goodwin

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Selectperson Cowan motioned to approve the Minutes of February 20, 2024 as written. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Jeannie Provencher stated that she was concerned about the Transfer Station in regards to the sticker requirement. She indicated she went to the transfer station on Saturday and stated when she pulled up, Richard was “glaring” at her. She dumped her trash and Richard told her that she needed a dump sticker on her vehicle. He explained that there were people coming from Wells who were not residents of North Berwick, and they were dumping their trash. He indicated that all North Berwick residents need to affix a sticker to their vehicle so that the bag prices do not have to be increased. Jeannie told Richard he needed to discuss this with the Town Manager and not her personally. Dwayne indicated that he directed Richard to enforce the transfer station stickers on vehicles as more than half of the vehicles currently do not have stickers on them. Dwayne stated that these stickers need to be affixed to a vehicle’s windshield and this was approved by the voters of this community and is town law. Dwayne stated that as of May 1, 2024, all vehicles who do not have transfer stickers on their stickers, cannot utilize the transfer station. The stickers are free of charge. Dwayne stated when out of town people use the transfer station, that costs all the North Berwick residents money. As of now, North Berwick has the lowest bag price in the area and also offer free recycling. Dwayne stated that free recycling is free to the person utilizing the recycling, but is not free to the Town. He indicated that the town spends about \$150 per ton to get rid of the recycling waste. Dwayne stated that there will be orange sheets handed out explaining the dump sticker situations for the next several weeks at the transfer station. Jeannie felt she personally does not want to place her transfer station to the window itself but will make a copy of her tax bill and registration and tape them to her window instead. Dwyane indicated that any person who does not have a transfer sticker affixed to their window will be denied access to the transfer station.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET FY25: Continued Discussion on FY25 Budget

Dwayne indicated that the Budget Committee has completed the review of all but one article – the article for the Ambulance. He indicated that as a result, the total budget will be a 6.71% increase from last year. This has resulted in the operations side of the budget increasing by 6.64% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has increased 15.52%. Overall it would mean a \$.15 increase in the mil rate and that is utilizing \$414,045.00 (actually \$317,745.00) in Undesignated Fund Balance. Dwayne also stated that the estimate for the York County taxes and it appears that North Berwick’s share will go up about \$24,777.84.

B. RESCUE: Ambulance Contract

Dwayne stated he has sent our request to Specialty Vehicles for a 60-day allowance regarding the ambulance cabin chassis and that they have agreed to that 60-day request. Also, with that request, he did ask for a guarantee of payment. Typically it is a performance bond that protects the town’s investment. Dwayne indicated that this afternoon, he received an email stating that they would provide us with title, a paid invoice and they will discuss providing the performance bond. Dwayne stated if they do not, he is proposing that the town pay the \$580 for the bond for protection.

Selectperson Cowan motioned that we authorize a performance bond for the ambulance. Selectperson Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. COMMITMENT FY22: Foreclosure List

Dwayne indicated that we are going to pass on this item at this time.

**Reminders: Next Select Board’s Meeting – March 19, 2024, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.-
Room 212
Budget Committee – March 6, 2024 – 6:30 P.M. – Room 212**

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ASSESSING: Sales Analysis Return Memo

Dwayne stated that Verna has completed her Sales Analysis and has issued a memo regarding her findings. He stated they are hovering around 81.2% at this time, based on current home sales, so there will need to be another valuation adjustment this year to get to 91%. He indicated that in addition, Verna states that it would be advisable for the Town to consider a measure and list revaluation in the next few years as the last revalue was done on 4/1/2005.

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

Dwayne indicated that Johnson Seafood and Steak has submitted their liquor license request for the ensuing year. They have had their liquor license for more than five years, they do not need to hold a public hearing and the Board is able to issue that license upon submission of the application. Dwayne stated there have been zero issues with Johnson's in regards to their liquor license.

Selectperson Cowan motioned that we renew the liquor license for Johnson Seafood and Steak. Selectperson Hall seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Selectperson Hall inquired if someone could establish a bar downtown and Dwayne indicated they could. The liquor license law was changed two years ago because the state law changed. Dwayne indicated that he believes it is 300 feet from a school or daycare and they removed the church distance requirement. Dwayne indicated someone could establish a bar downtown depending on what zone someone wants to establish one in.

C. TOWN MEETING: Newsletter, Town Report and Final Warrant Review

Dwayne indicated he has finalized the Newsletter for Town meeting, as well as the Town Report. He has also finalized the warrant (with the exception of the Ambulance bonding article) as this should be finalized at the Budget Committee March 6, 2024 meeting. Dwayne stated that this will go to the printers on Thursday, so he welcomes all comments and edits by tomorrow.

Dwayne did indicate he would explain in the Newsletter the outcome should the Town not adopt the changes as follows:

One Questions that has been posed is: What if the Town does not adopt these changes? The best answer to this question is that the Town would not be compliant with State Law and would be subject to various legal liabilities which the town could not defend itself. Basically,

the Town would be open to lawsuits that the Town could not defend itself and we would probably lose those lawsuits as the Town is not in compliance with the State Law. If the Ordinance changes are not adopted, the Select Board and Planning Board will continue to bring them back to the Town for approval so that the Town becomes compliant with the State Law.

D. BAUNEG BEG MOUNTAIN: LMF Access Improvement Grant

Dwayne stated in conjunction with the GWRLT, he has submitted a grant application for assistance from the Land For Maines Future for construction of the Parking Lot on Ford Quint Road. The grant is for \$13,300.00 and the grant application is limited to those who received LMF funds in the past year. He indicated that the likelihood of getting the grant is extremely high.

E. TRANSFER STATION: Sticker Policy

Dwayne indicated that they will be handing out paperwork at the Transfer Station regarding the sticker policy. He stated that the majority of the town's people are cooperating with the policy. Dwayne stated that the current bag prices pretty much cover the cost of the trash. He said however there has been a significant increase in recycling costs. He said the more non-resident waste that comes into our transfer station, it increases our costs and the bag fee will mostly likely have to go up which we are trying to avoid.

Chairman Galemmo felt that transfer stickers should be provided at the transfer station for at least during this transition period. Selectperson Hall stated he would also like to implement this as people often register their vehicles on line and do not get to the Town Office. Dwayne stated that he would sit down with Richard to discuss this but the Board could essentially vote on that. Dwayne stated that one of the concerns he received from residents is that they do not want to put stickers on their vehicle because they do not want people to know they are from North Berwick. Dwayne stated that for the people who flat out refuse to affix a transfer sticker to their vehicle, is that Richard gets their registration and a letter will come from the Town Office explaining why stickers are required and also notifying them that if they do not affix a sticker after a certain date, they will be refused access to the transfer station. At the end of the day, they are asking for the residents cooperation regarding this, to keep the costs down.

Selectperson Hall motioned to allow the Supervisor at the Transfer Station to hand out stickers to residents only of North Berwick from now until May 1, 2024. Selectperson Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

6. OTHER BUSINESS -

Selectperson Cowan indicated that the property on Route 9, formerly belonging to Don Staples, is beginning to look like a junk yard. Dwayne stated that there are three properties that the Code Enforcement Officer is meeting with for clean up, and that property is one of them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Poverty Abatement

Selectperson Johnson, Jr. motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and come out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion.
VOTE: 5-0

Selectperson Johnson, Jr. motioned to table the abatement application until the next meeting on March 19, 2024. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Warrant:	February 27, 2024	- \$	17,448.55
Warrant:	March 5, 2024	- \$	76,215.89

Selectperson Hall motioned to approve the warrant for February 27, 2024 in the amount of \$17,448.55 and the warrant for March 5, 2024 in the amount of \$76,215.89. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectperson Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. 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.