

NORTH BERWICK SELECT BOARD MINUTES

AUGUST 15, 2023

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2023

Selectperson Cowan motioned to approve the Minutes of August 1, 2023, as amended. Selectperson Johnson Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

3. PUBLIC INPUT N/A

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. COMMUNICATIONS TOWER: Update on Progress

Dwayne indicated that the Tower is up. Selectperson Cowan indicated she was pleased that it is not very intrusive. Dwayne stated that there have been no complaints from the neighbors. He stated that the license amendments have been made with the FCC regarding moving the antennas to the new tower from the water tank. The generator will be hooked up on August 21, 2023 and the Town crew will then complete the final site work. Once the licenses have been approved by the FCC, Southern Maine Communications will begin the work of installing the new repeaters in the Communications shed and install the new antennas. The completion of the project is getting closer every day.

B. ROADS: Update on Roads

Dwayne stated that Varney Road sidewalk has been completed. He also indicated that Lower Main Street has been reclaimed and the Water District is expected to begin their work next week with a 2 – 3 week project completion date, then Lower Main will be paved along with Madison Street. Libby Scott has indicated that they will be paving Morrells Mill Road beginning August 22nd. Dwayne stated that we are still waiting on dates for Governor Goodwin Road. The Public Works Crew are on Dillingham now and will begin removing the pavement tomorrow and that should then be done. Tentatively looking at fall timeframe for Brewer Road water project and paving but indicated that if this cannot fit into schedule, Brewer Road will be moved to Spring.

**C. BAUNEG BEG: Update on Closing on Bauneg Beg Property – 9/6/23
@ 3:00 PM**

Dwayne indicated that the closing on the property is scheduled to take place in Room 212 on Wednesday, September 6 at 3:00 p.m. He stated that if any Board member would like to attend, this would be greatly appreciated.

Reminders: Next Select Board's Meeting – Sept. 5, 2023– 6:30 P.M. - Room 212

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMMITMENT FY24: Review Commitment and Establish Tax Rate

Regarding commitment, Dwayne indicated that he prepared a chart which was requested by Selectperson Hall as to the increases in tax amounts for the past ten years.

Dwayne stated that the numbers were amended slightly from the last meeting, as approximately \$20,000.00 in personal property values were added. He indicated that he and Verna completed the tax rate forms for tax rates \$10.70, \$10.75 and \$10.80 for the Board's consideration. Dwayne's recommendation is \$10.75.

Selectperson Cowan inquired about the overlays and wondered if they resulted in any difference as far as the impact per month on the tax payers. Dwayne indicated that it did not as they play with the overlay throughout the year. Selectperson Cowan was wondering about the impact rate and whether that would remain the same. Dwayne stated there would not be a huge difference. Chairperson Galemme asked what the average value of a home in North Berwick. Dwayne stated that the records for just residential one family homes come in at \$345,683.00.

Selectperson Cowan motioned that the tax rate be set at \$10.75. Selectperson Hall seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. PLANNING BOARD: Scott Carpenter Resignation

Dwayne indicated that Scott Carpenter has sent a letter of resignation for the Planning Board. He stated that the Select Board will need to accept the resignation and then seek to fill the position for another Alternate.

Selectperson Cowan motioned that the resignation of Scott Carpenter be accepted and appreciation for his service to the Town. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne indicated that Everett Smith, who is a public works member has submitted his letter of retirement and will be retiring at the end of September but will stay on to perform winter plowing. Dwayne stated that there is a lead on a replacement and will update the Board when he knows more.

6. OTHER BUSINESS - EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL MATTER

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Warrant:	August 8, 2023	- \$113,088.32
Warrant:	August 15, 2023	- \$800,233.20

Selectperson Hall motioned to approve the warrant for August 8, 2023 in the amount of \$113,088.32 and the warrant for August 15, 2023, in the amount of \$800,233.20. Selectperson Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectperson Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting after the close of the Executive Session at 7:40 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.