

NORTH BERWICK SELECT BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 3, 2023

Present: Selectperson Cowan, Selectperson Johnson, Sr., Selectperson Hall

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Rebecca Reed, Mark Reed, Amanda Turner

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC HEARING – GA APPENDICES – 6:35 P.M.

Selectperson Johnson, Sr. opened the Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices on October 3, 2023 at 7:07 P.M.

The North Berwick Select Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Room 212. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to seek input on the revised General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices proposed to replace the existing Ordinance and Appendices. The proposed Ordinance and Appendices were prepared pursuant to the Maine General Assistance Law (22 MRSA § 4305(4)). The North Berwick Select Board encourages all interested residents to attend this Public Hearing.

Dwayne stated that there were very little changes to the Ordinance and there were some changes to the Appendices for the maximum level of assistance increasing from last year. Dwayne indicated that the maximum level of assistance is going from \$1,072.00 to \$1,154.00, or basically \$75.00 per person. There is also an increase in food assistance of about \$10.00 per month. There is also a slight change in rental assistance.

Selectperson Johnson, Sr. closed the Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices on October 3, 2023 at 7:11 P.M.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Selectperson Cowan motioned to approve the Minutes of September 19, 2023, as written. Selectperson Hall seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

4. PUBLIC INPUT N/A

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. COMMUNICATIONS TOWER: Update on Progress

Dwayne stated there are no new updates regarding the Communications Tower. He stated they are still waiting for FCC licensing.

B. ROADS: Update on Road Project

Dwayne indicated that they are now down to the last couple of roads. He stated that Governor Goodwin Road has been completed, Morrells Mill is completed. He indicated that Lower Main and Madison are scheduled for paving on October 9. The shim was placed on Madison Street last week. Once the roads are done, Dwayne will have them striped but after speaking with the Town's painting contractor, it will probably be done by the end of October or beginning of November.

C. BONDING: Update on Bonding Process

Dwayne stated that the bonding pricing was supposed to be done today and they will find out tomorrow what our bonding pricing is and is hopeful it will come in near the estimate.

D. FORECLOSED PROPERTY: Continued Discussion on Abbott Property

Dwayne stated he left this topic on the Agenda in the event the Board wanted to discuss it. Selectperson Hall inquired if Dwayne had heard anymore from the Abbotts and Dwayne indicated he had not.

E. LD2003: Updated Zoning Changes to Comply with Legislation

Dwayne stated he has completed the zoning changes necessary to comply with the new law. He stated he had SMPDC review and indicated that they concur that the proposed changes will bring North Berwick into compliance. Dwayne would like to send them to the Town's attorney for their review and a meeting should be scheduled with the Planning Board to review the amendments. There will be changes to create affordable housing, ADU's and additional dwelling units or density bonuses. There will also be significant changes to definitions.

Dwayne indicated that November 7th would be the best date for the Planning Board to come in to review all of the amendments and he will reach out to them.

Reminders: Next Select Board's Meeting – October 17, 2023–6:30 P.M.- Room 212

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PARKS AND REC. COMMISSION: Amanda Turner

Dwayne indicated that Amanda Turner has requested that she be a member of the North Berwick Parks and Rec Commission. He stated that she has been involved in the Mill Field Festival this year and has submitted an application. Amanda indicated that she has grown up in North Berwick, graduated from Noble and has three children in the school system. Amanda stated she has coached baseball, softball and helped with the football program and would like to be more involved in the Town.

Selectperson Hall motioned that Amanda Turner be appointed to the Parks and Rec Commission. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

B. ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTALS FY24: Review Abatements and Supplementals

Dwayne indicated there are no abatements ready for tonight's meeting but there will be some at the next meeting.

C. G.A. ORDINANCE: Approve Ordinance Updates

Selectperson Hall motioned that the Board approve the General Assistance Ordinance proposed for 2023/2024. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

Selectperson Cowan motioned that the Board approve the Fuel Fund proposed for 2023/2024. Selectperson Hall seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

D. STATE VALUATION: Update on 2024 State Valuations

Dwayne indicated that the State has released the Draft State Valuations for next year. North Berwick's valuation increased \$231,650,000 or by 15.69%. In relationship with the other York County Towns, North Berwick increased in value the 11 lowest and our percentage was the 8 lowest. In comparison, Berwick and Lebanon increased 17.27% and 20.23% respectively. This will assist us in our school budget as our percentage will drop significantly in the coming year on the valuation side. Our percentage of the County Tax has also decreased as our increase was below the 17.60% average of the other 29 communities in York County.

E. FOOD PANTRY: Update

Selectperson Hall inquired if there has been any resolution regarding the Food Pantry. Rebecca Reed indicated they have been trying to set up a meeting with Sue Austin and Josie Chadborne to discuss some of the concerns and what can be done to address them. Rebecca indicated the pantry is only open when the school kids are not there. Rebecca and Mark indicated

that some of the issues have been the “neighbors” being able to use the bathrooms at the school, and the pantry finding a new office space. Rebecca did indicate they need a secure location to keep confidential information in. Rebecca feels that every week, there seems to be a new issue that pops up and the Food Pantry is trying very hard to accommodate those issues as they arise. Rebecca indicated when she first started with the Food Pantry, they were serving about 35 families per week and this past week, they served 90 families. Selectperson Hall asked that the Board be kept updated regularly on these issues in the event that they need to become involved. Dwayne stated he would reach out to Sue Austin per the Board’s request. Selectperson Hall requested that when Dwayne speaks to Sue, he mention the new Strategic Plan/7-year Plan which is centered around building a larger community not just within the school.

7. OTHER BUSINESS - EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL MATTER

Selectperson Hall inquired when the last comprehensive plan was finished and wondered if should be revisited. Dwayne indicated he believes it was 2007/2008. Selectperson Cowan stated that they may be a topic to discuss when the Board is all present.

Selectperson Cowan motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. and get out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Selectperson Hall seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Warrant:	September 26, 2023	- \$ 63,469.67
Warrant:	October 3, 2023	- \$197,168.18

Selectperson Hall motioned to approve the warrant for September 26, 2023 in the amount of \$63,469.67 and the warrant for October 3, 2023, in the amount of \$197,168.18. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectperson Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting after the close of the Executive Session at 8:20 pm. Selectperson Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

Respectively Submitted,
Jennifer Berard, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairperson: Charles Glemmo

Selectperson: Jonathan Hall

Selectperson: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectperson: Wendy Cowan

Selectperson: Michael Johnson, Sr.